



Sub Rosa

Newsletter of the Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum



No.27, Winter 2020

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all Friends and Readers

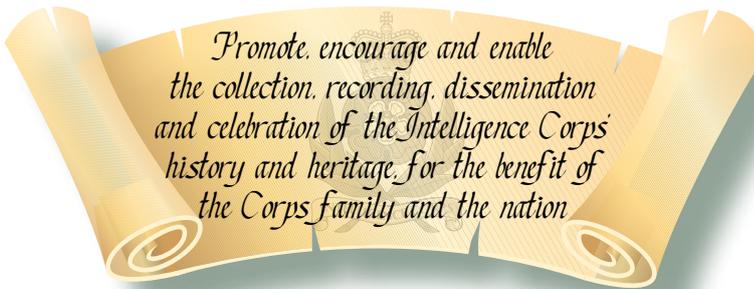
Friends to Join Corps Heritage Initiative!

INTELLIGENCE CORPS HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE

By Nick Fox, Deputy Colonel Commandant

The Corps has a rich and varied history, garnered through participation in nearly every campaign since 1940, from which our heritage, ethos, pride and confidence derive. It forms a major part of the Corps' moral fabric and must be sustained and, if possible, enhanced.

Our approach has been sometimes uncoordinated, relying considerably on personal initiatives and individual goodwill. Official policy for releasing relevant information is opaque, the museum and archive have significant gaps in their content and there is both continuity and future-proofing to consider. To address this, I presented a proposal to the Corps Council in October to form a Corps History and Heritage Committee. This was agreed.



The committee will:

Promote, encourage and enable the collection, recording, dissemination and celebration of the Intelligence Corps' history and heritage, for the benefit of the Corps family and the nation.

It will include representation from Intelligence Corps HQ, Corps units, the museum, archive, ICA and FICM. It will provide the coherent, collective and sustained effort required, and it is hoped that ICA and FICM members will respond positively to requests for support promulgated through the chain of command, and from the boards of ICA and FICM. ■

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TEASER

Of what future general was the following written?

An intelligent, well-read officer, keen on his job, brilliant and resourceful qualities; a lot in him. Unfortunately, he spoils his undoubted talents by excessive self-assurance, contempt for other people's point of view and his attitude of a king in exile.

Answer on p.6

CLUE

Churchill wasn't keen on him



Sarah and Gemma take aim

New Assistant Curators *By Curator Bill Steadman*

In these turbulent times with heritage taking its share of Covid-related hits, it is a delight to welcome two new members of staff to the museum. Sarah Waite has joined us as the direct replacement for Harriet Huggins who is now training with Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Sarah comes to us following a post with the Keep Museum in Bodmin which houses the Cornwall Regiment collection.

'A delight to welcome two new members'

Thanks to Julian Barnard, we have recruited a further staff member, Gemma Leader, to focus on our digital, on-line

presence. This is a significant uplift in our capability while the museum is closed to physical visitors with online our only way to maintain contact with our supporters and reach new audiences.

Having a curating staff of three allows us to continue to reduce the sizeable backlog of behind-the-scenes tasks that face all museums, to finally generate our 'one version of the truth' in respect of the size, contents and quality of the collection, and also the space to develop new ideas in preparation for Project Scheel. ■

DISTRIBUTION GUIDANCE

While this newsletter does not include classified information, it is intended for the personal use of FICM members, their families and close friends only. Your co-operation in observing this guidance is much appreciated.

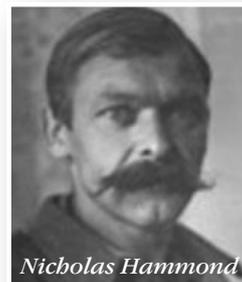
Lt Col Nicholas Geoffrey Lemprière Hammond DSO

by Harry Fecitt MBE TD

From the British official history, *The Mediterranean and Middle East, Volume V*, by Brig C.J.C. Molony:

Here [Greece] a British mission had arrived in October 1942, but for some time it proved impossible to control the quarrels and independent activities of the various guerrilla bands. The principal rivals, the left wing ELAS and the Republican EDES, commanded by Gen Zervas, engaged in constant fights. At length, in July, a National Band Agreement was drawn up to divide the whole country into area commands and to control all guerrilla activities under a general headquarters. Under this co-ordinated command, widespread and successful attacks on Axis communications were made before and after the invasion of Sicily, but when the Allies invaded Italy the Greeks realised that the liberation of Greece would not be immediately attempted.

They relapsed into civil war ...



Nicholas Hammond

Operation Animals

The quotation above is the brief description given by the official historian of an important Special Operations Executive (SOE) deception operation conducted in Central and Northern Greece between 21 June and 11 July 1943. The aim of the operation, which was successful, was to make the Axis powers fear that an Allied invasion of Western Greece was imminent; under the cover of this deception the Allies invaded Sicily and prepared to move on into Italy. The Greeks were as much deceived as were the Germans, and Greek civilians paid a high price when the Axis forces later inflicted reprisals for the losses they had suffered at the hands of guerrilla bands, led and motivated by SOE officers.

