

The Journal of the Police History Society

Number 25 - 2010

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Chris Forester

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Fred Feather

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FORTUNATELY THE ONLY ONE?

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NEATH BOROUGH POLICE





Cover Picture:
Evan Evans Chief Constable,
Neath Constabulary 1888—1899
(Amalgamated into Glamorganshire Borough 1947)
Rear Cover:
Special Constabulary First War Certificate presented to
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The Journal of the Police History Society



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EDITORIAL Welcome to this edition of the Police History Society Journal. You may see that this edition is a little larger than usual with another 4 pages added. This is due to the fact that I have been sent so	KEEPING THE PEACE IN WW1—THE MANX POLICE: Jennifer Hawley Draskau	15
many excellent articles for this copy that I have had to extend the size. I apologise to those authors that are disappointed that they have not had their contribution published. However they will be in	"SURREY'S WARTIME DREAM TEAM" Luke Franklin	20
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"POOR JENNIE" By Chris Forester

THE JENNIE PERCY CASE

During the 19th century the Victorian military machine was exclusively male with many Soldiers and ordinary seamen spending many years in the service of their country. The rank & file were not allowed the luxury of matrimony until they were older and this led to obvious problems within the services. With a largely bachelor Army and Navy the military, whilst not actually condoning the use of prostitutes would generally tolerate its officers and men resorting to this outlet provided that it was not too public. Sex with no commitment was tolerated in the forces and in society generally for many years. The premise being that for men this was a natural function. What were known as vicious habits or homosexuality were rife in some quarters particularly when men were at sea or posted to remote areas for long periods. When returning on leave much leeway was given to these men however their behaviour on many occasions went beyond the bounds of respectability and civil conduct. With this random fraternization with 'Gay Parties' or loose women it was no surprise that venereal disease would be rife. Kipling's poem 'Tommy' reminds us of when the military were viewed in less than friendly terms:

'Oh Its Tommy this and Tommy that and chuck im out the brute

but it's the thin red line of 'Eroes' when the guns begin ter shoot'

In 1862 the government was presented with figures that shocked them by the amount of venereal disease affecting the Navy and Army. Later and more accurate figures for 1864 stated that one third of all sickness in the army was due to venereal disease and hospital admissions for Gonorrhea and Syphilis amounted to 291 per 1000 men. Losses to the navy were somewhat less and averaged 9.9 men per 1000 or 586 per day and one naval pundit commented that this figure equated to the complement of a battleship the size of the 'Royal Oak'. The need to protect 'Our Boys in service' became ur-After much debate it was decided in various parliamentary committees that whilst Prostitutes provided an outlet for heterosexual activity it was necessary to protect army health without actually discouraging prostitution. The answer was to inspect the women. This was a little hypocritical as a previous attempt to protect army health by inspecting the soldiers for symptoms of VD was abandoned as it was thought to be demoralizing to the men. The result was the introduction of the Contagious Diseases Act of 1864. This provided for the examination of women 'thought' to be prostitutes by a specially appointed medical officer, usually a military doctor at a Lock Hospital. If she was found to be diseased she could be detained in that hospital until the symptoms subsided. (There was no actual

cure for Syphilis.) The enforcement of this invidious act was given to the Metropolitan Police who had taken over the policing of the Royal Dockyards and certain Barrack areas since 1860. What was effectively set up was a 'Sanitary Police' and the Department within the Dockvard Force who administered the provisions of the acts was the Water Police or Detective department. Officers would be detached to carry out this generally unpopular duty in plain clothes. Some officers however took the opportunity to indulge in various bullying tactics to perform their duties. One such bully was Inspector George Godfrey the incumbent at Aldershot Barracks. The town had been 'Designated' under the Acts in 1867 and for the purpose of the CD Acts, under the control of the Woolwich Dockyard Division of the Metropolitan Police.

A relatively young but rapidly growing military area, Aldershot was becoming a busy, rumbustuous town for the local soldiers to spend their recreational hours in. The town had many public houses that doubled as music halls, the Red White & Blue, The Queens Hotel Tap and the Pavilion to name but three. That there were loose women was apparent as census records for the Military Lock Hospital in Farnham Road testify. In 1881 there were some 38 women incarcerated there aged from 16 to 39. One woman had her 2 year old daughter with her. These figures had gone down to 14 women in 1891 after the repeal of the Acts. An interesting note was that one of the Contagious Disease Acts Officers, Constable John Macleod who was posted there as the gatekeeper in 1865 was still working there in his retirement in 1891 with his wife and daughter. Inspector George Godfrey had been posted to Aldershot to administer the provisions of the Acts within the boundaries of the town and up to 5 miles around. In March 1875 a young widow and music hall singer named Jane Percy or Jennie as she was professionally known came to his notice. Jennie Percy was the widow of Henry Percy who was noted on the 1871 census as a Some 18 years older than 'Theatrical performer'. Jennie he being 47 and her 29 he died in 1874 leaving Jennie, her daughter, also Jennie aged 16 and two sons Harry, 5 and Douglas 3 to fend for themselves. widow in the 1870s she would have had to have been tough to survive. She continued as a music hall singer and achieved some distinction as a local celebrity, even more so when she introduced her pretty 16 year old daughter to the stage, also as a singer.

How she came to Godfrey's notice is not known, probably through gossip is the guess. The Water Police needed no more evidence than an overheard chance remark to target a female. Their enquiries later revealed that Jennie was frequently seen in the company of soldiers; somewhat obvious one would think in a military town and in fact rather difficult to avoid them. Once Godfrey had enough 'evidence' through enquiries and surveillance, on the 11th March 1875 he went to Mrs

Percy's lodgings and served papers for her and her daughter, 16 year old Jennie to appear at the Farnham Road Lock Hospital for an intimate examination for the presence of venereal disease. Jennie was appalled and vehemently protested her innocence to the Inspector. He was implacable and insisted that if she did not



appear she would be summoned by the Commissioners. She was in a cleft stick, if she went voluntarily she would be immediately branded a loose woman in everyone's eyes with the resultant risk of disgrace and no further employment in the town. Once on the register whatever the result she would become a 'Oueens Woman' as they were described. If she resisted she and her daughter would be arrested and forcibly examined. She angrily threw the papers back at Godfrey refusing outright to attend, Godfrey then apparently lost his temper and shaking his fist in her face shouted that he would bring her before the magistrates and finish her in the town. The next shock was when her employer at the Red, White & Blue Music Hall, a Mr. Salter informed her that he had had a visit from the local Hampshire Police Superintendent, Mr. Charles Stephenson who had warned him that if he continued to employ her his license would be rescinded. Jennie realising that a police net was closing returned to her lodgings in North Camp and in panic packed her few possessions taking her daughter and herself to Windsor, leaving her two young sons with friends. It was from Windsor on the 15th March that she wrote a letter to the Daily Telegraph pleading her case:

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS

(To the editor of the Daily Telegraph) Sir

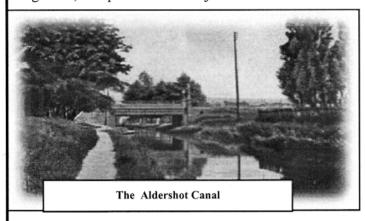
Your paper has the reputation of espousing the cause of the poor and unfortunate, as well as that of the rich and well born. I at least think so and in proof thereof I select it as the means of bringing to the notice of those persons who have thought it their duty to agitate for the repeal of the above Acts, a proceeding which I cannot but stigmatise as a shameful and high handed use of the power given to the police under its provisions. I am a professional singer and actress, who having lived in a large garrison town, where the said Act is in force, for the last twenty years. My husband

who was also a professional and well known as a talented writer of pantomimes, burlesques etc, died twelve months ago leaving me with three children, the oldest a girl of sixteen who had been brought up with me in the profession and who has never been out of an engagement since she first appeared in public. Any one at all conversant with the habits of soldiers is perfectly aware that they are, as a rule very indulgent and gracious with those who contribute to their amusement. My calling threw me very much in their company, but would you believe it Sir. my every action has been watched by the police, my outgoing and my incoming; in fact, I have been placed under a system of surveillance which had I known of it in time I might have taken some steps to put a stop to. but I was going about my usual business in blissful ignorance, but I was destined for a rude awakening. One morning I was visited by a representative of the Commissioners? in the form of a member of the Metropolitan Police, who quietly warned me to attend the Lock Hospital next day accompanied by my eldest daughter. Do you believe it Sir? I must confess I could hardly believe my ears, and when I indignantly refused to entertain any such warning, I was coolly told I would be summoned before the Commissioners. On asking the reason for this arbitrary proceeding, I was informed that I and my daughter had been seen in company of different soldiers for some time and that two of them had stayed in my house until twelve o'clock one night. This was the excuse for ordering me to take a step which would have completely disgraced

to take a step which would have completely disgraced me in the eyes of all my acquaintances. Consequently I at once gave up my engagement and that of my daughter, and left the town knowing full well that I was unable to cope with the police in their high handed work. The above is precisely what has occurred, without any comment, however I leave it to your numerous readers to judge the working of this obnoxious Act from this solitary specimen.

I am your obedient servant A PROFESSIONAL Meanwhile whilst she was in Windsor she had friends who were working on her behalf back in Aldershot. Her two sons had been taken in by friends and her professional associate Edward Ritson also an actor and singer went to Godfrey to plead her case. Godfrey refused outright to drop the allegation even after Ritson offered to be the protector to her and her family. The loyal Ritson resolved to help Jennie and went to Windsor. After telling her that he had obtained work for them both at the Queens Hotel Tap he offered to live with her and protect her, he explained that he could not marry her as he was still married and that his wife had left him. Jennie gratefully accepted and together with her daughter they returned to Aldershot. Poor Jennie must have thought she was saved however things then took a turn for the worse. After a

week working at the Oueens Hotel Tap she was informed that here also she was not welcome as once again Hampshire Police had warned the landlord that his license was in jeopardy if he employed both her and Edward Ritson, who had been now added to the equation. Jennie was by now almost destitute and soon after, she spoke with a friend showing her the last sixpence she possessed. The equally penurious and unemployed Edward then advised her to throw herself on the mercy of the Board of Guardians who would have to make a decision to either put her before the magistrates or assist her and her family. He wrote and gave her a letter to take to the Guardians supporting her and testifying to her good character. This put him out of favour with her and that Saturday evening in the Red, White & Blue public house they had a blazing row after Jennie got drunk and started to flirt with a soldier of the 65th regiment, Joseph Kivers. The jealous Ritson followed



her out and offered to take her home, to which she refused. At 11.15 she left Kivers who stated that she was the worse for drink and crying and fretting. Kivers had also offered to take her home no doubt to take advantage of her condition but was stopped from doing so by the military night pickets, probably because he also was drunk. When later questioned he stated that he had then gone to a brothel and slept the night with a prostitute. Jennie was last seen at about 10.15am on the following day Sunday 28th March 1875 walking alone along the Basingstoke Canal towpath. She was seen by Fred Davies an Army Service Corps driver who was on morning stables duty at the Transport Stables gate on the opposite side of the water. Though he recognised her he thought nothing of it at the time and went back inside. Later that afternoon Jennie was found face down in the Canal, drowned, in her pocket was her last sixpence. The matter may have ended there after an inquest; however the letter to the Daily Telegraph had been noted by many influential people. The Contagious

Diseases Acts had some vigorous opponents, these included Florence Nightingale, W.T. Stead, Harriett Martineau and the redoubtable Josephine Butler. Butler had formed the Ladies National Association to fight the Acts and have them repealed soon after their inception in 1864. This event 21 years after was to her a god-sent opportunity to inflict real damage on their reputation.

