

**Retired Detective Chief Superintendent
Ron Underwood
Died January 10 2015**

Information has come from his son, John, that Retired Detective Chief Superintendent Ron Underwood died in the early hours of this morning, Saturday 10 January, I reproduce the email that John subsequently sent to me:-

"Dear Tony,

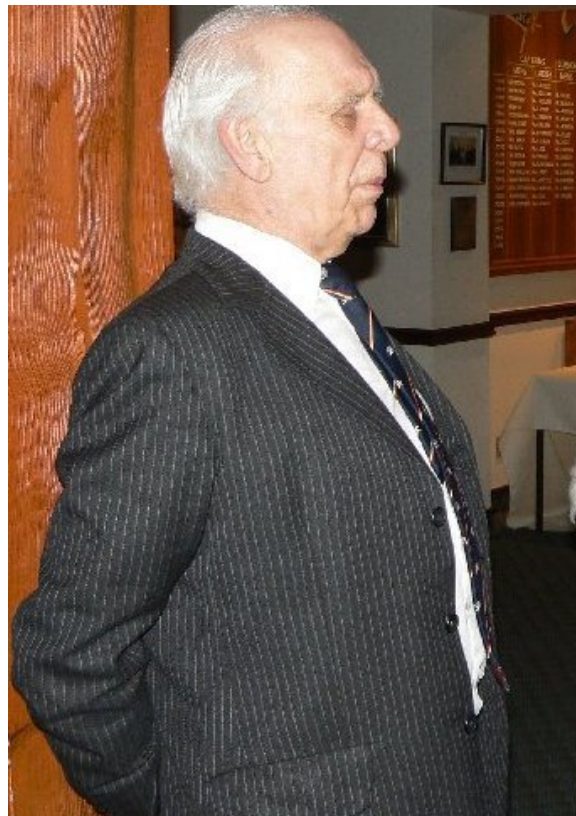
Thanks for taking my call just now regarding the death of my father, Ron Underwood. It was great to know that you knew my dad and that, although he was a demanding boss, he was liked and respected. I have been told this by a number of his former colleagues and take great comfort from this at this sad time.

The details are that former Detective Chief Superintendent Ron Underwood of the Surrey Constabulary passed away around 6.30am this morning at Robertson Nursing Home, Priorsfield Road in Godalming. He passed away peacefully in his sleep and the family would like to thank all the staff at the home for their superb care for Ron in the 10 months he has been there.

The funeral is due to be held at Guildford Crematorium at 9am on THURSDAY JANUARY 22 followed by a celebration of dad's life at West Surrey Golf Club. All are welcome and we'd particularly love to see as many of dad's police colleagues as would like to attend. The family requests no flowers but donations can be made to Robertson Nursing Home via the funeral directors, J Gorrings and Son, 55 Hare Lane, Farncombe, Surrey. GU7 3EF. Telephone 01483 416403

Tony Suter
Welfare Co-ordinator





**SURREY
CONSTABULARY
C.I.D.
ANNUAL DINNER**



(left to right): Mr. Crawford White, Mr. T. T. Keen, Detective Chief Superintendent Walter Simmons, Mr. Tommy Trinder, and Detective Superintendent Ronald Underwood, at the CID dinner.



Detective Chief Superintendent Walter Simmons and his deputy, Ronald Underwood and their colleagues were host to a number of guests at the annual dinner of the C.I.D. at the A.N. Restaurant, Guildford.

Among the guests were Sir Michael Havers, Lt. Gen. Sir

James Wilson, Sir Norman Skelhorn, Sir George Sinclair, Mr. G. Twist, Mr. F. A. Stone, Mr. J. Eve; Mr. T. Trinder and Commander Habershon of the Metropolitan Police Anti-Terrorist Squad.

For Detective Chief Superintendent Simmons the evening was one of mixed

feelings. He took this opportunity of thanking all his colleagues for their support over the years and announced his retirement at the end of August. Mr. Simmons praised particularly the efforts of the force in maintaining a forty seven per cent detection rate for crime, in spite of the many major crimes which placed a heavy

burden upon the resources of the force.

Detective Constable Graham Burnett of Dorking police station welcomed the guests on behalf of the Surrey C.I.D.

Mr. Tommy Trinder the comedian demonstrated in a short time why he has been at the top of his profession for many years,

with a very entertaining speed

The Chief Constable of Surrey Mr. Peter Matthews O.B.E. Q.P.M., in the final speech of the evening said that the Surrey Police can be justly proud of its record.







Superintendent Ronald Underwood moves from Godalming Headquarters as Deputy Superintendent-Deputy Chief of C.I.D. Superintendent Underwood joined the Surrey Constabulary in 1950, was promoted to Detective Chief Inspector whilst serving with the Metropolitan Crime Squad at Croydon. He moved to Farnham, Surrey in 1968. At Farnham he moved to Godalming as officer in charge in February 1972. Mr. Underwood is married with one daughter and one son.

WALTER SIMMONS RETIREES

Detective Chief Superintendent Walter Simmons retires as head of Surrey C.I.D. on 31st August, 1976, after 27 years in the force, 23 spent of C.I.D.

In 1938, Mr. Simmons, at the age of 16, joined the Marines. This took him to many faraway places including South Africa, Australia, Ceylon, France, India, Norway, Palestine, Iceland and the West Indies. Many of his colleagues in the Marines perished in an attack, one of many, on his ship. They were torpedoed and all but nine members of the crew were killed. Mr. Simmons himself spent 12 hours in the icy waters before being picked up. He left the Marines in 1948 and spent 2 years in the Civil Service before embarking on his police career.