Adolf Hitler was nervous about an Allied move into the Balkans, as Germany needed the chrome, bauxite and oil that it sourced from that region. SOE activities within Greece were supported by deception measures in the Middle East – a fictitious 12th Army sent fictitious signals around its fictitious 12 divisions, and dummy, armoured fighting vehicles ‘trained’ in Syria, whilst Greek interpreters were openly hired in Cairo. But the real action was to take place in



Greek Royal Order of Phoenix with Swords

Greece, and an Intelligence Corps lieutenant colonel was to play a key role on the ground, for which he was later appointed Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

Nicholas Geoffrey Lemprière Hammond

Nicholas Hammond, born in 1907, became an important classical scholar before the Second World War, travelling widely in Greece and Albania and becoming fluent in both languages. Commissioned in 1940 on the General List, he was allotted to the Intelligence Corps but was quickly recruited by SOE and employed on operations on the Greek mainland and on Crete. After instructing at the SOE Training School at Haifa he parachuted back into Greece, taking a hard landing and knocking himself out. He then fought with Brig Edmund ‘Eddie’ Myers’ SOE-controlled British Military Mission to Greece. The citation for Hammond’s DSO is unusually fulsome in detailing his mission and accomplishments:

On 10 May 1943, instructions were sent to Brig Myers to arrange for the cutting of all the main North to South communications in Greece between the end of June and the first week of July. Plans had already been prepared

for this eventuality and Brig Myers issued instructions for all the main roads and the railway and all telephone lines to be cut on 21 June 1943, and to be kept cut by further demolitions up to 7 July with a view to making them unusable for a further seven days, i.e. up to 14 July. This series of operations was known as Operation Animals.

During the period 21 June to 10 July the British personnel of Brig Myers’ Mission were employed night after night on different operations throughout Greece, cutting the roads and the railways. Owing to the greater reliability of British personnel, only a small proportion of the total Andarti (local guerrilla forces) strength was made use of. The success of Operation Animals was due to the magnificent way in which the British personnel acted under the command of the four senior Liaison Officers under whom Brig Myers had decentralised responsibilities throughout Greece.

Lt Col Hammond was responsible to Brig Myers for Animals operations in the area of the main road and railway between Kozani in the North and Larissa in the South. From 21 June until 1 July he took an active part in operations with the Andartis against the enemy. The outstanding operation was the holding up of a column of 70 German lorries in the Sarendoperon Pass. The road having been previously blocked, the enemy was ambushed in the rear and practically all the Germans in the column were either killed or taken prisoner.

Having supervised the demolition of three road bridges to the south of Kozani, and ensuring that the Andartis were acting in accordance with Brig Myers’ instructions, Lt Col Hammond returned to his HQ in order to carry out a journey to Salonika to obtain special information required by Brig Myers. Dressed up as a shepherd, he went into Salonika by bus, stayed there a week achieving the necessary contacts, and returned with the most valuable information.

This officer’s work has been consistently of the highest order, and he has displayed the greatest courage and willingness to take any risks to carry out his work.

SHOULD THIS AWARD BE APPROVED IT IS REQUESTED THAT NO DETAILS SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC OR COMMUNICATED TO THE PRESS.

Nicholas Hammond survived the war, also being awarded the Greek Royal Order of the Phoenix with Swords. He resumed his academic career, ending it by being appointed Professor of Greek at Bristol University from 1962 to 1973. The following year he was appointed CBE (Civil). He recounted his wartime exploits in the book *Venture into Greece*, and he died in 2001. He was a true Intelligence Corps warrior. ■

BOOK REVIEW

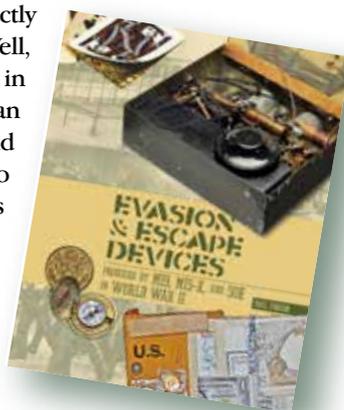
by Bill Steadman, Museum Curator

Evasion & Escape Devices Produced by MI9, MIS-X, and SOE in World War II (2015)

by Phil Froom

Hardly a snappy title, but it is one that tells the reader exactly what to expect. So how did I come across this book? Well, we have a small but quality collection of these gadgets in the museum, so having more information about them can only be a good thing, and books on this subject are few and far between. Also, having the author visit the museum to discuss possible escape and evasion displays helped focus the mind. So, on Phil’s recommendation, I purchased his book on Amazon to fill a notable gap in the archive library. ■

