



Newsletter of the

FRIENDS OF INTELLIGENCE CORPS MUSEUM

E Newsletter 02 - Summer 2012

WELCOME TO SUB ROSA!

Following publication of our “Spring” edition (E-Newsletter 01) we received a number of suggestions for improvements. One was to make the edition more “printer-friendly”. This, we hope we have succeeded in achieving. Another, though, was that the newsletter should have a name! Following much debate we have adopted “Sub Rosa – Newsletter of The Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum”, which has been incorporated in the masthead of this edition. We hope you think it is in keeping in a rather light hearted way with the spirit of the FICM “Friends” activity.

By way of a little background refresher (which we are sure you don't really need); the Latin phrase sub rosa means "under the rose" and is used in English to denote secrecy or confidentiality of information shared. We have chosen to interpret it as “Just between ourselves.....!”.

The rose's connotation of secrecy dates back to Egyptian and Greek mythology. Aphrodite gave a rose to her son Eros, the god of love; he, in turn, gave it to Harpocrates, the god of

silence, to ensure that his mother's indiscretions (or those of the gods in general, in other accounts) were not disclosed. Paintings of roses on the ceilings of Roman banquet rooms were also a reminder that things said under the influence of wine (sub vino) should also remain sub rosa. In the Middle Ages a rose suspended from the ceiling of a council chamber similarly pledged all present (those under the rose) to secrecy. In the 16th century, the symbol of Henry VIII of England was the stylised Tudor rose. A large image of the rose covered the ceiling of the private chamber where decisions of state were made - in secret.

In current times, the term is used by the Scottish Government for a specific series of "off the record" meetings and most importantly is reputedly the inspiration for the rose incorporated into the badge of The Intelligence Corps.

Best wishes to all our Friends, old and new!

John Quenby

MUSEUM WEBSITE

By the time you read this, the last and biggest of the consultations on the website before launch will have begun. All Friends who are also members of ICA will have received an e-mail from Chicksands outlining the aims of the consultation along with a questionnaire to fill in and return to Ian Cooling, the project leader. Ian will collate and assess the results and then task the designers to make the necessary changes.

Ian would also very much welcome the views of those Friends who are not members of ICA. If you would like to help, just e-mail Ian and he will send you a brief on the consultation, a link to the “draft” site and the questionnaire.

Ian's e-mail address is:- ian.cooling@invictanet.co.uk

WOMEN OF INTELLIGENCE

by Christine Halsall, pub The History Press 2012 pp 192

This beautifully written book tells the story of the contribution air photo interpretation (PI) made to winning the second World War whilst, seamlessly entwined, are the stories of the women, mostly WAAFs who took part in this vital source of intelligence.

These women, photographic interpreters, working on equal terms with the men from all three services, pored over literally millions of photographs from all over enemy-occupied Europe and, later, the Far East. From this seemingly mundane yet immensely demanding work came such important discoveries as the pocket battleship Tirpitz, a key component of the Battle of the Atlantic, hidden in a Norwegian fiord. They monitored the construction of submarines in Hamburg shipyards – again vital in the battle of the Atlantic. Perhaps to our surprise, we learn about the detailed and incredibly accurate models that were made of the beaches in preparation for D-Day and the dam-busters raids. Some of those who had been involved in their building were reduced to tears thinking about the women and children drowned in the farmsteads that they had painstakingly re-created.

We can read of the exploits of Constance Babington Smith and her extraordinary contribution to the battle to defeat the V1 and V2 (vengeance weapons) and her discovery of the elusive ME163 rocket fighter. Had it come earlier it could have made such an enormous difference to the war in Europe; even, perhaps, its outcome.

Threaded through this history are the individual stories of these women; their day to day life both at work and off-duty; their romances. Many of them are accompanied by delightful photographs - mostly in their uniforms. (How different they look from modern 20 year olds!)

We read of Sarah, daughter of Winston Churchill, both in her day-to-day activities - not getting or expecting special treatment - and then being whisked away to join her father, a regular visitor, at momentous meetings with the Allied leaders. Almost name-dropping, Dirk Bogarde (Capt Derek van den Bogaerde) is a captain – not yet a star. Glyn Daniels, archaeologist and TV star, is seen in a different role - as is Frederick Ashton, ballet master of the Royal Ballet.

I was somewhat surprised to realize when I reached the end of the book that I could not find a mention of the Medmenham Collection which I feel is inextricably connected to the book and forms such an important section of the Museum at Chicksands.