Mr. Simmons' first posting was at Oxted where he served as a beat constable and was involved with his first murder case. He went on to C.I.D. shortly afterwards and rose to the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent in charge of the Surrey C.I.D. — solving altogether 31 murder cases. He stresses that he was not solely responsible for these cases, and it was with the support of such an enthusiastic team of detectives that successes were achieved.

Many friends, colleagues and celebrities gathered at Headquarters at the end of July for Mr. Simmons' retirement social evening. Some 370 people in all went to wish Mr. Simmons farewell, and good luck in his

retirement. He was presented with an antique silver desk pen and ink stand, a set of David Sheppard signed prints and an album signed by all Mr. Simmons colleagues, friends, and people he has come into contact with during his career. Mr. Simmons thanked everyone for coming and said that in his retirement he would rest assured that everything was being dealt with as it should be, as the Criminal Investigation Department in Surrey was the best in the country.

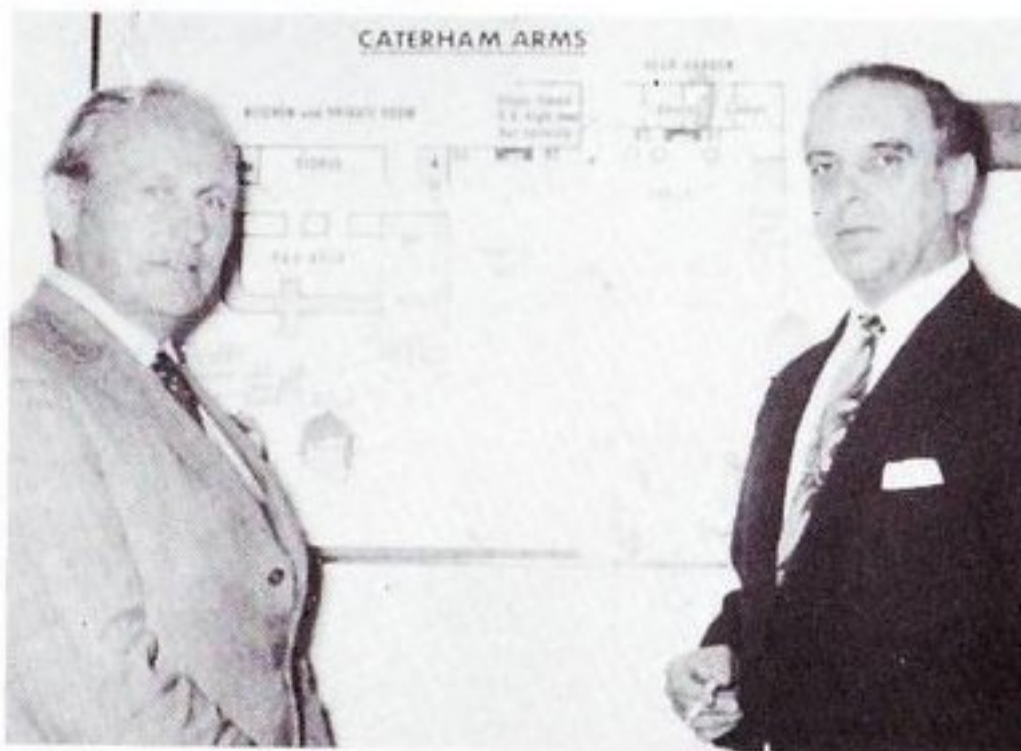
What does the future hold for Mr. Simmons? He intends to relax at home with his wife for a few weeks and then work for probably 3 days a week, doing private investigation work for solicitors.

Off Beat would like to take this opportunity of wishing Mr. and Mrs. Simmons health and happiness in their retirement.

Taking over from Mr. Simmons is Detective Chief Superintendent Ron Underwood, and Detective Superintendent Don Woodhams steps into the Deputy's shoes, from post of Officer in charge of Godalming sub-division.



Mr. Simmons (right) looks at his gifts with Mr. Ron Underwood.



Detective Chief Superintendent Walter Simmons (left) and Detective Superintendent Ron Underwood, studying the layout of the Caterham Arms, following the bombing of this Pub.

Detective Chief Superintendent Walter Simmons joined the Royal Marines when he was 16 upon leaving school, he left in 1948 and went into the Civil Service for 2 years before joining the Surrey Police.

He began service at Oxted, then on to Woking, Weybridge and Headquarters twice! He has spent altogether 20 years on CID and has worked on a number of major enquiries. No particular enquiry stands out in his mind more than any other – they all have their points.

He is married with one married daughter and lives in Send. At the moment Mr. Simmons hobby is sleep. When he has time he does gardening and Do-it-Yourself, and has just recently completed an extension room on the back of his bungalow.

Detective Chief Superintendent Ronald Underwood joined the Surrey Police in 1950 beginning his career at Caterham. He was first on C.I.D. at Farnham in 1954 and moved from there to Headquarters in Crime Bureau, Egham, Chertsey, Weybridge on C.I.D. again, Regional Crime Squad, Farnham as Detective Chief Inspector, uniform Superintendent at Godalming and back to Headquarters.

He is a married man with 1 son age 12, and a 4 year old daughter. He still has a keen interest in Judo although has now given it up himself. Also keen on gardening which was emphasised last Christmas when he bought his wife a...

