



Newsletter of the

FRIENDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE CORPS MUSEUM

E Newsletter 04 - Spring 2013

WELCOME TO SUB ROSA WITH SPRING IN THE AIR!

In this edition of *Sub Rosa* you will find details of the new Friends dedicated website; the trust's accounts for the year to 31st December 2012, plus all the usual features.

We have a full house booked for the first London Lunch with Lectures being held at the SFC on 4th April and will report on that event in the next edition of *Sub Rosa*.

Our planned event to be held at Chicksands in September this year will feature an open Trustees Meeting, to which all members will be welcome. This will enable us to report in more detail on our income and expenditure for the first full

year of operation, answer members' queries and receive suggestions for future developments. We hope to be able to arrange tea at the Priory that day and visits to the museum to make this a truly memorable occasion. We will of course also have a presence at Corps day on 20th July.

Best wishes to you all!

John Quenby, Chairman

WEBMASTER WANTED!

FICM would like to hear from a member or friend/relative of a member willing to act on a voluntary basis as "Webmaster" for the trust's recently implemented website.

The role would encompass management of the website content on a day to day basis and include loading new articles, book reviews etc as supplied by the editor (currently John Quenby). This would be achieved through the "Admin" function of the website and requires computer fluency but definitely no technical knowledge! As the



management would be entirely electronically based, there would be no travel involved, only a keen interest and access to the internet via your own computer.

If you are interested or could point the finger towards a likely candidate, please contact John Q by e-mail in the first instance on jquenby@btinternet.com

FICM Needs You!

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!

THE CODE-BREAKERS OF STATION X

by Michael Smith. pub. Shire Publications 2013, pp56

Michael Smith served in the Intelligence Corps and before becoming a successful writer was a respected journalist known not least for his major exclusive the “Downing Street Memos”. Smith has authored a number of books, including the UK Number one bestseller: *Station X - The Code-breakers of Bletchley Park* (1998), (this was updated in 2011 as *The Secrets of Station X: How the Bletchley Park Code-breakers Helped Win the War*), and *The Emperor's Clothes* the story of Bletchley Park's involvement in breaking Japanese codes. His latest book, *Bletchley Park, The Code-breakers of Station X* comes to us courtesy of Shire Publications. If I may digress for a moment, this publisher was not previously known to me but having read their January – June 2013 catalogue, this will not be the last of their fascinating titles that I read!

May I start with an observation – hardly a complaint? Anyone with less than perfect vision will struggle with the miniscule typeface. (I wonder if it is the same for all of their publications).

I have to confess to being an avid reader of anything to do with Bletchley Park and Sigint (signals intelligence) and have to wonder where amongst the vast amount of literature on this subject this book is expected to fit. Despite its small type it is still a small book whereas the subject is massive. It could never cover the whole subject let alone in any depth but I am sure it never set out to do so.

What Michael Smith has done, though, is to write a book that would appeal to and please anyone who just wants to know in general terms what actually went on there. Just about everything he writes has been covered elsewhere and so I learned nothing new but this was not, I am sure, the purpose of the book. I don't want to sound disparaging in the slightest

but it is a nice little book. I think it might be fairly described as a ‘taster’.

