

Superintendent Arthur Simmonds KPM

King's Police Medal for services rendered during the war and for long and meritorious service including 19 years of his 44 years service as a superintendent

Farnham Division about 1888

Some of the photographs from Rose Murray former inspector Surrey Constabulary



Superintendent Simmonds circa 1898

In the 1881 Census Arthur Simmonds was recorded as a 22-year-old police constable living at Guildford Police Station in Woodbridge Road, Guildford. By the time of the 1901 Census he was a police superintendent living with his wife, Julia Ann, and their children at the Police Station in Union Road, Farnham. At the time of taking both the 1901 [31 March] and 1911 [2 April] censuses, there was a prisoner in the cells that could well keep the family awake! ¹

On 3 June 1886, Arthur and Julia married at the church of St. John the Evangelist at Stoke-next-Guildford. He is shown as Police Constable Arthur Simmonds of the County Police Station and he married Julia Ann, the daughter of Alfred Warner, of 2 Auckland Villas, Merrow Road.²

He had four daughters and one son. Evelyn (Jo) was the youngest of the girls and was more of a tomboy than the others, being the best of friends with her young brother Tom.

The registration of birth, date of Christening, and full names of their children are: Ella May, March 1888 at Fetcham³; Julia Amy 1889; Mary, 16 August 1891⁴; Arthur Thomas, 1893 and Evelyn Emma 27 February 1895⁵. It may have been that Mr. Simmonds was stationed/living at Leatherhead when his first daughter was born although the force records do not indicate this.

Superintendent Simmonds had served in Guildford before transferring to Farnham on January 1st 1898. On leaving Guildford he was presented with an engraved biscuit barrel and a bureau/bookcase with an engraved plate on it.

When the family moved to the Union Road, Police Station in Farnham there were six cells, five large and one small, and the children would lie in bed at night and listen to the drunks down below who shouted after being locked up.

Superintendent Simmonds was involved in a serious accident whilst investigating a murder in Camberley. (See below). He severely crushed a leg and developed a blood clot on his brain. His doctor ordered that leeches be brought down from London to suck the blood from the clot. Mr. Simmonds had to be kept quiet and so the magistrates ordered that at their expense, straw was strewn in Union Road to deaden the noise of the horses hooves on the road and all doors and knockers at the police station were muffled so that he was not disturbed. He made a recovery and returned to work.

Superintendent Simmonds died in 1926 at a house he had built in Firgrove Hill, Farnham where his daughter Jo lived until the 1980s.⁶

¹ Family history material from John Molyneux retired officer of the Surrey Constabulary

² Surrey History Centre entry 123, on page 62, of the relevant Marriage Register

³ Q1 1888, c 4

⁴ Q3 1891, c

⁵ Q1 1895, c 27 February 1895

⁶ From Rose Murray a retired officer of the Surrey Constabulary

A search has been made in the Surrey Constabulary staff appointment books by the staff of the Surrey History centre at Woking. Unusually the appointment book is called Defaulters Books⁷ and the entries for Arthur Simmonds give the following details of his police service.⁸

Defaulters book Apr 1865 -Dec 1899⁹

Arthur Simmonds: No of appointment 951

AGE 20 years in November 1878 HEIGHT 5 feet 8 inches COMPLEXION: Fresh
HAIR Brown EYES Grey MARKS None

BORN in the parish of Mickleham in the County of Surrey. Is unmarried

TRADE: Gardener

LAST RESIDENCE: 7 Howard Road, Dorking

BY WHOM LAST EMPLOYED, AND WHERE: Mr. Ivery, Nurseryman at Dorking
WHAT RELATIVES RESIDING IN SURREY, AND WHERE: Mother at Dorking
PREVIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE: None
DATE OF APPOINTMENT: November 18 1878 NO. ON COLLAR 107
DATE SWORN IN, AND WHERE: November 23, 1878, at Guildford
BEFORE WHAT MAGISTRATES: Mr. A Chandler and Mr. G H Pinckard
WHERE FIRST STATIONED: Guildford

PROMOTIONS

Date	From	
Jan 1/80	Constable Third rate of pay	Constable. Second rate of pay
Jan 1/83	Second-class constable	First class constable
Dec 1/88	First-class constable	Sergeant
Jan 13/92	Sergeant	Inspector at £117.0.0 per annum
Nov 1/97	Inspector	Superintendent @ £160.12.0

REMOVALS

Date	To	From
Nov 1/97	Guildford	Farnham

⁷ Ref 9152/1/2/1/-

⁸ Our ref: Surrey Heritage/JAP/1376/14 email to Robert Bartlett Surrey History Centre 10 April 2014

