



Sub

Rosa

Newsletter of the

FRIENDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE CORPS MUSEUM

E Newsletter 05 - Summer 2013

WELCOME TO SUMMER WITH SUB ROSA!



Members enjoy lunch at the SFC

Photo: JQ

Summer it seems is here at last! So this is literally a very warm welcome to your sizzling summer edition of *Sub Rosa*.

Inside you will find a splendid piece by Dennis Mills on the Joint Services Schools for Linguists focused on the 1950s and of particular interest to the many National Servicemen who served with the Corps and other services at the time. This is complemented by Paul Crossson's review of The Coder Special Archive with its particularly naval slant to this fascinating subject.

An invitation to our planned Open event to be based at The Priory, Chicksands on 5th September will be found on the back cover. This promises to be the perfect occasion for members, guests, museum and archive volunteers to get together to share a sociable afternoon. Demand is expected to be high, so please complete and return your registration as soon as possible to help us plan with catering and general logistics!

The London Lunch with Lectures held at the Special Forces Club in April was a sell out and is reported on in this edition by FICM Secretary Tony Hetherington. Based on this year's success we are already making plans for the 2014 edition!

STOP PRESS: Museum Curator, Sally Ann Reed has come up with a marvellous offer of Friends coffee mornings to be available at the museum on one Wednesday morning per month. These will of course be bookable in advance and for comfort, numbers for each date will be limited. It is going to offer FICM members and their guests a wonderful opportunity to keep up to date with museum developments in a relaxed and privileged ambience. More information about how to book etc. will be sent to members as soon as we have finalised the details.

We hope to see you soon!
John Quenby, Chairman

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!

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LUNCH WITH LECTURES, SPECIAL FORCES CLUB



Peter Jefferies speaks

Photo: JQ

Two dozen FICM members gathered at the Special Forces Club in London on April 4 for what will hopefully be the first in a series of get-togethers under the title of Lunch with Lectures. Most were retired members of the Corps but there was also a sprinkling of serving personnel and civilians.

As members arrived, they were greeted with coffee and shown to the club's comfortable lounge for the first talk of the day, given by Peter Jefferies speaking about "Photographic Intelligence Gathering in the Berlin Corridors".

Few people need reminding that from 1945 until German reunification in 1990, West Berlin was isolated within the communist Soviet Zone, usually referred to as East Germany. Access from the West was by agreed road, rail and air routes, except during the 1948-49 closure of land routes by the Russians, when the Berlin Airlift kept the city supplied.

The three air corridors from West Germany to Berlin were twenty miles wide, and from 1945 full use was made of them for photographic intelligence gathering. Aircraft included Avro Ansons in the early days, Pembrokes, and a BRIXMIS Chipmunk based at RAF Gatow.

Targets for photography were based on a "shopping list", with the RAF concentrating on airfields and SAM sites, and 6 Intelligence Company and BRIXMIS maintaining watch on barracks and army installations. Peter's impressive slides illustrated the quality of much of the photography, but it was the more human side of his anecdotes that really caught the imagination.

Deception goes with the territory, and with Gatow in line of

sight from East German watchtowers, the PI aircraft would sometimes land and fake a fault that needed repair and a test flight the following day – a test flight that typically required a trip round the entire border of West Berlin, cameras running, followed by a flight back to RAF Wildenrath in West Germany, using a different air corridor to maximise coverage.

Although the intelligence flights were secret, with crews instructed to destroy the film by fogging it if in danger of being downed, the Russians were certainly aware of them. On one occasion in mid-winter, a flight over an East German airfield spotted a clear message trampled in the snow: "Merry Christmas!".

And as Peter described, there was some levity on the British side too. A PI aircraft was parked next to the aircraft of a very senior RAF officer. It was not until the PI crew, in mid-flight, unpacked their lunch that they found they had been issued with fine food and bone china crockery, leading to the gradual realisation that their intended, slightly less grand lunch was at the same time being unpacked in mid-air by the very senior officer who, happily, saw the funny side of it.

And that led neatly to lunch, with the FICM party taking over the SFC's bar and dining room for what was generally agreed to be a fine meal with good (and unlimited) wine, and sparkling conversation.