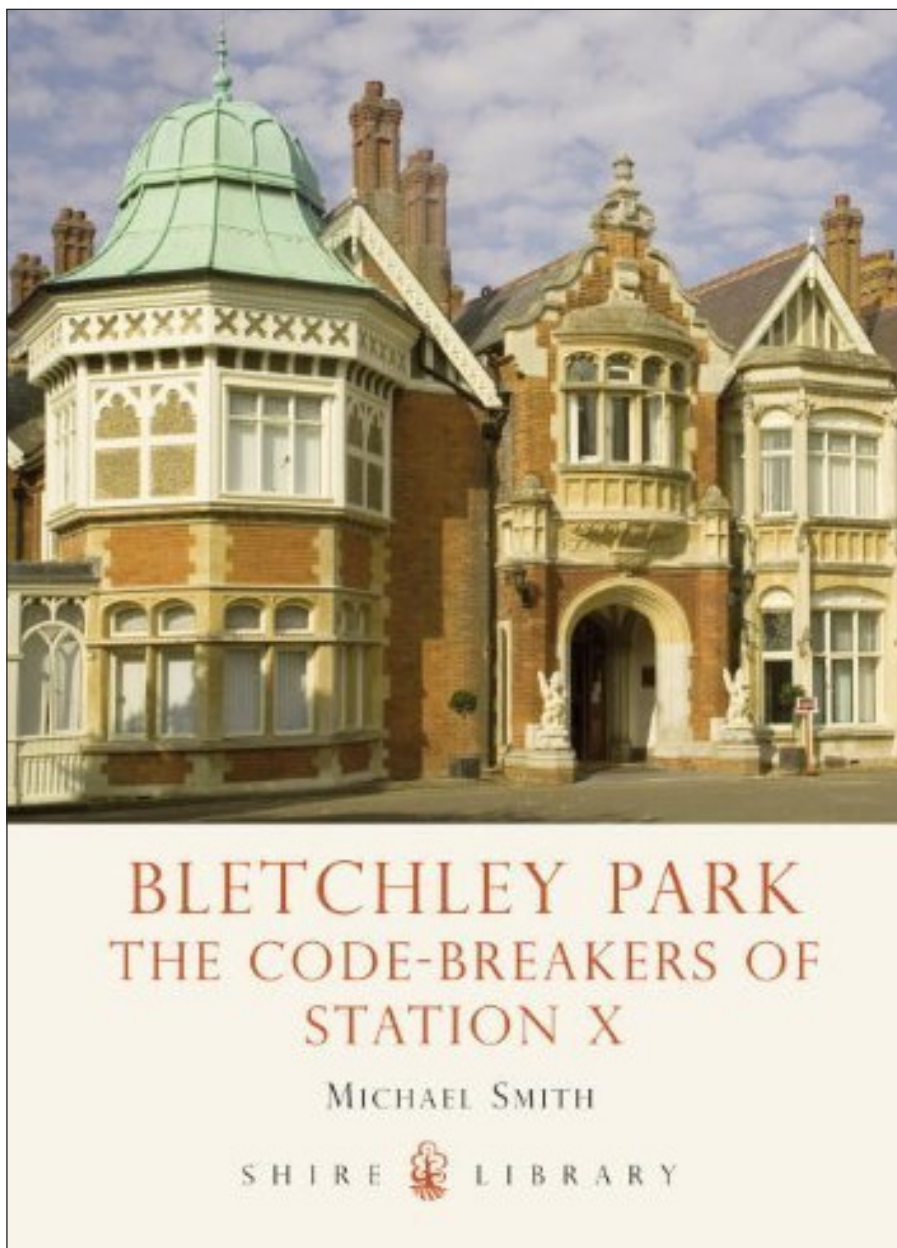
The photos are excellent. Michael Smith tantalizes the more knowledgeable reader on pages 48 and 49 with photographs of “Sixta” and “Hut Six Fusion Room” with no mention of what went on there and how the names came about, (but then B.P specialized in odd names). He is in good company in this respect. If I recall correctly, neither Aldrich nor Nigel West said very much – if anything – about traffic analysis in their books on GCHQ. Indeed, you can walk around the whole of Bletchley Park and see just the one mention. It is a petty point but I do not like the habit that has grown up of calling anyone who

worked at BP a “code-breaker”. Very few were.

One last comment if I may. I hate smart reviewers who couldn't write a book of their own for love nor money but who are able to spot the most arcane of errors at a thousand paces but please forgive me this once. On page 49 “D-Day” is given as 6 June 1945. Ouch, Michael!

By the way Michael Smith is also a Trustee of B.P.

