



**The American War of Independence (1775–1783), also known as the American Revolutionary War**

# **Military History Group U3A Dorking**

## **Newsletter Number 33 April 2023**

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## **Parish Notes**

Barrie Friend: Fellow enthusiasts

Mike's talk on The Special US/UK Relationship (summary in Newsletter) and Bob's continuing story of Edward Bartlett both stimulated much discussion at our last meeting. We had to pull down the shutters at noon or no one would have had lunch!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 2nd May 2023, Brockham Cricket Pavilion, Middle Street, Brockham, RH3 7JT at 0930 coffee and meeting friends.

James will be talking on Anzio and in the Ten-Minute Slot David ( Barke) on Durnbach CWGC Cemetery.

The story of the Anzio landings and beyond is always riveting and each CWGC cemetery has a host of bittersweet heroic memories. Durnbach cemetery will be special. I think both will also stimulate much healthy discussion.

Please make a point of coming along and do bring a chum !

### **Future Exceptional Event**

We record numbers up to the mid-thirties attending our Tuesday MHG meetings. This demonstrates that members and guests appreciate our total offering - The Newsletter, The Trips, Book Swap, chats with friends, The Speakers and Topics and an excellent atmosphere in our 'home' The Pavilion. The meetings run very smoothly thanks to the skills of Liz and Carolyn and everyone's personal coffee making and washing up skills.

However, there is always an 'however.'

We must maintain membership and guest numbers because like all interest groups we could be vulnerable to attendances shrinking. Our **JUNE** meeting is designed to attract new members and guests and also to appeal to our MHG members whom we don't see as frequently as we would like.

The flyer below clearly sets out the details of the meeting with timing and venue. Please put this meeting in your diary and invite a pal or two. We can accommodate about 100 for this free event. If you are a member of other social groups, please circulate details of the meeting to which they will be most welcome.

More information as the project develops.

## MILITARY HISTORY INTEREST GROUP

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

10:30am for 11:00am

Betchworth Memorial Hall, Station Road, RH3 7DF



### **Dr Robert Lyman**

A unique opportunity to attend our local Military History Group lecture by Dr Robert Lyman, a published expert on World War II in the Far East. If you have any memorabilia from the Burma Campaign, please bring it along for discussion.

Tea and Coffee on arrival  
Entry: Free of Charge  
Voluntary Donation to Charity.....

RSVP:  
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### **Chislehurst Caves- The Home Front**

#### **A visit by Dorking u3a Military History Group**

In World War Two the southeast of England was vulnerable to enemy bombing and to doodle bug attack. To protect the civilians Chislehurst Caves were opened to the public and thousands spent many nights protected in the labyrinth of chalk caves.

Our visit, organised by George Blundell-Pound, and led by a singing (!) professional guide, saw a group of some thirty, holding paraffin lamps, touring the various tunnels and caves for

over an hour viewing the chapel, the toilets and various tableaux. The dampness did not appear to worry the troglodyte inhabitants of all ages and it was easy to understand how ‘the spirit of the blitz’ kept all upbeat. When the aerial bombardment of London began in September 1940, the caves were used as an air-raid shelter. Soon they became an underground city accommodating up to 15,000 inhabitants (who each paid a penny to enter). The tunnels were fitted with electric lighting, toilets and washing facilities; a chapel was built and also a hospital. The caves were located close to Chislehurst railway station and many people arrived there to then enter the shelter. Shortly after VE Day the shelter was officially closed. There was one child born in the caves, christened in the cave chapel with the name of Cavena Wakeman, who had the name until she turned 18, when she legally changed her first name to Rose and using Cavena as her middle name.

We were also reminded how the caves were used in The Great War to store munitions for the Woolwich Arsenal in the 1914-18 war, and the steps taken to avoid explosions.

This aspect of the social history of the war is sometimes overlooked by historians and enthusiasts of conflict and our visit did much to remind us of how deprivations of those on the home front compared to those fighting on the battle front.

Later the caves were used for pop concerts (remember Jimmi Hendrix and Led Zepplin?) and New Year’s Eve events.

A most enlightening visit rounded off by a good value lunch in the pub a short stroll away. The



# American Military Links, Independence A Special Relationship?

Also, some myths, trivia ...and a few surprises

Notes of a talk by Mike Smith

Treaty of Aix La Chappelle 1748 (now Aachen, Germany)

1754 -1763 Fighting resumes in America - the French/ Indian War

1755: British/Colonists under General Braddock defeated by French at Monongahela

Lt Col George Washington was second in command.

Several setbacks for British and colonists at the beginning of the War.



Washington the Soldier  
Lt. Col. Washington on horseback  
during the Battle of the Monongahela  
— Reqnier 1834

**Uniforms:** In addition to the traditional “REDCOAT” regalia the British introduced the “RANGERS” light cavalry of which Roger’s Rangers were the most well-known.



Roger’s Ranger at Fort William Henry, Redcoats (Royal Artillery) at Ticonderoga

## **Start of Stunning British Victories**

1758: Brigadier General George Augustus Howe at Ticonderoga

1759: General James Wolfe at Quebec

Great successes but early death of two best Generals probably prolonged the war ....and Colonists became more alienated, as they were doing a lot of the fighting.



**Fort Ticonderoga**

## **End of Wars 1763**

French and Indian War 1754 to 1763 (North America)

Seven Years War 1756 to 1763 (Worldwide)

Massive success for British / Royal Americans

Eastern part of North America secured for the seven colonies.

French largely evicted from Canada and restricted to “Indian Territories”: west of the “Proclamation Line”.

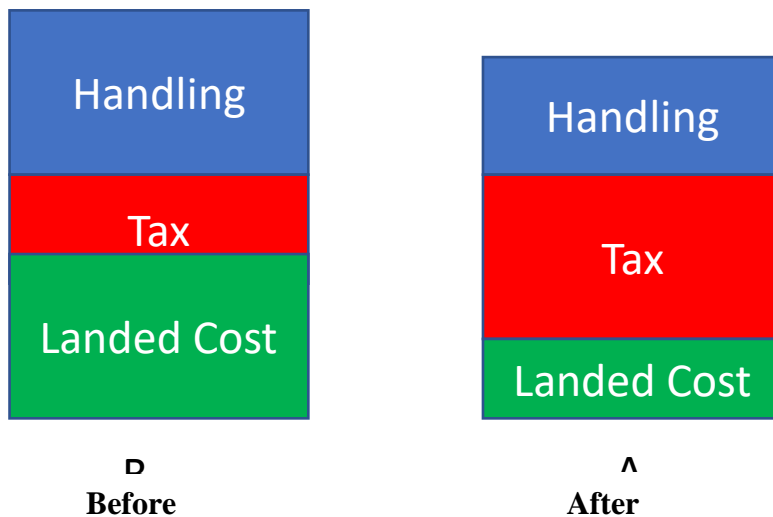
**BUT WARS ARE VERY EXPENSIVE.** Britain Bankrupt; how to pay for the war?

Now the grateful American Colonists would be delighted to help bail out the Mother Country as had been delivered from the threatening French and their Indian Allies. Understood that British would have to guard “Proclamation Line” leaving westwards as “Indian Lands” and marking the westward boundaries of the colonies.

**Various tax raising schemes were proposed.**

The disastrous Stamp Act

Tea Tax



The causes of the Boston Tea Party are a complete myth. The British suddenly, by conquests in India, access to huge amounts of cheap tea. If the total retail price in the colonies went down, nobody would object to a higher tax content of that price, would they **WRONG**. The Boston merchant “mafia” strongly objected as the new split of the price of tea cut hugely into their corrupt rake off. This was seized upon as “Taxation without Representation” and fuelled the flames of rebellion, which were particularly strong in Boston & Massachusetts

### **Aftermath of French and Indian War**

Attempts by British to raise money (taxes). Discontent at length of war and commitment by colonial troops. Activities of Militants with “No Taxation...”, “Tyranny” etc slogans. 1775 skirmishes broke out.” The shot that was heard around the world”. Bad PR for British. Revolt became inevitable: Independence declared 4 July 1776. Success was by no means inevitable.

1776 The master stroke by the Colonists was the appointment of George Washington as C in C of the Continental Army. He was a Virginian “Southerner”, so the South felt more included and committed. He had been in and understood the British Army, so knew how it worked, fought and might be beaten.