Lunch over, we returned to the lounge to hear the second talk of the day, given by Brian Parritt on the intelligence background to the Korean War. With the headlines of the previous few days full of nuclear sabre-rattling from North Korea, it was no surprise that John Quenby's introduction hinted strongly that Pyongyang had been roped into a publicity stunt for Brian's book on the subject, *Chinese Hordes and Human Waves!*

Brian revealed that intelligence ahead of the sudden invasion of South Korea by the North in June 1950 was almost non-existent. Neither the UK nor the USA had any diplomats in the North, and SIGINT was "painfully inadequate", with resources overwhelmingly devoted to monitoring the Soviet Union.

There were no PI overflights that would have shown the build-up of the North's forces in the border area. And to cap it all, "Our Man in Seoul" – George Blake – was, says Brian, paying more attention to South Korean politics than to those of the North.

However, General Macarthur's remarkable success in pushing back the North Korean forces was followed by a second intelligence failure in October of the same year, when Macarthur advised President Truman that there was little chance of any serious intervention by the Chinese. Next day



, APRIL 2013

LUB

BOOK REVIEW WITH
PAUL CROXSON

The Coder Special Archive

by Tony Cash & Mike Gerrard, pub. Hodgson Press

2012 pp427



Brian Parritt in full flow

Photo: JQ

the People's Volunteer Army of China entered South Korea in strength.

Brian was a young gunner officer in Korea, and told how, in July 1953, the armistice talks at Panmunjom appeared to be close to a conclusion. On July 24, watching from a hilltop OP, he observed two Chinese soldiers laying line down in the valley. He asked for three rounds of gunfire to interrupt them.

To his surprise, the reply was that eight guns were authorised. Then the adjutant radioed, making it a regimental target – 24 guns. This quickly became a divisional shoot of 72 guns, and finally a corps shoot with authorisation for all neighbouring corps to join in as well. More than 120 guns fired, principally to convince the Chinese that signing the Armistice Agreement would be a good idea.

Next day he and a colleague walked down into the pockmarked valley. And in front of them, up popped the two Chinese linesmen, unharmed! By then the uneasy peace had begun and both sides were able to go home.

Feedback from FICM members has been universally supportive of the idea of more such lunches and lectures. We have set ourselves a high standard with the success of the first, and we shall aim to keep it up.

AH, July 2013

I am sure that many of us will recall reading *Secret Classrooms* by Geoffrey Elliott and Harold Shukman (St Ermin's Press, 2002). It was a lively, frequently amusing account of life at the Joint Services Schools for Linguists (JSSL) looked at mainly from the point of view of those who were on the Interpreters Course (especially Army and RAF), familiarly known as the Kursanty. This is not to say that it did not deal with the intercept work of all three services, but this was obviously an area in which the authors had limited personal experience.

Coder happily sits alongside it, but making good this shortfall, being the untold (a favourite word when writing about Sigint) story of naval national servicemen learning, and using Russian during the Cold War. It tells of some 1500 naval national servicemen who over the years attended various units of the JSSL and their day-to-day lives. Only 2% of national service conscripts went into the navy and so, to be fair to them (reluctantly), they were a pretty special bunch, most having some previous connection with the navy. The authors have happily relied greatly on the experiences related by the numerous contributors, which enlivens what is also a very serious book.

In my opinion it is an absolute belter of a book, telling the stories in a way that could have landed us Siginters in prison only a few years ago. The authors, along with 70-plus former 1950s national service naval conscripts reveal how they learned Russian; some spied on the Soviet military. It sheds some light on the East-West conflict. Many of the contributors went on to study at Oxbridge; one former student became the head of the Bank of England – Eddie George. Acclaimed dramatist and author Alan Bennett who served in the Intelligence Corps whilst at JSSL, supplies the foreword.

It has been suggested that this may be the first ever email history, since nearly all the personal recollections were sent electronically. They recount the hazards of selection for the navy; hilarious incidents in basic training (they did exist); the perils of life at sea; grappling with a very foreign language lightened by films, novels and songs. They trained in top-secret radio eavesdropping techniques; monitoring voice traffic between Soviet ships and planes exercising in the Baltic and North Seas. Several went on to find careers involving broadcasting to Russia, and informing British readers, listeners and TV viewers about developments in the USSR.