PWC Feb 2013



Book review with John Hughes-Wilson

SAS OPERATION STORM

By Roger Cole & Richard Belfield, pub. Hodder & Stoughton, 2011, 300 pp

This book is worth a read by anyone interested in Britain's Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) or 'Operation Storm', the campaign to defeat the rebels and communist insurgents in Oman's Dhofar Province in the early 1970s. However, its title is misleading. This is not a history of the whole campaign. It is in fact an account of one small battle at the coastal village of Mirbat on 19 July 1972, when the rebels of the 'Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf' (PFLOAG) attempted to storm the town and capture or kill its garrison.

Normally a book of this kind, designed to appeal to the general reader rather than the military professional, would be unlikely to receive a review in the pages of this Journal*. For example, it sorely lacks maps and, much worse, any source notes. In style it falls between what one publisher memorably described as 'military pornography' and a somewhat breathless narrative. Nonetheless it is a useful contribution to the history of the Dhofar campaign and yet another addition to the reputation of the publicity conscious SAS. This story of one of their most famous battles by one of the men who was present at the battle and an award winning TV producer and author will add to that myth.

The events at Mirbat were dramatic by any standards. At dawn a group of about 250 PFLOAG insurgents attacked the town in an attempt to overrun the Omani garrison and the British Army Training Team (BATT) of nine SAS men, plus some Pakistani and intelligence personnel. Under cover of a mortar barrage the insurgents launched a series of human wave attacks only to be beaten back by a determined defence. The key to the battle was a single 25 pounder artillery piece in a gun pit near the Sultan's forces fort.

Sergeant Takavesi volunteered to run the 700 metres from the BATT house to the gun emplacement, where he gave first aid and fired the gun at point blank range while the Omani soldiers in the fort engaged the enemy with small arms fire. Despite this the adoo continued to advance upon the BATT house and the gunpit, coming within grenade range of the

latter. Realising that all the men in the gun pit were dead or wounded, Captain Kealy and Trooper Tobin ran across the open ground under fire. Tobin was mortally wounded but continued to fire. Eventually attack jets of the Sultan's Air Force arrived and began to strafe the adoo in the Jebel Ali with machine-guns and rockets. Pinned down, the PFLOAG attackers withdrew with over 100 casualties as SAS reinforcements were flown in.

As a narrative the book succeeds, although including speculative emotions in a serious work is always risky. (For example, "Captain Kealy's . . . heart, which was now beating so hard it was trying to smash its way through his chest,"

smacks more of Mills and Boon, especially as Mike Kealy has been dead for many years.) There are also a number of areas where the book is misleading. For example, it downplays the roles of the 40 Omani defenders of Mirbat; and the 39 dead bodies flown to Salalah were not "put on public display" - they were actually laid out to see if they could be identified by the locals.

Despite this the book works as a rattling good yarn. It gives a fair overview of the Dhofar war and highlights the importance of intelligence in counter insurgency. It gives an excellent detailed account of the fighting at Mirbat. It rightly deplores the failure to award medals for a battle that in some ways resembles Rorke's Drift, although in a surprising burst of chippiness it attributes this to "Class War" rather than the perennial meanness of Whitehall.

That is why when in 2009 the SAS erected a statue at Hereford to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of the regiment, the vote

was for a Fijian, Serjeant Labalaba. If ever a soldier deserved a VC it was 'Laba', the man who manned the gun pit at Mirbat; and who, with half his jaw blown away, fought for an hour on his own before being killed. This book is a good read about some very brave men: no more; no less.

PJH-W Feb 2013

(John Hughes-Wilson was an intelligence officer for Op Storm, 1974)

*This review first appeared in the RUSI Journal.



HISTORICAL NOTE

1976 – A Little Bit of Maskirovska by Peter Jefferies

Throughout the Cold War, the British and the Americans mounted photographic collection flights in the Berlin Air Corridors and Berlin Control Zone. Army and air force photographic interpreters exploited the products of these flights and although they achieved many intelligence scoops, they sometimes got led astray as the following tale shows.

