



*Newsletter of the*

# FRIENDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE CORPS MUSEUM

E Newsletter 07 - Spring 2014

## WELCOME TO SPRING IN *SUB ROSA*!

In this edition of *Sub Rosa* we are delighted to announce the appointment of two new trustees, René Dee and Dave Farrell, so a special welcome to them both! More details of their backgrounds within, where you will also find the trust's accounts for the year to 31st December 2013, plus all the usual features.

We again have a full house booked for the London Lunch with Lectures being held at the SFC on 10th 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 and reception at the museum, to which all members will be welcome. This will enable us to report in more detail on our income and expenditure for the second full year of operation, answer members' queries and receive suggestions for future developments. We will of course also have a presence at Corps Day on 19th July.

Best wishes to you all! **John Quenby, Chairman**

*Congratulations to FICM member Mike Cooksey for his splendid photo of this Hurricane taken from Mike's garden which backs onto a former WW2 airfield from which the raid on Amiens prison was flown 70 years ago!*



## NEWS: FICM DONATION



*Dave Farrell and Sally Ann Reed*

**Photo: JQ**

Newly appointed FICM Treasurer, Dave Farrell recently presented a cheque for £3000 to Museum Curator, Sally Ann Reed. The funds will be used to assist in the refurbishment of room two in the museum, which is currently undergoing a much needed "make-over".

## 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!

# ON THE RETIREMENT OF ALAN EDWARDS

*Here Chris Yates pays tribute to Alan John Edwards, Major (retd.), OBE, BSc.*

*Corps Historian 2001–2013*

The contribution that our fellow-Friend, and now fully retired, Alan Edwards, has made to the museum and archive is immense. As a volunteer several years before the full-time curator, archivist and assistant were employed, he carried the museum. Described variously as “lynchpin”, the “public face”, he is said to have created the current high reputation of the museum. His shoes are hard to fill, his colleagues miss him, we volunteers still refer to “Alan’s desk”. What made Alan such a dynamo in a profession not noted for dynamism? What prepared him for these memorable eleven years?



*AE, Christmas 2013*

**Photo: JQ**

Cardiff born, he was called up in 1952 to the SWB, soon invited to a WOSB but was turned down because his “Welsh accent was too broad and might not be understood by soldiers” (!!). Correcting this dreadful shortcoming, he was commissioned into the Welch Regiment, just in time to miss the Korean War. After a short civvy street interval he served as an inspector with the Kenyan Colonial Police after which he was commissioned into the Corps in 1958. He served in Malaya, Hong Kong, BAOR, Singapore, Northern Ireland and TA. After 23 years in the Corps, Alan took up civilian duties for 18 years with the security directorate of the MOD, including a spell in the US on liaison duties for which he was awarded the OBE. In addition he did training duties in the Corps TA. This brought an impressive network of service

and intelligence contacts which were to be so important during the development of the museum. On “full” retirement Alan studied for a degree in History. All this was priceless preparation for his distinguished career as Corps historian.

Coincidentally, at the time the museum moved with the Corps from Ashford to Chicksands, Alan moved with his family to nearby Bedford. With his vast Corps experience, living locally, and equipped with the degree, fate threw Alan Edwards and the Military Intelligence Museum together.

For his volunteer-colleagues Alan injected a comic freshness into the archives, whose curtains in Building 200 are drawn firmly against the light. He would open the door, delivering “Wie geht’s” or “Habari ya asubuhi” or “Bore da” to whoever was toiling at the nearest desk. Whatever the task, he would have a joke. Whatever the question he would give his entire attention to you, no matter the time, no matter how important his own work was. Until the problem was solved, you were locked together in pure inquiry.

What attributes are required of a museum/archival historian? Here are some: curiosity; methodical and logical inquiry; being well organised; and highly IT-literate (Alan did not quite get there!); adaptable; able to work in a team; friendly and able to relate well to a wide range of users; excellent verbal communicator; able to carry out independent research. Of these, Alan shone in inquisitiveness (he pursued his research quarry like a terrier), in relating with all kinds of people the public, those he worked with, serving Corps people, working seamlessly as a team member. To add to the charm he dispensed, he was self-effacing, rarely seeking the limelight, keen to see the work done and everyone involved receiving due recognition.

