

### National Press

Further to the article in the *Sunday Telegraph*  letters were sent to both the Sunday and daily editions – the text is as follows:

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“United Grand Lodge of England was disappointed by the claims published today by former policeman Garry Rogers in advance of his book launch.

On his behalf, and on the behalf of our 200,000 members we have referred his allegations, as printed today, to the IPCC and hope for a thorough and transparent investigation of them.

We always open our membership records when asked by legitimate organisations such as the IPCC to assist them in official investigations.

We note that nobody was named in the article yesterday and trust that Mr Rogers will be as open as we will be in cooperating with the forthcoming investigation.

United Grand Lodge of England has always taken allegations of wrongdoing seriously. Any finding of fact by a court, or a professional body that one of our members has been involved in corrupt practices or dishonest behaviour is dealt with by their immediate expulsion from the organisation. We hope that if no such finding is forthcoming Mr Rogers will apologise to our members, and re-write his book accordingly. Enough is enough.”

Further action was taken by writing to both the IOPC (latest incarnation of the IPCC) and to Garry Rogers, asking for the case to be investigated, with which we would fully co-operate.

### Latest Broadcast Media

We can continue to attract broadcast media interest with Dr David Staples contributing to two pieces for BBC Arabic TV and CNN – the latter promises to give us further strong coverage, with details to follow in due course.

For daytime TV fans, the *Genealogy Roadshow* will be broadcast at the end of March, and will feature Paul Toon (Province of Leicestershire & Rutland) being filmed at Freemasons’ Hall, Leicester.

### Members’ Pathway

Workshops have now been held in York, Cardiff, Nottingham, London and Manchester, with the remaining events in Bromsgrove, Exeter and Cambridge this month. We are currently finalising webinar and distance learning options for the adjacent Islands, and Districts and Lodges Overseas.

Feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to addressing the declining attraction and retention of membership - #EnoughIsEnough

### Royal Albert Hall – DVD


The Grand Master visited Freemasons’ Hall, Great Queen Street on Tuesday to film an introduction to the final DVD of the Royal Albert Hall Tercentenary Celebrations Event. The hours of footage from the event are being significantly edited and will include the additional intro.

This will be made available to members in the coming months – watch this space for frim details.

### Freemasonry Today

To coincide with the celebratory Grand Ranks Investiture on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, the Spring instalment of *Freemasonry Today* will be a special edition celebrating and remembering our Tercentenary year.

## **First World War Centenary**

This year marks the centenary of both the end of WWI and the Royal Air Force, and events are being planned across the country. The following database  has details of those Victoria Crosses awarded in 1918 – a great opportunity for local media and VC Holders1918.xlsx community engagement.

A further valuable exercise would be to identify those war memorials in our Provinces and Metropolitan with Masonic connections, to build a 'local' story.

## **Communications Team**

Sadly, I have to report that after 15 years with UGLE, Susan Henderson (Communications Adviser & Editorial Manager, FMT) will be leaving us at the end of March. In the immediate term Dean Simmons will be picking up Susan's workload – please address any enquiries which would have gone to Susan to him on [dsimmons@ugle.org.uk](mailto:dsimmons@ugle.org.uk)

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## 'Masons tried to ruin my career with police'

By Patrick Sawyer

A FORMER undercover officer presented with the Queen's Police Medal by the Prince of Wales says Freemasons in the force threatened to derail his career.

Garry Rogers claims Masons within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) tried to prevent his bravery being recognised.

He claims he did not receive commendations due to him because officers he believes were Freemasons wrongly suspected him of blowing the whistle on one of their corrupt colleagues.

Mr Rogers – who during six years as an undercover officer helped catch more than 100 violent criminals – says that GMP's most senior officers eventually confirmed that Masons may have tried to block his progress.

Mr Rogers told *The Sunday Telegraph*: "My original nomination for the QPM had been shredded by someone within the CID. I believe they were protecting a senior officer who was later arrested, charged and convicted of criminal deceptions. I believe many senior officers were Masons."