⁹ Ref 9152/1/2/1/3

Continued in 1866-1912 Bk 2

Defaulters book Nov 1866-Jul 1911¹⁰

Arthur Simmonds No of appointment 951

[Personal information, promotions and removals as before]

Date	Remarks
1917	Awarded the King's Police Medal for services rendered during the war and for long and meritorious service
1918	The following letter was received from the Home Office on Feb 28 1918 I am directed by the Home Secretary to say that Col Kell CB MI5 War Office has expressed to him his appreciation of the good work done by the members of your police force in connection with the numerous inquiries & reports as to aliens and suspected persons [?] persons which have been of the greatest assistance to him in carrying out the duties of his department, & in particular has brought to his notice the names of the following officers as having rendered very useful service
	Supt Arthur Simmonds ----- I am to request that you will convey to your officers the Home Secretary's satisfaction in receiving this account of their work & that you will cause a note to be made in the records of the officers who are named by Col Kell as deserving of special commendation
	Edw T[?]
	(Note from author: Colonel Kell was the head of MI5. The police during both world wars had considerable contact with the Security Service and established departments to undertake security duties.)
	1921 Oct 14 Police Act 1890 applied
	CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM SERVICE: Superannuated 31 October 1921
	CONDUCT DURING SERVICE: Exemplary
	DATE OF PARCHMENT CERTIFICATE: 1 st Nov 1921
	COMPLETED 42 YEARS, APPROVED SERVICE
	AMOUNT OF PAY ON RETIREMENT £460
	PENSION @ ² / ₃ rds £306.13.4
	Rose Murray April 2014: I have notes, which say that the first Police building in Farnham is believed to have been the "lock-up" which was situated in the old town hall buildings at the bottom of Castle Street. It was demolished about 1860 - 1870.
	The second police building, and first police station was in Bear Lane. In 1898 it was sold to the Catholic Church and became St. Polycarps Church. It has since been demolished. Following the sale of the Bear Lane building the Police Station was

¹⁰ Ref 9152/1/2/1/3

moved to Union Road (subsequently became the Magistrates Court but now also demolished). Here it remained until the opening of the present building at Longbridge in July 1963.

Union Road Police Station is now known as The Old Court House, an important Victorian building dating from 1888. In 1963, a new police station was built in Longbridge on the site of Mills and Sons builders yard.



Farnham, West Street 1899 Ref: 43260a



Captain M L Sant, chief constable from 1899-1930.

On the 1st August 1899 a new chief constable, the second to be appointed since the

formation of the force in 1851, Captain M L Sant late of the Northumberland Fusiliers and the chief constable of Northumberland. The salary was £500 per annum with an allowance of £150 a year for rent, travelling and other expenses. The new chief constable was required to live within two miles of the constabulary headquarters in the middle of Guildford in Woodbridge road.