So begins Bill Steadman’s engaging review which can be found at www.intelligencemuseum.org



German Civilian Labour Organisations (GCLO) and the Case of Mr. C—

The GCLO was formed from the various German labour groups set up by the Allies after the war for the purpose of clearing rubble, repairing and renovating damaged buildings – initially those required to house Allied staff and their families, and installing and maintaining workshops facilities and domestic equipment. Like the Mixed Services Organisation (MSO), these groups were formed into quasi-military, uniformed organisations, although they did not have access to arms. Their role was slightly more varied than that of the MSO. They were divided into approximately company-strength units and were subordinated to various military logistic organisations. Each of these units was commanded by a British officer drawn from the sponsoring arm of the service such as Royal Engineers, Royal Army Service Corps/Royal Corps of Transport (RCT) or the Royal Pioneer Corps (RPC).

By the 1970s, German civilian labour units were located within each garrison and were also attached to the training areas. Some renaming occurred, so that the transport units became Mobile Civilian Transport Groups commanded by a major from the RCT; labour units became Mobile Civilian Labour Groups commanded by an RPC officer and maintenance and engineering units became Mobile Civilian Artisan Groups commanded by a Sapper officer. As with the MSO, administration and discipline was the responsibility of, in the first instance, the civilian staff superintendent of the unit and, if dismissal was required, the unit's British commander would issue the necessary instructions and the local Pioneer Corps Labour Unit (PCLU) would carry out the executive action.

In 1973, HQ Int & Sy Gp (Germany) ordered a full assessment to be carried out on the threat to security that these organisations might pose to the British Army of the Rhine. The assessment was divided into two parts: peace and war. The peacetime threat was assessed as being primarily one of espionage by way of *de visu* intelligence gathering on unit locations, personalities, exercise deployments and the contents of fuel and ammunition depots. They were also believed to be capable of supplying support for agent handlers, and of having a significant potential for carrying out reconnaissance as a prelude to sabotage. In a period of tension leading to war and during war itself, the threat was believed to be one of outright sabotage of fuel and ammunition supplies either directly or in support of infiltrated sabotage teams.

The counter to this threat was to maintain a constant watching brief by the security sections, with the assistance of the German police. A watching brief, by implication, required the security sections to recruit individuals who were in a position to pass on information concerning people and organisations suspected to be in contact with a hostile intelligence service. Consequently, more

covert sources of varying quality were recruited from the ranks of the MSO and GCLO than from anywhere else.

The term, German Civilian Labour Organisations didn't cover just German nationals, but anybody of any nationality employed on the German 'net' and this included Britons. In 1975, a British employee (Mr C—) of 94 Locating Regiment RA whose wife originated from what was then the German Democratic Republic, was interviewed regarding a number of trips they had made to visit relatives in the East. It transpired that they had both been the subjects of many debriefs by a succession of section interviewers, all of whom had been of the opinion that they were being economical with the truth. Details of the case had been passed to MI5 via BSSO and both these organisations also felt that there was more to this than met the eye, so much so that the case was upgraded from one of simple Iron Curtain country travel to a case of suspected recruitment, and had been given the operational name of Heracles. During this latest interview, C— told the interviewing NCO that at the border his passport had been taken away for quite some time, and at the reporting office in their destination town his wife had been interviewed alone. All of this suggested that the East German Intelligence Service (EGIS) was taking more than a passing interest, especially as they must have been aware that he worked for 94 Locating Regiment, a unit which would have figured high on their list of intelligence-gathering priorities. Over the course of the next year or so C— and his wife made frequent trips to her relatives in the DDR. We were 90 per cent certain that if he hadn't been recruited outright by the EGIS, he was probably what is known as an *inoffizieller*

'the East German Intelligence Service (EGIS) was taking more than a passing interest'

Mitarbeiter or IM – an unofficial collaborator. Nevertheless, we were never able to find sufficient evidence to nail him or his wife down as agents of the DDR. Our *Bundesgrenzschutz* (West German border guard) contacts

were asked to keep an eye out for him at the border, and *Kommisariat Nr. 7* of the Lower Saxony Kriminalpolizei and the *Landesamt für Verfassungsschutz* (provincial HQ of Special Branch) were all briefed.

In the end, we believed that either the EGIS had got wind of our interest and decided that recruitment would be too hazardous or that they had put him (and his wife) on ice until they could make better use of them. C— retired in the early 1980s with a question mark still hanging over him; however, after the collapse of communism in the East, it was discovered that we had all been correct. C— had been recruited by the EGIS and he was later fingered by a defector. It is not known what action, if any, the German authorities took against him and his wife. ■



BAOR Badge

10 Int Sy Coy, Hong King, 1980–82

My favourite command job before commanding officer level was the 10 Int & Sy Coy, based in Hong Kong but in the early 80s covering British military interests from Australia to Singapore. I found a team gently working under the close supervision of the Head of Service Intelligence, Lt Col Mike—.