Alan was also, uncommonly, a volunteer who was as easy amongst the exhibits as in the archive, on the one hand brimming with anecdotes, jokes and questions on a tour; on the other hand, meticulous in research and exemplary at communicating with the public. His was the face of the museum for several years before the employment of the

MOD curator and archivist. Brian Parritt former chairman of the trustees, described him as the “lynchpin” of the museum in the early days at Chicksands. Joyce Hutton, with whom Alan worked for many years, speaks of Alan’s “deep-seated love of the Corps” – probably the essential driving force in this man – that “created the reputation of the museum”. Another palpable legacy is the useful networking and liaison with local museums that he brought about.



*Some friends help Alan celebrate*

**Photo: JQ**

Today, on entering the museum and turning to the right towards the shop, what strikes you right away are firstly the Timeline of Intelligence, and secondly the Elements of Intelligence (the ‘wheel’) and how they set the scene for both the historical and present-day working of intelligence. Working with the National Army Museum, Alan was responsible for steering the development of these displays. (Museum trustee minutes show that there was opposition to the timeline because it would “detract from proper” displays, but Alan’s energy and enthusiasm, drove it through regardless.) Both in the physical aspects of the museum and in the minds of those who worked with him, Alan Edwards struck permanent marks for the good of his beloved Corps.

**CIGY, March 2014**

## MOVING ON

Known to many Friends during the past five years for his management of the museum visitors’ diary and the shop, Museum Assistant, Richard Portas left the museum team at the end of March to further his career elsewhere. We wish him “good luck” for the future.



# NEW TRUSTEES

*David Farrell and René Dee*



*David Farrell*

Photo: JQ

David (Dave) joined the civil service during the Cold War, working on NATO civil emergency planning in the petroleum sector of the UK economy, afterwards extending to the safeguarding of electricity generation (including nuclear) and transmission from external threats – something now referred to as resilience. Having found all the “war-y” stuff very interesting, Dave applied to join the TA in early 1973. After tests and interviews he was recruited into Int & Sy Gp (V) and after that was posted to a security company where he assisted with threat education, and eventually, surveys of KPs (including e-KPs) in the UK and then in West Germany working in support of 2 Inf Div in the RMA/RCZ. Fortunately for Dave he assisted with security at the Royal Tournament for a change, and also trained as an interrogator.

Dave’s last years with the Corps in Germany were spent working with the remnants of 1 BR Corps as NATO restructured into the then Allied Command Europe (ACE) Rapid Reaction Corps and formulated its new Concept of Ops. He exercised with the newly formed MND (C) – occasionally gazing enviously at French and Greek soldiers enjoying their lunchtime wine rations.

He left Int & Sy Gp (V) in 1997 after postings in training and UK Home Defence. Looking back, Dave says his fondest memory is blowing a large crater in a training area (and rattling the roof of a not very nearby house) whilst practising demolitions.

Dave’s last job in the civil service involved project management as well as responsibility for some 300 staff in Home Office Immigration, providing information

support to the police and other agencies. For relaxation Dave is a sci-fi fan, regularly trains at a local gym to try to stave off the effects of age, and has a liking for real beer.



*René Dee*

Photo: RD Archive

René joined the Corps as a “Boy Soldier” at the All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, Tonfanau, in 1962. In 1964, he was posted to the Corps HQ, Maresfield, and also completed a Royal Marine Commando Course at Lympstone in the same year. He was then posted to 3 Commando Brigade HQ in Singapore and stayed for one year. René left HM Forces in 1965 to pursue his interest in the then fledgling adventure travel sector. In 1969 he pioneered expeditions throughout North Africa with his own expedition company, and continued to be involved in the rapid expansion of adventure travel development in many parts of the world for the next 15 years. Between 1989 and 1991 he moved into the events and exhibition sector working in senior positions to create consumer and trade shows in London. This led to his 17 years at the helm of the Royal Horticultural Halls and Conference Centre where, as MD, he increased its profile and profits in support of the RHS charitable purpose. On retiring from the RHS, René became CEO of The Westminster Collection, a marketing collective of 55 prestigious event venues in the City of Westminster. René is now fully retired but holds a non-executive and voluntary position as expert advisor to the event-management educational body Ashdown Academy, in Lewes. He is the author of a significant and acclaimed 20th-century social history work and events-industry resource entitled, *Sweet Peas, Suffragettes and Showmen: Events that changed the world in the RHS Halls*. René has also held positions as a council member on the London Chamber

of Commerce and Industry; deputy chairman of the British Exhibition Venues Association; and adviser to the Cabinet Office, Metropolitan Police and local government representatives on venue selection and planning in the event of civil emergency.