Josephine Butler engaged a famous barrister, Mr Bligh to represent the now orphaned children. The Association had Jennies daughter examined who was found to be a virgin and Mr. Bligh vigorously challenged any evidence of her supposed immoral

challenged any evidence of her supposed immoral behaviour as noted by the police. The police stuck together and local Hampshire Constabulary Superintendent, Mr Charles Stephenson supported fully the stance of the Metropolitan Police and the actions of Inspector Godfrey. A juror also stated that he refused to believe that a police officer of Mr Godfrey's rank would 'Shake his fist at a woman'. Although the resultant inquest resulted in an 'Accidental Death', verdict this was not before the reporting press pointed out that the jury was composed of the very licensees that had been threatened with the loss of their livelihoods. The police too came in for a public hammering with both Godfrey and Stephenson being accused of collusion in Jennie's hounding and subsequent suicide. One commentator used a quote of a former Dean of St Pauls accusing Godfrey of using 'A Rope of more than the usual thickness in carrying out the law' Both these officer denied the charges and both went on to retire without any official blemish to their characters, Godfrey in 1895 as Chatham Dockyard Metropolitan Police Superintendent and Stephenson as Deputy Chief Constable of Hampshire. The media castigation however cast enough doubt on the verdict to impress many of the public and this case was to be an important milestone in the eventual abolition of this infamous legislation. As for the orphans, the young Jennie Percy was later taken in by Josephine Butler who later found her employment as a housemaid, of the boys nothing further is known.

In 1884 the Contagious Diseases Acts were finally repealed, sadly not soon enough to save 'Poor Jennie'.

Sources: Office of Census & National Survey: 1871/81/91

Sheldrakes Aldershot and Sandhurst Military Gazette 3rd April 1875

> Josephine Butler Collection, London Metropolitan University

The Womens Library. National Archives: PRO HO 45/9 Police Orders

Josephine Butler by Jane Jordan, pub. John Murray 2001. Hambledon Edition 2007

This article is part of a larger work on the Contagious Diseases Acts being prepared by the author.

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INSPECTOR THOMAS SIMMONS ESSEX CONSTABULARY

On 20th January 1885 Inspector Thomas Simmons of the former Essex Constabulary and in charge of Romford Police was patrolling in a horse and trap with Constable 107 Alfred Marden when they became aware of three men acting suspiciously. After surveillance, they approached the men at Bretons Farm near where Rainham, Romford and Dagenham meet, an area transferred to the Metropolitan Police District in 1965. As it began to get dark they asked for an explanation from the men, who promptly ran away, pursued towards London by the Inspector and towards the east by Constable Marden. The latter was being shot at by a man he knew as David Dredge and he heard further shots behind him. Losing Dredge in the darkness Marden went back to the trap, where he found the inspector weak from a gunshot wound in the groin. Tom Simmons died four days later in his Romford home, from the effects of the bullet. Confronting his approaching death he named, and described, those responsible. He lies buried in a Romford cemetery and his grave is visited annually by the Trust. Two men were charged with murder. Dredge had been arrested on 6th February 1885 in Limehouse. The police had circulated a description and, whilst trying to pawn a pistol of the type used in the shooting, James Adams, alias Lee alias Manson was arrested at Euston Square on 10th March 1885. Both men were tried at the Old Bailey. Dredge was rightly acquitted, but subsequently jailed for his run-in with Marden. James Lee was hanged, for murdering Simmons, at Springfield in later in 1885.

A third man, described in Simmons' 'dying declaration,' was not, at that time, traced by investigating Essex and Metropolitan detectives. Nine months later a shocking series of incidents in Cumberland refreshed the file. From 21st to 23rd January 1886 John Martin and two others went on trial for their lives at Carlisle Assizes. Martin was suspected of being the third man in Simmon's murder but was then convicted of the murder of a Cumberland policeman and all three were executed.

To commemorate the 125th anniversary of Inspector Simmon's death the Essex Police Memorial Trust, a registered charity, commissioned a memorial stone, sited as close to the scene of the

murder as is suitable. A ceremony was held on Monday 4th October 2010 at 2.30pm to dedicate the massive stone, in the vicinity of Bretons House on the road from Rainham to Romford. Members of the families of those concerned, the trustees of the charity and those known to have an interest were present. These included Linda Rhodes and Kathy Abnett the authors of "The Romford Outrage" and those responsible for raising the money to pay for the stone.

The Essex Police Memorial Trustees are DCC Andy Bliss (Chairman), former DCC Charles Clark DL and Jim Dickinson, ACC Sue Harrison, former ACC Geoffrey Markham, former Superintendents Brian Hindley, Bob Ward and Dennis Rensch DL, Chief Inspector Alan Cook, former Inspector Martyn Lockwood (Secretary) Sergeants Roy Scanes and Andy Hastings and former Sergeant Fred Feather (Treasurer). They meet quarterly at Headquarters. Memorials and graves of murdered Essex Officers are regularly visited and maintained.

Fred Feather

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SHE TOOK THEM ALL TO JAIL, BLACK MARIA.

Tony Butler



1830 USA, outside a sailors lodging house in - shall we say the rougher quarter of Boston Philadelphia; a lone policeman is losing a struggle with a desperado physically his superior. As the policeman is about to succumb beneath overwhelming odds a black woman, best described as larger than life, comes to his rescue and, after delivering him from his debacle, arrests his quarry for him.

Following reports of this deliverance, the lady, of whom all the unruly now stand in dread, is often called upon to assist the police whenever trouble erupts in that area.

The name of this queen-size lady is Maria, Maria Lee and, from then on, in a sort of butterfly effect, all horse drawn prisoner transporters become known as 'Black Marias'.

Other origins of the name Black Maria have been proffered. A black racehorse filly foaled in Harlem New York in 1826 went on to win many races providing purse winnings amounting to \$15, 000. Her most famous win being at the Union Course, New York in 1832 with a purse of \$600, her name was Black Maria. In 1870 an article about her in 'Harper's New Monthly Magazine' considered that it was too much of a coincidence that a police van was given the same name in the same town where this famous black mare won her greatest race. Others have suggested that Queen Victoria's name gave rise to 'Black Maria' due to the London cockneys fondness for referring to her as Ria or Maria

New Police - New Vehicles.



The Black Maria was introduced to London by the 'New Police' (formed by Robert Peel later Sir Robert Peel with the passing of the 1829 Metropolitan Police Act). The Metropolitan Police had just two vehicles, one of them stationed at Carter Street Police Station, south of the river Thames and one at Kentish Town Police Station, north of it. Prior to this British police forces used various carts to convey prisoners to and from the courts, to gaols and to executions, or a walking escort would be provided. Carts were also used for transporting stores and equipment. A Chief Constables' transport was more stylish, although they had to provide the pur-

chase cost of it from their own means. They could claim the services of a constable to act as their coachman and an allowance to cover their running costs, which would include overnight lodgings and horse feed.

By August 1891 the London police had eight 35cwt horsed Black Marias in service. Each vehicle was of wooden construction and equipped to carry some six prisoners, housed in narrow individual cells without windows and with only a small roof ventilator for air. Many later versions had a clerestory roof for improved lighting and ventilation. These prototypes were, painted jet black with the royal arms and monogram on the side panels. Causing them to be nicknamed 'her Majesty's carriages' by some.'

A narrow passage from front to rear allowed access to the cells. The vehicles were pole drawn by a pair of horses and usually manned by a police constable driver and a sergeant escort. The Metropolitan police employed sixty-seven horses in total. Constables were required for stable duties.

The police prisoner transport department was estimated to cost the Liberal Government funded General Police Fund, £12,000 a year. Thomas Tilling of London's Thomas Tilling Ltd the largest horse omnibus provider in the capital saw an opportunity and bid to provide the same service for £8,000 using his horses and his drivers. He could, he said; work the service with forty-eight horses as opposed to the police's present sixty-seven. The Home Office agreed to a six-month trial and initially two of Tilling's vans were taken into service. By October 1900 there were thirteen 'Tillings' built Black Marias in full service with the drivers supplied by Thomas Tilling.

By May of 1922 the London prisoner transport department consisted of fourteen horse drawn 'Black Marias', crewed with a Tillings driver and police constable and a sergeant escort and another six vehicles were held in reserve. By now the Police also had two motor vans, on hire from Tillings. On 27th February 1923 the Home Office approved the purchase of six more motor vans, each to be built by Messrs Tilling Ltd. They also authorised the purchase of the two motor vans already on hire for £1,220 each. Motor vans gradually replaced the old horse drawn vehicles some of which were nearly forty years old.



It is of interest to briefly compare the French equivalent vehicles across the Channel. French early Fourgons Cellulaires (vans with cells) were pretty disgusting by comparison, being used for touring the streets to collect vagrants, drunks and arrested felons, but the later carriages of the Ministry of Interior Penitentiary Administration which took prisoners to and from prisons and police stations were of exceedingly high

quality with well equipped interiors, as the images show.

A prisoner-transporting problem in Aberdeen spawns an unusual version of the Black Maria.

Aberdeen in the late 1800's; at 3.0 o'clock in the quiet darkness of the night's small hours, two police officers, handcuffed to two prisoners and accompanied by a police sergeant, walk (hopefully unobserved) through the streets of the city, to the new Craiginches prison, a journey of some two miles. Craiginches prison was built by, Messrs D. Andrew and Co. in 1891 to replace the antiquated Aberdeen city prison. Its location though had its problems the nocturnal transportation of prisoners from Police Office to Prison being the main one. With the old city jail being next to the courthouse the transfer of prisoners had presented no problems. However, the new prison being situated two miles from the city courthouse meant prisoners were confined in the police office until transfers could be effected, during the night at 3.0 o'clock was considered the safest time. At the council meetings prisoner transport was a continuing subject for discussion. On 11 September 1891 at a meeting of the city council's 'Watching. Lighting and Fires Committee', four months after Craiginches became functional, it was proposed that the commissioners should pay £75 annually for the conveyance of prisoners from the police office to the new prison. This was on the understanding that the Council should procure a horse and van for the transport. Until that time the temporary arrangement of prisoners escorted on foot at 3.0.oclock in the morning should to continue. A two-wheeled single horse Black Maria, box van style, was supplied by an Aberdeen manufacturer and delivered to Crainginches towards the end 1891.