From 1976 to 1977, there were continuing indications that T-72 tanks were to be issued to GSFG and the hot candidate to be the first recipient was to be 6 GMRD of 20 GA based in Bernau to the north east of Berlin. One day the unit's T-55s were noted with exercise markings (a white cross that ran from front to rear and side to side of the vehicle). The barracks then went deathly quiet, as was to be expected when the unit was out on exercise. Surprise, surprise, three weeks later the first "T-72" – in fact it was a T-64 because at that time we did not know that a T-64 existed – was seen in Bernau. Over the next few weeks, the numbers of "T-72" grew, so we now knew that this was a re-equipment programme. But where had the T-55s gone?

In the south west of Germany about 150 km away from Bernau at Bad Langensalza under the southern air corridor, there was a Heavy Tank Regiment equipped with T-10 and T-10M tanks. About four weeks after the disappearance of the Bernau T-55s, a large number of tanks with exercise markings were seen in the Bad Langensalza barracks. Some of the more experienced PI hands said they were exercise-marked T-10s, but one of the most newly joined PIs said they were T-55s (collapse of stout parties). Two valuable lessons: one a neat demonstration of maskirovska (deception) that the Soviets were prepared to practise in peacetime as well as war; and PIs falling for the oldest trick in the book of seeing what was expected to be there, not what was actually there.

PJ January 2013

(Peter Jefferies is one of the speakers at the London Lunch - 4th April)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings from your Hon. Treasurer – Chris Yates!

It has been a pleasure to look after the accounts for a financially healthy charity, whose books I took over in admirable order. We ended last year with a surplus of £7,601.56, reflecting steady income from subscriptions and donations together with well-managed expenses. Thanks to you all! Also, to all who were able to complete the Gift Aid declaration, a special thank - you is due. As a result you will see that the HMRC contribution for Gift Aid in the tax year to 5th April 2012 was a very useful £716.

Reproduced here for your information are the 2012 income and expenditure account, and balance sheet.

FICM's books have been scrutinised by our independent examiner, Ashley Knight, ACA, who gave us a positive report. (We are grateful for his fee-free professional services and advice.) On 1st March, a full meeting of the trustees approved the 2012 accounts.

As we approach the end of this first quarter, FICM continues to be financially sound, especially benefiting from several large donations, so that this year will see us in a good position to continue to provide for members and support the museum.

If you have any questions, please contact me direct at: - yatescig@btinternet.com

**Best Wishes,
CIGY March 2013**

Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum Income and expenditure account for the period from 9th December 2011 to 31st December 2012

Income	
From ICA/ICC (Museum Friends subs transferred)	£2,501.49
Donations	£2,198.50
Life members	£2,925.00
Annual members	£1,197.50
HMRC - Gift Aid	£716.13
sub total	£9,538.62
Expenditure	
Printing	£1,543.51
Postage	£346.96
Stationery	£94.74
Events	£282.85
Gift to the Museum	£700.00
sub total	£2,968.06
Net surplus	£6,570.56

Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum Balance sheet at 31st December 2012

Current assets	
Bank balance	£7,601.56
Current liabilities	
Creditors	£1,031.00
Net current assets	£6,570.56
Unrestricted reserves	£6,570.56

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

I'm pleased to say that as indicated by the Hon Treasurer's report in this edition, we have a healthy and growing level of membership. It seems timely therefore to draw members' attention to the magic membership card.



Date of Issue:

As a measure of economy the 2012 – 2013 cards cover memberships commencing in either of those years – the expiry date is on the reverse.

Renewals

By standing order:

For obvious reasons we would prefer not to have to send out renewal reminders or new cards so, unless the renewal standing order payment fails to materialise, we will not send you a new card this year. Your validity date just rolls on one year.