Christine Halsall was in demand signing copies of her book in the museum on Corps Day

Photo: AH

Although perhaps, this book should be sold with a public health warning so small is the typeface; it is a pleasure to read! The illustrations – hardly surprising – are superb.

PWC July 2012



Tony Hetherington photo: JQ

NEW TRUSTEE

Anthony (Tony) Hetherington

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Anthony (Tony) Hetherington as a Trustee and Secretary of the FICM charitable trust.

Although Tony does not have a Corps background he brings with him a wealth of experience from his work with a number of other UK intelligence agencies and an irrepressible enthusiasm for the Corps Museum at Chicksands.

Tony fills the vacancy created by the retirement earlier this year of Paul Croxson, who will continue to contribute to the newsletter and support the trust in many other ways.

There is insufficient space in this edition to include more of Tony's relevant biography, thus we will return to that in a future edition.

INBOX

In this edition we are delighted to include two contributions from Friends.

Intelligence Corps Histories

From Fred Judge

In the summer of 1999, having just been thrown out of the civil service for being far too old at 60, I took my woes down to Chicksands for some sympathetic “there, theres”. Yes, folks, you know how it is; you feel down, you decide to visit some old friends, look at some old antiques - in a museum, perhaps. After a while, you feel rejuvenated and relaxed once more. Then a little voice in your ear mentions a small job which needs doing and as you are at a loose end... Well, before you know it you have committed the cardinal sin, something that all soldiers are warned about and which I have never done before except when ordered to do so by the RSM, I volunteered!

The voice was, of course, that of Major Alan Edwards. He sounded antique because of the Cornish pasties he was busy stuffing down his neck. (a Welshman - Cornish pasties - I ask you!). Anyway, it seemed there was a need for somebody to research and write about the Field Security Sections. Having recently written a history of military intelligence in West Germany and Berlin as well as having completed my own memoirs, Alan thought it seemed logical that I should have a go at that as well. So began a research journey which has still not ended.

To date, I have completed a number of tomes, all of which are in the archives and can be made available to those who would like to know more about our Corps and the people who have kept it alive and kicking since 1940. They (the books, that is) are: -

1. ‘No Adverse Trace’. My own memoirs about life in a security section based on my diaries and work books mainly for the period 1975 to 1984 (with some anecdotes from earlier jollies in BAOR and the UK).

2. ‘A History of British Military Intelligence in West Germany and Berlin, 1945 to 1990’. This started off as a history of BSSO because, whether we liked it or not, the Corps and BSSO had been inextricably linked since the end of the war; therefore there are stories from both camps, some of them very surprising.

3. ‘The Field Security Sections of the Intelligence Corps, 1939 to 1960’. (Don’t start arguing about the ‘1939’ bit, there was a reason for it being included). This was based on the notes made by the late ‘Johnny’ Hillyer-Funke and his leg-man, the late Lt Col Tony Williams, but which H-F never got around to completing before his unfortunate posting to the hereafter.

4. ‘The Honours and Awards of the Intelligence Corps’. There are two versions of this available. ‘Volume 1’ and ‘Version 2’. No, don’t ask. Joyce Hutton can explain it to you. However, ‘Version 2’ is much larger than ‘Volume 1’, and that’s the fault of Peter Metcalfe.

5. ‘The Intelligence Corps, 1914 to 1929’. This was a follow-on from Brigadier Brian Parritt’s ‘Intelligencers’ and describes how the Intelligence Corps (or rather ‘an intelligence corps’) was formed as a result of the machinations of a few clever officers and how, by 1929, it had been allowed to wither on the vine.

6. ‘Special Duties and the Intelligence Corps, 1940 to 1946’. This was based on the notes made by the aforementioned Tony Williams but which, on account of his most untimely death, were never brought to fruition. Although it has now been completed, information continues to arrive from various sources and it may be that it will never be properly finished.

At astronomical cost to a certain poor pensioner, all these books have been privately bound in green morocco leather (what else?) and lodged in the archives pending one of those things which the army is supposed to be good at making – a decision. (The original notes, draft copies and correspondence files are also lodged there).