### **Two British Armies**

Southern Army went South from New York: John Howe. Northern Army: South from Canada, John Burgoyne. After successful campaigns moving down Hudson/Adirondack to meet support expected from Howe. No evidence that this was the plan.

1777 Saratoga: the overconfident Burgoyne defeated by largely American army. Huge kudos to USA and prompts the French to join in on their side for revenge.



Portrait by Joshua Reynolds

c. 1766

### **General John Burgoyne “Gentleman Johnny”**

Many colonists left USA as they wanted to remain loyal to the Crown: many to Canada and Caribbean. Many more Colonists fought on Loyalist side than for the Rebels. After Saratoga and with French support, British lack of enthusiasm, the road to final surrender at Yorktown in 1781 became inevitable.

### **Yorktown**

British conduct of the war was half hearted: fight against kith and kin.

Treaty of Paris 1783 ended American War of Independence

Despite loss of the 13 colonies, the British Navy made many gains.

The British quickly resumed trading with USA.

New York was declared first capital in 1788 (pop c 40,000); London 1,000,000

USA population c 3.9 million; Britain c 10.0 million

However, WARS ARE VERY EXPENSIVE: France made bankrupt, helping to precipitate the French Revolution in 1789. How could it raise some money? (Also, for continuing War against Britain). So how about selling New Orleans to the Americans? 1803: The US team were surprised that the \$10 million asking price included not only the City of New Orleans, but surrounding area (roughly modern Louisiana); even more surprised to be offered, for an extra \$5million a huge area of the Mississippi basin (comprising five complete modern States and

additions to 10 existing states). \$15 million for 828,000 square miles: What a bargain! One small problem. How could USA pay for it (no Moody's or Standard & Poor Rating at that time).

### The Louisiana Purchase



Despite Britain being at war with France a \$3m deposit was shipped to France (needed to fund their war effort), rest of \$15m secured against a Deep Discounted Bond. Effectively, USA bought the “Louisiana Purchase” from Barings & Hope 1812-1815 war.

### 1812-1815 War

Britain still at War with Napoleonic France. Britain decided to have a crack at recovering the American colonies. Britain made great headway and burnt down the White House (Washingtonians panicked ) but were held at Baltimore. The only real American success was at The Battle of New Orleans. Treaty of Ghent: the opponents had decided on status quo ante.

### 1815 -1914

Relatively good relationship between USA & Britain. American Civil War 1861-1865. Britain not directly involved; about 170,000 fighters from Ireland and 50,000 from Scotland, Wales & England volunteered and fought: vast majority on the Union (Northern) side.

### Britain

Landed gentry tended to support Confederacy (like minded Southern Planters). Declared neutrality but recognised the belligerent status of the Confederate State, but not as a nation. To avert open rebellion by working class officially withdrew neutrality and condemned the Confederacy for support of slavery. CSS Shenandoah surrendered to British at Pier Head, Liverpool

### World War One

USA Public opinion favoured staying out, but sentiment swung gradually.

Atrocities in Belgium

RMS Lusitania 1915

The Zimmermann Telegram

Huge loans granted to Entente Powers; mainly to buy war materiel, raw materials and food from USA.

War declared on Germany 6 April 1917

First major action on Western Front involving US May 1918

### **USA World War One war aims.**

Defeat of Germany

Dissolve European empires (also British too, if possible).

Build up American world influence, industries and agriculture.

**Partly effected by Loans to Entente powers.**

### **The Start of the “Special Relationship” 1918?**

President Woodrow Wilson wrote to King George V: “You must not speak of us.....as cousins, still less as brothers, we are neither.”

During Great Depression 1930s USA “forgave” balance of Britain’s Great War loans.

USA reorganised Germany’s reparations under Treaty of Versailles, so despite popular claims by Hitler and Nazis they only paid 16 %.

How about this for an example of the Special Relationship. The following plan was accidently published in The New York Times on 9 October 1979 War Plan Red approved by the War Department in 1930.

### **War Plan Red**

Approval of the plan enabled detailed planning including the building of new roads & airfields close to the Canadian border. First strikea gainst Halifax, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick blocking out Royal Navy and cutting undersea cable to Britain. Then: Montreal, Quebec and St Lawrence River, Ontario and Great Lakes, Winnipeg and Vancouver and Victoria.

### **World War II - WARS ARE VERY EXPENSIVE**

USA Initially neutral: materiel was sold “Cash and Carry” 1939 to 1941

50 World War One Destroyers transferred to Royal and Canadian Navies for Bases. 1940

US planes carelessly parked near Canadian border then “stolen” by Canadian pilots.

Lend Lease 1941 -1945 (UK has \$31.4 billion (63% of total). Theory use it but return at end of war. Britain had a great deal of Lend Lease materiel at the end of the war.

Several other conditions were set by the US.

External borrowing rose by £3.1bn to £3.7 bn in 1945 (40% of GNP) mostly from USA.

War materiel, oil, food, USA tinned meats arrive - SPAM.

Britain Lend Lease materiel held at the end of the war and still needed; bought it from USA at a bargain price of \$ 1.075 bn (c.10 cents on the dollar). But bankrupt and negotiated a war loan at 3% to be repaid in US\$ (then 4.03 to £). Devaluation in 1949 (to \$2.80 to £)

### **Still more conditions**

British Technology to USA in WW2

USA neutral (many wanted it to stay that) way.

USA had much greater resources for development and production.

A major “sharing” was the “The Tizard Mission” September 1940

Including RADAR and the greatly improved Cavity Magnetron

Design for proximity VT fuse

Details of Frank Whittle’s jet engine

Frisch Peierls memorandum on feasibility of Atomic Bomb

### **Major USA Aims World War II**

Defeat of Japan

Defeat of Germany

Build-up of USA Industry/ Agriculture

Dismantlement of British Empire

### **Special relationship since WW II**

Anglo American Loan Agreement: 15 July 1946

\$3.75 billion at 2%, plus Canada \$1.19 billion.

Conditions included convertibility into US\$ of wartime sterling balances (from India and others). Finally paid off in 2006

1948 Marshal Aid: Britain received 25.9% of it (myth re rest of Europe)

1956: Suez: USA threatens to call in outstanding Loans. Many in Britain see this as the end of Empire.

Vietnam: 1954 to 1975: no British contribution

Falklands War 1982: USA help.

USA support for Sinn Fein/ IRA: e.g., President Clinton

## Closing Thoughts

W.S. Churchill, “America will always do the right thing.... only after they have tried everything else!”

How special is the special relationship?



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- **Edward Bartlett**
  - **Royal Navy, Revenue Cutters, Preventive Boats, Coastguard**
  - **Born Weymouth 1778 died Llanelli 1861**