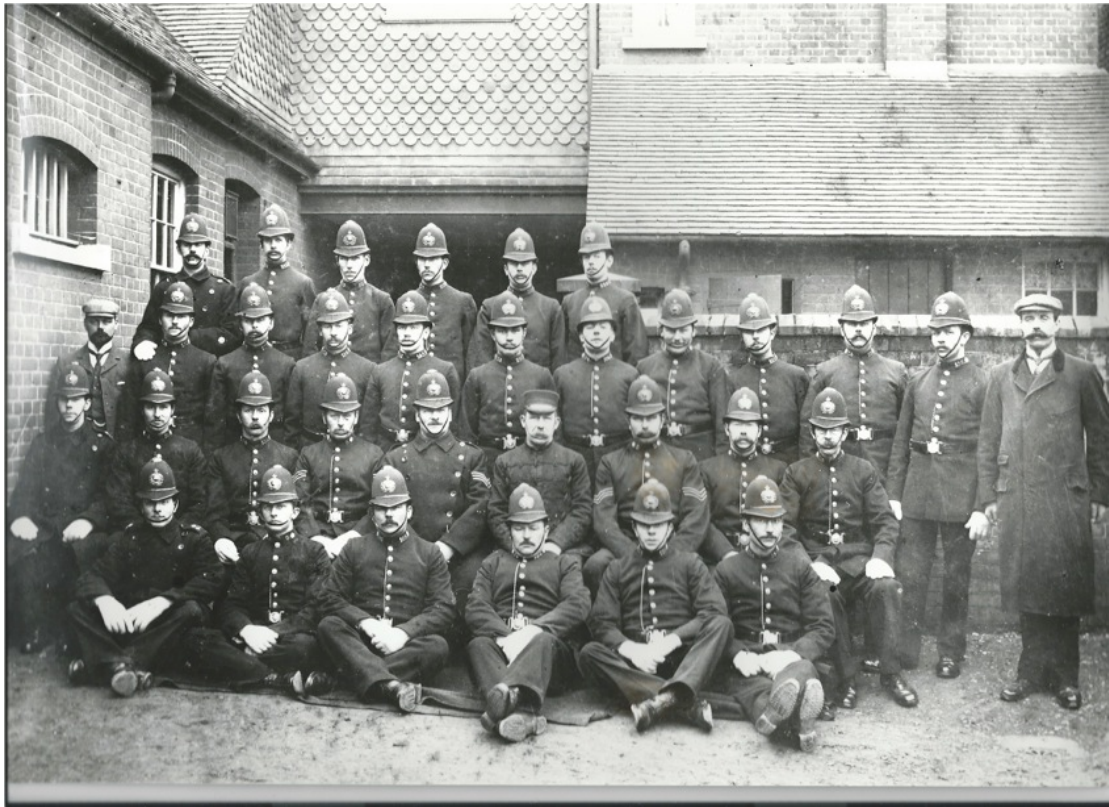
In 1899 the force establishment was

Chief Constable	1
Superintendents	7
Inspectors	8
Sergeants	22
1 st class Constables	
2 nd class Constables	
3 rd class Constables	193

1900 14 October Illustrated Police News 27 Oct 1900: Assault on the superintendent in Farnham: At Farnham three members of a gang of Aldershot lads were summoned for assaulting Superintendent Simmonds of the Surrey Constabulary. In private clothes in South Street at quarter to nine in the evening the superintendent saw the defendants and other making a disturbance and using obscene language. He told them who he was and cautioned them as to their behaviour. They moved off but came back and he took Adams into custody but he threw the superintendent down and escaped. A member of the public caught the man and helped Superintendent Simmonds take him to the police station. The prisoner continued to be violent and his friends returned starting to beat the police officer and the member of the public with their canes, Adams striking the police officer in the face. Because of their youth the lads were fined 30s each and costs or one month's hard labour. The member of the public who helped the police officer was awarded 30s for his expenses and damage to his trousers. Superintendent Simmonds informed the bench that every Sunday night gangs of lads came from Aldershot to Farnham to cause annoyance to the inhabitants.

1901 September 20 The Times: A charge of furiously driving a motor car: "An Austrian Nobleman, Count Soilern, residing at Frensham Place, Farnham, was summoned yesterday before the Farnham Bench for furiously driving his motor car on August 3rd and 4th between Farnham and Frensham. The case had been adjourned for a fortnight to allow of the attendance of two witnesses for the Count; but Mr Samuel Fleming, counsel for the defence, stated that one of the witnesses, the Comte du Pre, was in Paris, and the other, Mr Goldschmidt had been summoned that day to the War Office. In these circumstances he was instructed by Count Soilern to say that he would not defend the cases, because he was of the opinion that if he went into the box and gave evidence he would not be believed. The Chairman, Mr. Mangles, said 'I cannot allow a remark of that kind to be made in Court'. Mr. Fleming said he was further instructed by the Count to say that he did not regard himself to be the subject of prosecution but of persecution. Mr. Ernest Crundwell, who prosecuted for the Surrey county police, said such words were absolutely uncalled for. Constable Carter stated that on August 3 the Count's car travelled from Firgrove Bridge to Gravel Hill, between Farnham and Frensham, in 45 seconds. The distance was 700 yards. He believed the speed worked out at over 24 miles per hour. Superintendent estimated that the speed was about 30 miles per hour. The Count was fined £10 and costs in

each case and, in the first case the solicitor's fee in connexion with the first hearing. Mr. Fleming intimated that a writ of certiorari would be applied for in the High Court



Rear of the Union Road Police Station, Farnham about 1901

1904 17 April: Wrecclesham, Farnham: A man was beaten and died his body being found the following morning in River Row. The head of the young male victim had severe wounds and the throat cut. PC Hayland was on the scene twenty minutes after the discovery of the body and immediately undertook a search. He found a cut hazel stick with blood and hair on it. Near the stick was the victim's hat. His pockets had been turned out but the PC found a letter from a girlfriend in Alton. The victim, from Oakhanger, was sixteen-year old George White an under-groom on a local estate. A suspect Frank Fry aged eighteen was soon identified and found to have blood stains on his clothes, the hazel stick was similar to those in the yard where Fry worked and his knife had blood on it although it had been cleaned. He had been seen following the victim and his girlfriend on the night of the murder and it became known that there was jealousy over the girl. It was not blood on his clothing Fry said but paint but gave no account for blood being on his knife or for the scour marks indicating that the knife had recently been vigorously rubbed. On the day of the funeral as the procession reached the church at Oakhanger a group of constables stood to attention and saluted the remains of the young man.¹¹ At the inquest the Coroner expressed his extreme frustration that onlookers had destroyed so much evidence at the scene, particularly footprints had been obliterated, which were at that time one of

¹¹ "Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths in Guildford" Caroline Maxton Wharncliffe Books 2005 page 40

the best means of identification of a suspect. Fry appeared before the court in Farnham Town Hall and was found not guilty. No one else was ever charged with the murder.