Why am I telling you all this? Well, nobody seems able to decide whether these tomes need to be made available to a wider audience. Former ‘FSSers’ still ring me up to ask when my history of their sections will be made public; I can’t tell them, since the copyright for all of them (except ‘No Adverse Trace’) lies with the Corps, and the books are now consigned to dusty shelves behind empty Cornish Pasty packets in the archives. Most of the source material has been put into the public domain and, in the case of those Corps members who were also wartime members of SOE/SIS/MI5/MI9 etc., their personal files are now being released from the National Archives.

My point is that the material needs to be read! Talk nicely to Alan Edwards and Joyce Hutton and maybe, just maybe, you might be allowed to read them. They are all held electronically as well so it shouldn’t be impossible to allow certain worthy individuals to have a copy or two - bearing in mind copyright, of course. They would be of special interest to young officers hoping to make a mark in the world of intelligence and security as well as to older members of the Corps who would like to count the mistakes and ring me up every night to say, ‘Naaaahhh, it wasn’t like that at all!’

A F (Fred) Judge

May 2012

THE BUNDESWEHR AND ME

From David Elvy

For obvious reasons I am unable to relate the activities I was involved with during my 15 years in the Int & Sy Gp (V) however one incident may be of interest.

For my annual camp, (c.1983) I and two others from 20 Coy together with 2 Sherwood Foresters were attached to the Bundeswehr and it was not until I visited the Association (of) Jewish Ex Servicemens museum that I realised with the help of Henry Morris, a curator, that a Jew serving with the German Army, post WWII was just a tad unusual!



The Jewish Monument - Belsen

Photo: D Elvy c1983

We were with 514 Panzer Bn who were based up in Flensburg in the north of Germany, however I met up with them in Paderborn, North Rhine Westphalia where they scared the daylight out of me opening up with a salvo from 21 Leopard tanks, but that is another story!

On our way back from Paderborn to Flensburg, their base up on the Danish border, the young German officer told us we would be passing Bergen Belsen and we could stop "for a tour". Then he realised that the terminology of a "tour" did not rest well with me and apologised, asking me then if I minded if we stopped. This was long before the days of organised trips to Belsen, Auschwitz and other places of such horror. Put on the spot I said it was OK with me.

We duly arrived and he asked if I wanted to be on my own or would



The Obelisk and one of the thirteen mass graves - Belsen

Photo: D Elvy c1983

he like me to have him accompany me, I opted for the latter and the others in the group wandered their own ways. The photographs had me choking back emotions but when we went through the entrance the first thing that came through my mind was that there were birds singing, contrary to the myth that birds didn't sing over such places. The sheer horrors of the mass graves were viewed by me through tear filled eyes and a cold numbness never before experienced.

The officer with me apologised for what had happened; it meant nothing. There was such a rush of contradictory emotions and thoughts going through my mind. The German officer was not even born during the war; he was a very pleasant young man in his mid-20s; but what of his father, his mother, his grandparents? They must have known. They might even have been active Nazi Party members. How can you witness thousands of people being herded off and not know; Jews, Romanies, mentally and physically handicapped, homosexuals or dissidents?

There I was, having been well trained in hiding any sign of emotion, in floods of tears. We reached the memorial plinth - so many thousands of names. At that point I had to be on my own and told him so. He was very understanding. Shaking visibly and by then in floods of tears I walked up the steps not caring who of the "rufty-tuft" soldiers, English or German saw me. For me they became momentarily in quite another world. I said Kaddish, a Jewish memorial prayer; there were more than enough souls in that place to warrant it.

The rest of the day was a blur; thankfully I was left alone to contemplate. I finished my time with the Bundeswehr but that day going around Bergen Belsen with a serving German Army officer remains perhaps one of the most surreal and certainly the most moving experience of my life

There is a rider to my story which involves our Museum.

Earlier this year I noticed a small item in The Times, it was the photograph that caught my eye, a Yellow Star with "Jude" in the centre, a pink triangle and a camp inmate's number. The lot included an Intelligence Officer's Handbook and some photographs. I know there is regrettably an element of extreme right wing fantasists who collect these things as trophies and I was determined that this would not be one of them. I went to the auction in Ludlow on 12 March and succeeded in buying the lot. There was one unknown bidder and the price went to four times the guide price, but price was not the issue.

Having bought the lot, I brought them with me to the Friends inaugural meeting on 29th March and showed them to the Archivist, Joyce Hutton, who then went off and came back with a folder containing a photograph of



Items included in the auction lot

Photo: D Elvy

the same lot together with other photographs. Joyce told me that somebody had sent these together with a delousing suit purporting to come from Belsen but there was no way that it could be verified as such. I have since tried without success to find out who the donor of the suit and seller of the lot I purchased, but without success.