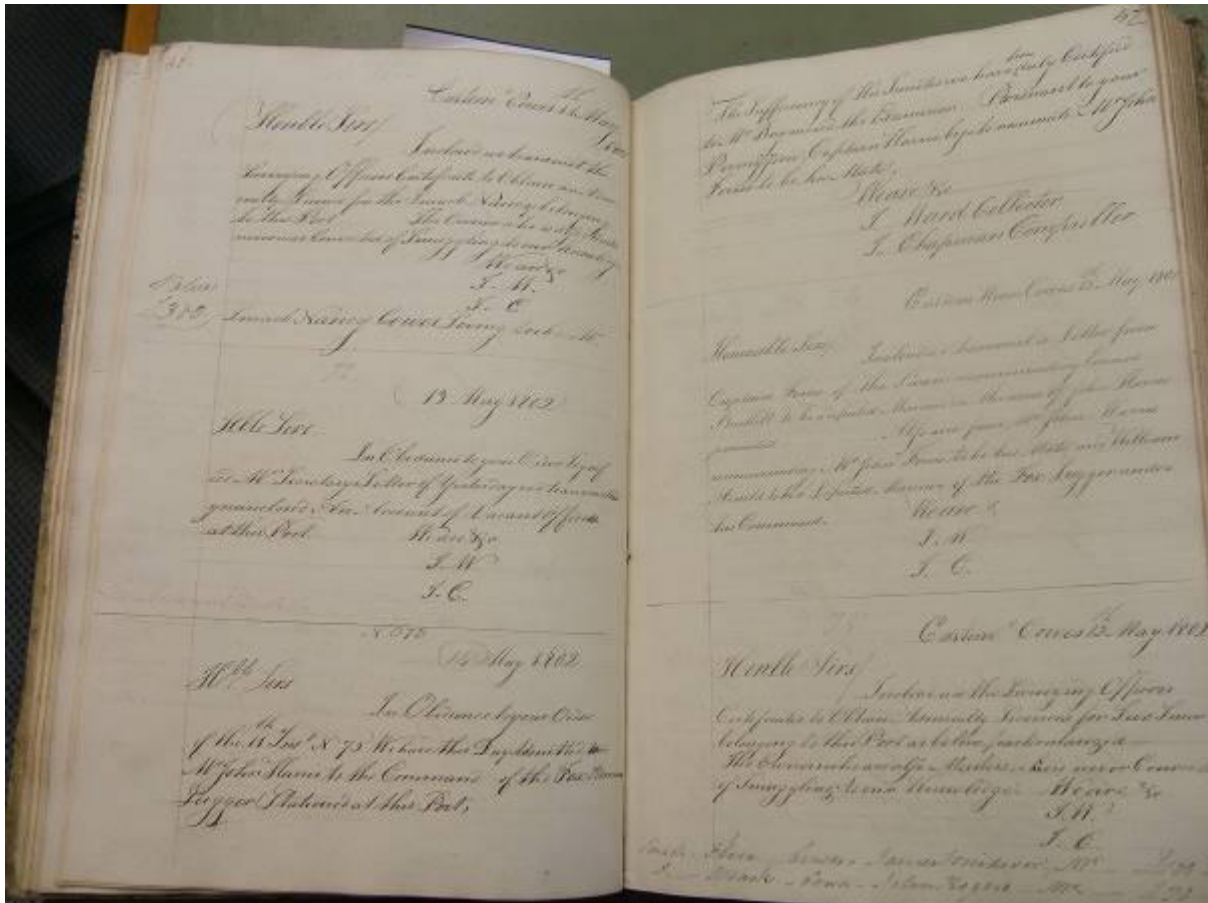
## Part Two

**Ten-minute slot 4 April 2023**

1802 15 May **Edward Bartlett to be a Deputed Mariner** reported in the **Collector to Board Letters Books – Cowes**. Item 74: Inclosed we transmit a Letter from Captain Ferris of the Swan recommending Edward Bartlett to be a Deputed Mariner in the room of John Harris Promoted. [Admitted 21 May.]

### **What is a Deputed Mariner?**

- Revenue cruiser commander, chief and second mate are the deputed mariner officers of Customs. Crew about 30 on The Swan.
- The Board of Customs appointed these men.
- A “Deputed Mariner” held a legal commission, warrant, from the Crown to stop search and detain ships and people to enforce the revenue laws.
- Warrants known as “deputations.”
- No search or seizure could be made except in the presence of the ship’s captain, mate or deputed mariner.



Customs letter book from where a great deal of the historical data is drawn.

**Edward Served on three Revenue Cutters, “Cruizers” as a deputed mariner:**

- The **Swan V** from 21 May 1802 to the 5 April 1807.
- The **Fox**, temporarily a revenue cutter, from the 6 April 1807 to 10 October 1807 after lost to the French of SwanV
- The **Stork** from 11 October 1807 to 4 September 1810 – replacement for SwanV

The Swan was very active, and many references can be found in the letter books detailing captures of vessels and seizure of contraband which was then auctioned with a percentage of the sale going to the crew.



**The Swan**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION** At the Fountain Inn, West Cowes, 26<sup>th</sup> February (1800)

- Vessel, Carvel Built, called Resolution, between 44 and 45 Tons, with all the Materials, Furniture, Tackle and Apparel: she if well found in Sails, Anchors, Cables, and Rigging.
- Portsmouth Telegraph – 24 February 1800

Excise Sale, Isle of Wight on WEDNESDAY, the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1801 Custom-House in East Cowes.

**THE UNDERMENTIONED TOBACCO**

Unmanufactured Tobacco	297 lbs.
Short Cut ditto	25 lbs.
Shag ditto	1770 lbs.
Scotch Snuff	5 lbs.

Mottley's Portsmouth Telegraph and Portsmouth Gazette – 6 July 1801 Portsmouth Telegraph – 6 July 1801

**1799 Prize Money**

Our will and pleasure is that the proceeds of all such Prizes as have been or shall be taken from the enemy in the course of the present war, by the cutters in the service of our Revenue of Customs, after deducting all expenses of the Letter of Marque granted to the cutters capturing such prizes respectively, and the expenses of the proceedings in regard thereto, together with

the head money is or may be due by law, shall be distributed in the manner following: that is to say:

- The Commander 14/32
- Mate 7/32
- Deputed Mariner 3/32 exclusive of his mariner's share
- Other Mariners 8/32

Edward as a deputed mariner would therefore receive 8/32 as his mariner's share with a further 3/32 for being the deputed mariner.

**Revenue Wartime Activity.** The cruisers were fast. Designed for speed which made them ideal for the carriage of urgent correspondence within a fleet or with the admiralty at home. Customs ships were therefore attached to the Royal Navy. Some examples of the Cowes based cruisers:

**1799** the Swan V was ordered to **join a large secret expedition** being prepared against Holland. After severe fighting the smart revenue cutter that had left Cowes three months before returned home a dilapidated wreck in need of a major refit.

**1801:** 1 March: Swan V **captured the French privateer** Vengeur in the Channel

**1802:** 20 January. "A Lugger called Fox (?) having been employed by your Honours as a temporary cutter on this station during a part of the absence of the Swan Cutter under the?? and of Lord Nelson and since returning being in this ??? before in ?? proceed to sea".

**1803** The Swan saw service with Lord Nelson off the Spanish Coast

**1806** Swan and Hound Revenue cutters placed under the orders of Lord Keith, for use at Cowes and Shoreham

**1807** French captured Swan off Needles following a fierce fight.

**1809** Customs seek return of their vessels from their station at Flushing under the command of Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Strachan

Revenue men compensated for loss of seizure income whilst working alongside RN

**RN and Customs did not always get along!** June 1795 an officer belonging to the Swan was bringing in a small smuggling lugger laden with foreign spirits and other goods when, between Spithead and Cowes it was boarded by a naval officer and eight of his men.

The revenue officer was accused of being a smuggler and threatened with the guard ship Royal William. Eventually they were allowed to proceed but not before the Royal Navy stole some 15-20 casks of spirits, cutting adrift the revenue boat to prevent a pursuit.



**Swan Attacked and Captured by French Luggers “La Reciprocite” and “Le Voltigeur” in March 1807 off the Needles. Edward was a Member of the Crew**



**Possible to make out the Revenue Men preparing to escape from the Swan**

In a Victorian book about customs and smugglers a reference can be found of Bartlett during the battle. “But one of the Swan’s crew, whose name Edward Bartlett, deserves to be remembered for doing his duty, asked Comben if he should fetch the grape and canister from below. Comben merely replied “There is more in the cabin than we shall want: it will be of no use; it is all over with us.”

The crew fought under Bartlett until they ran out of ammunition abandoning the ship, including the mate Comben, a sailor and a boy. (Were they injured?) The prisoners were taken to France where the boy died. Comben was held for many years before release.