The graphic on the book cover displays the usual abbreviation for the Royal Navy followed by a mirror image. This is very much an in-joke. The two reversed letters happen to be the Russian words “and” and “I”. Taken together, the four symbols can be understood to mean “the Royal Navy and Me” – one of the essential themes of this publication.

PWC, May 2013

Footnote

Transferred from the 54th Anti-Tank Regt., Capt. (retd.) John Oswald served with the Int Corps from 1942 to 1948. He has compiled and printed a brief collection of wartime and other stories, as yet unpublished. He has published a short novel, *The Quetzal Dynasty*, which includes some fictional chapters based on his wartime experiences in Europe.

John would welcome enquiries about these on oswaldjoswald@aol.com

HISTORICAL NOTE

JOINT SERVICES SCHOOLS FOR LINGUISTS 1951-60

National Servicemen preparing for war as Russian linguists

by Dr Dennis Mills



The communications intelligence work of Bletchley Park and its Y stations during the 1939-45 war is deservedly well known, but what happened next in relation to the threat from the Soviet Union has received much less attention. Even as early as 1944 the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Chiefs of Staff had begun to consider the gross shortage of Russian speakers in Britain, and by 1948 British intelligence operations, having been run down after the war, were expanding once more. The communists took over Czechoslovakia in 1948, Hungary in 1949. The exploding of the first Soviet atomic bomb in 1949 caught Western intelligence by surprise and the Korean war began in June 1950.¹

The first large scale initiative in language training was a response to the need for about 200 Russian interpreters to join the staff of the Allied Control Commission in newly occupied Germany. In 1945-46 Professor Elizabeth Hill ran some six-month courses in Cambridge for these servicemen. Small numbers of interpreter students were also taught during the same period at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in the University of London, when 24 service personnel, 20 men and four women, attended part-time courses. A similar scale of activity carried on into 1950-51 when there were 39 service students including two women learning a range of east European languages on a part-time basis.²

In 1949 an inter-service committee under the Ministry of Defence began to study ways and means of setting up courses for very much larger numbers of national servicemen. As a consequence of the outbreak of the Korean War, an extension of the National Service Act was rushed through Parliament in September 1950 to increase the period of training from 18 months to two years. A long period of Russian language training then became possible, followed by some useful



Students of the autumn 1951 (first) intake. Photo taken at JSSL Bodmin, summer 1952, oral group, instructor Dani Bondarenko, Ukrainian, courtesy of John Miller (Army), on the far left. Navy students all belonged to the purposely-formed Coder Special Branch.

This photo is taken from John's book, *All Them Cornfields and Ballet in the Evening*, 2010 (Kingston-on-Thames, Hodgson Press), p.23.

intelligence work by those who qualified as translators. The committee's objective became the creation of a reserve of men who could be mobilised in case of hostilities, and in November 1950 a target of about 4,100 by 1954 was adopted.³

Meanwhile an initiative by the Air Ministry in 1949-52 comprised four one-year courses for 30-40 regular, as opposed to conscript, servicemen at RAF Kidbrooke, in south-east London. The students were mainly airmen, both officers and men, but also a few from the Army and the Navy. Some were already experienced W/T (wireless telegraphy) operators.⁴

In March 1951, after much debate the inter-service committee started to take executive action, leading to the commencement of courses in October 1951. They had in mind lower and higher grade linguists corresponding to the terms 'translator' and 'interpreter', the former to be perhaps 65-75 per cent of the total. Joint Services Schools for Linguists run by the Army were established at Bodmin in Cornwall from October 1951 to Easter 1956; at Coudsdon Common near Croydon from February 1952 to August 1954; and at Crail in Fife from Easter 1956 to March 1960.⁵

Evidence has been found of 24 intakes

altogether from 1951 to 1959. Bodmin and Coudsdon started by taking in 300-360 men at three points in the year, approximately 1 October, 1 February, 1 August, with roughly equal numbers from each service. Among the national servicemen in these early courses there was also a scattering of RAF regulars. Owing to Treasury economies, the pace had to be slackened in 1954 when one intake was probably abandoned altogether and the



Bodmin 1954, with two grammar class instructors, Brian Hawkins on the left and Josef Godlewski, Polish. Hawkins went on to be a long standing instructor at JSSL Crail, later at the Defence School of Languages at Beaconsfield.