It's a long way to Inveraray.

Following what is believed to have been a long service life at Craiginches, a motorised vehicle replaced the Black Maria, which was discarded and eventually assumed the role of a garden shed complete with a fitted sink. A second relocation, around the time of the Second World War, brought it to Cobblestock Farm, Peterculter close to Aberdeen Scotland where it was used as a farmyard store. Some 50 years later a local historian discovered it. He encouraged Aberdeen Prison staff to purchase it and they secured it for just ten pounds.

A long process of restoration then began. The bodywork was found to be in good condition, put down to

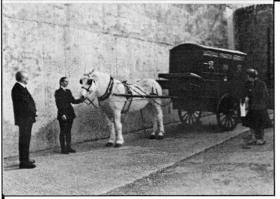


the fitting of a corrugated iron roof at some point during its enforced retirement. Unfortunately the wheels and the undercarriage were missing. Replacement wheels, axle, springs and shafts were all sourced locally. The vehicle was repainted and embossed with a royal coat of arms to complete its restoration. It was then kept at the jail as an exhibit being taken to various functions in and around Aberdeen. In 1991 it took a central role in the Jail's centenary celebrations

attended by the Princess Royal Princess Anne and the Black

Maria also took part in a parade in Aberdeen city centre. It also featured in the BBC drama 'Micawber' filmed in Edinburgh and staring David Jason.





Inveraray.

In 2004 the Governor of Craiginches Jail offered the Craiginches Black Maria to Inveraray Jail, on the west coast of Scotland, on a permanent loan. From the 1880's most small Scottish prisons were run down and the empty ones gradually fell into disrepair. Inveraray closed as a functional Jail in 1889. But its fate was rosier than others, its significance as 'the finest 19th century county courthouse and prison in Scotland' was recognised and an extensive restoration was undertaken. Inveraray Jail opened to the public as a museum and visitor centre in May of 1989, al-

most a hundred years after the last prisoners departed. But the old Black Maria's last 'internment' was not without obstacle. As the Jail has no double doors it required the services of a crane, to hoist it into the jail. Following a further restoration, carried out in the main by the staff of Inveraray, it is now the central exhibit in the jail's history of the Scottish prison service.



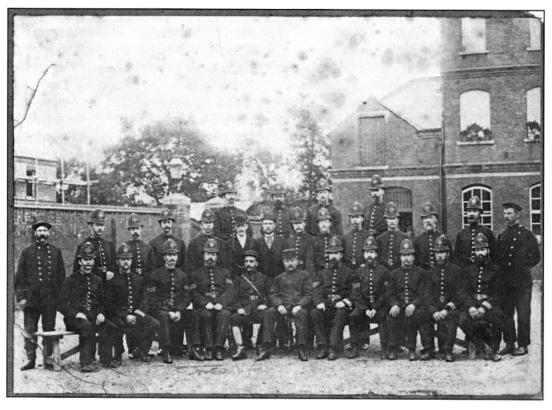
My thanks for information on this subject to:
Police History Society
Janette Gibson. The Governor Inveraray Jail
Archibald Orr Residents Manager Craiginches prison Aberdeen.
Maggie Bird.

Picture Credits:

The Governor, Inverary Prison
Fourgon Cellulaire. Interior of a van of the Ministry of Interior Penitentiary Administration
France. Photo courtesy of Patrick Magnaudeix. 'Figoli'
Fourgon Cellulaire. A van of the Ministry of Interior Penitentiary Administration France.
Photo courtesy of Patrick Magnaudeix. 'Figoli'



PICTURES FROM, THE PAST T DIVISION METROPOLITAN POLICE



Here we have another picture this one obtained from a local auction ..
The Division is T Division in the Met. This area stretched from Hammersmith out as far as Staines,
Sunbury, Hounslow and Richmond.

I have managed to possibly identify several of the officers and I believe it to have been taken sometime around 1870—75 however I cannot work out what function the chaps in the caps at either end performed. They may of course be the Fire Officers as I believe that fire duties were performed by police at outer Stations. ANY IDEAS

ROD ELWOOD POLICE PRINTS

I keep a large stock of police oriented prints, pictures and other ephemera. I have many antiquarian originals that cover most aspects of policing. These include the subject matter of Courts,

Prisons, Magistrates, CID, Dogs, Mounted Police, Women Police, Transport, cartoons, Vanity Fair etc. I have also

acquired a good selection of miscellaneous pictures that include photographs of

almost all the original London Police Stations

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THE RICHARDSONS.

By BT. WALKER



Frank Richardson, my Great Grandfather, was born in the village of Upton St Leonards, near Gloucester, in 1851. He was one of ten children and his father was a well-known local builder as well as being the Deputy Parish Overseer. Having just written Frank Richardson's biography it appears he was a man of strong character. I have many instances to show this but they are too numerous to be within the scope of this article. He married Mary Taylor in 1871 at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire when they were both aged twenty. They moved immediately to a cottage just north of Birmingham city centre where he became a

small businessman. For whatever reason they soon returned to the city of Gloucester where their first born child, my Grandfather, was born. Two years later they returned to Birmingham where Great Grandfather joined the City Police Force as a Constable Third Class. Promotion was rapid, in 1874 he was promoted to Constable Second Class and in 1875 Constable First Class. Then in 1878 he was promoted to Sergeant and in 1881 I know the family was living in Digbeth, Birmingham. About this time Frank Richardson was working with the well known Birmingham Detective Gerald Van Helden who became the mentor for Frank's sons when they joined the Birmingham Police Force in the 1890's. In 1882 he applied for the post of Chief Constable of Hereford and Fire Brigade Superintendent. He obtained the position although there were several other candidates who appeared to be more highly qualified so I presume the Watch Committee saw in him the man they wanted. He was to remain in Hereford until 1920. My Great Grandparents had six sons and four daughters. Within months of taking up his new post he was presenting the Hereford Watch Committee with suggestions to update Hereford's Police and in particular their Fire Brigade. Throughout his career he constantly kept an eye on updating their resources and getting better equipment. He appears to have got his way most of the time. He attended many fires in the City day and night. In fact each night his maid set out his uniform over a chair in such a manner that when the fire bell rang he could get dressed very quickly indeed. Thus his personal pony and trap and later taxi, was never kept waiting when it arrived at his front door to take him to the incident. When there were fires at night he never failed to attend Court proceedings the following day. He always seized an opportunity if it was there. For instance in 1907 there was a big fire at one of the county's prestigious buildings, Rotherwas House. Great Grandfather raced to the scene athough it was outside the city boundary and was credited with organising with great skill water jets utilising the fire steam engine Nell Gwynne. On the back of much press praise for his actions he immediately pressured the Watch Committee to purchase a motorised Fire Engine. A Dennis Patent Turbine Fire Engine duly arrived in Hereford in 1908! He was also the local President of the St John's Ambulance Brigade, the local Cricket Club, the Police Football Club, and he had an allotment near the Hereford meadows. I do not think he slept at all. He was awarded the Kings Medal in 1917 after 'meritous and special service' keeping the streets of Hereford safe especially during World War 1. and some particular detective work which was never published. At this time he was the Senior Chief Constable of England and the longest serving at 35 years. In fact from 1903 until 1920 three Richardson's were Chief Constables all at the same time, a feat which is not likely to be repeated. In office Great Grandfather had a reputation of being firm but fair. When he retired he moved back to the village of his birth, Upton St Leonards and in 1926 he was able to purchase the cottage of his birth when it came on to the market after many years of being out of the family ownership. He rented the cottage out but he lived in a house across the valley until he died in 1938. Frank Richardson spent 47 years in the Police Force.

My Grandfather Frank Richardson, the first born son, seated on the left in the photograph, served in the Detective's Office in Birmingham and then joined the Gloucester Police Force in Cheltenham in 1891. Within three months he was posted to the City on a special assignment. In 1899 he was promoted to Station Sergeant and Chief Clerk to the Deputy Chief Constable of Gloucestershire and again assigned to special and important cases of crime. In particular he became involved in standardising the early use of fingerprinting and later was involved in some very serious criminal cases. In 1903 he was the successful candidate for the position of Chief Constable of Salisbury City Police. He had many landmarks

in his career. In 1904 he had a Reverend Litten living in Salisbury who was known nationwide

for refusing to pay certain taxes. Duly sentenced to a term of imprisonment in Winchester goal there were real threats of violence from the Reverend's local supporters. Grandfather defused the situation at a stroke by appearing at Litten's house to escort him to Winchester by train but doing so in a suit and not uniform. Litten was moved to write to the press admiring Grandfather's tact. In 1906 he was appliated when he organised the Police, Fire, and Medical departments into a joint rescue service after an horrific train crash in the city. Also the use of horses in protecting the Royal Family when they visited the area by bringing in extra policemen from surrounding areas was a first and a special report was circulated to other Chief Constables in England, and conducting a murder enquiry of a ten year old boy named Teddy Haskell with Inspector Walter Dew of Crippen fame. He was not impressed with Dew. Grandfather was one of the first to officially employ a woman as a Constable in 1918 as opposed to the Matron system used previously. He had a reputation for always being visible on the city streets and at important events and indeed is captured on an early Pathé newsreel of 1918 walking across a park to talk to the city Mayor. At his retirement in 1929 the city official praised him for his fairness and tact in court cases. He died in 1952. Frank Richardson spent 38 years in the Police Force. Alfred Richardson, also seated, joined the Police Force as a Constable in 1890 at Birmingham prior to which he served like his brother in the Detective's Office under Superintendent Gerald Van Helden. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1898 and Inspector in 1900. He soon became a Detective Inspector and worked closely with Detective Superintendent Van Helden, a man who had worked with his father in the 1870's. In 1901 he applied for the Chief Constable post of Newcastle under Lyme and was successful but within 18 months had moved to be Chief Constable of Halifax, Yorkshire. He openly opposed women being in the Police Service and in fact none was employed during his term of office. I wonder how many times that topic came up in family conversations with his brother in Salisbury. He invented the Telephone Pillar System, the use of Identity Parades which are now standard, traffic signals as lights rather than semaphore and attached them to tram poles in Halifax, the Keep Left Rule for traffic after some bad accidents in the First World War blackouts and produced a booklet on how to police a crowd. He also was involved in perfecting the use of fingerprints setting up standards and procedures giving lectures in Yorkshire on the subject. During World War 1 he was a Major in nearby Catterick Camp during which he organised a body of 400 men as 'Specials'. He gained recognition for being an exceptionally good organiser for routes and crowd control during important occasions which were regarded as models of planning. He wrote a book on Police Evolution in 1925. Alfred was going to retire in 1938 but was asked to stay on in his post because of the problems of police shortages in the Second World War and he eventually retired in 1944. Alfred had a reputation of being a strong disciplinarian. He died in Halifax in 1951. Alfred Richardson spent 54 years in the Police Force. Major Richardson joined the Birmingham Police Force in 1904 and served in four Divisions between then and 1919. He was transferred to the Chief Constables Office in 1910. Major was named in the newspapers as being a rescuer of many people when he was a passenger in a train which crashed in Bromfield Bridge, Northamptonshire in 1913. He became a Sergeant in 1925 and always remained in the Birmingham area. He was never promoted further and retired in 1939. Major Richardson served in the Police Force for 35 years.