**1807 22 March** .... the Swan Cutter belonging to this Port was captured on Friday Morning the 20 Inst. Six Leagues S.W. of the Needles by Three French Lugger Privateers. Under Command of Mr Comben the Mate, Mr. Ferris at that time being with a Spasm & Gout as to render him incapable of Service. We thought it our Duty to require of Oath the details of the Swans Loss from the Deputed Mariners who escaped which we transmit for your Honors information. (Collector to Board Letters Book 1805 - 1807 (No. 26))

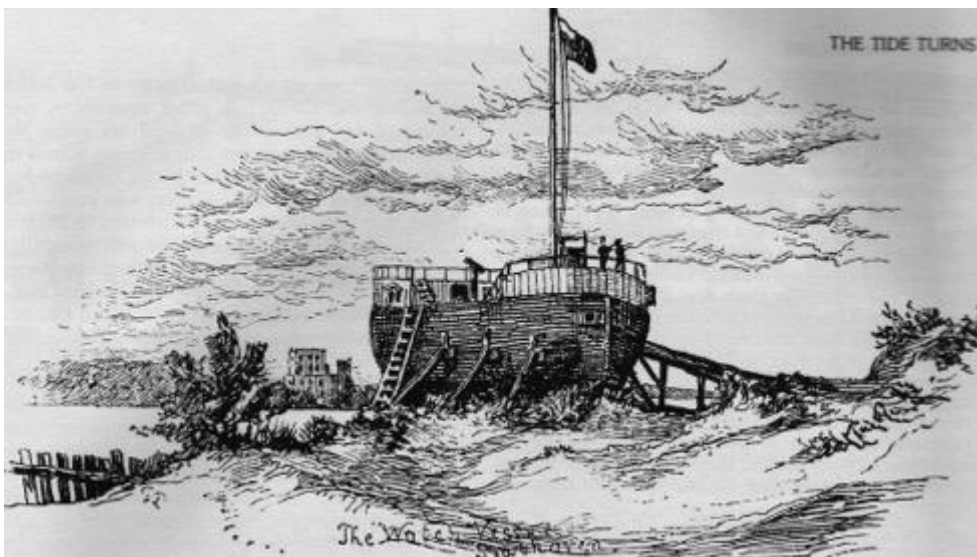
Following the capture of SwanV the Royal Navy impressed her crew. The Cowes Collector acted fast and with the support of the Customs Board he had his men released.

In November 1807 Collector applied to the Customs Board for protection from impressment for the crews of Stork and Fox both Edward's ships. This involved sending descriptions of 14 men, most of them in their early 20s.

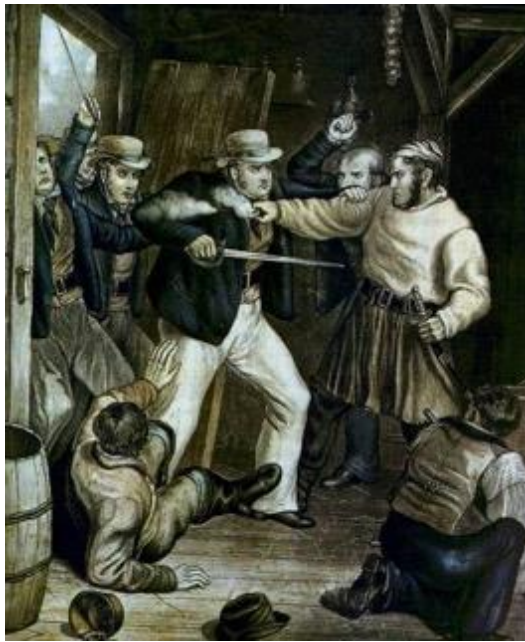
### **Nomination of Edward Bartlett appointed to Swansea 1810 3 May**

After three more years of racing up and down the Channel and being attached to the Royal Navy Bartlett was given his first independent command in a new service – the Preventive Boats.

- Inclosed we transmit Captain Ferris's Nomination of Edward Bartlett to be a Sitter of a Six Oared Boat conformable to your Honors directions in Mr Secretary's Letter of 26 April last.
- Bartlett and crew appointed at Swansea – Orders 17 May
- September 1810 date he left the Stork as officer in charge of the Preventive Boats, Gower with the title of Boatsitter the forerunners of the Coast Guard.



**On arrival at Port Eynon there was no accommodation and so until cottages could be built the men and their families live on King's Boat a Hulk Drawn up on the Beach.**



**Smugglers Arrested<sup>1</sup>**



**Preventive Officer<sup>2</sup>**



There are no known photographs of Edward Bartlett, but this rare photograph shows a Chief Boatman in Charge in his full-dress uniform, with sword. William Davie, shown in 1863<sup>3</sup> This is how Edward would have been seen by his contemporaries.

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<sup>1</sup> The Cornish Smuggling Industry Paul White 1997

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.findonvillage.com/0904\\_smuggling\\_in\\_the\\_1700s.htm](http://www.findonvillage.com/0904_smuggling_in_the_1700s.htm)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.coastguardsofyesteryear.org/photogallery.php?photo\\_id=215](https://www.coastguardsofyesteryear.org/photogallery.php?photo_id=215)

# The Home Front – Surrey during the First World War

Robert Bartlett



**Some of the Surrey Constabulary officers serving in the Military Police Corps  
September 1915 <sup>4</sup>**

To discover which police officers and in what numbers, from Surrey served in the First World War, archived registers listing all recruits to the Surrey Constabulary, Guildford Borough Police and Reigate Borough Police were consulted at the Surrey History Centre, Woking with the help of archivist Robert Simonson. The level of information available in the registers, particularly for the Surrey Constabulary was disappointing. Comments such as re-joining the army as a reservist or mostly at the end of the war, re-joined after serving for the period of the war, are common. There is little detail even when an officer is killed such as Smithers, “Reported killed in the war” is the only entry. References to bravery awards were not found in the police registers. The Surrey Constabulary appointments or Defaulter’s Book ends with Archibald Hainsworth in 1915 starting again with appointments in 1919. It is possible that is the stark reality of wartime recruitment, losing young and not so youngish men not to be replaced by regular officers.

This paucity of information is disappointing though more detail has been found from other sources for some of the men.

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<sup>4</sup> Source for Surrey Police WW1: Surrey History Centre Reference: 9152/1/5/4, September 1915

## The Strength of the Surrey Constabulary up to and including the First World War <sup>5</sup>

	<b>1889 April</b>	<b>1910 May</b>	<b>1911 Mar</b>	<b>1911 16 May</b>	<b>1912 Oct</b>	<b>1914 13 May</b>	<b>1914 22 Sept</b>	<b>1915 9 Mar</b>	<b>1915 1 May</b>
CC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Supt	5	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Inspector	8	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Sergeant	20	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Constable	149	251	248	247	303	283	291	296	289
Total	183	303	300	299	355	335	343	348	341
	<b>1915 Sept</b>	<b>1915 3 Nov</b>	<b>1916 7 Mar</b>	<b>1916 6 May</b>	<b>1917 22 May</b>	<b>1917 18 Sept</b>	<b>1919 20 May</b>	<b>1919 1 Sept</b>	
CC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Supt	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
Inspector	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	
Sergeant	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	
Constable	234	233	229	225	206	205	252	306	
Total	286	285	281	299	258	257	304	358	

On the 22 September 1914 Sant reported to his Standing Joint Committee that: “Twenty-one members of the Surrey Constabulary who were Reservists were upon mobilisation recalled to the Colours. I am filling their places as recruits offer themselves. I also invited pensioners whose age does not preclude them from again serving to return to duty. In eight cases there was a ready response.” <sup>6</sup> The Chief Constable was to report on the 12 December that of the eight volunteers only six joined, as two were no longer up to the work. The six were no longer in receipt of their police pensions and received constable’s pay. They are Constables Richardson, Phillips, Holdforth, Kirk, Robinson and Hole.<sup>7</sup>

On the same day Sant reported: “I have enrolled Special Constables to assist the regular body should an emergency arise calling for outside assistance. For the whole county (excluding the boroughs) there are 2,000 volunteers. Each parish has its own Section or Sections a leader being in charge of a section. Each has been issued with an armlet or badge of office and a baton. Each Special Constable is given a book of instruction -- the enrolment of the Special Constable gives a sense of security to the inhabitants of the county.” <sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> SAC CC98/1/4-5 Chief Constable reports to Standing Joint Committee Robert Bartlett 28 Aug 2018

<sup>6</sup> SAC CC98/1/4-5 Chief Constable reports to Standing Joint Committee

<sup>7</sup> SAC CC98/1/4-5 Chief Constable reports to Standing Joint Committee

<sup>8</sup> SAC CC98/1/4-5 Chief Constable reports to Standing Joint Committee

A typical newspaper report shows interest in the role of the police and their joining the armed forces. Dorking Constables enlist: PCs WJ Hall, William Frampton and A. Weller have this week joined the Colours. Out of the Dorking Division of the Surrey Constabulary eight constables are serving their King and country. Four were on the reserve when war broke out.<sup>9</sup>

The Chief Constable published a list on September 15, 1915, of those who had been recalled as Reservists and those who had volunteered or been conscripted. He was under pressure to send more men, but he told the Standing Joint Committee that he was already short of men and that 38 of his Force had joined the Military Police. There were no less than 20 of the latter stationed at Witley Camp (to the south of Godalming) who had full powers to act in the camp. More pressure followed which again were reported to the Standing Joint Committee. The Secretary of State considers that every constable who wishes to enlist should be allowed to do so if possible. The Chief Constable emphasised that there is a point beyond which the police forces cannot be depleted without detriment to the national interests.<sup>10</sup>

March 1916: The Chief Constable reported to the Standing Joint Committee: "I called my Superintendents together and carefully considered the whole subject with them for the purpose of deciding whether any more constables could be spared to join the army. I found in the case of three divisions the point of depletion was already passed and they were in the aggregate nine men below it. In three divisions the Superintendents said it would be possible to spare eleven of their youngest men. Having redistributed the remaining nine the divisions were all at a point below which any depletion would be prejudiced to the national interests."<sup>11</sup>

The Chief Constable reported to Standing Joint Committee on 5 December 1916 that there had been comments in parts of the county about police not being called up but thought the criticisms were no doubt in ignorance as to the nature and importance of the duties of the police in connection with the war. The number of officers is at a minimum as at the beginning of the war he had allowed about 70 men to go. The agitations are extremely unpleasant for the men who feel very much the criticisms passed upon them. The Chief Constable continued "With regard to the suggestion that police work could be carried out efficiently by special constables I can only say that the unanimous opinion of my Superintendents is to the contrary."