Able assisted by my energetic WO2 Howard—, I set in train some leadership and management reforms, including delegating specific responsibilities to nominated section heads: Op Int, PS, Sy Int and our Joint Service Vetting Unit, with their fingerprint expertise. On the Op Int side, the Gurkha Brigade in the New Territories was persuaded to refocus our Int Sect onto proper intelligence tasks and our two Field Intelligence NCOs onto their classic role of being deployed to liaise with the local authorities in rural areas.

On the security side, we worked as closely as they allowed us with the then-powerful Royal Hong Kong Police Special Branch, who saw themselves as an independent intelligence and security agency. We worked very productively with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), whose surveillance and technical intelligence skills were at that time amongst the best around, certainly in the Pacific basin. ICAC helped us to develop a modest surveillance capability; we in turn, with the enthusiastic assistance of some of our wives, provided them with training opportunities.



A rural surveillance amphibious insertion exercise

Our small team was deployed on tasks in support of other intelligence agencies, such as the protection of defectors and the protection of sensitive Department of Trade and Industry-led negotiations with Chinese officials on civil nuclear contracts.

Internationally, our main liaison was with the Pacific arm of the US Naval Intelligence Service which later became the NCIS, since fictionalised for TV fame. ■



Colonel Commandant Gen Sir J.M. Gow GCB, inspects operational subunits in 1982. L to R, Mike Gow, Graham Messervy-Whiting, Shirley Messervy Whiting

My Friends the Enemy: Life in Military Intelligence during the Falklands War by Nick van der Bijl

Firstly, I must declare an interest. I knew Nick van der Bijl when I served in the Intelligence Corps, but I hope this does not affect my objectivity in reviewing this book. The book is Nick's personal account of his experiences as the only Intelligence Corps member of 3 Commando Brigade Intelligence Section during the 1982 Falklands War. The other members were Royal Marines, albeit intelligence trained, who brought their own personal skills to the party.

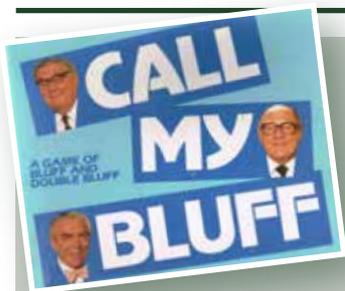
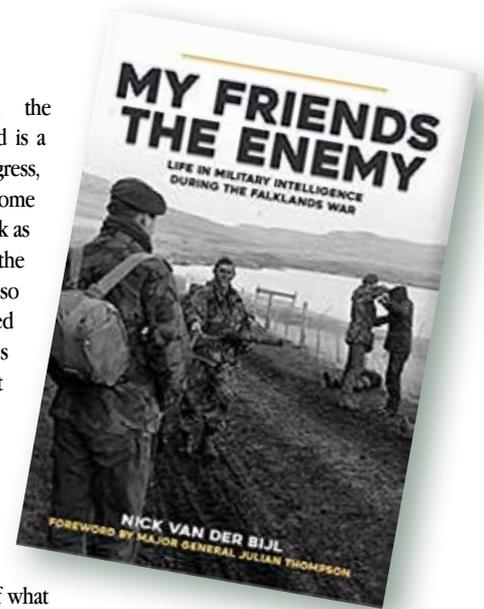
What is refreshing is that it looks at intelligence during the conflict from the aspect of the lowest level of user, rather than the view from the upper echelons of Whitehall and higher command that usually features in such histories. The first problem was to refocus the section's view from the Nato flanks – on which there was plenty of intelligence – to Argentina and the South Atlantic which had been placed on 'library status' by the London intelligence community. This involved much begging, borrowing and 'acquiring' from open sources by the section to try and produce some basic intelligence for the brigade.

Two points stand out: first, that certain sources/agencies applied inflexible peacetime principles to the letter; the other was the difficulties of dissemination when the sources are widely dispersed and the product cannot be delivered electronically (e.g. photographic reconnaissance). These factors degraded the overall intelligence picture, especially at the brigade level. Consequently, the brigade had to fall back on what it had organically, and the importance of tactical questioning/interrogation regained its rightful place in the intelligence effort, despite the lack of experience in handling prisoners.

Nick takes you through the campaign at all its stages and is a detailed description of its progress, and this may be where some critics have described the book as dull. It would certainly help the reader to have a map to hand so that progress could be tracked easily, other than in the mind's eye. However, it shows that you will never get the 'DS solution' (the directing staff's solution to a given problem taken as the definitive answer they expected to the intelligence problem).

You have to make the best of what you have got, often in conditions that are less than optimum, at the same time dealing with logistical and administrative problems that could deflect you from your objectives.