By cheque:

If you paid your initial subscription by cheque though, would you please check your validity date and hopefully send off your renewal cheque in good time for attention of the Hon Treasurer at the Chicksands address. Better still: download an application form from our website and sign up for payments by standing order!

Finally, if you have any doubts or questions please do contact us as your continuing membership really does matter!

WEBSITE UPDATE FICM WEBSITE – LIVE!!

The dedicated FICM website went live on the 1st March this year and by now, if you have registered an e-mail address with us you should have received your personal login details. If not, please contact us and we will rectify that omission promptly.

The website public area sets out who we are and encourages people to download an application form to apply for membership of the Friends. Most importantly we have included a hot link direct to the Museum's own website which contains details of the collections plus contact and visitor information. Members of FICM have access to a password protected section of the website where they will find book reviews, articles of historical interest, planned events and a forum facility for conversational exchanges between the FICM members. We hope this feature will develop into a notice board as well as providing an opportunity to discuss areas of mutual interest. If you don't have your own internet facility, you may



Alan Edwards welcomes visitors to the FICM website

Photo: JQ

still be able to enjoy access to the site via the facilities of a family member or close friend. Please do let us know if you would like to do this and let us know the e-mail address you would like to use. We will then enable this to be used in conjunction with your unique membership number.

As ever – your feedback comments and any suggestions for improvement would be welcome!

Please try the Forum - we would like to hear your views!

www.intelligencemuseum.org

Report by Tony Hetherington

PAUL RIMMER, LECTURE AT BLETCHLEY PARK

14 February 2013 - Paul Rimmer 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?

It is not often that intelligence personnel, whether military or civilian, stick their head above the parapet and speak openly – albeit with some discretion – about their work. So, it was no surprise that the Valentine's Day lecture at Bletchley Park, given by Paul Rimmer of the Joint Intelligence Committee, attracted a packed audience.

Rimmer, an honorary colonel in the Corps, is head of the JIC assessments staff and as such he attends meetings of the National Security Council, chaired by the Prime Minister. "We have a prime minister who is really interested in intelligence," he revealed.

But most of the lecture was devoted to a whistle-stop tour of the history of the JIC from its earliest days in 1936 when it was an offshoot of the Committee of Imperial Defence and comprised just a handful of staff who prepared briefings for the chiefs of the armed services.

"The war really made the JIC," Rimmer explained, with personnel joining from MI5, MI6 and the Ministry of Economic Warfare. Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa in 1942 became the first military operation that involved the JIC ahead of its execution, and the organisation moved from relative obscurity to real influence.

The JIC has also moved physically, across Whitehall from the Ministry of Defence to the Cabinet Office. The move, in 1957, reflected the Committee's

growing role as overseer of the three intelligence and security bodies and of what is now Defence Intelligence.

Rimmer himself has been mobile too, moving from the old Defence Intelligence Staff, first to the Cabinet Office and then to his current base at Northwood. There is always work to do, he told his audience: "If we have not got a big enduring commitment in a place like Afghanistan, we can be an early warning system for places like Mali."

Does this mean the role of the Corps might be regarded by the JIC as less significant, in favour of more political intelligence and analysis? Not according to Rimmer: "Int. Corps is one of the few bits of the Army that is actually growing," he said. And he added: "During Libya, my team was reinforced from within Int. Corps."

Questions from the audience produced one frank admission. Rimmer was asked, what went wrong in 2003 with the "dodgy dossier" on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction? "When you look at the assumptions that were made," he admitted, "it crosses the line."



Paul Rimmer.

Photo: AH

But there was only one very minor secret Rimmer said he could confide, even at Bletchley Park. Despite reports to the contrary, COBRA does not stand for Cabinet Office Briefing Room A. There is no "A", it seems, but the media could not resist turning COBR into COBRA, and the name has stuck!

AH March 2013



Iraq Display

Photo: JQ



MEET A VOLUNTEER

“The King desires no Man's Service but what is purely Voluntier”, Daniel Defoe,
Memoirs of a Cavalier, 1720.