Courtesy of John Mitchell (RAF), extreme left second row.

intake size was reduced to about 100-150 until the summer of 1956. Following this, there was an intake of the original size at Crail in November

1956, but the levels fell again in 1957. The last five intakes, after the Navy had stopped sending men, were down to only about 25 men, a dozen or so each of soldiers and airmen. The exact number of students sent to JSSLs has possibly not survived, but some estimates are available, starting with the 'upwards of 5,000' suggested by Elliott and Shukman.⁶ The present author has used two different but broadly congruent methods to offer an alternative suggestion of rather more than 4,000. Tentative use of planning sources in the National Archives indicates 4,182, very close to the original target; whilst a combination of the more reliable of the figures in those sources and a consensus of student recollections leads to a figure of 4,270. Both of these numbers look exact, but they are nothing of the kind, yet both point to the conclusion that Elliott and Shukman's figure is much too high and 'about 4,200' is probably a better estimate.⁷

It is more important to say that the planning target was eventually reached before the abolition of national service would, in any case, have forced a different strategy on the services. Had Crail closed two years before its demise in 1960, in terms of numbers it would have made little difference, but in terms of cost it would have supplied the Treasury with the best possible economy measure. In this late period Crail was also running Polish and Czech courses, but only for a handful of students.



The supplementary group of interpreter students at Crail, December 1957, with (L-R) Mr V Diakovski (Russian), Commander Maitland-MakGill-Crichton (*i/c*, Navy students) and Prince (knyaz = lord) Volkonski (Russian). By this date coders were dressed as seamen, and this group had been promoted to leading coder special. After passing the course, promoted to midshipmen.

Courtesy of David Talks, with glasses on front row.

Interpreter JSSLs were set up at the University of Cambridge, administered for service purposes by the RAF, and in the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in the University of London, administered by the Navy. Unlike the service-run JSSLs, however, they were run academically by civilians, Professor Elizabeth Hill at Cambridge and Dr George Bolsover as principal of SSEES, with Ronald Hingley as the course director followed by Bryan Toms. In October 1951



F Course at JSSL Cambridge, central part of the photograph of staff and students at our 'Passing Out' ceremony, held indoors at the Mill Lane lecture theatre owing to bad weather, April 1954.

Front row (L to R): Brigadier E K Page (principal at Coulsdon 1954, Bodmin 1954-56, later at Crail) Wing Commander Edgar J Harrington (principal at Bodmin 1951-c.1953), Flight Lieutenant A Heath-Bullock, Professor (later Dame) Elizabeth M Hill (principal, JSSL Cambridge), and Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder (Chancellor of Cambridge University).

Row 2: Dr Jan Horvath, Princess Natasha Naumova, Mr Alexei Plyushkov, Mme Alexandra Hackel, Mr Vladimir Saulius.

Row 3: Mme Chernysheva, 2nd Lt L Gemson (instructor, passed C course), Mr Goodliffe, Mr Boris Ranevski, Mr Cameron, Ms Doris Mudie (Liza Hill's companion), Mr Courtney Lloyd, Princess Elena Lieven (later Lloyd). Courtesy of Peter Robbins (Army).

these schools both took men straight from initial service training on to Course A lasting one year, followed by a military Russian course at Bodmin lasting about five months. For subsequent interpreter courses, men were selected at the first major progress test after 6-8 weeks of tuition in the service-run JSSLs. Course T, which started in October 1957, was the last interpreter course.⁸