## ARCHIVE NEWS

*Important Papers  
Made Available*

FICM have been of practical assistance in facilitating the recent contribution of important papers to the Corps Museum Archive. FICM member, Maj Gen (ret'd.) Graham Messervy-Whiting has generously made available his papers relating to his period as Military Adviser to Lord Owen (1992-1993), who was co-chairman with Cy Vance of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia. The papers include: -

- GM-W’s diary of events for this period
- An index to all his significant product for David Owen
- *Peace Conference on former Yugoslavia: the Politico-Military Interface, London Defence Study 21, Brassey’s, 1994* (now out of print), the result of GM-W’s Fellowship at King’s College London’s Centre for Defence Studies in 1993.

FICM arranged for electronic and print copies of these important and extensive documents to be accessioned into the archive. They may be viewed in the Chicksands archive, on request in writing or by email to Joyce Hutton, Archivist at: -

[intcorpshq-museum-archivist@mod.uk](mailto:intcorpshq-museum-archivist@mod.uk)



*Downtime - GM-W with David Owen* Photo: GM-W

# HISTORICAL NOTE

## *Chicksands Priory*

The estate known as Chicksands Priory consisted of two manors at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086. Hugh de Beauchamp, feudal lord of Bedford, successfully claimed one of these. In about 1150, Hugh's grandson Payne and his wife the Countess Rohese granted the manor to the nuns and canons of the Gilbertine Order. Subsequent benefactions by the founder's son and grandson increased the property so that the monastery became the third largest of the only English monastic order (one of nine religious houses to have both sexes). In 1291 the value of Chicksands manor, with Campton, was £18.14s.7d. In 1317 John Blundell gave the second manor of Chicksands to the Priory.



*Priory Foyer*

Photo: FOCP Archive

The history of the Priory thought to be somewhat vague until the 16th century by earlier writers, is changing in the light of more recent research and especially since the 1997-99 restoration of the Priory. This is certainly so from a rebuilding point of view, both before and after the religious climate changed and when all the religious houses were dissolved by King Henry VIII. It has been recorded that Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury stayed at Chicksands when journeying from Northampton to Kent into exile, in October 1164.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538, the estate and monastic buildings became Crown property. In 1540 the property was leased to Thomas Wyndham for 21 years and towards the end of that same year (28th February) the King granted, by letters patent, the estate to Richard and Elizabeth Snowe for £810.11s.8d. Richard died in 1553; his heir and successor (Daniel) bequeathed it (1577) to Mary, daughter of Peter Osborne. Ten days later Daniel leased the estate to Mary's father and her brother John for a term of 500 years, at a rent of £45.10s per year. In 1578, Daniel's brother,

Edward, sued the Osbornes for the estate as next of kin. The legal battle was finally settled after eleven years and Edward alienated Chicksands to the Osborne family, 17th May 1587. Peter Osborne died in 1592. His son John (1552–1628) took up residence at Chicksands in 1599 and was knighted at Whitehall, 1st February 1618.

Sir John was granted a portion of Campton churchyard in 1626, upon which he built the Osborne chapel and family vault adjacent to the north chancel of the parish church, being buried there in 1628. His son, Peter, who in 1621 became governor of the island of Guernsey, succeeded Sir John. Being an ardent royalist, Sir Peter resided at the castle until 1642, where for six years he held out for King Charles I during the Civil War. Sir Peter's daughter, Dorothy, met and fell in love with William Temple during one of her visits to stay with her father at Castle Cornet in Guernsey. The couple eventually became engaged and corresponded for seven years. Many of Dorothy's letters, written between 1652 and 1654, have survived, of which 77 have been published and recognised as fine examples of English classical literature. Despite great opposition from Henry, Dorothy's brother, the couple finally married in 1655.

Sir Peter Osborne died in 1653 and was succeeded by his son John. At the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1662, John was created Baronet of Chicksands Priory to recompense for the family sufferings during the Civil War that left the family financially broken. In 1678 Sir John Osborn (2nd Bt.) purchased the advowson of Campton Church. He recommended to his son, also named John, to plant trees on the estate and that elm trees be used to shield the Priory from the west winds. He died in 1720 and was succeeded by his infant grandson, Danvers, John, the son, having died in 1718 at Haynes Grange. With the creation of the title Duke of Leeds (1694), the Osborne family dropped the "e" from their surname to avoid confusion with their maternal relatives. (It has remained a point of confusion ever since!)