I cannot agree with the review posted on Amazon that describes the book as dull. The reviewer may have been expecting tales of derring-do and James Bond-like activity but unfortunately intelligence work is not like that. It is often hard slog and graft and Nick reflects this accurately. For a student of intelligence, the Falklands conflict and life at the sharp end of conflict, this is useful insight and is a recommended read. ■



You Have To Start Somewhere ... The First Officers of the 'New' Intelligence Corps in World War II

By Antony Baxter



Where might you find a future maze designer, two rugby internationals, a humorist and illustrator of children's books, and a former director of variety at the BBC? The answer is that they were amongst careers followed at some point by the first Intelligence Corps officers in 1940. The authority promulgating the Corps was Army Order 112 of 19 July 1940, but a batch of officers, some 465 of them, became the very first wearers of the new Intelligence Corps cap badge on 15 July.

There had been an Intelligence Corps during World War I, but with no cap badge nor any of the attributes of a permanent entity. Some pre-1914 work had provided a list of potential recruits based on language and other skills, but it was not really suitable, and those selected demonstrated mixed abilities. There was a large range of activities followed by those who served, before and after their service. Here are a few:

'Deprived of his honorary rank in the Corps in 1980 was the least of his worries'

Broadcasting. One officer had been appointed OBE as director of variety at the BBC pre-war. Charles Arthur Bertram Marshall [top of left image] would become famous as one of the team captains on TV's *Call My Bluff*

Sportsmen. Apart from John Masterman (Wimbledon) there was Leslie Allison Godfree (Wimbledon doubles winner and Olympics), and two rugby internationals - Philip Lawless and Thomas Henry Vile, a WWI veteran who played for Wales as late as aged 37. He would become a JP and high sheriff of Monmouthshire

Authors. Mostly of history, travel and the arts, although Geoffrey Edward West Household TD was noted for his novels, especially *Rogue Male* (1939)

Amongst those in the legal profession post-war were two High Court judges, as well as Hume Boggis-Rolfe who helped create a new legal system for post-

war Germany and, as Secretary of the Law Commission, played an important part in reforming the divorce laws.

Amongst the more unusual careers were maze designer (Gilbert Randall Coate MVO), a film director (both pre- and post-war) (Gerald Alfred Holdsworth) (mentioned below), humorist and illustrator of children's books (Alan Hervey D'Egville), and the proprietor of Poole Potteries, known to aficionados of *Bargain Hunt* and *Antiques Road Trip* (Cyril C Carter).

There were a few bad apples in this bunch, the worst being Anthony Blunt, [top right] the traitor. Being deprived of his honorary rank in the Corps in 1980 was the least of his worries. 2Lt John Austin transferred back to the General List from the Corps in July 1941 and thence to the Pioneer Corps in December 1941, one of at least 189 officers from all parts of the Army transferred. On 7 September 1942 he was cashiered by general court-martial. At least he wasn't in the Corps at the time. ■

For the pleasure of Antony's full essay, go to:
www.intelligencemuseum.org



Photo: First published in The Rose and The Laurel 2018

Born in Luton, with both parents police officers (a big influence on his thinking), he moved to Ampthill in 1988, where he attended Redborne Upper School. After Oxford Brookes University, having become interested in buildings by living in the Georgian surroundings of Ampthill, he studied town planning. Later, he worked as a trainee maths and English teacher teaching 16 to 18 year-olds from broken families. Then and now, through a local charity, he befriends and mentors a young person from an under-privileged background, helping them through life issues. He also found time to row at university as he did at the Star Club, rowing on the River Great Ouse, in Bedford. Feeling he would like to make a contribution to the nation, in 2015 he joined the Army Reserves, not particularly the Intelligence Corps but in the end it seemed to choose him: 'I'm glad it worked out. Soon, I wanted to be a regular.'



What drew you to the regulars?

'You can't have the same career in the reserves. I am motivated by the chance to learn and be trained, so joined the regulars in May 2017.' His early posting was in open source intelligence, tasked by the army to use passive surveillance to deter threats to the armed forces. 'In Special Counter Intelligence, we had good successes. Sometimes we worked on wider threats to the UK with the aim of reducing vulnerability in high-profile roles in government and defence. These skillsets allow us to use the same techniques for formation vulnerability assessments in, for example, tracking army exercises and identify what makes them vulnerable to outside threat.'

Where does that bring you up to, today?

'In July 2019 I was promoted to corporal and currently work at HQ Int Corps in the ERS team.' Primarily, he engages with those who want to join the Corps, by attending external events up and down the country at universities, schools, at STEM events (science, technology, engineering and maths). 'I point them in the direction of the Corps recruitment pipeline, giving them tests like maths and current affairs.' The dreaded Covid-19 has meant that despite doing all this, he has

not actually been anywhere, except via Zoom. He says ruefully, 'Half-way through my posting, and it's possible that I'll never get to a face-to-face event.'