Farnham, Downing Street 1904 Ref: 51605t

Murder at Camberley

1906 June 11: One sunny afternoon in June two elderly maiden sisters Miss Mary Anne Hogg aged sixty eight, and Miss Caroline Gwinnell Hog aged sixty two, were found by a postman in their house Heathfield, Camberley, where they had lived alone for some years. They had been brutally attacked. Mary was dead and her sister so seriously injured that it was feared she would die. Police were called and PCs Holdaway and Brown arrived and were joined by Dr Rayner and they started a thorough search of the house. They were later joined by Dr Cadell, the local medical officer of health, who considered that the death had occurred about an hour before his arrival, i.e. about 4.10pm. Caroline survived and gave evidence at an inquest a month later. Both had been hit on the head with a hammer wrapped in a piece of merino, and their throats cut with a knife. Even Professor Pepper the Home Office pathologist was unable to give much assistance. There was a careful search of the house and garden; checks made for missing people from asylums; interviews of scores of residents; investigation of the movement of known criminals who from previous convictions may have been involved. A large reward was offered but there was no resolution of this case. On the 25th June at the inquest the Coroner said: "The public must bear in mind that however astute a detective might be, and however anxious the police might be to unravel the mystery, they could not do impossibilities. They might have seen the murderer, or even passed him over and over again, but it must be remembered that he did not show murder in his face, or bear a placard telling the nature of his crime, and it was only by piecing facts together that the police would be able eventually to lay their hands on the murderer". Captain Sant called in Scotland Yard for the first and last time. Scotland Yard deployed Chief Inspector Fox and Superintendent Simmonds from Surrey worked with him.

Camberley News 1981 reproduced in Off Beat, March 1980: Some time between 4 pm and 4.30 pm on Monday June 11th Miss Caroline Hogg was seen running into the grounds of her home bleeding profusely from the throat and shouting: "I'm murdered, I'm murdered!"



Sgt. Thomas Mears, sergeant in charge of Camberley police station in 1906.

Later the body of her half sister was discovered lying in a pool of blood in the hall of the house. Her throat had been cut with one long stroke extending from just below the left ear to the right; so severe was the cut that the head was half severed from the body. On the back of the head was a wound caused by a terrific blow while her temple bore marks of blows from a dull instrument. The body was still warm and in her hand was a broken bricklayer's hammer. Caroline had head wounds in addition to the cut on her throat. An army of police gathered at Heathfield including two officers sent by the Superintendent at Aldershot who joined Sergeant Thomas Mears the officer in charge at Camberley. Later that evening Superintendent Simmonds arrived from Farnham and took charge, as the chief constable and deputy chief

constable came to the scene. The Metropolitan Police were informed and Detective Chief Inspector Fox was deployed the first time according to the local paper that New Scotland Yard had sent one of its most astute men within twenty-four hours of the discovery of a murder. Two schools of thought emerged. The first was a suspicion that the eccentric half sisters had a quarrel and that Caroline had killed Mary Anne and then cut her own throat to make it look like an attack by a third party, inflicting similar injuries on her self. Medical evidence refuted this as a possibility, given that the blows to the head were definitely caused by a third party. The murder may well then, have been committed by an itinerant in the area of which there were plenty. A neighbour saw a man running across the lower croquet lawn and there were indications that the fence had been climbed, however it was not unknown for local people to sue this route as a short cut. The neighbour added that when the man realised he had been seen he turned up the collar of his coat. Additional mysteries were the claw hammer that fell from the hand of the deceased as the body was moved. The handle was broken – she was grasping the portion with the head still attached wrapped in merino cloth; the remainder of the handle was about six feet away. The hammer seemed to have been brought to the house and the enquiry did not benefit from any form of fingerprint examination. The hammer but not the cloth was eventually identified as having been stolen from a builder on June 7th a few days before the murder. The mystery was not resolved as to how it came to be grasped by a murder victim. The second mystery was what happened to the sharp instrument used to slash the throats of the murder victim and her sister. The hedges and ditches were searched without success. No knife was found in the kitchen that could have been used and a thorough examination of the house revealed no more clues that were of help although a bowl used to wash blood-stained hands was found. The survivor said that she was lying on her bed when she heard her sister scream. On going down stairs she saw "a strange man" who immediately struck her with a poleaxe. Knocked unconscious on coming round she found she was bleeding greatly and at once rushed from the house. At the inquest Caroline added that the man looked like a bricklayer and had asked her for money. Caroline gave more information but the medical professor and pathologist from the Home Office when giving evidence and on

questioning by the jury said he felt that much of what Caroline had said was unreliable. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder but added there was not sufficient evidence to say by whom. No one was ever charged with the murder.¹²