In 1740 Sir Danvers Osborn (3rd Bt.) engaged Isaac Ware to remodel the South and East fronts of the Priory, believed to be the first major changes since the monastic period. As a captain of a regiment of foot commanded by the Duke of Bedford, Sir Danvers fought against the Scots in the 1745 Rebellion. He relinquished his parliamentary

seat when appointed colonial governor of New York, 1753. It was hoped that this would relieve his depression caused by his wife's death in childbirth (1743). A riot in the streets of New York and the rebellious attitude of certain councillors within that government caused him further distress and he was found dead. For many years it was alleged that a rebel had shot the baronet. Six days after his arrival in New York he was buried in Holy Trinity Church there, October 1753. The news reached England in December and briefly appeared in the national press. A brief entry in Campton Church register records his burial in the Osborn vault, August 7th, 1754.

Sir Danvers was succeeded by his son George (4th Bt.) who, having a career in the army with action in America during the War of Independence, was the longest serving colonel of his regiment (40th Foot). He donated and presented the Germantown Medals of bronze and silver to this regiment. The Peace Monument erected in 1815, after the Battle of Waterloo stands near the Priory to their memory.



*The Baronet's Study*

Photo: FOCP Archive

The estate was beautified with additional trees and shrubs sent by John Osborn (brother to General Sir George), when British ambassador to the Court of Dresden. The majestic Cedars of Lebanon are over 300 years old and were introduced into England in 1660. The landscaping of the gardens is said to be the work of Lancelot (Capability) Brown. In 1813, General Sir George commissioned James Wyatt to build the north wing, further remodel the east and south fronts of the Priory, reroute the river and build a waterfall and orangery. The Gothic design in the entrance hall, the main staircase and east porch are also examples of Wyatt's work. The small frieze of classical stonework, various plaques and stained glass are also of this period, when it was fashionable to collect



antiques in this way. John Byng in the Torrington Diaries makes reference to this and to Chicksands Priory. The sculptor Bernasconi did work at Chicksands (1816) and statuary by Eleanor Coade was also added. Sir George was succeeded by his only son John (5th Bt.) in 1818. A colonel in the Bedford Militia, Sir John was a lord of the admiralty and a member of parliament. Part of his fortune was lost as a result in his involvement in the "Spendthrift Elections" when nothing was thought of bribing people to secure their votes. The latter part of Sir John's life was sadly spent, for he was totally blind from 1838 until his death. His son, George Robert (6th Bt.), succeeded him in 1848.

Like his predecessors, Sir George was active in public affairs as High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire. In 1856 he restored and moved the Peace Monument to a new location 900 yards northwest of the Priory. He added a third inscription to commemorate the signing of the Treaty of Paris. (The Friends of Chicksands Priory restored and moved it again in 1976 to its present site.) Now close to the Priory, the 4th inscription commemorates the bicentennial of American Independence, and Architectural Heritage Year.

Many of the houses in the nearby village of Campton were the work of Sir George

Robert, as were the three lodges built along the Shefford to Ampthill road. The Campton Plantation is the wooded area between the two surviving lodges. Sir George was succeeded by his grandson, Algernon (7th Bt.) in 1892.

Chicksands remained in the Osborn family until 1936 when Sir Algernon sold the property to the Crown Commissioners. It has remained crown property since that date. In 1939 the estate was leased to the Air Ministry and became known firstly as RAF Chicksands Priory. The Priory continued in use until 1971 as accommodation when it became MOD property (the USAF being tenants from 1950 to 1995). The Friends organisation established by 1975 gave guided tours until 1996. During that period visitors to Chicksands included former members of the Y Service who were part of the Missions Operation Centre – a substation of Bletchley Park during the Second World War. Many have returned to see the Priory in its restored state.

Completely restored between 1997 and 1998 by the MOD, the scheduled ancient monument and Grade I Listed Building is the officers' mess for the personnel of the Defence Intelligence Security Centre.

Interest in Chicksands Priory continues to grow rapidly. With media coverage by both radio (BBC and Chiltern) and television (Anglia), Chicksands was visited by the Time

Team in May 2001 and has been featured in several of their programmes since January 2002. Since 1999 the Friends have opened the Priory to the public, and changes continue as a result. Portraits of the nine Baronets of Chicksands Priory and other paintings adorn the walls. Many items removed from Chicksands since 1936 have been returned and are on display.