James Richardson was in military uniform at the time of the photograph having joined the Imperial Yeomanry and then the Scottish Light Horse Regiment. Previously in 1896 at Edinburgh he was a 'businessman' and before that he worked in the Birmingham Detective's Office under Superintendent Van Helden. When he was in South Africa he took part in some military skirmishes and in 1902 was in a Column that got shot up and General Lord Melhoun, their leader, was wounded and captured. Trekking through Kerkescorp he wrote in a letter home that he had been in the saddle for twenty eight hours without a break. He left the military 1903 and was working in the Criminal Investigation Department as an Acting Lieutenant Detective. He brought some offenders before a court in Florida Johannesburg which got press coverage. He later left the Police Force. In July 1907 he was working in a Gold Mine at Germiston near Johannesburg and went to rescue two Chinamen who were in some difficulties in a mine shaft. After the rescue James collapsed through breathing in gelignite fumes and died in hospital the following day. He was given, according to the Germiston City News, a "grand funeral in recognition of his attempted heroic rescue". he had been awarded two medals and five clasps during his time in South Africa.

Ralph Richardson was not born until 1886 so he did not get involved with the Birmingham Police. He did however join the South African Police, following his brother James to that country. He was picked as a Constable of the Johannesburg Mounted Police as a special escort to the Duke of Connaught when the Duke was touring the country in 1905. In May 1907 he rode many miles on horseback to be at the bedside of a close cousin Ralph Clutterbuck who was in hospital dying of Diabetes, then in July he was at the bedside of his dying brother James. In December of that year while on duty he apprehended some workers who were committing a crime but they turned a revolver on him and shot him. He died the following day. He was accorded a full Police funeral which was attended by many dignitaries from the city of Johannesburg and was buried next to his brother and cousin in Braamfontein Cemetery Johannesburg. His grave is marked by a very large monument. He had a reputation of being very popular with his fellow policemen and the public. The Transvaal Government handled his Estate very effectively with his brother Alfred Richardson in Halifax acting as Executor. Ralph Richardson was

Harry Richardson was the only son of Frank Richardson who did not enter the Police Force. He was Articled to the City Surveyor General for Gloucester in 1901 and was living in Bridport, Dorset in 1912. He was a Captain in the Royal Engineers between 1917 and 1919 and then became a Fuel Overseer for Highways in Sussex. In 1934 Harry became Planning Officer for Cuckfield, Sussex a post he held until 1951. He died in 1952.

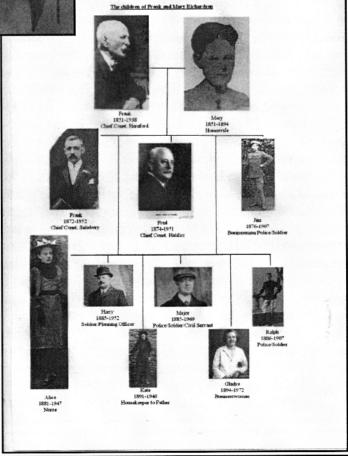
in the South African Police for approximately three years.

During the time of two generations the Richardson family contributed a total of 177 years to the Police Service. This is not likely to be repeated.

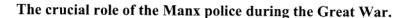


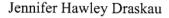
THE RICHARDSONS

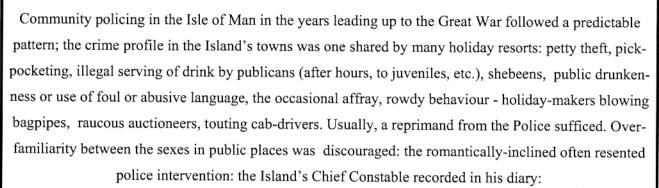
Standing: Major, James (in uniform) Ralph, Harry. Seated: Frank (Junior) Frank (Father) Alfred



KEEPING THE PEACE IN WW1:







29 August 1913: A certain amount of trouble on the front last night but not too bad.

One man was very annoyed on being stopped cuddling too much.

In this relaxed atmosphere, officers sometimes indulged the holiday-makers' high spirits, and had to be reminded to sharpen up their act. Madoc notes:

26 August. Inspector Duke reports 2 constables on the last tram from Derby Castle where a hideous noise was going on and they apparently never attempted to stop or check it. Saw them and warned them to be more severe in their manner.

14 July. The manager of the Empire Theatre brought along one 'Tacoma Kid' who had been bound over for galloping [horses] on the shore and firing shots yesterday afternoon. Told him I took a very serious view of it and would not allow this place to be turned into a bear-garden, and he would have to answer for it.

This last holiday season, full of sun and laughter, was the lull before the storm. The situation was to change dramatically with the outbreak of war on August 14th 1914; the impact on the lives and working conditions, including those of the Manx Police, was to be unprecedented. Within weeks, the first batch of (eventually) 25,000 enemy alien internees would arrive in the Island - pop. 52,000, with most able-bodied men – 82.5% - away at the front. The Aliens Act of 5 August 1914 provided a framework of powers under which non-British men could be confined, detained or deported. On 7 August, the War Office sent instructions to all military commands to arrest as Prisoners of War all German and Austrian males between the ages of 17 and 42 – these instructions were cancelled by a second telegram, stating that responsibility for arresting them would fall initially to the Police, who would then hand the men over to the military authorities for custody.

When the need for accommodation for thousands of 'enemy aliens' became acute, Sir William Byrne, permanent Principal Secretary at the Home Office, recalled noting, on a visit to Douglas prior to the War, the 1,500 8-man bell tents which provided summer-time accommodation at Cunningham's holiday



camp. This institution, established in 1904 by Joseph and Elizabeth Cunningham, advertised itself as offering 'good clean fun for young men' at a cost of a guinea a week. The camp was hastily cordoned off with barbed wire, and already in late September 1914 the first detachment of 200 interpress arrived. As detainees flooded in the Douglas camp was supplemented by Knockaloe.



internees arrived. As detainees flooded in, the Douglas camp was supplemented by Knockaloe, on the West coast of the Island. Knockaloe became the largest internment camp in the British Isles. Much of the responsibility for both camps devolved upon B. E. Sargeaunt, Government Secretary and Treasurer of the Isle of Man throughout the War. In 1920, Sargeaunt wrote: 'There are not many parts of the British Isles

in which the reality of War was more vividly reflected than in the Isle of Man.' Internment on this unprecedented scale moved the Isle of Man from the fringe to centre stage and placed an additional burden on the resources of the Isle of Man Constabulary: besides interminable searches for escaped prisoners, the monitoring of food rationing, following up leads on the whereabouts of draft-dodgers, escorting enemy aliens to and fro on the steamer, checking weights and measures as well as quality in foodstuffs – 'light bread', watered milk, etc., the Manx police had to deal with internees accused of crimes ranging from attempted suicide, larceny, forgery, false pretences, and breaking and entering, to 'attempted buggery', and the killing and eating of an officer's dog.

It was a time of labour unrest, too, with meetings which required a police presence.

On 21 September 1914, the Island's Chief Constable, Lt-Colonel Henry Madoc (1870-1937), formerly of the South African constabulary, was appointed Commandant of Douglas 'Enemy Alien' Internment Camp. Madoc had risen from the ranks, having enlisted in the Cape Mounted Riflemen as a trooper, and enjoyed a reputation as a good and sympathetic officer. He held the post of Camp Commandant of Douglas for the whole period of the War.

In 1914, the Manx Police Force comprised the Chief Constable, Superintendent John T. Quilliam (later appointed Acting Chief Constable), four inspectors, and 8 Sergeants. Douglas, the Island's capital, had 32 constables and one police cadet; eight outlying districts were the responsibility of a lone police constable. Conventional British police history, especially where it concerns preventive policing, portrays the policeman as a representative of his own community, who, by virtue of a legal authority accorded to him by that community, polices his fellow citizens as a kind of citizen-in-uniform. This notion has been dismissed by more cynical historians as a convenient myth promoted by manipulative authorities. But, while such a conception of the policeman and his social role harmonises perfectly with the aims of authority (and all authorities are by their nature manipulative, or become so over time), it does not necessarily follow that the concept itself is mythological. Police historians often quote a *Times* leader from 1911:

...the policeman [in London], is not merely a guardian of the peace, he is an integral part of social life. In many a back street and slum, he stands not merely for law and order, he is a true handyman of a mass of people who have no other counsellor or friend'.

If the 'citizen-in-uniform' concept of a police officer enjoyed genuine validity anywhere, it was perhaps in the Isle of Man. The Island's community was small, close-knit, relatively homogeneous, relatively egalitarian. Although the Manx police were officially encouraged to work in dis-



tricts in which they did not reside, the geographical size of the Island and its demographics, as well as the interrelationships within the local community, historical, economic and social, meant that the Island-born members of the Force (and most officers were Island-born, or of Manx descent in those days, as their surnames reveal) could hardly be described as 'strangers policing strangers'.

The dominant ideology and the perception of central government which affected, and to some extent directed, the operations of the Manx Police Force at the time of the First World War were based off -Island. The Senior Management of the local Force were in daily communication with officials who, though Island-based, were the representatives of central British Government. From them the Police received their instructions, but the interaction was more complex: in daily contact with these senior powers and their officials, the senior police officer freely exchanged views, and gave and sought advice and support on issues ranging from the trivial to the nationally important.

With a diminished force, Acting Chief Constable Quilliam successfully carried out a delicate balancing act between the Manx Government and British ('Imperial') Governments, the local administration and representatives of various Government departments and local military bodies, and at the same time ensured the fulfilment of the peacetime expectation of the Police, in the effective maintenance of public law and order, and the prevention and detection of crime. The task was one of unprecedented complexity: the increased wartime paperwork alone represented an additional workload for Police Officers of all ranks; searching for escapees from the camps was arduous for the police, expensive in time and man hours, and the assistance of the public was much appreciated. Relays of search parties often scoured the land for four hours at a time for sightings. Eventually patience wore thin:

'These escapes are most troublesome and annoying,' Quilliam complained, '...
the neglectful guards should be punished by the loss of leave and by being made to search
until the prisoner is found'.