Superintendent Collis in the white hat, of the adjoining Godalming Division in about 1906 with his groom PC Saunders. Superintendent Simmonds was to be involved in a nasty accident in a similar vehicle in 1906

¹² Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 43



The room above the central arch of what was once the police station that became the magistrate's court is easily identified





Farnham, Castle Street 1906 Ref: 56323

1911 Coronation Police Medal was awarded to:

Surrey Constabulary Superintendent Arthur Simmonds

1913 December 27, Surrey Advertiser: Wyke and Normandy - What is a Footpath?¹³

At the Farnham Petty Sessions on Wednesday, Eric Gillies of Hillcroft, Wood Street - Joseph Clark of Stoughton, Foster Cowlshaw of Normandy, Henry Kings, Charles Garfood, Charles Willis, all of Guildford and several soldiers, one being a lieutenant stationed at Aldershot were summoned for cycling on the footpath between Youngman's nursery and the post office. P.C. Aynall gave evidence. It transpired that the road was under repair at the time and Mr Gillies contended that there was absolutely nothing to define any footpath. P.C. Sawyer and Superintendent Simmonds bore out the constable's statement that there was a footpath and the justices imposed a fine of 7/6d in each case. Mr Gillies appealed to the justices for a definition of a footpath, which they declined to give. Defendant was very persistent and eventually when requested by Superintendent Simmonds to leave the Court he remarked that it seemed extraordinary that a person could not get any information on such a point.

¹³ <http://normandyhistorians.co.uk/press4.html>





Farnham cricket team possibly circa 1914



Front of Union Road Police Station, Farnham about 1914



Football team, with Supt. Simmonds circa 1920



Taken at the rear of Union Road Police Station, Farnham in about 1920. The

small boy in the centre is Arthur Sleight, the grandson of Supt. Simmonds (son of his daughter?). The boy's father was killed on the last day of the First World War and the child is wearing his father's medal. (No mention of a Sleight on the Farnham War memorial and no obvious trace on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site)



1924 Farnham Superintendent Lucas



Farnham about 1932

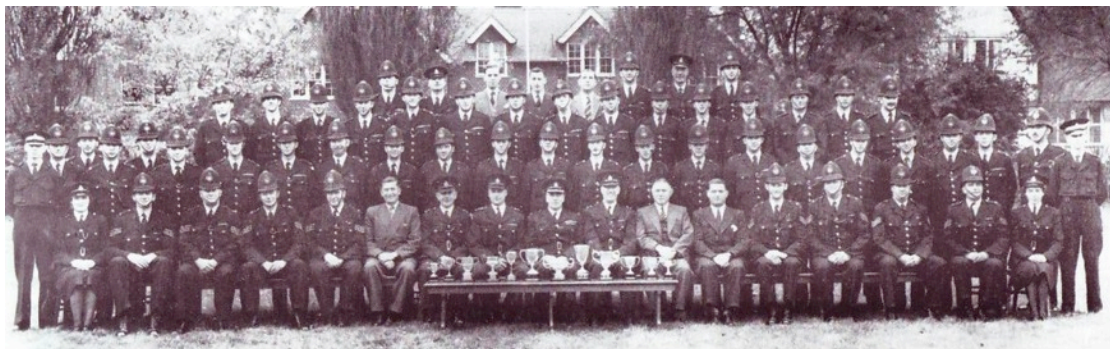
FARNHAM 1941

from H. J. Field (Retired Sergeant)

This photograph was taken in 1941/2 at the rear of the old Farnham Police Station. The section consisted of one Sergeant, 3 Regular Force PC's, one police reserve and police war reserves.



Sergeant Harwood's Section—Farnham Division. Left to right, back row: J. Daniels, G. Fletcher, H. J. Field, W. Morris, A. Guy, W. Rowbotham, S. Lord, G. Hurst, A. Stapley. Front row: J. Curtis, H. Gibbs, Sergeant Harwood, S. Abel, A. Merritt.



Farnham 1953



Farnham 1968





February 2013