No historic building would be complete without a ghost legend and Chicksands is no exception being regularly mentioned in local and other publications. Unfortunately not all are correct accounts. Sufficient to say that there has been more than one sighting, not just on the reputed 17th day of the month.

Monastic remains have been found during the last 200 years. Inside the Priory the plaque describes Rosata's fate; the English translation is: "By Virtues guarded and by Manners graced, Here, Here, alas, is fair Rosata placed".

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*You can visit this 12th century Gilbertine Priory on the first and third Sunday of the month, April - October. Access to the site is by appointment ONLY by contacting Mrs Julie Benson ([juliebenson@aol.com](mailto:juliebenson@aol.com) / 01525 860497)*

## MEET A VOLUNTEER

*"The King desires no Man's Service but what is purely Volontier", Daniel Defoe, Memoirs of a Cavalier, 1720.*

Meet former Senior Master Sergeant Don Beets, born on a Kansas farm and 26 years in the USAF, and one of our longest serving volunteers. Trained as a radio operator, he quickly found himself in radio traffic analysis. Aside from several stretches at Chicksands, some other, not insignificant tours of duty included Florida (where he invented a special two-way plastic map) at the time of the Cuba Missile Crisis, in Vietnam including a spell under enemy fire at Da Nang where having to peremptorily vacate a shower block he had the singular experience of surviving a Viet Cong rocket attack, stark naked. Of his wide variety of tasks at Chicksands, one gave him particular pride: the honour of raising the Stars and Stripes for the last time on the departure of the US Air Force in 1995. As a civilian Appliance Repair Mechanic in the 1980s at Chicksands, he was so successful at organising repairs that an officer complained to him that they could not indent for new equipment because he had maintained the old far too efficiently. There's lesson in there somewhere ... perhaps for the MOD?

Don's outlook is to love to serve a deserving cause. He is known for being forthright, but is really a self-effacing man who restricts his complaints about life to the occasional incompetence of those expected to know and do better. Resilience is his middle name: a serious operation in which insufficient oxygen was administered severely interfered with his speech, but he got it all back; he also once had a kidney removed. Married to Margaret, a Scot he met in Edinburgh in 1956 on an air force posting; he has lived in Letchworth for most of his married life and his two children have been educated in British schools. Don is your consummate Anglophile; he often sports a tie with the Stars and Stripes and Union flags linked.

These days, Don comes in with Mike Cooksey (see 'Meet a Volunteer', *Sub Rosa*, Summer 2014) and you can see Don in the archives on either Tuesday or Wednesday of the week. If you can persuade him, ask him to go with you to museum Room 3 where you will see the USAF Chicksands display – which he helped set up and develop – featuring

photographs and artefacts from five decades of a US presence on the camp. You will hear from him the fascinating intelligence history of RAF Chicksands under British and American occupation.

Thank you Don Beets, for your contribution to the museum.

**CIGY, February 2014**



*Don Beets*

**Photo: CIGY**

# BOOK REVIEW

*Haig's Intelligence*, by Jim Beach, Cambridge University Press 2013, 413 pp.



*Haig's Intelligence* is an important new study of Douglas Haig's controversial command during the First World War. In it, Beach addresses the perennial question about the British Army on the Western Front between 1916 and 1918: why did the Generals think they were winning? He reveals how the British gained this view of the German Army in a study of the development of the British intelligence system, its personnel and the ways in which intelligence was gathered. He also examines how intelligence shaped strategy and operations by exploring the influence of intelligence in creating perceptions of the enemy. He reveals how much or how little the British knew about their opponent, when and how and, in so doing, sheds light on the British Army's conduct of operations in France and Belgium. It adds more to our knowledge of the relationship between Haig and his chief intelligence officer, John Charteris and how he influenced Haig's views.

Regardless of the appeal that the subject has – £65.00 (post free) from Waterstones – sadly this book is highly unlikely to enter the bestseller list. The book has been published as part of the Cambridge Military Histories series and is written by Dr Jim Beach who has been both a professional soldier and a full-time historian and has been seen on occasions fossicking away in our archives. By the way, Jim will also be giving the talk at the Friends April meeting at the Special Forces Club.