These courses have often been described as superior to the contemporary degree courses so far as linguistic knowledge was concerned, leaving aside the study of Russian history, literature and culture, although these aspects of Russian studies were by no means neglected. Oral proficiency was particularly high. At the end of their courses most interpreters obtained Civil Service Interpretership certificates. After that the Army probably sent most of their interpreters to the Intelligence Corps depot at Maresfield in Sussex to take the course on interrogation techniques. Some of them finished off their national service as privates in the units from which they had gone to JSSL, but at least one became a sergeant in the Intelligence Corps. In their 'spare time' up to demobilisation, some of the Navy interpreters also went to Maresfield and/or on to a variety of jobs for a few weeks or months according to how long after call-up they had gone to JSSL. Some of these jobs were quite unrelated to their interpreter training. The scanty evidence available suggests that the RAF did not give their interpreters further training after the Civil Service exams, but were promoted

to Pilot Officer on demobilisation.

The JSSLs were very successful despite tensions between the military commandants at the service-run schools and the academic staff, especially in the early years. Many of the translators, who received all their language training at a service school, gained A levels in Russian, frequently finding the language papers much easier than the service end-of-course exams.

There was enough drop-out in the first three intakes to have caused the inter-service committee to revise its target date. However, the overall drop-out rate on translator courses was probably below five per cent, about level with university first degree rates in the same period.⁹ The interpreter courses were much more demanding, even allowing for the higher marks obtained by their entrants at the first major progress tests. Interpreter drop-out rates were substantial at first, for instance, 17 out of 60 entrants to the London course in January 1953, but also appear to have improved over time, and the overall rate may not have exceeded 10 per cent.

The success of the JSSLs might be ascribed to four main factors. Firstly, the selection procedures, amateurish, haphazard and chaotic as they were, succeeded in finding among the mass of national servicemen a sufficient proportion of intelligent young men, usually with good linguistic qualifications at O level or equivalent, but more often at A level as well. Many were to go on to university after



national service and a significant minority had already taken first degrees in various subjects before call-up.



Coulsdon 1953, a grammar class of the fourth intake outside a double teaching hut, with 20 students present and their civilian instructor, Mr Sandon. To distinguish Army from RAF students look for the khaki shirts – they are the soldiers. Anomalously, the Navy students were wearing Army gaiters on the orders of Lieut-Colonel Black, the commandant. Courtesy of Bill Musker (Navy).

Secondly, high levels of enthusiasm for their work among the many east European instructors were often combined with charisma acquired during their previous lives in Tsarist Russia or the Soviet Union. Typically, they were newcomers to Britain, but had been jobless and dispirited and were willing to work for the mean rates of pay of temporary civil service posts.

Thirdly, their students responded with a keenness reinforced by a strong desire not to be returned to their units (in the case of the Army and RAF students) or re-categorised to another branch (in the case of the Navy students). They had looked forward somewhat miserably to a largely wasted two years, but instead found themselves being taken into an almost entirely unknown, exciting intellectual world. Frequent progress tests were also important incentives to do one's homework thoroughly.

Fourthly, but most importantly, inspirational leadership by Prof (later Dame) Elizabeth Hill is to be applauded. It was she who understood from pre-war experience in Cambridge the importance of oral practice. She also had enough contacts in the Russian and related diasporas to find appropriate instructors and possessed the organisational skills to deploy them to the greatest advantage. In her 1945-46 courses she divided the students into classes of 25-30 in which they were taught by a relatively small number of British graduates in Russian studies combined with native Russian speakers or bi-linguists who had a good knowledge of grammar and perhaps some teaching experience.

An equal amount of time was spent in smaller groups of eight or nine students (sometimes less) led by fluent Russian speakers who, strictly speaking, were never supposed to address their groups in English. Reading aloud, question-and-answer work, dictation and written interpretation were all practised in the service-run JSSLs, often complemented by singing, the recitation of poems and the telling of colourful stories from their former lives.