In 1917 on the 16 March Sant to Standing Joint Committee: The Chief Constable reports that he had been "asked by the Provost Marshal in France to obtain 200 men from the provincial police forces to complete a force of mounted police and asking how many men I could spare." The HMIC commented that the question whether men could be spared was for Sant to decide. Subsequently as two men returned to the police from the army Sant was able to release two men in their stead but they were not accepted, "presumably because they did not have the necessary qualifications."<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser 05 June 1915 from Henry Pelham 22 August 2019

<sup>10</sup> SAC CC98/1/4-5 Chief Constable reports to Standing Joint Committee

<sup>11</sup> SAC CC98/1/4-5 Chief Constable reports to Standing Joint Committee

<sup>12</sup> SAC CC98/1/4-5 Chief Constable reports to Standing Joint Committee

1917 31 March Chief Constable to Standing Joint Committee: A letter had been received from the Home Office informing that provision had been made by the Army Council for serving soldiers to be returned to the police. These were men with medical categories B11, B11, C11, C111 and were not needed for the Army. The letter said that the Secretary of State “relies on you to release a man in exchange wherever possible.” Sant commented that “previous to the receipt of this letter, two men had come back to me from the army and needless to state I had at once released two other fit men for army service.”<sup>13</sup>

On April 20 1917: Chief Constable Sant went to the Home Office where he met Sir L. Dunning an official, to discuss manpower. Sant wrote to the Standing Joint Committee: “I learnt that the number of men already serving was in excess of the average of all other counties.” On May 8<sup>th</sup> HQ received a letter from the Home Office that the War Cabinet had come to the decision that a further supply of men is to be found for the army from those engaged in essential organisations including the police. Surrey was to provide an additional 18 men. Sant reported that he had selected 18 of the youngest but he did not want them to be classed as conscripts but able to choose as far as possible the units to which they wished to be posted. “These men will be a great loss to the force, as single men are the “mobile force.” They can be sent anywhere for duty at a moment’s notice.”<sup>14</sup>

One newspaper reported “Fifteen men of the Surrey Constabulary have been released for military service in the Royal Garrison Artillery in June 1917:

Training as Signallers in Dunfermline PCs Gates, Rose, Haseman, Knight, Newble, Rapley, Horne and North

Following are at Winchester training to be driver and gunner: Brant, Cox, Collins, Critchard, Fortman, Thatcher and Parrott.”

The men who served remained members of the Surrey Constabulary although they were now in the Army or Navy. However, when killed or wounded there is no reference to them in the minute books although there is significant detail of the life of the Surrey Constabulary during the war.

**“Constables who have joined the army**, whether as reservists or as volunteers or under the Military Service Acts, cease to be members of the police service, and on re-joining the police force should be formally re-attested and should be allowed to reckon their military service for the purposes of police pension, promotion and advances in the scale of pay”<sup>15</sup>

Of Surrey Constabulary officers, 72 were serving in the armed forces on 6 April 1917.

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<sup>13</sup> SAC CC98/1/4-5 Chief Constable reports to Standing Joint Committee

<sup>14</sup> SAC CC98/1/4-5 CC reports to Standing Joint Committee Robert Bartlett 28 Aug 2018

<sup>15</sup> SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report year end 31 December 1917

Durant wrote in his 1951 history of the Surrey Constabulary that sixteen men were wounded, three of who were permanently incapacitated and fifteen killed. To this has to be added borough men.

On 11 November 1918, the final armistice was signed and the guns were at last silenced. Eighteen Surrey police officers including two from Guildford Borough and to be added as found during this recent research PC Robert Lawrence, Reigate Borough Police who died in a military hospital in 1919. These men paid for peace with their lives. A large number of men were called to the colours from the Force three receiving high awards for bravery, Walter Tuppen, a Distinguished Conduct Medal second only to a Victoria Cross, and Thomas Runnegar and Henry Brand Military Medals. Harry Douglas Feasey, later a sergeant. was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal before joining the Surrey Constabulary after war service in 1919.<sup>16</sup>

Below is based on the one list in the two record books covering the First World War, presented to the police authority then known as the Standing Joint Committee, by the chief constable of the Surrey Constabulary. Additionally, the strangely name Defaulter's Book has been consulted but there was a shortage of military related information. Several names have been crossed out and they relate to some of those killed. What is a mystery is the men who served were seen as members of the Surrey Constabulary although they were now in the Army or Navy but when killed or wounded there is no reference to them in the minute book although there is great detail of the life of the Surrey Constabulary during the war.<sup>17</sup>

### **Road accident at Haslemere**

Just after Christmas at 7:45 on Sunday evening the 27<sup>th</sup> December 1914, a picket of 20 men of the Military Mounted Police and the Royal Scots Fusiliers was slowly marching down the left-hand side of Station Road, Haslemere, in file, two deep. Eric Hides, a motor engineer from nearby Shottermill, was driving along the road – not fast, probably less than the 10 miles an hour that the speed limit allowed, but with his acetylene headlights off and just his oil sidelights burning – and was struggling to see through his misty, rain-spattered windshield. It was a dark night, the men wore dark coats, moved slowly and were difficult to see but they had just passed a streetlamp on the opposite side of the road and should still have been visible. The men of the patrol heard and saw nothing before Hides' motorcar ploughed into them from behind. Six men were injured.

Hides slammed on his brakes and his car ended up slewed across the road with a shattered windscreen. The injured men were loaded into the car and he drove them to Haslemere Cottage Hospital. One soldier, Fred Giles apparently unscathed except for a slight bruise developing on the back of his head, was up and about when the doctor saw him, insisting that there was nothing wrong with him and that he wanted to go back to the Railway Hotel. The doctor, seeing that he was "a little dazed" kept him in hospital.

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<sup>16</sup> Off Beat April 1982

<sup>17</sup> SAC CC98/1/4-5 Chief Constable reports to Standing Joint Committee Robert Bartlett 28 Aug 2018

By midnight, Fred had fallen unconscious and the doctor was called. He had fractured his skull, probably when his head hit the road, and he had bleeding on the brain. A trepanning operation was performed to relieve the pressure but, at 4a.m. on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December 1914, he died. He was 39.

Hides was not obliged to – and, on the advice of his solicitor, he did not – give evidence at the inquest held at Haslemere Council Chamber, but he was present and his solicitor questioned the witnesses. A witness said that the streetlamp shining on the rain-soaked glass would have made it impossible for Hides to see past the end of his bonnet. A jury verdict of accidental death was recorded. Hides appeared before the Guildford County Bench and was remanded on bail on a charge of manslaughter and later committed for trial.

Hides was tried at the Surrey winter assizes in Guildford on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The judge, Mr Justice Horridge, attended church before the trial, his carriage escorted by uniformed mounted men of the Surrey Guides, a home defence unit that he had personally inaugurated, the procession headed by the high sheriff, who was dressed in khaki. They met the mayor, aldermen and town cryer at the church. Convalescent soldiers were amongst the congregation for the service, which began with the National Anthem. The judge was then escorted to the court by the Guides.