This is a book, I feel, for the most serious of students of the First World War, covering, in particular, the role played by intelligence in its various forms and, not least, the foundation of the Intelligence Corps in a form that we would recognise – the subject of his April lecture. For many of us most of what we have learned about the role played by the Corps in this conflict has come from Dr Tony Clayton's *Forearmed* and we are all aware of its limitations. This book will fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge of the formation of the Corps, even finding time and space to tell us of specific members. A rare touch of light relief: I was amused to read in the tables listing members of the BEF Intelligence Corps to find included amongst them a 'pornographic postcard salesman'.

Corps business, although very interesting to us, is just a sideline to the book of which there are three aspects. The first deals with the broad subject of intelligence; not just within the context of the Corps but the creation of an organisation, its leadership, personnel and its activities under the broad headings of Frontline, Espionage, Photography, Signals and Analysis. The second covers the various areas of conflict: the Somme, Arras, Third Ypres, Cambrai, the German offensives and Hundred Days. These are superb summaries and would, in many respects, stand alone. I would like to have seen more elaboration of some of the references quoted avoiding having to follow up so many references. Sadly, I have neither the time nor ability to spend the time required at the National Archive.

I mentioned three aspects since it would be unfair not to mention the extraordinary number and quality of the footnotes and references that accompany this book starting from page one of the introduction. Frequently they cover as much as half the page. There cannot be a speck of dust in the National Archives or the Imperial War Museum that Jim has not looked behind in his searches (even in our archives where I am amazed to find how much we have, hidden away). Again, on a personal note I would much rather have had all of the notes together at the end of the book since I was unable to resist reading them and being frustrated. This, by the way, made reading the book something of a chore and

I did find them, initially, something of a distraction. But then I am not an academic at whom this book is obviously aimed.

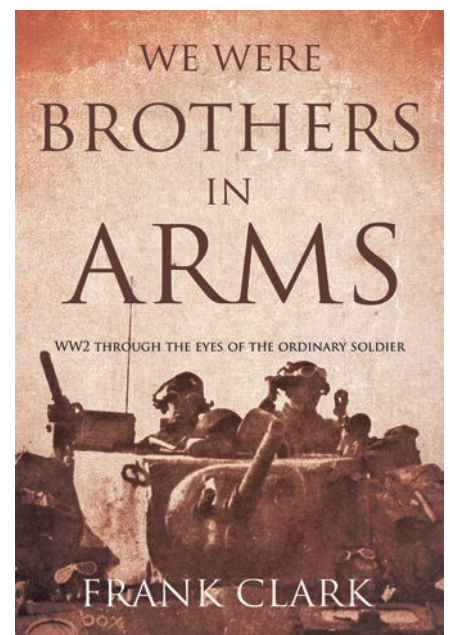
In addition to the notes, the bibliography is worthy of comment. Possibly, bibliographies of this length and complexity are bread and butter to those who inhabit the arcane world of the PhD student, but to me a mere amateur historian, it is positively daunting. There are enough books and documents in the bibliography listed to keep me going for many a year. It was something of a relief to come across the section on Signals Intelligence (at last something I knew a little about) but I discovered I have much to learn and some doubts to resolve; I would have loved to learn more about the work of MI 1, for example.

Does it seem odd for me to say 'I'm glad I finished the book'? But it is true. It was not a book for the Christmas holiday!

PWC, December 2013

## BOOKMARK

*We Were Brothers In Arms*

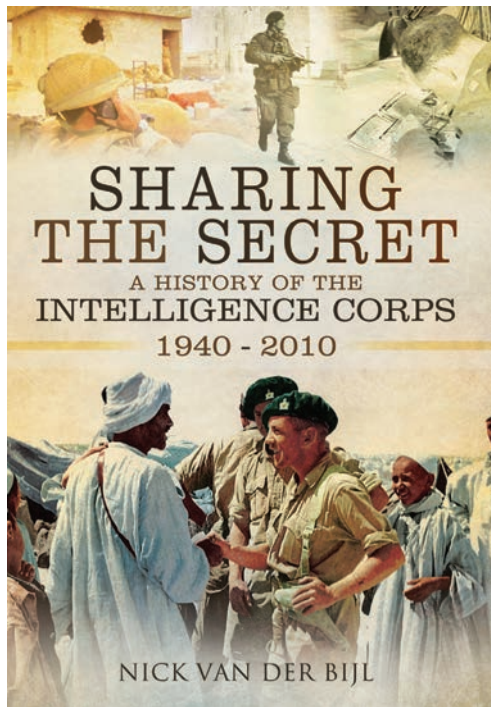


FICM member Frank Clark's recently published book *We Were Brothers In Arms* is currently in stock at Amazon and other reputable book sellers. Proceeds from sales go to a Help for Heroes related charity.