The Cambridge method was adopted to great advantage in all the JSSLs, with variations on the original according to local and personal circumstances. In particular the allocation of 50 per cent of contact time to oral work was strikingly different from the usual way of teaching a foreign language at this time. There was healthy competition between the JSSLs at Cambridge and London, as SSEES had also acquired considerable expertise in its field. After the national service courses finished, interpreter courses for regular servicemen at defence establishments kept up the supply on a lesser scale for various languages. One such establishment is that at Beaconsfield (Bucks) which later became known as the National Defence School of Languages and recently (2012) has been scaled down and has become part of the UK Defence Academy.¹⁰



Coulsdon, 1953, oral group, instructor Oleg Kravchenko, Ukrainian. This group was part of a grammar class taught by Peter Meades, an instructor who had been on Liza Hill's 1945-46 Cambridge course as an artillery sergeant, later in Germany using his Russian. Courtesy of Laurie Fox (Navy), middle of front row.

Translators who passed their courses were then trained for monitoring Soviet military radio traffic, mainly from locations in West Germany.¹¹ The Government Communications Headquarters trained the Army personnel, whilst the Navy personnel joined their RAF colleagues in secure accommodation at the Applied Languages School. Initially this was located at RAF Wythall near Birmingham, moving first to RAF Pucklechurch in Gloucestershire, later to RAF Tangmere in Sussex.

When JSSL Crail closed, at least some of its equipment and staff was transferred to Tangmere, where the unit was named the Joint Service Language School (JSLS). There regular personnel of the RAF and Navy received both their general language training and related radio training. The RAF had been anticipating such a transition for at least a couple of years by encouraging or requiring those who volunteered for the JSSL courses to take three-year regular engagements instead of doing two years national service.

Dennis Mills, April 2013

1 R. J. Aldrich, *The Hidden Hand: Britain, America, and Cold War Secret Intelligence, 2002* (Woodstock and NY, Overlook Press) passim; and his GCHQ. *The Uncensored Story of Britain's Most Secret Intelligence Agency*, 2010 (London, Harper Press), especially pp.68, 100, 103, 107-8; also Peter Hennessy, *The Secret State: Whitehall and the Cold War*, 2002 (London, Allen Lane Penguin Books), chapter 1.

2 Elizabeth Hill, *In the Mind's Eye: the memoirs of Dame Elizabeth Hill*, 1999 (Lewes, The Book Guild Ltd) pp.230-36; James Muckle, *The Russian Language in Britain: a historical survey of learners and teachers*, 2008 (Ilkeston, Bramcote Press), pp.120-21. This is an excellent general survey, pp.120-36 in particular, including further information on pre-JSSL initiatives. My thanks to Lesley Pitman, Librarian at SSEES, for the London data.

3 Surviving minutes of this committee are in the National Archives, TNA/ADM 6331-34. See Tony Cash and Mike Gerrard, *The Coder Special Archive: the untold story of Naval national servicemen learning and using Russian during the Cold War*, 2012 (Kingston-on-Thames, Hodgson Press, available online) and Dennis R. Mills,

'Signals Intelligence and the Coder Special Branch of the Royal Navy in the 1950s', *Intelligence and National Security*, vol. 26 (5), October 2011, pp.639-55.

4 Much information of this kind has come from about 100 former Russian linguists of all three services and many different intakes, to whom the author is most indebted. Some of the RAF personnel are members of the RAF Linguists' Association, <https://sites.google.com/site/raflingassociation/home-page>

5 On Crail see Graham Boiling, *Secret Students on Parade: Cold War Memories of JSSL*, 2005 (Crail, Plane Tree); on Coulsdon see Maurice Berrill, 'Moscow in Surrey: Recollections of Coulsdon Common Camp and the not-so-secret classrooms of the Joint Services School for Linguists', *Bourne Society, Local History Records* (journal of the Bourne Society), vol. 68, August 2011, pp.2-15 and Dennis R. Mills, 'The training of linguists for war, Coulsdon, 1952-54', *Local History Records*, part I in vol. 73, November 2012, pp.3-13 and part II in vol. 74, February 2013, pp.3-12. No comparable account has been found in print about JSSL Bodmin, but John

Miller included his own recollections of being in the first intake there and of intelligence work in the War Office in a book that is mainly about his life as a journalist in Moscow over many years: *All Them Cornfields and Ballet in the Evening*, 2010 (Kingston-upon-Thames, Hodgson Press, available online).

6 G. Elliott and H. Shukman, *Secret Classrooms: a Memoir of the Cold War*, two editions, 2002, 2003 (London, St Ermin's Press), p.42 of the second edition.