One of the more striking escapes was the fifth attempt by consummate escape artist Georg von Strang, 'who claims to be a German nobleman and author, but whose appearance suggests that he is a tramp' Quilliam notes tersely. Von Strang had on one occasion attempted to climb the barbed wire while naked, been imprisoned for using insulting language, and for escaping and swimming out to a steamer. Handcuffed, he escaped, entered a smithy and attempted to sever his cuffs. Approached by police, he put up no resistance, accepting the situation with 'philosophical resignation'. A neighbouring farmer brought along his dog-cart so that the prisoner might be conveyed to Port St Mary police station, where 'Sergeant and Mrs Faragher provided a substantial breakfast for the dejected man – the first meal he had had for three days.' The prisoner warmly thanked them for their hospitality.

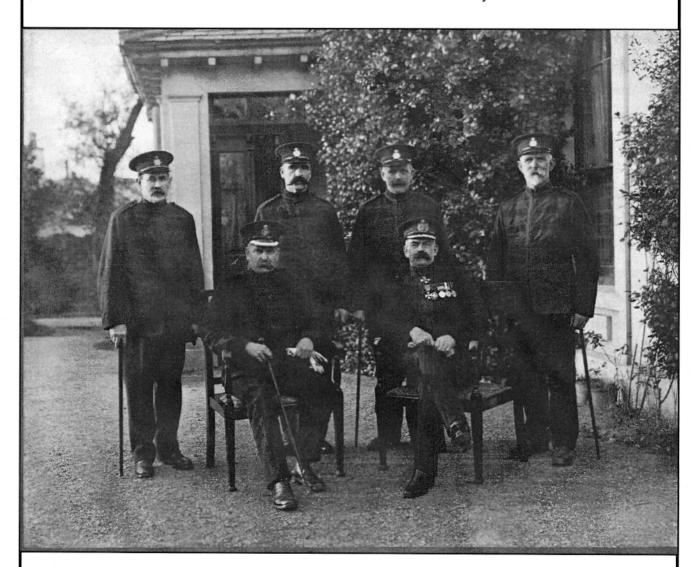
Inevitably, among so many internees, there were men with mental problems. These were sent to 'Ballamona Lunatic Asylum', where surveillance appeared lax:

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One alien inmate strolled unremarked out of the asylum and called in at the local gaol, where he naively enlisted the help of officers to assist him in getting off the Island. Another asylum escapee got as far as the town, where he encountered a resourceful discharged soldier, who shut him



up in a shed while he fetched the constable. The ACC noted that asylum staff were unaware of these defections. He had also learned that staff habitually sent patients to fetch liquor from the local inn - sometimes two or three times a day - and themselves frequented the pub every evening, often while police were out searching for escaped alien inmates. Exasperated with their lackadaisical attitude, he reported their deficiencies to the Government Secretary.



Manx Police including JT Quilliam

At the end of the war, Madoc returned from his secondment to resume his duties as Chief Constable, a post he would continue to hold until 1936. He was awarded the CBE for his wartime service. In 1920, Quilliam, who had ably deputised throughout the war years, retired from the force after 33 years' service. In 1918, the Governor wrote a letter congratulating the Police on their work and on the fact that ten officers had won colours. Madoc wrote to Quilliam, congratulating him on an excellent job performed in a

difficult time. These sentiments, despite their predictability and formality, reflected no more than the truth. Before the War, the Isle of Man Constabulary had been a small local force, well accustomed to dealing with the seasonal problems of a popular tourist resort, including the influx, for periods of short duration, of hordes of strangers who required additional vigilance. Troublesome visitors could be put back on the boat; delinquent local youngsters and other minor malefactors, too, could be exported. Consequently, the Island was a low-crime area. Police enjoyed, for the most part, the respect and confidence of the close-knit community they patrolled, and were often able to use their knowledge of that community in order to form their own judgements. Senior Police officers were in daily contact with the Governor and Government Office; there were regular discussions and a certain degree of consensus management.

With reduced manpower, the Manx Police confronted a massive influx of military personnel and enemy aliens whose presence in the Island was of indeterminate duration (the last prisoners marched out of Knockaloe for repatriation in October 1919). They also confronted ever-changing, often conflicting, decrees, rules and regulations issued by the War Office and other bodies of the Imperial Government, which had to be negotiated in addition to instructions from Island authorities.

The Police had indeed acquitted themselves well of their complex task; the impact of the Great War on all societies involved, and on the Police, who continued to operate within a society in a state of turmoil, was irreversible: there could never be a return, in many respects, to the *status quo ante*.

The Author:

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Inspector with the Isle of Man Constabulary.

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"SURREY'S WARTIME DREAM TEAM"





In the history of British policing, every force has its 'dream teams' of officers whose ability to work together produced excellent 'collars' or amazing feats of bravery, and Surrey is no different. Surrey's dream team, in the form of Brian Gunning and Edward Storr, achieved several feats of bravery and excellent detective work. A native of Westbury, Gloucester, Gunning had been a sales representative for Baker & Co in Bristol. He was first stationed in Dorking, later moving to Mayford, Cranleigh, and Esher before moving to Godalming in January 1941. Gunning was an ambitious PC passing both anti-gas and St. John Ambulance courses and even attempting to pass the sergeants course after only three years service (he failed). However, it was the arrival of the Canadian Armed Forces in Waverley that PC Gunning's heroic qualities came to notice. Edward Storr was born in the parish of Worplesdon, Surrey and lived and worked with his father on Lawford's Farm near Guildford. Storr joined Surrey Constabulary on 9th September 1928, beginning his long service in Woking. Whilst in Leatherhead, PC Storr became Temporary Sergeant, prompted no doubt by his commendation from the Chief Constable for his endeavour in preventing a prisoner's escape from custody. He had a long and violent struggle with the prisoner whom was an armed soldier, who threatened to shoot him. By 1942, Sgt Storr arrived in Godalming and became paired with PC Gunning. The Second World War brought in major changes for the constables of the Surrey Constabulary. A special Defence Regulation merged the independent Borough forces of Guildford and Reigate with Surrey Constabulary infrom 1942. The outbreak of war on 3rd September 1939 radically changed the day-to-day duties of every officer of the force. The arrest and checking of 'aliens', the guarding of various vulnerable points in expectation of invasion, the posting of proclamations, registration of billets and the enforcement of blackout lighting regulations . By the winter of 1940, the Nazi Blitz took the surrender of France and the Low Countries prompting invasion fears all along the south coast of England. Surrey Constabulary found itself in the mobile reserve area of the South East and the midst of the 'fifth column'? scare. Normally rational and sensible British citizens became worried by the merest rumour of clandestine enemy activity and inundated local Bobbies with wild reports of enemy activity . By 1943, the threat of invasion had passed, but PC Gunning and Sgt Storr continued their good work. Commended three times by the Chief Constable of Surrey, firstly for zeal, perseverance and sound through work displayed in the case of the August Sangrel- Murder. Secondly, for persistence displayed in the matter of indecent assaults on schoolgirls- Ralph May. However, Gunning's third commendation was the most remarkable and dramatic and became the first in a series of successes for Surrey's 'dynamic duo' of PC Gunning and TPS Storr. On duty at Godalming Police Station on 12th April 1944, PC Gunning and TPS Storr were attempting to control a male prisoner whom was in possession of a "Mills" hand grenade. The prisoner had attempted to pull the pin and the two police officers had reason to believe he had, but they closed on? with hhim, and secured the grenade and Gunning replaced the pin. Both where commended by the Chief Constable in the first class for their bravery and devotion to duty, qualities the pair would continue to demonstrate.

The early 1940's also saw the quiet fields and woods surrounding Dunsfold village awoken by the arrival of the Second World War and the Canadian Royal Engineers in particular. This specialised regiment of the Canadian Army had arrived to construct a purpose build airfield for the Royal Canadian Air Force and its fleet of Mitchell Bombers. This new airfield provided a new policing challenge for the 'Bobbies' of Surrey Constabulary. One night during September 1944 a Mitchell bomber from 180 squadron, lost power during take off and crashing near Dunsfold village . The 'dream team' were quickly on the scene and extricated members of the RAF from the crashed Mitchell bomber. Gunning and Storr showed no regard for their own lives as the ground was littered with burning debris and the bomber's fuel tanks still full. Gunning was later commended by the Chief Constable for bravery, determination, devotion to duty and initiative displayed at Dunsfold that night. By 1945, this feat of bravery had come to the notice of King George V who ordered the names of the two officers to be publicized in the London Gazette of 26th June 1945 as having been commended for brave conduct . PC Gunning also received praise from the Air Ministry, the Home Secretary, and the then Prime Minister Winston Churchill himself . After the war, Pc Gunning passed his sergeants course as well as further





'B-25 Mitchell takes off from Dunsfold on its way to occupied France'

courses and others to end his career as Superintendent based in Dorking. The Central Criminal Court in the second Cclass again commended for him during 1948 (with Sgt Storr) for coolness in arresting a thief known to be in the possession of a firearm and ammunition and. Then again, in February 1951 for the manner in which they police carried out their extensive enquires in the complicated case of housebreaking etc? against Davidson, Gardner, and Reeves . Brian Gunning retired from Surrey Constabulary on 30th July 1966. Edward Storr went on after the war to received various commendations for his good detective work no doubt , benefiting from his attendance at the Metropolitan Police Detective Training School at Hendon . Storr was awarded the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in September 1951 the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. He retired from the position of Chief Inspector at Dorking on 17th September 1962 as Chief Inspector, also based in based in Dorking.

Notes.

Edward Storr Police Service Record, *Defaulters Book 1911-1931*, p1964, Surrey Police Museum (later known as Storr Service Record).

² A.J. Durrant, *A Hundred Years of Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951*, p59, Biddles Ltd

³ *Ibid*, p59

⁴Brian Gunning Police Service Record, *Defaulters Book 1931-1947*, p2092, Surrey Police Museum (later known as Gunning Service Record).

⁵ Paul. M. McCue, *Dunsfold: Surrey's Most Secret Airfield*, p 166, (Walton, 1991).

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BRITAIN UNDER ATTACK

Joan Lock

The respectably dressed gentleman who arrived at Victoria Railway Station on the evening of 25 February, 1884, was loaded down with an assortment of luggage. This included a large canvas portmanteau of a foreign make, a small Gladstone bag and two boxes. One of the boxes was especially heavy and he asked Thomas, the cloakroom porter, to handle it with great care. In fact, so particular was he that when Thomas stacked the rest of the luggage on top of the box he said, 'Don't do that, please,' and asked him to place all of the bags and boxes on the floor, side by side, close together but with nothing on top of them.