# BOOK REVIEW

*Sharing the Secret: A History of the Intelligence Corps 1940–2010*, by Nick van der Bijl,  
Pen and Sword Military, hb, 2013, 420 pp.



In the first few words in his Foreword the author tell us what his book is not. It is neither a “traditional regimental history” (he does not tell us what that means) nor an “academic study”. While it deals extensively with the Corps history since formation, it has little of the academic about it, being an episodic, mostly descriptive account with some analysis. When I revisited the Foreword after finishing this densely packed book, I was reminded that the author also describes his “history” as a “glimpse”. Some glimpse! Although written often in fine, comprehensive detail, we are told that it is subject to “restrictions of the era”, which I take to mean the equally vague, powers that be. Accordingly you may be disappointed at the omission of your favourite bit of Corps history. Furthermore, the title gives us a hint with the nicely limiting “a” in the title; the indefinite article will always allow wriggle room for a history not claiming to be definitive. However, I am wondering why the book was published in Australia as *Sharing the Secret: The [sic.] History of the Intelligence Corps 1940–2010*, and if the Aussies get something we don’t. Overall, however, the pains to which the author goes to limit expectations are welcome. Since it may be neither a regimental history, although it seems pretty near to it, nor the academic piece often disliked in military circles, perhaps it is close to what David

Chandler, Head of the Department of War Studies & International Affairs at the Royal Military Academy writes in 1990: “It is also much in my mind that the study of military history is not solely for the academic elite – its study is also an ideal source of pleasure for the layman with a genuine interest in the ‘passionate dramas’ of the past. Indeed, military history can be all things to all men”. In this, *Sharing the Secret* may have found its best footing, providing a history that appeals to Corps and lay-people alike.

One thread familiar to most readers of *Sub Rosa* running through this book is the Corps often-precarious standing as an independent corps since 1940. At various times officially proposed to merge with the Royal Military Police and the Royal Corps of Signals, nevertheless the Corps is proudly shown by van Der Bijl to be today as strong as ever in providing independent intelligence to the army at large without fear or favour. Argument over its role in peacetime was especially fraught, for example during the Second World War. Then, despite the progressive notion that intelligence should be independent of operations, be taught at the Staff College and joint intelligence activity should continue in peacetime, the authority of the 1939 Manual of Military Intelligence in the Field ran counter to all this.

*Sharing the Secret* is organised by twenty chapters chronologically, since just before the Corps inception. True to the title, there is little coverage of pre-formation activity. As soon as the Corps is created, the history takes off with a gallop, the first eleven chapters based on theatres of war/activity. Chapters 13 to 19 deal decade by decade with the Corps producing increasingly sophisticated intelligence to cope with the last gasps of empire. Finally, there are two chapters on “The Coalition Years/Operations”. (Until I read of the military coalitions in those chapters, I could not get out of my head the coalition agreement we have come to love made in 2010 in Downing Street’s Rose Garden).

There are three appendices, none of which are cited: Roll of Honour; Intelligence Corps Honours and Awards (British and Foreign) 1939–2009; and a miscellany of depot names, appointments, prizes and sport trophies. As a military publication

necessarily littered with abbreviations, acronyms and initialisms, it has a good glossary, but strangely fails to include ICA twice mentioned in the text. The bibliography and lists of varied sources are not well organised or formatted, although the index is superb. Nothing cited in the text is linked with a Reference, so it’s frequently difficult to verify the source of a quotation, especially as page numbers are not given. There are three maps right before chapter 1; none of them are dated although the Europe map showing Yugoslavia seems to indicate pre-1980s, but shows Czechoslovakia as one country, and Germany as one country but with its internal Cold War East–West border.

The reader needs to be keen and alert when wading through the frequent closely packed unit-activity descriptions with their attendant personnel and ranks. Accordingly, it a pity that the book is poorly served throughout by poor proofreading and copy-editing. There is widespread wrong and inconsistent spelling and punctuation, inconsistencies often on the same page, sometimes in the same paragraph.

Mostly the tone is dry, matter of fact, business-like until we get to the warmly written Conclusion which hails the Corps “burgeoning existence” in the context of the military intelligence modernity of high-tech drones and its own tradition of highly qualified people of all ranks. Of the latter, Brigadier E.P.O. Springfield, a director of the Corps said in 1990 that “he was able to send a soldier of any rank ... anywhere in the world at short notice, sometimes alone, often in civilian clothes and for that soldier to use his initiative and experience to achieve the given objectives”. The Conclusion includes an appreciative nod to the military museum and the people who support it through donations and professionally researched articles on the Corps.