What's it like as a junior NCO in the Intelligence Corps?

'It's a great job, doing incredible jobs in incredible places. Having been a civvy commuting and living in London, this is my preferred employment! Partly it is about challenging the chain of command; you are allowed to be cerebral, to air your views as long as you are respectful.'

What comes to mind when you bear Strong Corps Family (SCF)?

'I'm in a working group for Strand Two, Maximising Talent.* My role is working on BAME recruiting and I wouldn't be overly familiar with the SCF notion unless I had worked with this committee. For most soldiers you do not see the Vision and Plan until it's cascaded down five levels or so. The challenge of it makes sense when you are at HQ, but out in the battalions, less so. For me, SCF is about trust, mutuality through our shared experiences, knowing that help is only a phone call away when you're feeling out of your depth! You can still ring up Templer and ask for advice.'

What does Corps heritage mean to you?

'About remembering what it is, where it has been, what it has done, and moving forward. You should remember lessons from previous conflicts, and from individuals like LCpl Anthony Coulthard with his story of tenacity and lateral thinking, qualities the modern-day Int Corps soldier should possess.'

What would a young soldier like you say to the largely retired readership of FICM?

'We are grateful for the hard work over the decades that made the Corps what it is today. I imagine that the older generation might say "Things have got easier", but we're still pushed hard through training.'

What is it that not many know about you?

He is a dab hand at DIY: 'I recently renovated my basement saving about £10 k and learning a lot. I enjoy family time and trail running; little beats a 20-miler in glorious weather in the British countryside!'

Is there another question that you would like to have been asked?

He thought carefully about this, responding with heartfelt emotion: 'Something about BAME soldiers. The Corps is the fairest, meritocratic working environment I have been in, all people care about is your ability to get the job done well and on time. I've been lucky to have supportive parents and a great upbringing, but I know only 10 miles away there were thousands of other BAME kids living polar-opposite lives. Could some of them have been suitable for the Corps? Absolutely, but unfortunately we are still not tapping into this huge pool of undiscovered talent. Admittedly, there are many barriers to the recruitment of BAME individuals from low-income areas, but I've made a good start on identifying them.' He is a champion for BAME.

Although at the beginning of his career in the Corps, this young JNCO is patently plugged into a lot that's positive about himself and the Corps. His advocacy for more BAME entrants is spot on for the contemporary Intelligence Corps.

Thank you for speaking to Sub Rosa! ■



The Corps Secretary, Lt Col (retd) Sam Southam Talks to Sub Rosa



Would you tell us a little about your early years?

'Born Leicester in 1960, went to grammar school but before I finished A-levels I entered apprenticeship with Dad's employer, Raleigh, who offered me a graduate apprenticeship. At Bradford university, studying mechanical engineering I hated it and left after one year to sign up in the Regular Army.' Of five army possible jobs presented to him by the recruiting officer, he chose the one the recruiting officer knew least about.

And early years in the Corps?

In 1980, Sam trained in Squad 86, and became Best Recruit 'Which I am quite proud of', from where he was posted straight to Northern Ireland. 'We were billeted in the Sandhurst block which accommodated 1,000 people with cookhouse, bed and bar all handy. I was being well paid, and thinking, this is an interesting job as well as being able to save to buy a car.' He claims to have spent most of his money in Corps' all-ranks Greenfly Club. (In 1980, Sam's NI allowance of £1.90 per day would have bought him about five pints.)

Looking back, was there anything about your career that was moving you towards CS?

'Nothing really, and eventually it was something of a surprise, as I used to avoid HQ Int Corps.' What did help, for example, was his time engaged on force development planning that got him into the HQ and alongside ICA. His most enjoyable time of all was as G2 Ops officer with the 'awesome' US Marine Corps, which has more men and firepower than all of the UK's armed forces: 'They don't mess about.' He was 53 and had adopted their mantra, 'Never take a pace backwards, never ever, ever.'

What was your first exposure to ICA?

'When I became COS.'

What do you like about the job of running the Intelligence Corps Association?

Sam is unequivocal: 'This is the best job I have done in the Int Corps, being able to give back to the system. After 19 years in the ranks and 18 as officer, I have been through all the courses, understand the environment in which Corps members work. Therefore, I can apply a sympathetic analysis when they are seeking help.'

What other qualities do you bring to the job of CS?

'An ability to manage people, to be credible to them,' he says, 'with contacts deep in the Corps built over the years, I have grown up with the RSMs and late-entry commissions. Can manage ICA's £400,000 budget to help our people.' With great satisfaction he pats his phone, 'I have built up a great list of contacts to call directly and quickly get help to people.'

Can you give examples of what ICA can do?

'They range from buying someone a bus pass for £18 to helping out a severe family problem for £30,000. That's in the context of ICA's annual budget of £100,000 for welfare and benevolence.'