By one o'clock in the morning the station was closed and a feeling of peace and tranquillity was spreading over the darkening terminus.

Mr Manning, the night duty Inspector and his men were locking the doors, turning off gas jets and attaching the fire hose to the hydrant on one of the platforms. A nightly procedure which readied them for any unexpected outbreaks of fire. Suddenly, the tranquillity was abruptly shattered by a deafening roar. Two of the workmen on the platform turned around in time to see the tail end of a red flash and flying debris coming from the luggage repository in the entrance hall. Two more men were closer and were injured by the blast.

Almost instantly the glass and slate roof of the nearby booking office crashed to the ground and the walls of the cloakroom, First Class waiting room and inspector's office, all caved in. Flames, fed by fractured gas mains, began licking around the wreckage. The explosion was heard by the Victoria Street Fire Brigade and they and their engines soon arrived to help quench the blaze.

Police Superintendent Hambling of B Division, quick to arrive on the scene placed a police cordon around the site and asked that the wreckage not be interfered with in any way until it was exam-

ined by expert eyes. Telegrams were sent off to Detective Chief Superintendent Williamson of Scotland Yard and Colonel Majendi Her Majesties Chief Inspector of Explosives. The Colonel and his men brought with them a powerful magnet with which they began to comb through the strewn wreckage. Quite quickly these experts came to the conclusion that, from the pattern of the damage and the discovery among the debris of the remnants of a small metal box and a metal spring, the explosion was not one of those which been caused accidentally by an accumulation of steam or gas.

Nor was gunpowder the culprit because such a large an amount would have been necessary to cause such widespread damage. Therefore, the 'fiendish device' which is what they called it, must have been loaded with the newer and more lethal dynamite. From then on, the incident was referred to by the newspapers as The Dynamite

Outrage. So, who had placed the bomb there? To what purpose? And where had they acquired their expertise? Surprisingly it all led back to the American Civil War.



Colonel Majende

Many soldiers on both sides had been of Irish extraction. There had even been Irish Brigades recruited by the Northern army. Five years before the war the Fenian Brotherhood had been formed in New York almost at the same time as the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) was set up in Dublin. The aim of both, of course, was Irish freedom from Britain.

The US Civil War offered many Fenians the opportunity to gain expertise in arms and explosives which they were eager to use afterwards by staging an uprising in Ireland. To organise and lead this they called upon the Irish soldier of fortune, Frances Millen. who had become a Brigadier General in the army of the Republic of Mexico. The Fenians reckoned the Dublin uprising would be backed by the US who were still sore at us for our perceived support of the south in their civil war.

But the Dublin uprising turned into a bit of a shambles after a drunken emissary lost the plans and the names of all those involved at the railway station and these ended up in the hands of the Dublin CID who had already been somewhat alerted by the arrival of scores of Americans on every incoming steamer. Apparently, these were easily recognisable by their felt hats, double breasted waistcoats and square-toed shoes. Arrests were made.

However, the leader, Millen, remained free and he began an affair with the girlfriend of one of the arrested men. He then fled to the US, went to the British Consul and told him everything he knew about the Fenians, their names, their numbers, their armoury both in the US, Ireland, and in Britain. The British consul had met Millen before when he had inquired about the possibility of obtaining a commission in the British army which he admired.

Meanwhile, there was a huge row in the Fenian camp in New York about the failed Dublin coup and they split into two factions the O'Mahoney's and the Senate. The O'Mahonys decided it would be a good idea to capture an obscure British Island, Campo Bello, in the Bay of Fundy, just opposite Eastport, Maine. They would claim Campobello for the US. But in this case the British were duly warned by the crowds of excited Irishmen gathering in Eastport. They were soon standing ready to defend their rocky outcrop and easily repelled the invaders.

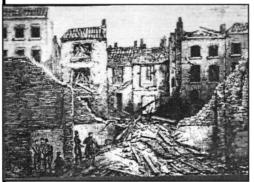
The other wing of the Fenians, the Senate wing, decided it would be a much better idea to invade Canada -- as you would. They didn't intend to take it all. They only had 800 men. But they wanted to form a base from which to attack British shipping. In the early hours of 1st June, 1866, they crossed the River Niagra to a point on the Canadian side where they planted an Irish flag. The next day they found and captured little Fort Erie. The following day they went on to skirmish with Canadian forces during which twenty men were lost on each side. In the end, seventy Fenians died, about 200 were taken prisoner along with their leader - and the rest put back on trains to the United States.

A great many Fenians began entering Ireland and the British mainland in preparation for another Dublin uprising. In attempt to gather arms for this, a group of Fenians raided a poorly-guarded arsenal at Chester Castle. This raid failed due to the startling influx of Irishmen into that sedate city which put Chester Castle on the alert. Also, the fact that the man who was to lead the raid failed to arrive because his train was late and also because an informer, John Corydon, had given the game away anyway.

But the situation on the British mainland was about to become more serious. The forthcoming uprising in Dublin was to be led by a Colonel Kelly who had escaped following the first Dublin attempt. He was now in Manchester, acquiring arms, but was arrested as he tried to settle an internal quarrel. At first the police didn't realise who they had got until he was identified by the spy, Corydon who also picked out another Fenian named Deasy. But, they were not to hold on to Kelly for long however. The prison van carrying him was ambushed by members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and a pistol shot fired through the keyhole killed a police sergeant. (Some versions claim the killing was accidental, others that it was deliberate.) A woman prisoner got hold of the keys and pushed them through the slats and Kelly was rescued. Five of these rescuers were caught and convicted of murder. One was reprieved; another, an American, had his sentence commuted to life on the intervention of the US President. The other three were publicly hanged and became known as the Manchester Martyrs.

That was in November, 1867. That same month, Detective Inspector Thomson of Scotland Yard arrested the man who had planned the Manchester rescue: Richard O'Sullivan Burke. He was placed in Middlesex House of Detention at Clerkenwell . Inspector Thomson suspected that Kelly the man who had been rescued from the prison van, would try to return the favour and rescue O'Sullivan Burke.

For several days and nights Thomson dragged the informer Corydon around the prison walls in the hope of identifying Kelly and other Irishmen lurking about. But, after a few nights, the watch was stood down because the informer was tired. In fact, it was not Kelly, but another Fenian, James Murphy,



The Clerkenwell Explosion

with a team of 15 IRB men, who were to attempt the rescue. The plan was simple, lean a barrel of gunpowder up against the prison wall at the time when the prisoner, Burke, would be exercising in the yard on the other side. They would alert Burke by means of a white ball being thrown over the wall. It was all planned for 12 December. But the fuse would not light. So the barrel was trundled away and brought back the following day. By then, Met. Commissioner Mayne had received information of the plot but not the date so sent Inspector Thomson to warn the governor. He changed exercise times but refused to believe of the possibility of an attack or to take any further precautions.

The second time the fuse did light, the ball was thrown over the wall and the gunpowder, all 548 pounds of it, exploded demolishing not only the wall but the block of tenements opposite killing six people, two of them children and horribly maining many others.

Eventually, six men were charged with causing the explosion, two of whom, both Irish Republican Brotherhood members, turned Queen's evidence. Three more were acquitted of murder but found guilty of lesser charges. Only one, a Glaswegian Fenian named Michael Barrett, was convicted of wilful murder and hanged. The last public hanging to take place in England, He too became a martyr to be sung about but he always insisted on his innocence. That was in 1868.

In 1870, a further invasion of Canada took place. It lasted a day and was roundly defeated. This time, the Canadians were waiting having been given all the details by another spy, Englishman Thomas Billis Beach.. He had fought in the American Civil War and sent a letter to his English father in Colchester complaining that he was surrounded Fenians planning to invade Canada and set up a base to attack British shipping. His father passed the letter on to the Foreign Secretary who replied asking if this patriotic son would like to tell them more. Beach infiltrated himself into the Fenian Brotherhood posing as an Anglophobic Frenchman, Henri Le Caron, (he spoke good French having lived in France). He actually took part in the second Canadian raid but managed to keep out of danger. More spies were signed up such as Philadelphia-born, Charles Carol-Tevis, a senior member of the Senate wing of the Fenians who had fallen out with its leaders. The information supplied by these spies was collated by Robert Anderson, a Dublin lawyer and civil servant. This made him a powerful spymaster.

There was something of a lull after the 1870 Canadian invasion although plenty was going on under the surface including the designing of a pedal-powered submarine with which to attack British shipping. In 1871 five IRB men who had been imprisoned after the Dublin uprising were given an amnesty and they went off to New York to re-invigorate a new Fenian organisation, the Clan na Gael. One of the Clan members, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa or Jeremiah O'Dynamite as his weary co-members dubbed him, became tired of the lack of action and formed yet *another* sub group, the United Irishmen.

And what the United Irishmen had in mind was skirmishing on the British mainland.

These skirmishes began on 14 January, 1881, when a crude bomb was placed in a ventilating grid of Salford Infantry Barracks. It exploded killing a seven-year-old boy and injuring three others. The next incident came three months later, in March, 1881, when the skirmishers placed a bomb below a window of the Mansion House in the City of London. But the banquet due to be held there had been cancelled as a mark of respect to the Czar who had just been assassinated - by means of a bomb. The Mansion House device, with its smouldering fuse, was found by a patrolling City of London constable who took it to the police station where the fuse was extinguished. The Fenians themselves took a bomb to the entrance of Liverpool's main police station. It exploded causing minor damage. So they tried again but were caught as they primed it.

In response to all this clumsy skirmishing the Clan na Gael determined to begin dynamite attacks in Britain. The Yard, getting wind of all this activity, set up its Special Irish Branch. under Chief Supt Williamson. It's headquarters were in a two story block in the middle of Scotland Yard. Instructed to gather as much intelligence as possible was Yard detective, Inspector John George Littlechild, a man fond of disguises. He also liked to black up as one of the Metropolitan Police Minstrels who supported the police orphanage. Things were hotting up.

In 1882, the Chief Secretary for Ireland and his assistant were murdered – knifed to death while walking through Phoenix Park in Dublin. The following year, Rossa's skirmishers planted bombs at three mainland sites: a Glasgow gasholder; outside The Times newspaper offices in Fleet Street and government offices in Whitehall. These exploded causing damage but no loss of life.

The Clan na Gael had more serious intentions but it was proving difficult to for them get enough

dynamite through for their intended campaign on the mainland what with the watch that was being kept on our ports and the information we were receiving from our spies about forthcoming deliveries. So, they decided they would have to send some experienced men over to manufacture dynamite on the spot. One of these, was James Murphy alias Alfred George Whitehead, who proceeded to

Birmingham which had a sizeable Irish population.