7 These figures relate only to students taking the Russian courses. There was also a handful of students in the later days of JSSL Crail taking courses in Czech or Polish. It is much more important to note the initiative by the Air Ministry to set up courses in Chinese, mostly attended by RAF national servicemen. They were held in secure accommodation at the Applied Languages School, later known as the JSLS, which is mentioned below. The numbers per course were mostly between 20 and 40, almost 300 in total: R.Hunt, G. Russell and K.Scott, *Mandarin Blue. RAF Chinese Linguists - 1951 to 1962 - in the Cold War*, 2008 (Oxford, Hurusco Books, 84 Butler Close, OX2 6JQ; ISBN 978-0-9560235-0-6).

8 The interpreter courses, especially from the perspective of the Army and RAF students, have been well described by Elliott and Shukman, *Secret Classrooms*.

9 Some problems at Coulsdon were recorded on pp.216-17 in Donald MacDonell, *From Dogfight to Diplomacy: a Spitfire pilot's log, 1932-58*, edited by Lois MacDonell and Anne Mackay, 2005 (Barnsley, Pen and Sword Aviation). MacDonell's remarks about poor teaching and high drop-out support the recollections of some Navy students of the August 1952 intake. This book is the only memoir of a JSSL principal so far found.

10 Muckle, *Russian Language in Britain*, pp.178-81 and information from Robert Avery, Principal Lecturer in Russian.

11 See for the Army, Jeremy Wheeler's *History project* on www.langeleben.co.uk (chapter 10); for the

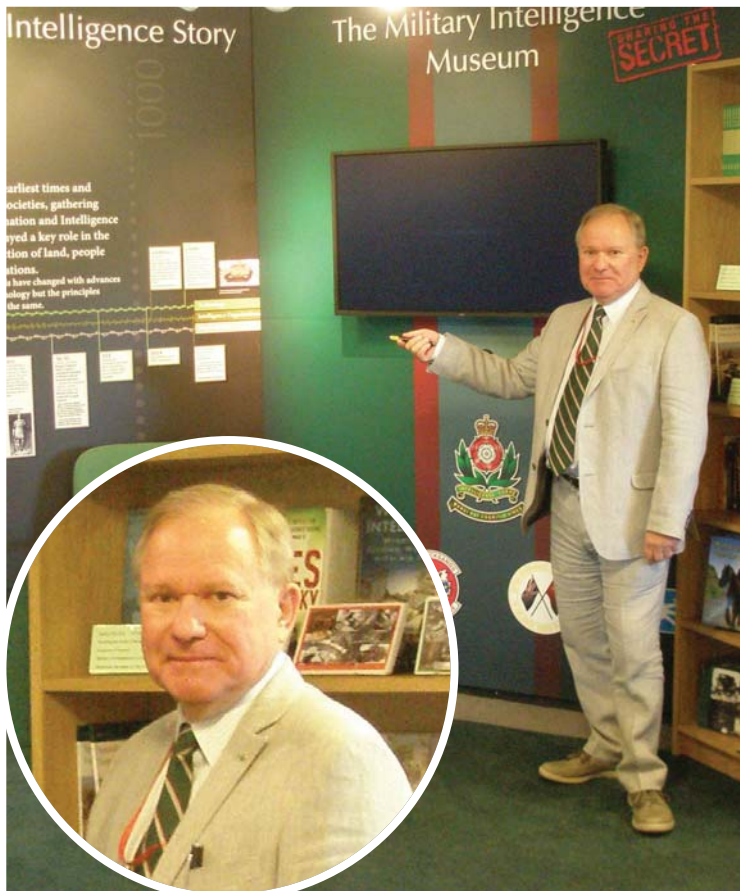
RAF, Leslie Woodhead, *My Life as a Spy*, 2005 (London, Macmillan) and for the Navy, Dennis Mills, 'One third of us might have been Wrens', *East-West Review* (journal of the GB-Russia Society), vol.

11 (2), 2012, pp.5-9.



MEET A VOLUNTEER

“The King desires no Man's Service but what is purely Volunter”, 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 continue to introduce the Friends to each one.