The museum is indebted to its volunteers who support the full-time staff. There are about ten of these unsung heroes; here and in subsequent issues of *Sub Rosa*, we shall introduce the Friends to each one.

Meet Pat Last, who has been a volunteer in the archives for two years and every Monday travels from Huntingdon. Originally from Halstead in Essex, Pat first worked in the long-lost occupations of telephonist and draper's assistant, then for 21 years as a civil servant. On her own admission, she was whisked from the workforce by Tony¹, her husband of 45 years. They have two children and three grandchildren. As an RAF wife, Pat co-served with Tony in the UK at RAF Coltishall, Brize Norton, Honington, Lossiemouth, Lyneham and Brampton. At one overseas posting, she worked in the school at RAF Gatow in Berlin in the early seventies; once when the family stopped (wrongfully) on the road corridor to stretch the kids' legs, the family was menaced by Soviet soldiers. In colonial Hong Kong, she lived in Kowloon Tong while Tony was attached to JSMC at Sham Shui Po from 1979-82.

Pat was recruited to the museum through her friendship with Joyce Hutton (Archivist), both avid walkers. “I’m a Jill of all Trades,” says Pat. “It depends on what I’m asked to do. I started off making backing boards for medal cabinets, ribbon sewing, getting the blackout blinds to the correct length, removing pictures from frames so we could preserve them better and checking that they had actually been donated, archiving the Intelligence Corps history collection, updating personal files. Now I’m working with MODES².”

Among the objects she comes across, Pat likes reading a person's history that might not have seen the light of day for years; she puts it away possibly for it to lie undisturbed for more years, perhaps for ever. She enjoys her work and cares for the material that people entrust to the museum. Pat Last, the Friends thank you.

CIGY March 2013

¹ Also a volunteer; his story in a later issue.

² Museum Object Data Entry System.

TRUSTEE

Frances Maynard

...and a little more about Frances Maynard, FICM Trustee

Frances joined the Trustees in January 2012 so her involvement has roots in the very early days following formation of the FICM Trust (see E-Newsletter #1).

Frances' background is in business and academia – on graduation she worked within the NHS and then private industry as a Personnel and Development specialist, making use of her post-graduate management diploma. She then embarked on her second degree and is now an associate lecturer with the Open University teaching both Social and Environmental Sciences. Her specialism is in the Earth's climate system which includes looking at how weather systems may have influenced past military decision making (as a member of the Royal Meteorological Society).



PLANNED EVENTS

4 April 2013 - Inaugural London Lunch with Lectures – SFC London (Sold out!)

Intelligence Background to the Korean War - by Brian Parritt

Brian's fascinating talk covers the intelligence issues involved in this remote and unpopular war. Tensions around the 38th parallel established by the Allies in 1948 escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950. It was the first significant armed conflict of the Cold War.

Berlin Air Corridor Photo reconnaissance flights - by Peter Jefferies

Between 1945 and 1990 the British mounted two clandestine aerial photographic operations in the Berlin Air Corridors and Control Zone. These operations provided regular surveillance of Soviet and East German forces based in East Germany. Peter considers the background, the political controls, the conduct of the flights and the methodologies by both RAF and Intelligence Corps photographic interpreters based in Germany.

This event will be reported in the summer edition of *Sub Rosa*.

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

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

20 July 2013 - (Date TBC) - Corps Day at Chicksands

FICM trustees will be on hand to meet members and deal with any queries.

5th September 2013 - (Date TBC) Chicksands

14.00 hrs FICM Trustees meeting (open to members)

Opportunities for groups to visit the Corps Museum are planned during the afternoon.

15.30 - 16:00 hrs Tea (subject to logistics and weather) at The Priory

Registration will be needed to attend this event to ensure access to Chicksands. Details will appear in the summer edition of *Sub Rosa*.

Late October 2013 - Date TBC) ICA AGM in London