However, a Birmingham chemical company employee became suspicious when the owner of Whitehead's paint and wallpaper shop put in an order for 27 lbs of pure glycerine (for hairdressing preparations he claimed) together with a request for a quantity of nitric acid. He tipped off the police. Watch was kept by the Birmingham City Police and the Met's Special Irish Branch and the suspects were followed to London and arrested. It was found that they had transported 500 lbs of highly volatile nitro glycerine in fishermens' rubber stockings which were found under the beds in their lodgings. One of the accused turned Queen's evidence. The rest were convicted and sentenced to penal servitude for the rest of their natural lives.

But it soon became clear that sufficient American dynamite *had* got through when there were two attacks on the London Underground. A



Whitehead at Bow Street

Bomb exploded in a tunnel near Praed Street Station (later Paddington) injuring seventy passengers with flying glass. A second was dropped out of a train close to Charing Cross Station. Damage from that one was limited

Next, came our 1884 bomb at Victoria Railway Station which as you know caused quite a bit of damage and some injury. What really concerned the police however was, were there were more bombs out there at other railway stations? The detectives had been given a surprisingly full description of the man who had handed in the suspect luggage at Victoria Station the previous evening. The fact that he had made a fuss about its placement had doubtless impressed the man's image on the porter's mind.

He was, they were informed, 29 years of age (an oddly precise figure) 5ft.10ins. to 5ft.11ins in height (again, oddly precise), square built, had a large round face, light brown hair, a slight moustache, turned his toes out when walking, had a soldierly appearance and wore a light tweed 'tourist suit'.

How could they miss him with all that information? The answer, of course, was quite easily. He would probably be back on the Continent by now having had time to catch the night express to Calais via Dover.

The Victoria Station bomb had exploded in the early hours of Tuesday, 26th February, 1884. The following evening the cloakroom porter at Charing Cross Railway Station was searching, as instructed, for items of luggage of a suspicious character, particularly those that seemed more than ordinarily heavy.

He found a black portmanteau of 'a common material', which had been left by an American gentleman on Monday 25th February between the hours of seven and nine in the evening. The bag was fastened with two leather straps but not locked and was in fact extraordinarily heavy. He put it to one side for examination.

When opened it was found to contain a few items of old clothing and, below them, packed around a small tin box, were many slabs of some heavy, solid material wrapped in Para-finned wax paper. Each slab bore the words Atlas Powder 'A'.

Police were called and they took the portmanteau to Woolwich Arsenal - in a cab.

This unexploded bomb, for that is what it proved to be, provided Colonel Majendie with a great deal of information. He already knew that Atlas Powder A was in fact, a form of lignine-dynamite manufactured in the United States for industrial purposes but not legally imported into Britain. Inside the tin box was an American alarm clock of 'Peep of the Day' design. The back had been removed and a small, nickel-plated vest-pocket pistol fastened to the clock's movement by means of copper wire.

When the alarm went off at midnight it was intended that one end would strike the trigger and fire the pistol – into the detonators. In this case, the procedure had worked perfectly. The alarm had gone off, the trigger had been struck and the gun had fired - but the detonating cartridge had failed to ignite. The clock itself had wound down and finally stopped at 4.14 am.

The clock found in a suspect portmanteau at Paddington Station was still ticking merrily away. In this instance, the winder had caught against a small knob which failed to release it. Any doubt as to the source of *this* lethal package was dispelled when a recent copy of the New York Sun was found among the extra padding.

The duties of the porter at Ludgate Hill Station were heavy for, as the Times was later to remark, this railway (the London, Chatham and Dover) did not have a superabundance of station help. He, too, had been ordered to look out for suspect luggage and had even been told the approximate weight to expect. But really he had just not had time to do so. Indeed, the instruction had quite slipped his mind until a passenger had remarked jovially that he hoped there was no dynamite in their luggage repository given that it was so near to the stairs which were used daily by thousands of passengers.

When the porter finally looked he found a portmanteau containing yet another 'infernal machine'. The guilty porter duly informed the Station Master who called in the City of London Police. They took charge of the portmanteau but brought Colonel Majendie to the bomb rather than the other way around.

Again, the detonators had failed to ignite. On testing all of the detonators Majendie found that some of the cartridges worked, some had to be struck in a certain spot and others failed completely.

Now the Metropolitan Police were seeking four suspects, two of them American. Their descriptions varied from the scant to the quite extensive. But it was realised, that all the men would have had time to escape back across the Channel (much of the planning was done in Paris and Antwerp) having

caught the last trains from their particular station long before the bombs had gone off or been found.

Railway companies began refusing to accept bags weighing over 4lbs in weight unless the contents could be examined. And a *Times* correspondent suggested that all cloakroom porters should be issued with stethoscopes so as to detect ticking clocks inside the luggage.

The British Press had been cock-a-hoop at the capture of the Birmingham bombmakers and the sup-



The Scotland Yard damage

posed foiling of the railway station plots and gave lots of perhaps undeserved credit to the Special Irish Branch typified by this cartoon of a triumphant Littlechild holding a bag of dynamite captioned 'from America' and a biographical cartoon of Chief Superintendent Williamson showing him making derisory comments about the Fenians' current threats to blow up Scotland Yard, the Houses of Parliament; the Tower of London; Buckingham Palace and the Queen. They also planned to capture the Falkland Islands. In reality, Scotland Yard were having to struggle to find out just what was going on as Edward George Jenkinson - another civil servant turned spymaster - fought with Anderson to gain control of all the spies and withhold information from the police whom Jenkinson despised. All of them were soon to get a rude awakening.

Just before 8pm on 30 May, 1884, D I Littlechild left the offices of the Special Irish Branch in Scotland Yard. DS George Robson and Kerry-born DI Sweeney worked on. Soon only Sweeney was left. The Fenian threat was putting great pressure on the branch. Eventually, at 9pm, Sweeney too called it a day. Twenty minutes later a bomb exploded in the urinal which stood outside the office. It demolished the wall, destroyed the desk at which Sweeny had been sitting and many papers relating to Fenian activities. The constable on guard was cut about the face and head by flying debris and promptly became deaf. The bomb also damaged the glittering front of the Rising Sun Public House opposite. Two cab drivers awaiting fares outside the public house also received injuries, one of them suffering a broken arm. Their hansom cabs were wrecked but their horses, though shocked, were relatively unscathed.

Almost simultaneously, devices exploded in the basement area of the Junior Carlton Club and on the window-sill of a MP's house, both in St James's Square. The first injured twelve employees including one maid-servant who was severely cut about the face and breast and other parts of the body and whose condition was, for some time, serious. The second bomb resulted in a minor cut to the hand of 'a lady' in a party assembled in the morning room and the injury of two domestic staff, one 'somewhat severely'. A few minutes later a boy found a small black bag lying close to the base of Nelson's column. Inside was an unexploded bomb. To topple this British hero would indeed have been a Fenian triumph. But this bomb had failed to explode. So, Eighteen-eighty-four had been an explosive year and it ended with two Clan members blowing up themselves and an innocent Thames boatman while planting a bomb under London Bridge but doing little damage to the actual bridge.

The following year also began with a bang when an explosion took place on the Metropolitan Railway between King's Cross and Gower Street causing minor casualties. Three weeks later came what the Press dubbed Dynamite Saturday with simultaneous explosions in the Armoury of the Tower of London (which injured four people) and on the floor of the House of Commons. The policeman meant to be guarding the chamber had been decoyed to a smouldering parcel found in the medieval crypt. While carrying it out the parcel exploded injuring him quite badly. But the Tower of London gates had been closed instantly by Inspector Abberline (of later Ripper fame). Inside, police came across a man with an American accent who turned out to be a Fenian named James Gilbert Cunningham. Cunningham was found guilty of planting the Tower bomb and also the one on the Metropolitan Railway. Harry Burton, a Fenian traced through Cunningham, was convicted of some of the railway station left-luggage bombs of the previous year. The attacks ceased abruptly in 1886 while the Home Rule bill was being considered. The 'terror' was not resumed when the bill was defeated – apart from a foiled plan to assassinate the Queen during her Golden Jubilee celebrations. The cessation was thought to be due partly to the capture of so many of the bombers and also to the opposition of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. They were fearful of reprisals against the Irish population. It was fine for Fenians who just popped over left their bombs and popped back to Paris where some of them at least led the life of Riley.

In 1889 the spy Beach gave evidence at a Special Commission regarding accusations that Irish MPs were involved in the Phoenix Park murders. The evidence revealed Beach as a spy. He had agreed to this providing he was given £10,000. His evidence was especially damaging to Parnell and not to helpful to Beach himself who had to live undercover thereafter with a pistol under his pillow. In 1893 he wrote his memoirs *Twenty Years in the Secret Service*. In them, he makes derogatory remarks about the Fenians and it is rather unpleasant to read his comments about the 1870 Canada raid which he informed on beforehand. He raves about the beautiful scenery along the border then calmly and contemptuously, describes the unknowing Fenians going forward to be killed. His wasn't the only story to end on a particularly unpleasant note. That of the Clan na Gael also did. One Clansman, Dr Cronin, was critical of the increasing violence used and also accused the leaders of fraud and misappropriating funds gathered from poor Irish people. *They* accused Cronin of being a spy and lured him to an isolated spot on the shores of Lake Michigan - on the pretext of tending an injured ice worker. There they killed him with ice picks and dumped his body down a drain. But although Clan members were named by a Coroner's Jury and their leader, Alexander Sullivan, was arrested they were never convicted.

And Beach wasn't the only participant to go into print. The Home Office explosives expert, Colonel Majendie, gave a 12-page account of the Dynamite War to *The Strand* magazine this included the bomb details and photographs of all the different types.

I became interested in this subject when writing my books about Scotland Yard's first detectives and my crime novel, *Dead Loss*. In that I send my lead character, Detective Inspector Ernest Best, over to Paris in pursuit of a Fenian as did several real-life police detectives at the time.

The Author:

NOTES FROM YOUR EDITOR

I am always looking for new material and very much appreciate your contributions to the Journal. If you are considering contributing an article the following will assist me greatly:

All copy should ideally be typed with double spaced lines and no more than 2500 words. (Equivalent to 10 written A4 pages) If you are using a word processor please enclose both the printed copy and a CD or Floppy disc so that I can put it on my machine rather than have to type it in myself.

If possible enclose as many pictures as you can to illustrate your article (You will get them back). Drawings or cartoons are acceptable

Any pictures sent either on disc or by Email should ideally be in Jpeg or Tiff format. The printers cannot extract pictures from a Word document

Please write a brief paragraph about yourself (and possibly a picture) to accompany the article

Send to:Mr Chris Forester
The Editor,
The Peeler Magazine,
Pinewell Heights,
Tilford Road,
Hindhead, Surrey, GU26 6SQ







James Cramer 1915-2010

Police historian, Second World War soldier and Portsmouth City Policeman, James (known as Jim) Cramer died on June 12th at the age of 94 years.