He added: "A report was even placed in my personal file which stated I was not to be trusted and was under investigation, none of which was true."

Mr Rogers's disturbing allegations come after the Police Federation claimed reform of the service was being blocked by Masons, and their influence was thwarting the progress of women and ethnic minority officers.

Dr David Staples, the chief executive of the United Grand Lodge, rejected the claim, saying there was nothing sinister about the activities and rituals of the Masons. He said: "We do not influence the police. We are a non-political, non-religious organisation. The Home Affairs select committee said there is a lot of unjustified paranoia about Freemasonry."

But Mr Rogers, 60, claims his experience confirms the suspicion that Masons in the police favour fellow members and exert a secretive influence. He said: "I don't think serving po-

lice officers should be Masons because it creates a rival allegiance."

During his time as an undercover officer with the GMP's Omega Covert Operations Unit, from 1989 to 1995, Mr Rogers – who is planning to write a book about his experiences – gathered evidence against a killer by joining his gang, broke up an operation by drug-runners by setting up a wine bar to entrap them, disrupted ram raiders and identified more than 50 football hooligans by posing as a skinhead thug.

After taking legal action against GMP Mr Rogers received £8,000 damages for post-traumatic trauma.

In 1999 Mr Rogers, a married father of three who spent 30 years in the force, finally made the journey to Buckingham Palace to be presented with the QPM.

He says it only came about after a meeting in Nov 1997 with Sir John Stevens, the newly appointed head of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Police who later became Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

In 2003 – after being given authorised access to his personnel file by a member of GMP's admin staff – Mr Rogers discovered a secret report from 1995, which appeared to explain why it had taken so long for his contribution to fighting crime to be recognised.

It described him as

"paranoid" and not to be trusted and wrongly stated that he was suspected of sending anonymous whistle-blowing letters to GMP and the *Manchester Evening News*. The letters eventually led to Chief Insp Ken Seddon, the head of Omega squad, being convicted in 2003 of "multiple offences of dishonesty" involving fraudulent car loans to police officers.

By the time Mr Rogers retired in 2005, he had finally received the support of senior commanders and his allegations appear to have been backed by Vince

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Sweeney, the former assistant chief constable of GMP.

In a memo from May 2004, Mr Sweeney described Mr Rogers as “an of-

ficer who has given exemplary service” and who was subject to “some pretty shoddy treatment”.

He wrote: “I accepted and find no other explanation than that someone on the then V Command structure effectively halted the progress of that [QPM] recommendation.”

Mr Rogers subsequently met Michael Todd, who took over as chief constable in 2002, and who he says told him that “what went on was some corrupt Masonic influence within CID” but that “this no longer exists and that most of the concerned left under a cloud”.

Chief Constable Martin Jelley, National Police Chiefs’ Council lead for ethics and integrity, said: “If convincing evidence ever came to light which clearly showed that Freemasonry was adversely affecting the integrity of the police service then we would take appropriate action.”



