

## KELVEDON HATCH, ESSEX.

ON A SUNDAY MORNING IN THE SPRING OF 1963, A LOCAL FARMER WHO HELD SHOOTING RIGHTS ON FARMLAND IN THE NEIGHBOURING PARISH, CALLED ME ON THE TELEPHONE SAYING THERE WERE POACHERS ON THIS FARMLAND AND ASKED IF I WOULD INVESTIGATE. I AGREED AND HE PICKED ME UP IN HIS LAND ROVER AND WE SET OFF.

WHEN WE GOT WITHIN ABOUT  $\frac{1}{2}$  MILE OF THE FARM I SAW 3 MEN, SPREAD OUT ACROSS A FIELD WITH A BLACK DOG RUNNING WITH THEM. I COULD SEE THEY WERE EACH CARRYING GUNS BECAUSE THE SUNLIGHT WAS GLINTING ON THE GUN BARRIELS. THE FARMER POINTED THEM OUT AND SAID THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO BE THERE.

HE DROPPED ME OFF IN A NEARBY LANE AND LEFT TO GET HELP. AS I WALKED UP THE LANE I HEARD VOICES THEY WERE WALKING THROUGH A FIELD OF SPRING WHEAT SOME 200 YARDS FROM ME. NEARBY WAS A LARGE CAR, (THE MAKE AND NUMBER OF WHICH I NOTED. I COULD SEE A CARTRIDGE BELT IN THE REAR WINDOW OF THE CAR.

I CHALLENGED THEM. THEY WERE WELL DRESSED IN SHOOTING JACKETS AND BROGUES. THEY SAID THEY HAD PERMISSION FROM THE FARMER NEARBY AND WERE NOT AWARE OF THE BOUNDARIES. THE FARMER WHO HAD CALLED ME OUT RETURNED WITH SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE AND I TOOK POSSESSION OF THEIR GUNS AND CARTRIDGES AND BELTS. ALSO THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES AND REPORTED THEM FOR SUMMONS UNDER THE POACHING PREVENTION ACT OF 1828, AS AMENDED. THEY HAD NO GAME ON THEM.

THEY LATER APPEARED BEFORE ONGAR MAGISTRATES COURT AND PLEADED NOT GUILTY, BUT THEY WERE CONVICTED AND FINED £15-00 EACH

THE MAGISTRATES DID NOT ORDER CONFISCATION OF THE GUNS ETC, AND I HANDED THEM BACK TO EACH MAN. I WAS CONGRATULATED BY THEM ON THE WAY I HAD KEPT THE GUNS.

LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT IN AUGUST OF THAT YEAR, TWO OF THESE MEN WOULD FEATURE IN "THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY" AND I ASSISTED THE ENQUIRIES MADE BY THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

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This arrived on the 10<sup>th</sup>!

9<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter and the 1st volume of the Tapes.

The envelope bore a postmark showing it was posted on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2014, but it didn't reach here until 21<sup>st</sup> May - some 18 days later! However, it was in good order.

I have written out my recollections of a Sunday morning in early 1963, when I met up with 3 men, 2 of whom were to become nationally and internationally known, as part of the "Great Train Robbery" team.

I shall have much pleasure in reading up the contents of Volume (1) - the named being back number of all 4 known.

Warmest and I send you and Ann our best wishes.

Sincerely,  
Peter & Janet