What gets in the way of doing your job to get things right?

When people ask for assistance, the British Army – too structured in its thinking rather than thinking out of the box – gets in the way.'

What do you understand as Corps heritage?

'Our shared history is a lived-through experience that we can put over to our youngest and newest people who are going through what we went through.' To these, Sam wants to say, 'You are forming your own history.' He sees history and heritage as having a key operational effect. 'That shared experience is the cypress-green thread that binds Strong Corps Family, which is not just dreamed up by a PR agent. It's a real, living thing.' However much that heritage is important, though, seventy-five per cent of his efforts go on managing welfare and benevolence.

What advice can you give FICM's members?

'Look after yourselves, more importantly look after those around you. We see a lot that is not the fault of the person. Those around the person could have helped.'

Is there a question that I did not ask?

Sam would like us to consider this: 'I'm proud that ICA has invested in technology, with a new database linked to a new website, hoping to launch in November 2020 for a professional, better, slicker service.' Like FICM, ICA is getting everything accessible to our younger, serving cohort, which spends its life, like the wider world, on mobile phones.

Thank you, Sam Southam. ■



Answer to Teaser

Confidential report on Capt Charles de Gaulle, French Staff College, 1922, in Pétain et de Gaulle (1964)

General de Gaulle (1890–1970)



POEM *By a former member of the Corps*

The Recruit

Pried from the circle where his family ends,
Man on his own, no hero of old tales,
Discovers when the pose of lone wolf fails
Loneliness and, miraculously, friends.

Finds how his comradeship with one depends
On being both from London, say, or Wales,
How with the next a common job prevails,
Sport with a third, and so the list extends.

Tradition, region, class and craft and syndicate
Are only some; all attributes connect
Their owner with his kind, give him to vindicate

A common honour; and his self-respect
Starts from the moment when his senses indicate
'I' as the point where circles intersect.

From *Selected Verses* by John Manifold (1948)

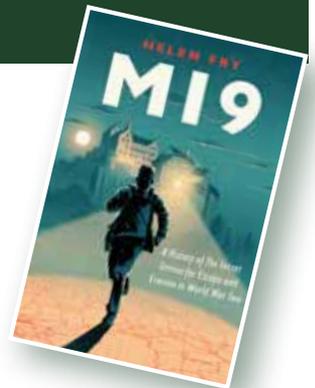
Lt John Streeter Manifold AM (1915–85) poet and musicologist, was born in Melbourne and with a degree in modern languages (French and German) in the 1930s he worked in Germany as an editor-translator. With the outbreak of the Second World War, he joined the Intelligence Corps serving in the Middle East, Africa and France. On his return to Australia with his English wife in 1949, he settled in Brisbane and became active in the cultural and political life of the Communist Party of Australia.



BOOK REVIEW *By Fred Judge*

MI9: A History of the Secret Service for Escape and Evasion in World War Two

by Helen Fry Yale University Press (2020)



Whereas the wartime activities of MI5, MI6 and SOE have been well studied over the years and countless written works have been produced, the same cannot be said of MI9. I know of only three books: *MI9: Escape and Evasion* by M.R.D. Foot et al. (1979), *The Hidden Army: MI9's Secret Force and the Untold Story of D-Day* by Matt Richards and Mark Langthorne (2018) and *Saturday at MI9: History of Underground Escape Lines in NW Europe in 1940-45* by Airey Neave (1969), which went into any detail but even they tended to concentrate on certain aspects rather than an overall study.

Helen Fry has now corrected this with her superb and very detailed study of MI9. Her meticulous research has uncovered information which was previously unknown. MI9's intelligence gathering activities by POWs and those running the escape lines such as Felix, Comet and Pat are described in detail, along with accounts of individuals' experiences in crossing the Pyrenees, evading capture in Italy and the ever-present dangers faced by escapers in France.

Helen has even studied the situation in the Far East where escape and evasion was a far more difficult and dangerous undertaking. I was very pleased that she was able to include a description of the British Army Aid Group, commanded by Lt Col Sir Lindsay Ride, with its HQ in Chungking, which worked closely with SOE's Force 136. I know of no book which covers this subject, although Wikipedia does reproduce an extract from the *South China Morning Post*, which is of interest.

Escapers ranged from private soldiers to generals and air marshals, untitled individuals

to aristocrats. They included Americans as well as most European nationalities, all helped on their way by a small army of courageous people risking their own lives to get them home. Many of these helpers ended their lives in prisons and concentration camps, but their sacrifice resulted in thousands of POWs returning to continue the fight.