A Grand Jury of local notables was sworn in. The judge explained the law regarding negligence as it pertained to manslaughter, saying it “must amount to real recklessness to make it criminal negligence.” The question of whether Hides’ headlamps should have been on was discussed but the main point, in the judge’s eyes, seems to have been whether Hides should have raised his windscreen or not. Mr Justice Horridge suggested that the Grand Jury “might think it was a case where the accused ought not to be charged criminally” as he did not think that a jury conviction could be secured on that point alone. The prosecutor declined to proceed with the case and Hides was discharged.

On 2nd January 1915, Fred Giles became the first war casualty to be buried at All Saints’, Banstead. He is commemorated on the panels in All Saints, Banstead, in St Mary’s, Burgh Heath, and in the Burgh Heath War Memorial Hall. Fred was commemorated on the 100th anniversary of his death, as part of Banstead and Burgh Heath’s World War One remembrance project. A service was held during which a bell was tolled 100 times at noon.<sup>18</sup>

### **December 1914 Annual Report Chief Constable Reigate Borough Police**

**1914 31 December: James Metcalfe** to the Watch Committee including a report on the activities of the Fire Brigade:

War was declared in August last, which has imposed much onerous and anxious work on the Police. A great number of Home Office and War Office Orders and Communications has

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/story/lance-corporal-fred-giles-died-28th-december-1914/>

been issued, necessitating constant and diligent attention by the Police for efficiently carrying out the same.’<sup>19</sup>

The War brought many extra duties to the police, exacerbated by the loss of men on the Army Reserve list and other volunteers. After war was declared in August police undertook the role of registering all aliens including Belgian refugees. A further role was that of Billet Master, finding lodgings for members of the army. The Chief Constable reported that since war was declared “much onerous and anxious work” fell to the police.

A system of Special Police was organised in August. About 30 such Specials with a chief and deputy chief were engaged for each night beat. Reluctantly the police again became Coroner’s Officers following an appeal from the Coroner to the Watch Committee.<sup>20</sup>

### **Chief Constable Sant’s report of March 1915**

Continuing his report on the war to the Standing Joint Committee, the chief constable first recorded that all Belgian refugees in ‘the Constabulary Area’ had been registered (total 2106 ‘exclusive of persons under 16’), and then continued with details of further communications from the Home Office with instructions including: ‘not to countenance’ the formation of ‘town guards’ and ‘civil guards’ in favour of the Volunteer Training Corps (which Special Constables may join) as recognised by the War Office; the prevention of ‘ill-disposed persons’, suspicious loiterers and trespassers from obtaining information regarding local defence works; local billeting of soldiers (Sant here noted that demands for this had been ‘almost incessant’ and reported the confusion caused by three separate and independent demands from the Central Force, the Eastern Command and the Aldershot Command and suggested ‘some central billeting authority’); the extension of the area within which the reporting of aircraft should be made; Police co-operation in the military protection of local railways (although the Home Office had omitted the South Eastern Railway from their list as it was ‘not regarded as important’, even though part of it formed a direct line from Aldershot and Dover and regularly carried troop trains); the extinguishing of lights during hours of darkness (conflicting orders caused Sant to remark ‘The Committee will realise the difficulty experienced by the Police in attempting to keep up with orders arriving in such rapid succession’); action by Police in the event of bombs dropped in the county; and the exemption of Special Constables from jury duty.

Sant reported his own communications with 1. The General Officers Commanding, the 2nd Army, the Eastern Command and the Aldershot Command, pointing out that the ‘Intoxicating Liquor (Temporary Restriction) Act’ of 1914 appeared not to be administered satisfactorily with regard to the sale of liquor to soldiers; 2. The War Office regarding ‘rapid and inconsiderate driving of motorcars and motorcycles by military officers’ (from which several ‘serious accidents’ have resulted) 3. The General of the local forces complaining of an ‘unexpected,’ inconvenient and unlit night ‘cordon of pickets’ placed around the town of Guildford (into part

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<sup>19</sup> Marion Edwards Surrey Heritage Centre 2017

<sup>20</sup> SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1914

of which Sant nearly rode his bicycle).

However, at the very end of this report he noted the receipt of 'several most gratifying letters from military officers testifying to the valuable assistance which they have received from the police,' which must have alleviated his irritation to some degree.<sup>21</sup>

**1915 January 5 Committed for trial:** Borough bench at Redhill. One of the recipients of the indecent and threatening letters was PC Attwood and Mrs Attwood. Police Sergeant Kendrick said he was present at Surrey Quarter Sessions on July 3, 1913 and was a witness in the case against Mary Johnson. Committed Eliza Woodman to the Assizes.<sup>22</sup> **1915 April 6 Pardon and Compensation:** The Home Office announces that the King on the recommendation of the Home Secretary has been pleased to grant to Mrs Mary Johnson fee pardons in respect of her convictions at the Surrey Sessions on October 15, 1912 and July 1 1913 upon charges of sending threatening letters. The Treasury have sanctioned the payment of a substantial sum to Mrs Johnson who suffered two terms of imprisonment for offences of which she has now been proved to be innocent. The grant of pardon and compensation is the sequel to the conviction of Eliza Woodman the wife of a railway goods foreman of Redhill at the Surrey Assizes on February 24 last in what was known as the invisible ink case. Mrs Woodman was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour for sending to Major Foster a magistrate at Redhill letters threatening to murder him. The prisoner was detected by the use of marked stamps and of notepaper, which had previously been marked with invisible ink, and there were similar charges against her. When threatening letters began to be received by persons in the neighbourhood in 1912 suspicion fell on Mrs Johnson who was sentenced in October of that year to six months imprisonment for sending a letter threatening to murder Mrs Woodman. Soon after her release there was a renewal of the trouble and Mrs Johnson was again convicted and sentenced to twelve months. In July last year she was charged for the fourth time with sending threatening letters her husband being similarly accused but both were acquitted. Mrs Johnson was a witness at the trial of Mrs Woodman this year. Mrs Woodman in her defence told a remarkable story alleging that a man followed her home and compelled her to post three letters, threatening to cut her throat with a carving knife if she failed to do so.<sup>23</sup>

**1915 January 25: Surrey Advertiser: Soldiers sent to Prison:** Pte Michael Welsh, King's Liverpool Regiment was charged with having broken a window in West Street Farnham causing £5 damage. PC Kirk heard the crash and found the prisoner with his hand through the window. When asked what he was doing he made no reply. He had been drinking but he knew what he was doing. The prisoner was further charged with failing to observe the conditions of his recognisance entered into at the last court when he was charged with having stolen boots and leggings. In the first case a fine of £5 was imposed or one month's imprisonment and the second, two months imprisonment the sentences to run concurrently.

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<sup>21</sup> Written by Marion Edwards <https://www.surreyinthewar.org.uk/story/a-policemans-lot-the-surrey-police-in-wartime-part-1-1914-1915/>

<sup>22</sup> The Times 5 January 1915

<sup>23</sup> The Times 6 April 1915

## Wyke and Normandy road accident

**1915 April 10:** As a taxicab containing four soldiers was passing through the village of Normandy on Sunday, a tyre came off one of the wheels, causing it to skid and overturn in the ditch by the roadside. One of the occupants, who was extricated from the cab, was badly injured and was removed to the County Hospital, Guildford.<sup>24</sup>

## Police Life continues!

**1915 April 12:** Rex v Woodman: Special Constables Budgen and Gale Reigate Borough Police were commended by the Watch Committee with £12 12s set aside for a suitable present for them<sup>25</sup>

**1915 April 12:** PC Spain Reigate Borough Police commended and awarded £3 3s<sup>26</sup>

In May 1915 in Walton on Thames there were serious disturbances caused by bad feeling against German refugees who were living in the town. "Steady progress" on interning enemy aliens is not stopping anti-German riots, and the Riot Act has to be read.<sup>27</sup>

**1915 May17:** For Reigate Borough Police officers serving in the armed forces the difference in pay of a constable prior to marriage and his Army pay was ordered by the Watch Committee to be made up<sup>28</sup>

The Head Constable, Sergeant Howard, PC Spain and PC Sturt appointed officers of the Local Authority under the Public Health Act, Amendment Act 1907 respecting dealers in old metal and marine stores.<sup>29</sup>