**Garry Rogers claims senior officers were Masons**

FORENAMES	SURNAME	PROVINCE	DATE OF ACTION	DATE OF ACTION (SHORT)	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	AGE	RANK AT TIME OF ACTION	MILITARY UNIT - FULL	LODGE NAME	LODGE #	DATE INITIATED
Charles Graham	Robertson	London	8-9 March 1918	08 March 1918	4/7/1879	10 May 1954	38	Lance Corporal	10th Battalion The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)	Deanery Lodge	3071	24 February 1919
Reginald Frederick Johnson	Hayward	London	21/22 March 1918	21 March 1918	17/6/1891	17/01/1978	26	Acting Captain	1st Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment	Lodge of Industry	186	28-Jan-13
John Stanhope	Collings-Wells	Oxfordshire	22-27 March 1918	22 March 1918	19/7/1880	27 March 1918	37	Acting Lieutenant Colonel	commanding 4th Battalion, The Bedfordshire Regiment	Apollo University Lodge	357	29 October 1902
Alfred Cecil	Herring	London	23-24 March 1918	23 March 1918	26/10/1888	10 August 1966	29	Temporary Second Lieutenant	Army Service Corps	Hampstead Lodge	2408	1926
Alfred Maurice	Toye	Egypt and the Sudan - now Metropolitan	25 March 1918	25 March 1918	15/4/1897	6 September 1955	32	Acting Captain	2nd Battalion The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)	Grecia Lodge	1105	1930
Oliver Cyril Spencer	Watson	Berkshire	28 March 1918	28 March 1918	7/9/1876	28 March 1918	41	Acting Lieutenant Colonel	Reserve of Officers, 1st County of London Yeomanry, commanding 2nd/5th Battalion, The King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry)	Loddon Lodge	3427	23 January 1911
Norman Augustus	Finch	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	22-23 April 1918	22 April 1918	26/12/1890	15 March 1966	27	Sergeant	Royal Marine Artillery	Lodge of Hope	2153	18 September 1918
Robert Edward	Cruikshank	London	1 May 1918	01 May 1918	17/6/1888	30 August 1961	29	Private	2/14th (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (London Scottish)	St Vedast Lodge	4033	25 September 1925
Geoffrey Heneage	Drummond	London	9 - 10 May 1918	09 May 1918	25/1/1886	21 April 1941	32	Temporary Lieutenant Commander	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Lodge	3923	4 November 1921
Henry	Dalziel	Queensland	4 July 1918	04 July 1918	18/2/1893	24 July 1965	25	Private	15th Battalion (Queensland and Tasmania), 4th Brigade, 4th Division, Australian Imperial Force	Duke of Connaught Lodge	3358	1919
William Hew	Clark-Kennedy	Montreal	27-28 August 1918	27 August 1918	3/3/1879	25 October 1961	39	Lieutenant Colonel	commanding 24th Battalion Quebec Regiment (Victoria Rifles), 2nd Division, Canadian Expeditionary Force	Saint Paul's Lodge	374	6 February 1906
James Palmer	Huffam	Northumberland	31 August 1918	31 August 1918	31/3/1897	16 February 1968	21	Second Lieutenant	5th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)	St David's Lodge	393	17 February 1920
Alfred	Wilcox	Warwickshire	12 September 1918	12 September 1918	16/12/1884	30 March 1954	33	Lance Corporal	2/4th Battalion The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry	Lodge of Israel	1474	1926
William Allison	White	London	18 September 1918	18 September 1918	19/10/1894	13 September 1974	23	Temporary Second Lieutenant	38th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps	St Luke's Lodge	144	25 November 1929
Donald John	Dean	Kent	24-26 September 1918	24 September 1918	19/4/1897	9 December 1985	21	Temporary Lieutenant	8th Battalion The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment)	Saint Michael's Lodge	1273	29 January 1919
Viscount	Gort	London	27 September 1918	27 September 1918	10/7/1886	31 March 1946	31	Acting Lieutenant Colonel	commanding 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards	Household Brigade Lodge	2614	1914
Graham Thomson	Lyall	East Lancashire	27 September 1918	27 September 1918	8/3/1892	28 November 1941	26	Lieutenant	102nd Battalion (2nd Central Ontario Regiment), Canadian Expeditionary Force	Lodge of Harmony and Industry	381	8 May 1919
Wilfred	Wood	Cheshire	28 October 1918	28 October 1918	2/2/1897	3 January 1982	21	Private	10th Battalion The Northumberland Fusiliers	Garrick Lodge	4246	19 March 1943
Dudley Graham	Johnson	Oxfordshire	4 November 1918	04 November 1918	13/2/1884	21 December 1975	34	Acting Lieutenant Colonel	The South Wales Borderers, commanding 2nd Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment	Bowyer Lodge	1036	1919
Claude Congreve	Dobson	London	18 August 1919	18 August 1919	1/1/1885	26 June 1940	34	Commander	Royal Navy	Navy Lodge	2612	1925