HISTORICAL NOTE

BRIXMIS 1946 - 1990 (see planned events)

The British Commanders'-in-Chief Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany (BRIXMIS) was a military liaison mission to East Germany following the establishment of the four allied zones of control in Germany after the Second World War. The reciprocal agreement establishing the first of these, between the British and Soviet zones, was established on 16 September 1946 under the Robertson-Malinin Agreement between the respective chiefs of staff. Subsequent agreements in 1947 led to the establishment of liaison missions with the zones controlled by French and US forces.

The agreements established a framework for the exchange of liaison missions to foster good working relations between the military occupation authorities in the two zones. While the purpose of the missions was quasi-diplomatic the establishment of the liaisons presented an opportunity for the collection of human intelligence through overt reconnaissance and surveillance.

The establishment of the British and Soviet liaison missions, **BRIXMIS** and **SOXMIS**, put in place procedural and administrative mechanisms that would be replicated by the respective French/Soviet and US/Soviet activities, although the initial British/Soviet arrangement was significantly larger than the others with 31 teams.

The British Mission comprised members of the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force who conducted uniformed liaison activities in marked cars and two Chipmunk light aircraft, ostensibly to allow aircrew to maintain crew currency while posted to the mission.

Liaison agreements remained in place until 2 October 1990 when all three missions were deactivated on the eve of Germany's reunification. (source Wikipedia - July 2012)

Here Paul Croxson writes about **THE INTELLIGENCE CORPS' ROLE IN BRIXMIS**

In the early days the only members of the Intelligence Corps serving in the Mission were individual officers selected because they were Russian speakers or, during the era of National Service, two NCOs acting as clerks. When National Service ceased the Corps was severely stretched across the world and could no longer provide this support and so the work of intelligence collation, maintenance of Target Folders and detailed research to back up the tasking of tours had to be done on a part-time basis by Tour Officers and NCOs. This was completely unsatisfactory as they already had a full-time load with their touring duties.

Clearly tours were bringing home a mass of information and this needed to be properly collated and Target Folders kept up to date in order that tours could brief themselves before setting out into the Soviet Zone.

Finally in about 1971 it was recognised that the Mission needed the expertise of a full-time collation staff and the first regular Intelligence Corps NCO, a corporal, was posted to the Mission. This proved to be the "thin end of the wedge" and during the 1970s the Corps "infiltrated" the Mission in a big way with his being replaced in 1973 by two senior NCOs, who formed the Operations/Intelligence Cell in support of the Army Operations staff. This was commanded at the time by a RAEC major, but due mainly to the lobbying of the then Chief and the GSO 2 Ops, supported by the

Intelligence Corps senior NCOs, he was replaced in 1976 by an Intelligence Corps Captain. Later a junior NCO joined the cell and this remained intact until the Mission closed.

It was not only within the Mission itself, however, that the Intelligence Corps provided professional intelligence support. Prior to 1970 no formal training was given to members of the Mission before they took up their appointments; they had to learn on the job. In 1971 and 1972 some selected officers attended the Service Attaché Course at the School of Service Intelligence (later named the Defence Intelligence and Security School) at Ashford but it was realised that a more specialised approach and dedicated course was necessary. So the Foreign Armies Studies Branch of the School was given the task, in liaison with the Mission, of putting together a course for BRIXMIS personnel and the first course was run from 22 October - 10 November 1972. In order not to prejudice the BRIXMIS liaison function it was essential that there should be no obvious connection between the Mission and the Intelligence Centre and so the course was titled the Intelligence (Special Duties) Course.

Two courses were run in both 1973 and 1974; thereafter there were three per annum until No 49 Intelligence (Special Duties) Course from 18 June - 13 July 1990. Early courses were of three weeks duration but in 1982 the course was extended to four weeks. From the very start it was the Chief's policy that all Army and RAF members of the Mission should attend whether they were full-time tourers or not and this policy continued for

the eighteen years during which the courses were run. Over the years the course content was refined and developed. From 1976 onwards up to four members of the American Mission attended each course and from 1983 a few French Mission officers also attended.