**1915 May 15 Surrey Advertiser: Boro Constable Killed:** Definite news has been obtained of Pte WG Deacon 1<sup>st</sup> Coldstream Guards, lately of the Borough Police Force (Guildford Borough Police). Private Deacon was reported as wounded and missing on September 14 last and since that date repeated efforts have been made to gain tidings of him. Now however through one of his friends at the front the whole story has been told by Pte Golding also of the Coldstream Guards now on sick furlough. At 7.30 on the morning of September 14<sup>th</sup> the company was ordered to advance up a narrow gully to the heights above the Aisne to hold the hill close to the village of Vendresse. There was no supporting artillery and as the men arrived at the top they were simply shot down. Private Deacon was shot and killed instantly. Private Golding and several others were taken prisoner but subsequently they overpowered their guard and escaped. Those that were left

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<sup>24</sup> 1915 April 10<sup>th</sup> Surrey Advertiser

<sup>25</sup> SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report year end 31 December 1915

<sup>26</sup> SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report year end 31 December 1915

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/ww1-archive/11600384/Daily-Telegraph-May-17-1915.html>

<sup>28</sup> SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report year end 31 December 1915

<sup>29</sup> SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report year end 31 December 1915

on the field that night were stripped of all papers and of their identification discs, so that when three days later, the burying party sent to fetch them away they could not be identified. Happily Private Golding was one of the burying party and he knew and was able to identify several among them Pte Deacon. They were buried in the churchyard at Vendresse by a Church of England clergyman in a large grave facing east over the Aisne valley. In spite of their seeming failure this hill was never lost, so Pte Golding says until it was finally handed over to the French when the British troops left the Aisne valley, so their lives given so nobly were not given in vain. Private Deacon leaves a widow and a little son.

**1915 June 5: Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser: Private Wakefield** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment brother of PC Fred Wakefield of Dorking was we regret o state, killed in action on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Pte Wakefield belonged to Godalming.

**1915 June 5: Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser: Dorking Constables Enlist:** PCs WJ Hall, William Frampton and A Weller have this week joined the colours. Out of the Dorking Division of the Surrey Constabulary eight constables are serving their King and country. Four were on the Reserve when the war broke out.

**1915** George Bridger was fined five shillings for trespassing in search of game, having been discovered at the foot of Coast Hill, Westcott to the west of Dorking by PC Lightfoot.

**1915 December**, Reigate Borough Police Head Constable reported to the Watch Committee that, 'The War has made the work of the Clerical and Detective Departments of the Force very heavy. Considerable investigations and reports occupying much time and attention have had to be made to the Home Office, the War Office, the Competent Military Authorities and other Police Forces.'<sup>30</sup>



**Guildford Borough Police Upper High Street 1915**

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<sup>30</sup> SCC Archive Centre CC98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report year end 31 December 1915

## **May 1915 Chief Constable Sant Report Surrey Constabulary**

This report begins by outlining the effects of the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) and the Defence of the Realm (Consolidation) Regulations Act with regard to offences committed against them by both civilian and military persons, before continuing with details of further communications from both the Home Office and the Army with instructions including: the placing of all public houses and clubs in the Aldershot area out of bound for troops until 2pm ('The term "soldier" does not include "officer"'); the reduction of lighting in Guildford and the Borough of Godalming (to be enforced by the Police); arrangements for warning factories and other works of the approach of hostile aircraft so that they can extinguish lights or have them extinguished by cutting off power (Sant asked the Committee to imagine themselves in his position, 'suddenly awakened at say, 2am and informed that an airship has been seen ... making for Surrey, they appreciate his difficulty in carrying out ... instruction[s], especially in view of the fact that an airship can travel at 50 miles an hour'); signals chosen for warning the civil population of 'threatened bombardment' (two instructions of which appear to conflict each other); a bonus of 3 shillings a week for all members of the force; the restriction of Aliens; the co-operation of Civil and Military Authorities in 'Sanitary matters'; the movement of 'Anti-Aircraft motor cars'; signs to be displayed by Civil Hospitals in the event of bombing; co-operation of the Police in measures taken against 'wastage' caused by soldiers absent without leave; and licences for the sale or manufacture of arms and ammunition (owners of which are to keep sales books, the inspection of which should be arranged by the Police).

Sant also wrote for clarification as to whether persons holding permits to keep carrier pigeons should keep them or 'liberate' them and received the 'ambiguous' reply that a permit gives the owner the right to either keep or liberate provided the permit is with the owner at the time.

At the end of this 9-page report, Sant reiterated the impact of the burden of extra duties imposed by the war and carried out in addition to 'ordinary' duties ('the idea that crime has ceased since the war broke out is a fallacy'), especially as he had lost 31 men to recruitment: 'I must, however, endeavour to "carry on" to the best of my ability with my numbers dwindling from day to day'.<sup>31</sup>

### **War impacts the Reigate Borough Police**

1915 June 21, Head Constable Reigate Borough Police report to Standing Joint Committee:

Reigate Borough Police Sergeants Watson and Taylor and PC Stanwell were informed they had their right to retire on pension withdrawn for the period of the war.<sup>32</sup>

Reigate Borough Police PCs Lawrence, Miles, Morse, Wilkinson, Santer and Foster were given permission to join the Army.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Written by Marion Edwards <https://www.surreyinthewar.org.uk/story/a-policemans-lot-the-surrey-police-in-wartime-part-1-1914-1915/>

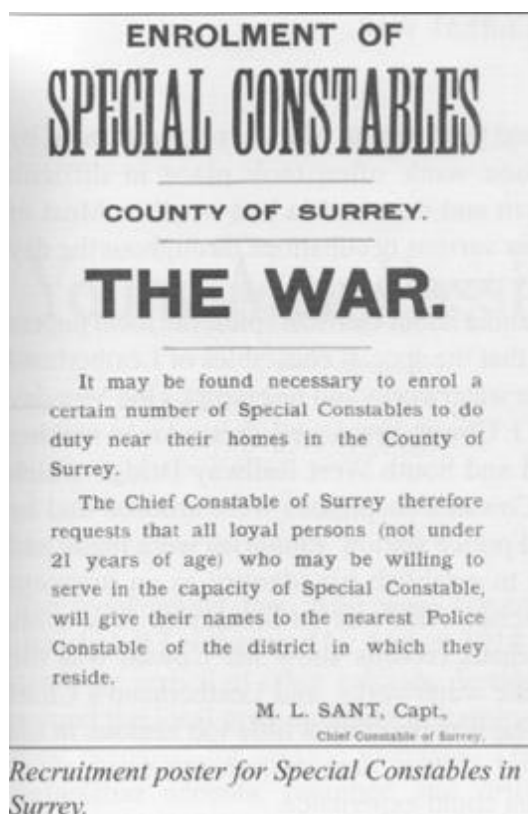
<sup>32</sup> SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report year end 31 December 1915

<sup>33</sup> SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report year end 31 December 1915

The Head Constable Reigate Borough Police was authorised to pay Special Constables who carry out ordinary police duty 32 shillings a week rising after satisfactory service to 35 shillings per week.<sup>34</sup>

**Compiled from a number of sources Reigate Borough Police who joined the armed forces**

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



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<sup>34</sup> SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report year end 31 December 1915



**Detective Sergeant Mansfield Guildford Borough Police on the right who was Mentioned in Despatches during the War**



**Police Sergeant Godwin Guildford Borough Police wounded three times. Not wearing any medal ribbons.**

### **Chief Constable Sant's Report September 1915**

This report, 19 pages long, includes at the end an extra two pages listing by name Army Reservists recalled and members of the Police Force who have enlisted.

Further communications were received from various authorities with instructions regarding: the enlistment of Belgian subjects aged between 18 and 25 (with trouble caused by many forms being completed in Flemish, 'a language of which I am ignorant'); enforcement of the Aliens Restriction (Belgian Refugee) Order; the prohibition of the 'liberation' of pigeons from lofts for

any reason and the transport of pigeons without a permit; the supplying (at short notice) of numbers of Germans, Austrians, Hungarians and Turks of military age and the number of females ('distinguishing British-born wives, or widows') living in the Chief Constable's district; lights of various colours on military vehicles (which are permitted to exceed the speed limit); deportation or repatriation of 'alien enemies' other than males of military age (the only exceptions being wives of British birth and persons who obtain official exemptions); amendments to DORA regarding the extinguishing and carrying of lights, and 'illicit signalling'; the submission of detailed reports after aerial bombing; suspected enemy firing of factories (later proved to be 'normal'); death from illness of Special Constables and payments to their widows; the closing of licensed houses in the vicinity of the Aldershot Training Area (not applicable to officers residing in hotels); the repatriation of destitute aliens; the prevention of the sale of the 1915 crop of hay by farmers before its inspection and requisition; the offence of holding communication with a spy; the use of unauthorised uniforms or badges and the unauthorised use of official documents or 'marks'; areas within the county where photography or sketching is to be allowed or disallowed; the export of pigeons to 'neutral Countries'; preventing the supply of 'intoxicants' to convalescent soldiers; and the establishment of a 'civil Police Station' at Witley Camp (to help counteract the 'amazing amount of pilfering' in the camp by civilian workmen; the chief constable 'could not see [his] way to grant this request' due to his shortage of manpower unless Special Constables were used).