*Sharing the Secret* deserves to be read as a fascinating glimpse (there’s that word again) into the Corps since it got its wings, so speak, 74 years ago this July.

CIGY, February 2014

# PLANNED EVENTS

10 April 2014 – London Lunch with Lectures – SFC - **FULL HOUSE!**

17 May 2014 – Royal Meteorological Society meeting at RAF Museum Hendon

D-Day weather revisited lectures- Friends may register as guests by contacting Frances Maynard at: - [fmaynard@btinternet.com](mailto:fmaynard@btinternet.com)

19 July 2014 (Date TBC) - Corps Day at Chicksands

12 August 2014 Corps parade and ceremonial at Bois Guillamme near Rouen in France

11 September 2014 FICM open meeting and Friends museum visit.

At the Museum, Chicksands from 14.30 to 16.30 hrs



*The revised membership card*

## FICM NEWS & ACCOUNTS REPORT

*Revised Memberships Cards and a New Membership Secretary - Chris Yates*

**Membership Secretary.** Already known to members for his sterling service as FICM treasurer during the past eighteen months, Chris Yates, with immediate effect, has taken on the role of membership secretary.

His direct email contact is:- [cigyates@me.com](mailto:cigyates@me.com)

**FICM Treasurer.** To facilitate this change, Dave Farrell has assumed the responsibilities of FICM treasurer, again with immediate effect.

**Membership Cards.** As an economy measure, members may well have noticed that the original membership cards that we issued were dated “2012–2013” and were issued to new members joining the Friends in either of those two years, and carried the renewal date on the reverse. We did not in practice issue anniversary renewal cards, simply asking members to roll-on the “Valid-to date” by one year, upon payment.

As (thankfully) a very high percentage of Friends pay by standing order, we have decided to revise the wording of the cards. The front will no longer be year-specific and on the reverse the date wording has been changed to “Issue Date”. Fundamentally, we are working on the assumption that Friends will enjoy FICM membership so much that they will be certain to keep their subscriptions up to date. Chris Yates, will of course be keeping an eagle eye on renewals and gentle overdue reminders will be issued when deemed appropriate. Life membership cards remain unchanged.

### Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2013.

Greetings from Your Hon. Treasurer! It is a pleasure to present the accounts for 2013. We ended the year with a surplus of £7,073.61 (£6,570.56 in 2012) and reserves of £13,644.17 (£6570.56 in 2012), reflecting steady increased income from subscriptions and donations together with well-managed expenses. Thank you again to those who are able to let us claim Gift Aid. Below are the 2013 income and expenditure account and balance sheet, which were approved

on 5th March at a full meeting of the trustees. (At the same meeting, I handed the treasurer’s job to Dave Farrell and moved to the role of membership secretary.)

### Income and Expenditure Account

Income	2013	2012
From ICA and ICC	£312.50	£2,501.49
Events	£787.50	£0.00
Donations	£8,075.00	£2,198.50
Life members	£500.00	£2,925.00
Annual members	£1,576.50	£1,197.50
HMRC - Gift Aid	£806.55	£716.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,058.05</b>	<b>£9,538.62</b>
Expenditure		
Printing	£978.28	£1,543.51
Postage & Staty	£210.49	£441.70
Events	£1813.05	£282.85
Gift to the Museum	£0.00	£700.00
Website	£1,942.62	£0.00
Museum display	£40.00	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,984.44</b>	<b>£2,968.06</b>
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>£7,073.61</b>	<b>£6,570.56</b>

### Balance Sheet

Current assets	2013	2012
Bank balance	£14,038.97	£7,601.56
Current liabilities		
Creditors	£394.80	£1,031.00
Net current assets	£13,644.17	£6,570.56
Unrestricted reserves		
Brought forward	£6,570.56	£0.00
Surplus for the year	£7,073.61	£6,570.56
<b>Carried forward</b>	<b>£13,644.17</b>	<b>£6,570.56</b>

FICM’s books were examined and approved by our independent examiner, Ashley Knight, ACA. We are grateful for his fee-free professional services and helpful advice.

Any questions, please contact [cigyates@me.com](mailto:cigyates@me.com)

Best Wishes,

**CIGY, March 2013**