Meet Mike Cooksey, a two-year's service volunteer commuting one to two days a week from Hunsdon. A Londoner, he graduated from London University in 1972 in zoology to become a biology teacher for 21 years at 450-year-old Enfield Grammar School. He switched careers in 1999 into IT with the MOD and Cabinet Office networks (and other departments)

before retiring in 2009. Alongside civilian life, since 1979 Mike has been a long-serving TA volunteer in the Corps first with the then newly formed 24 Coy Int & Sy Gp Volunteers a specialist combat int coy (now op int) based at Handel Street to support the int cells and divisions in BAOR. He participated in the 80,000-strong Exercise Lionheart in 1984 with 6 Air Mobile Brigade. With three others, he co-wrote exercises, this group being invited to help write the 1989 Exercise Summer Sales for 1 Br Corps, which of course never happened owing to the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union! Other tasks were 2IC of a defence debriefing team (DDT) cell at Ashford for Gulf War One, 243 section supporting the 22 SAS int cell, finally with 20 Int & Sy Coy at Hampstead before retiring from the TA in 2003.

Mike puts his varied career experience to good use on many tasks in the museum and archives. He has produced a well-archived collection of researchable information from what disbanding Corps units sent us from BAOR. Museum tour-guiding is another call on his time, as are: writing the obituaries for Rose and Laurel; as acting, unpaid, local, IT-wallah making sense of antiquated computer set-ups; a special project on FSSs for this Corps Day; looking after the Friends' website; museum photography (his hobby); and supplying flapjacks for other starving volunteers. Also a former-treasurer of ICA's London and South East region in the 1980s, Mike is a true volunteer, able to turn his hand to many jobs.

The job he likes the best? “I like the tours, especially those for serving and potential soldiers and officers – it appeals to my teaching roots. The standard today is fantastic.”

Most proud of? “When I passed out for the TA and I made sergeant in two years, which might be a record.”

Thank you, Mike Cooksey!

CIGY, March 2013

WEBSITE NEWS

WEBMASTER:

We are delighted that Mike Cooksey (see article above) has agreed to act as FICM webmaster. He will be responsible for loading new articles, book reviews etc. to the site from time to time and for sending out notifications to members when new items of interest have been posted.

E-MAIL NOTICES:

We are in the final test phase of the new e-mail notification facility designed to help stimulate members' interest in newly posted items on the site. This should be fully functional by the time you are reading this! We are aware that floods of e-

mails appear in our inboxes daily so will try not to add unnecessarily to the flood!

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

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),

<http://www.intelligencemuseum.org/index.php>

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

INVITATION!

THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

All members are cordially invited to attend a FICM trust Open Day to be held at The Priory, Chicksands on Thursday 5th September 2013.

Each member may bring one personal guest.

There will be no charge for this event; however registration is essential to ensure smooth passage through the guardroom gate and to ensure that we provide adequate catering and Priory tour guides.

NB Members and guests should carry a photo ID please!

So please complete and return the form below as soon as possible and certainly not later than Wednesday 27th August.

Planned programme

13.30 – 13.45	Members and guests to arrive at the North guardroom (access from A600)
13.45 – 14.00	Trustees, members and guests assemble in Priory meeting room (“Baby Blue”)
14.00 – 14.30	Trustees open forum meeting in the priory.
14.30	Priory tour option for members and guests.
14.30	Museum visit - 1st group.
15.00	Museum visit - 2nd group.
15.30 – 16.30	Tea, sandwiches and Pimms on the Priory terrace.
17.00	Close



REGISTRATION

Full name of FICM member.....

Car make..... Model..... Colour.....Registration.....

Full name of FICM member's guest (one).....

Are you likely to join the priory tour? YES/NO (please delete as applicable)

Are you likely to join a museum tour? YES/NO (please delete as applicable)

Do you have any mobility difficulties we should be aware of e.g. stairs or walking?

Please complete this registration and return it to FICM, Bldg. 200, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds SG17 5PR or by email to jquenby@btinternet.com as soon as possible and certainly not later than Wednesday 27th August.