Complaints from the Post Office regarding who should pay for the official franking of envelopes, apparent military difficulties as to who exactly were 'Competent Military Authorities' to whom problems should be referred and yet more amendments to regulations for the sale of alcohol to military personnel were all further unwelcome distractions.

Due to the large number of constables enlisting, the Chief Constable found it necessary to suspend the 'Weekly Rest Day' from 4 June, although annual leave was to be granted as usual and arrangements made for a monthly rest day.<sup>35</sup> (See above)

### **Aerial attack by the enemy 1915**

Aerial attack by the enemy was unexpected particularly in the country around Guildford. The dropping of a dozen bombs led to a significant police response to the scene, collating and investigating exactly what had happened including a search for casualties. On this occasion the Guildford Borough Police and Surrey Constabulary officers were no doubt able fairly quickly to control this incident but there were no doubt continuing consequences with the possibility of further attacks. This time the residents of Surrey were lucky.

In 1915 on October 13 at about 2200 Zeppelin L13 approached Guildford from the direction of Newlands Corner. Bombs were dropped and later police investigation showed that ten bombs fell in the Borough and two more at Shalford Park killing a swan on the Wey and 17 roosting fowls

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<sup>35</sup> Written by Marion Edwards <https://www.surreyinthewar.org.uk/story/a-policemans-lot-the-surrey-police-in-wartime-part-1-1914-1915/>

at St Catherine's.<sup>36</sup> **Zeppelin attack followed on** Albury Gunpowder Mills where the factory was provided with anti-aircraft guns by early 1915, and St Martha's Church was heavily camouflaged with branches to prevent the building being used by enemy pilots as a landmark for navigation.<sup>37</sup>

The raid led to a stiffening of the lighting regulations resulting in 49 summonses and a total of £37 in fines.<sup>38</sup>

### **A full report on the Zeppelin attack**

Inclement weather kept German Navy Zeppelins in their sheds in early October 1915 but on 13th it was considered that conditions were reasonable enough to risk another venture against London. Airships L11, L13, L14, L15, and L16 were assigned to this mission, three from Nordholz and two from Hage in Lower Saxony. They assembled in the afternoon and were soon above a solid overcast at 2600 feet. From Ameland they headed for the coast of Norfolk crossing the coast of at around 1830 hours and headed towards their destination. The first four came inland over Norfolk more or less together with L.11 some distance behind. Helmut Mathy, who was in command, spread his airships for safety and took the lead to London planning to attack from the North. Only one, L15 navigated its way to the target successfully and dropped bombs that caused casualties and panic in the Capital. The popular press of the time made much of the incident, and the attack was dubbed the "Theatreland Raid" due to the death and destruction that was wrought on The Lyceum and Gaiety theatres. The airships in this raid killed 71 and injured 128 people, causing £80,020 damage.<sup>39</sup>



**The Zeppelin over Epsom on route to Guildford**

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<sup>36</sup> Surrey Police a Pictorial History 1851-2001 Gerry Middleton Stewart

<sup>37</sup> [http://www.weyriver.co.uk/theriver/industry\\_5\\_gunpowder.htm](http://www.weyriver.co.uk/theriver/industry_5_gunpowder.htm)

<sup>38</sup> They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/story/zeppelin-raids-over-surrey-1915-and-1916/>

L13 (Kapitänleutnant Helmut Mathy): The Zeppelin came inland at about 6.15pm. She passed Dereham, Newmarket and Hertford then, just after 9.00pm, a 13-pdr gun at Birchwood Farm, a mile north-west of Hatfield opened fire. In reply, L.13 dropped four high explosive (HE) bombs. One landed 70 yards from the gun but only damaged windows in nearby cottages. She continued on her course, passing around the west of London on his way to his target, the waterworks at Hampton, but he missed a bend in the Thames, followed the River Wey, and crossing the Thames at Weybridge at 9.50pm. She passed Guildford at 10.10 heading east, but five minutes later, as she approached Chilworth, the site of a gunpowder factory, a 1-pdr pom-pom opened fire. L.13 turned back towards Guildford and dropped 12 HE bombs over the St. Catherine's area.

These damaged railway tracks caused damage to a number of properties – particularly in Guildown Road and Chestnut Avenue – killed a swan on the River Wey and 17 chickens. Mathy then followed an easterly course away from Guildford, again passing the Chilworth factory, and came perilously close to colliding with L.14 between Bromley and Bickley at about 11.30pm. At 11.45pm, guns at Blackheath and Honor Oak opened fire as L.13 approached Woolwich thinking he was over Victoria Docks. She dropped three HE and 14 incendiary bombs on the artillery barracks, injuring four men, killing a horse and injuring nine others in a stable. Another nine incendiaries landed in the town then, over the Arsenal, L.13 dropped one HE and five incendiary bombs, injuring nine men, one of whom later died. A final HE bomb fell harmlessly on Plumstead marshes. Anti-aircraft guns of various calibres engaged L.13 on a number of occasions before she passed out to sea near Dunwich, Suffolk, at about 2.00am. She got back to her base the next morning after a close call with Dutch guns on the island of Vlieland.<sup>40</sup>



Zeppelin

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<sup>40</sup> <http://www.surreyinthewar.org.uk/story/zeppelin-raids-over-surrey-1915-and-1916/>

The official report of the raid (the uncensored version was published in March 1919) on 13 October 1915 (“...a beautifully clear night...”), especially the bombs dropped on the Guildford area, was written up in the Surrey Advertiser. Initially, two bombs were dropped on Shalford Park, one near the 7th green and one near the fairway of the 1st hole on the golf course. About 10pm there was a message from Effingham that a Zeppelin was moving towards Guildford; by 10.05pm it was over Newlands Corner, and by 10.10pm it was hovering over the borough. Eyewitness, William Harvey, said L13 was “...quite low when it first appeared over the town, but rose rapidly to a great height (9,600 feet) after it dropped the first flare.” The Zeppelin then moved towards Wood Street (3 miles to the southwest of Guildford<sup>41</sup>), turned around and headed back to Guildford. At 10.25pm it dropped another flare, dropped bombs, dropped another flare, more bombs and by 10.40pm disappeared over St Catherine’s towards Shalford. The airship continued to Reigate, Redhill and Croydon. Later it was reported that at 11.40pm it nearly collided with Zeppelin L14 over Bromley

What was the purpose of the raid? One onlooker in York Road “thought at first it was one of our own airships from Farnborough out experimenting in a night trial.” Several theories abound; was the pilot was looking for the gunpowder works? When he was dropping bombs over Guildford, he thought he was bombing the waterworks at Hampton. Did he mistake St Catherine’s church for St Martha’s as a guide to the gunpowder works? Were they aiming for the railway; or looking for Farnborough or Aldershot; or was “momentarily lost”? An official message from Berlin on the raid published a day after the raid showed that the commander did not know where he was. In his log, the pilot maintained in his log that he believed he was bombing the waterworks at Hampton on the River Thames. It’s believed that he lost his bearings and, instead of following the course of the River Thames, followed the Wey instead. After an anti-aircraft gun at Chilworth gunpowder works fired on his airship, he dropped his payload on St Catherine’s. Indeed, Mr Charles D Hodgson, another onlooker observed that “...no bombs would have been dropped on Guildford had the Zeppelin not been molested as it was heading towards Worplesdon when ‘those damned popguns at Chilworth began letting off fireworks’”. The guns were under charge of a detachment of the 2/5 Battalion, The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey) Regiment.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Should read northwest of Guildford

<sup>42</sup> Graham Webster, 3 Feb 2015 SHC Woking