The son of a Portsmouth Dockyard engine fitter, his grandfather had served in the Metropolitan Police at Portsmouth Dockyard. Although becoming a soldier was his boyhood ambition, in 1932 he applied for a job with the Police and went to the Chief Constable's office at the Guildhall. He recalled that 'armed with a letter from my doctor.... I was ushered into the awesome sanction of this great man (Thomas Davies) and saw a huge chap glaring at me over his glasses. I could not understand

half of what he was saying, as he had a pronounced Welsh accent.' Young James was asked for his school and sporting achievements and given a

spelling test. The Chief asked James 'Can you swim on the buck?' and he replied that he had not heard of that particular stroke. Cramer was told there were no vacancies and later realised that the Chief had meant the 'back stroke'!

Nevertheless Cramer reapplied the following year and was this time offered a post as a police clerk, a job which included answering the telephone, running errands and taking notes, all for the princely sum of 30 shillings a week.

In his autobiography 'Gone for a Soldier' (2004) he recalled this work:

'There were two other boy clerks with me usually in the front office. Our duties were to take down the detectives' reports, first in shorthand and then type them out neatly in reports. Some of the detectives were infuriating in their habits. They gossiped nearly all morning, went drinking during the lunchtime, stayed away from the office nearly all the afternoon and then rushed in about four or five o'clock, bellowing "Boy!" or "Clerk" or "Cramer" and dictated pages of notes which had to be typed out and signed before I went home at 6pm. In those days it wasn't advisable to complain about their



behaviour because unemployment was rife and you would be sacked on the spot'.

When Jim had to take notes from members of the Vice Squad he found the experience embarrassing and alarming. These officers dressed up as sailors and frequented urinals in Pompey and as a result received 'invitations" from all manner of people. This was all part of young Cramer's education.

In 1935 he joined Portsmouth Police as Police Constable 97, earning £3 10 shillings a week and being in a job where according to his companions 'the customer is always wrong'. Police duty was hard work with no proper waterproof clothing. Officers wore heavy cloth uniform that took hours to dry and also had to wear greatcoats from 1st October to 1st May whatever the weather. Jim described night duty as a 'real ordeal and sometimes it became almost impossible to stay awake...Strong tea and slabs of bread pudding were taken at Commercial Road fruit and vegetable market to keep us going'.

In 1939 he joined the army, serving in the Grenadier Guards, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and the Royal Ulster Rifles. It was with the latter, in the Airborne Division, that he took part in the D Day landings on June 6th 1944, on a Horsa Glider; losing many of his campaign col-

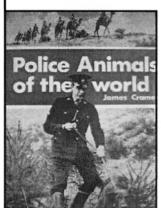
leagues over the following days. Active service in the 'Battle of the Bulge' (in the Belgian Ardennes) and in Palestine followed, returning to Portsmouth Police in 1947.

Rebadged PC 211, he found that many of his peers had been promoted during the War.

During the First World War promotions in the police were regarded as 'temporary' so as not to prejudice the chances of those serving in the armed forces. No such allowance was made for World War Two service and he felt aggrieved by that. Although promoted in December 1953 to Sergeant and in March 1959 to Inspector, he always felt he was unfairly overlooked and considered that he had spoken out too much at times to win favour with the powers that be.

Police pay was low in the 1940s and 50s and Jim had a family to support. He said' we couldn't afford a car, eat out or go on holidays far afield but we just soldiered on with what we had'. In 'Gone for a Soldier' he recounts the regular problems he had with fleas. While in the CID he found that the best thing to do was to hop into an empty bath on getting home, undress and then examine the clothing.

While in the Portsmouth Police he fully engaged in sports and excelling in rowing (he was part of the 1937 Couzens Cup winning City Police team), rugby, boxing and swimming. He also wrote articles for the Police Review and became an author. 'The World's Police' was published by



Cassell & Co. in 1964, featuring police uniforms and potted history throughout the World. The Acknowledgements include the following: 'I am indebted to Colonel Gamal Abdl Nasser for his interest and particularly for his account of the police of Ancient Egypt'. We are informed that the first mention of a police organisation occurs in the time of Hur Moheb (circa 1340 B.C.).

'Police Animals of the World' (Cassell 1968), 'Uniforms of the World's Police' (Charles Thomas 1968) and other books on local and military history followed. 'Police Animals' features dogs, horses, camels and even an Elephant called Irma from Knaresborough Zoo. Irma helped the police retrieve a motor cycle from the River Nidd.

Retiring in 1965, he compiled the first published history of the Portsmouth City Police (Portsmouth Papers no 2) which sold out twice. Teaching and studying followed police work. In the late 1970s he was supervising the Portsea Adolescent Tutorial Centre, even sparing with some of the pupils and earning their respect when he landed a punch on some 'tough guy'.

We have a lot to thank Jim Cramer for. He helped to rescue and preserve much of the history of Portsmouth Police. His collection of papers has been deposited with Portsmouth City Records Office. He led a full and active life and will long be remembered.

Clifford Williams



Could you write an article, the PHS Journal is always looking for contributions.

FORTUNATELY THE ONLY ONE?

Terry Stanford Ph.D. ex Metropolitan G.K. and T. 146956.

As a young PC straight from training school and joining my first station I was taken to one side by the Station Sergeant in charge of my relief and given some practical words of wisdom. I was told that during my career there would be occasions when things went wrong and that often they would be as a result of my own shortcomings. In particular I was told that most officers got into trouble as a result of their dealings with property and/or women. Experience showed that the above was true and history illustrates that this was the case in the following most serious event.

Metropolitan Police Orders for 10 July 1893 contained a short entry which as far as I am aware is the only one of its kind; The order read,

'Dismissed, X. P.C. 385-73717 Cook. Convicted of unlawful murder at the Central Criminal Court Sessions and sentenced to death. No pay.'

This entry related to the body of a woman in her early 20's, Maud Smith (Merton) being found on open land at the side of Wormwood Scrubs prison. There were signs of a vicious assault leaving wounds to the head, face and chest. As part of routine deployment of officers two constables were routinely posted night duty to patrol the grounds around the prison and on the night of 6/7 June 1893 PC George Cook (name sometimes spelt with an E) was detailed to this duty with PC 149 X Kemp. Due to PC Kemp having to complete reports at the station he did not accompany Cook to the patrol not arriving until about 11.20p.m. when it had just started to rain. His evidence was that Cook, with whom he had worked on previous occasions, behaved quite normally although he made an excuse and went to an area of the old prison quarters where he said he could use the W.C. and then wash his hands. They resumed their patrol and later reported to the Patrolling Sergeant, X division, 'All right sergeant'. PC Kemp went off duty at 4a.m. but PC Cook remained on the patrol by himself until 6a.m. PC Kemp was later to state that a no time did Cook give any sign of being agitated, excited or upset. The body was found on the morning of 7 June; the Divisional Surgeon was called and attended along with Inspector Gilliam X. who took up the enquiry. The Divisional Surgeon was of the opinion that the injuries had been caused as a result of direct violence inflicted by some hard substance. The body was taken to Hammersmith mortuary for further examination. The Doctor noted that, although the ground and grass around the body was wet, underneath it was quite dry. Later he was given a truncheon as possibly being the weapon used but there was no sign of recent use, but on the uniform trousers and one of the boots taken from Cook, he found what appeared to be spots of blood. The Doctor placed one of the boots on the body and the heel of one of them was placed over marks on the face and neck and, in his opinion, they corresponded.

The boots and some uniform trousers, had been seized by Insp. Hatcher at the home of PC Cook after having received information from his landlady, the wife of another PC, who thought that Cook was trying to plant or bury something in the garden: he had a look and saw what she thought was a truncheon. The Inspector dug up the only partly buried truncheon and saw that it was stamped with the number of an officer from W division.

Cook made two statements in both of which he denied any knowledge of the murder and the only independent witness available, a chemist who resided at Wormwood Scrubs, could only say that he saw a police officer taking to a woman just before 11 pm on the 6th June. He was unable to identify the officer but did identify the woman when he was taken to the mortuary to view the body.

PC Cook had joined to police on 25 June 1888 and had served on three other divisions before being posted, some 5 weeks prior to the murder, to X Division. One of the previous divisions was W and it was as found that the truncheon belonged to an officer on that division and it had disappeared about 3 years previously at the time Cook was serving there. It also transpired that Cook was well known to the deceased; in fact at one time they had lived together giving the impression that they were husband and wife. Smith and Cook had however had a number of arguments, she had been to the police complaining about the treatment and Cook was for a short time suspended, on re-instatement he was transferred to X divi-

sion. Evidence was given that on the night of the murder Smith had been to the police station enquiring after Cook and had been told where he was patrolling, the two had argued and Smith has heard to say that she was going to wait until Cook finished his duty.

After consultations with the Commissioner Cook was charged and duly appeared at Magistrates court when he was remanded in custody. To the Inspector who accompanied him to Wandsworth Prison Cook said that the truncheon he had tried to bury in the garden was not the one he had used and although he claimed the blood had come from a cut finger he said, 'I suppose its no use trying to get out of it'

The trial lasted two days, 8 and 9 July, before Mr. Justice Hawkins, Cook pleaded not guilty and was represented by two barristers but did not call any witnesses. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty but with a recommendation for Mercy. Cook was executed at Newgate on 25 July 1893.

Even without the forensic science that is available to-day there can be little doubt that the right man was convicted. It was impossible at that time to test the blood to confirm that it was that of Smith. The only evidence as to the time of the offence was the fact that the ground was dry underneath the body; it had not started raining until after 11p.m.before which she had been seen talking to a police officer. The fact that the victim was known to Cook was not in doubt neither was the fact that she had been looking for him that evening. Just why Cook buried the truncheon he had stolen is not known apart from the fact that he thought his property might have been examined as a result of the murder. One witness told Cook that had the hidden truncheon not come to light suspicion would not have fallen upon him in quite way that it did.

All the above information can be found either on line or at the National Archives. In particular the original statements can be found on CRIME 1/39/2 at Kew and details of the trial either in The Times or transcripts of trials of the Central Criminal Court both on line.

IFRE FELZ P.C. GARY TOMS ABRIL 200P

PC GARY TOMS

On 18th October 10,2010 the Prime Minister unveiled a memorial to PC Gary Andrew Toms, aged 37 who was murdered on duty, April 2009 in Ashlin Road, Stratford, London. He was fatally injured whilst arresting suspects escaping in a vehicle. This is a memorial provided by the Police Memorial Trust founded by Michael Winner. It is the second of its type to have been installed in Stratford, the previous one in honour of PC Nina Mackay on 24th October,1997.

(photo of the memorial attributed to "Police Roll of Honour Trust")
Thanks to PHS member, Keith Foster who is also a researcher for the
Police Roll of Honour Trust.