In particular, Helen's research has revealed just how many women were involved in this activity. All of them were aware of the fate which could await them, and hundreds paid the ultimate price, many never being properly acknowledged until now. SOE, MI6 and MI9 normally avoided each other's activities, but it was inevitable that their lines would cross at some point, and this was very evident when it came to Holland and the disastrous Operation *Nordpol* run by the German Abwehr, which resulted in so many agents being arrested and killed by the Nazis. In spite of a policy of not getting in each other's way, MI9 was very active in helping some of those SOE members caught up in the debacle, but lucky enough to avoid capture, to return to the UK.

The Intelligence Corps was well-represented in MI9; therefore, aspiring intelligencers could find it a useful tool to their studies. This is a big book of well over three hundred pages. Helen's attention to detail is remarkable and her research deserving of high praise. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that this work could be her best yet and must surely be regarded as a nationally important reference work.

I recommend it whole heartedly. ■

NOTICES AND NOTES FOR MEMBERS

Trustee Matters

The main decisions since May

- Formal agreement for closer co-operation between ICA and FICM.
- New website and FICM branding project approved.
- Ben Hodges resigns to concentrate on family, work and academia. Thank you Ben, for your contribution to FICM.
- £750 donated to the museum for an additional workstation.



Volunteer Les Young at the new workstation

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

Sadly, we report the passing of these Friends

In 2019

Richard Bates
David Bradley
Lewis Page
Michael Perrett-Young
Henry Sloan

In 2020

Tony Cash
Ian Henderson
Colin Quille
David Mander
Eric Mark

EDITORIAL

This year and the next

It has been a year that opened with stories of plague from a nice-and-safely, far-off Wuhan, produced two national lockdowns, online-only celebrations of 75 years since the ending of last century's second great war and not least the 80th anniversary of the re-formation of the Intelligence Corps. And who could leave out the late-year drama of a few weeks ago, a change in the direction of America to be implemented by a 77-year-old man and the daughter of a Jamaican-American father and Indian mother? All that and Christmas soon upon us.

Stepping down to us, a tiny charity such as FICM, we might cast an eye over our own year and what that means for the next. Although the board met face-to-face at HQ Int Corps in January, most trustees have not clapped eyes on each other since then, only via Zoom. Besides making a smallish donation to the museum towards IT, thereby accommodating an extra, third member of the curating staff, the board made two important decisions. One was the approval to engage Pier9 of Hove to re-fashion the website, rebranding the Friends for 2021, especially looking to increase membership. Another, following the formalising of a third objective of 'supporting Intelligence Corps heritage' (which we had been doing anyway) agreeing with the Intelligence Corps Association a 'note of intent' to work more closely with them on Corps matters of history and heritage, contributing significantly to Strong Corps Family.

In the same vein

We commend the interviews on pages 5 and 6. From a young person at the beginning of a career in the Corps, to a man with 37 years as soldier and officer behind him, it is heartening to hear similar sentiments about loving more than 'just the job'. They closely echo American poet Ezra Pound who wrote in 1917: 'What thou lovest well remains, / the rest is dross / What thou lov'st well shall not be ref't from thee / What thou lov'st well is thy true heritage'.

In the museum

Page one will tell you that, in the summer, Assistant Curator Harriet Huggins moved on from the museum to become a policewoman. Aside from her excellent work in the museum and the infectious sparkle of her personality, FICM wishes to acknowledge her contributions to this publication. Harriet's articles on the museum in general, and schools and people with learning difficulties in particular were breaths of fresh air. (Not forgetting her surprise quizmastering at last year's volunteers' Christmas lunch, just as certain stalwarts were hoping for an uninterrupted postprandial drink.) Thanks Harriet – good luck in the constabulary.

Again springing from page one, warm greetings from the Friends to Sarah and Gemma who are going to play a big part in the museum's 51st year. As they were for Harriet's, these pages would be graced by your contributions. ■

LETTERS to the Editor

700-year-old Member of the Royal Family

Let me draw to your readers' attention to the remarkable achievement of our Colonel-in-Chief Prince Philip, who has been widely reported as retiring recently from his similar role with The Rifles. According to LBC News, the *Daily Star*, Sky, and a wide range of other media: 'For almost 70 decades, Philip has been closely associated with The Rifles and its earlier regiments'.

Seventy decades, eh? That means he was in post during the Hundred Years War. Not many veterans can claim this. We can only wish him well for the next 70 decades.

Tony Hetherington
October



The 100 Years War

Court-martial the General! And the Admiral!

In 'Himmler's False Identity Papers'* often *Feldwebel* is mistranslated as either corporal or sergeant. In fact, it is more accurately closer to sergeant major.

Re the front-page Teaser, what a pity General Sir Ian Hamilton didn't follow his own advice when he sat aboard the flagship HMS *Queen Elizabeth*, way offshore, composing poetry, while his generals floundered around on Gallipoli without direction. (Or maps!) The fellow should have been court-martialled. As should Admiral David Beatty – but that's another story.

Robin Evers
August

* *in this summer's Sub Rosa*

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