There were three main aspects to the training: Equipment Recognition, Photography and Touring Techniques. The first two weeks consisted mainly of classroom instruction in these subjects while the last two weeks were dedicated to practical touring exercises against similar targets in UK to those the students would operate against in East Germany. During the first exercise students were tutored by members of the Directing Staff (DS) travelling with them in their vehicles while on the final exercise the students operated "solo" with the DS deployed against them as "narks" with the aim of giving them experience of the harassment and detentions they might encounter in East Germany.

Summary

Over many years the Intelligence Corps played an important part in this organization and provided a skilled and professional service which added greatly to its effectiveness.

By Paul Croxson with many thanks to Angus Southwood (pictured below), who provided Paul with much of the material for this article.

FICM EVENTS STRATEGY

Having looked at the annual timetable for Corps/ICC events, ie Corps Day (July) and the AGM (October), it seemed sensible to recast the Friends programme of events to dovetail into the overall calendar cycle. Thus, in principle we will aim to have the annual Intelligence lecture each spring and an open FICM Trustees meeting followed by a Museum reception in the late summer.

As an added dimension, however, I am delighted to report that our Secretary, Tony Hetherington has struck up a very promising relationship with The Friends of Bletchley Park, which will allow us to promote selected lectures from their regular series, which we think will be of particular interest to FICM members. You will see from the “Planned events” panel, that the first of these will be Maj (Retd) Geoff Greaves talk on BRIXMIS for which we are able to offer our members the reduced entry fee of just £5. We believe that in this way we will be able to provide a number of opportunities throughout the year for FICM members to get together.

PLANNED EVENTS

26 September 2012

FICM Trustees meeting at Chicksands.

FICM Life members will be invited this year. (From 2013 it is intended that this “Annual Trustees Review Meeting” will be open to all FICM members).

11 October 2012 - Lecture at Bletchley Park - Geoffrey Greaves BRIXMIS *

A small and virtually unknown unit of the British Army based in East Germany less than a year after the end of WW II formed a legitimate but reciprocal spying operation throughout the Cold War.

29 October 2012 - ICC AGM London.

14 February 2013 - Lecture at Bletchley Park - Paul Rimmer (Cabinet Office):

JIC & Intelligence Assessments then & now.

Getting intelligence right for Government: Challenges for assessment: What is the same and what has changed compared with WW II?

21 Mar or 4 April 2013 (TBC)

Annual FICM Intelligence lectures

London venue TBA

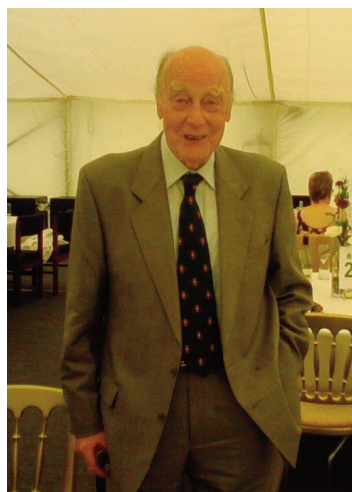
11 April 2013 - Lecture at Bletchley Park - Mike Mockford:

History of Air Reconnaissance & Photo Interpretation

This talk will review the origins of photography and the early attempts to “see over the hill” from the 19th Century, using balloons, kites and camera-carrying pigeons, to developments in WW I, the inter-war years and the major developments during WW II

All Bletchley Park lectures commence at 19.30 and are held in The Mansion at BP (Open from 18.30).

*** In order to benefit from the special “Friends” £5 admission fee (£10 for guests) bookings should be made asap by contacting Tony Hetherington (Secretary) direct at windscale@msn.com or by mail to FICM at Chicksands.**



Angus Southwood

Photographed, resplendent in his First 100 tie, at Corps Day **Photo JQ**

CURATOR'S CORNER

In this edition we feature two intercept radios, rack mounted as part of the “Americans at Chicksands” collection currently on display in the museum.

The two military HF receivers are typical of those used at Chicksands in the 1950s to the 1980s.

The top one on the rack is a Collins R-390 which was probably in use from the 60s to 80s. The lower set is an earlier Hammarland SP 600 which dates from the 50s to 70s era.

Both receivers would have been used to intercept morse code transmissions. The intercepted messages were quickly analysed and reports transmitted to US and Allied HQ units across Europe and the United States. Thus they serve as an important reminder of the Cold War years on our doorstep!



Radio receivers

Photo JQ

DISTRIBUTION GUIDANCE

While this newsletter does not include any 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!