



Sub

Rosa

Newsletter of the

FRIENDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE CORPS MUSEUM

www.intelligencemuseum.org

E Newsletter 09 - Winter 2014

WELCOME TO YOUR WINTER *SUB ROSA*!

This edition of *Sub Rosa* includes fascinating articles ranging from the Congo to Kiel, plus a look at the legendary Legion of Frontiersmen. This reflects the span of activities across the globe in which the Corps has been, and in some cases continues to be involved. Our thanks are due to all our contributors who make the editor's life so difficult in deciding what to put where opting, when appropriate, to place some items onto the website for members to browse at their leisure!

The FICM open meeting and open day held at the museum on 11th September attracted a representative group of FICM members who were joined by a number of the volunteers who work in the museum and archive, together with a strong showing from Corps HQ, mostly in uniform (hence no photographs with this piece). Thus with Curator Sally Ann Reed and Archivist Joyce Hutton on hand to show off the recent museum display developments and a full complement of FICM trustees present, we decided to dispense with any formalities and circulate for more personal conversations with those present and especially our members. The event was doubtless enhanced by a generous supply of tea and cakes!

Feedback received during the afternoon was very valuable and thankfully very positive. The reorganisation of many of the exhibits enhanced by a number of new display cabinets, received glowing approval, as did the entirely new interactive WWI display. Our policy of supporting the museum development with funding for infrastructure items, such as cabinets and lighting with a view in future to assisting with improved computer facilities for the archive, seems to continue to be well received.

During the more formal trustees meeting held earlier the same day, much discussion revolved around the subject of membership growth (currently we number around 160 and are growing still, but slowly). Linked to this is the role that our website should play in attracting new members. Clearly the FICM site must continue to complement the Museum's own comprehensive website. To ensure compatible developments into the future, the newly appointed reciprocal trustees (René Dee – FICM and Nick van der Bijl – MIM) will be working together on this and other important areas where especially close co-ordination is called for.

On behalf of our patron, Julian Barnard and my fellow trustees may we wish you all our warmest Seasons Greetings and a very Happy New Year!

John Quenby, Chairman

FRIENDS REMEMBERED

We note with sadness the deaths of the following FICM members during 2014:

John Davidson - August

Peter Merritt - August

Patrick Smith - November

Obituaries will be published in *The Rose and the Laurel*



Memorial parade Bois Guillaume, France 12 Aug 2014

Photo: © Hervé Pinson in Normandie-Actu

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!

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Legion of Frontiersmen by René Dee

Ever since I first came across The Legion of Frontiersmen from a reference to them at an important and early travel exhibition in the Royal Horticultural Society Halls in 1907, they have been an enigma to me, and have teased my views as to just how important they were, and to what extent they provided a very early intelligence service (albeit amateurish) to our country. They certainly came very close to becoming the first official British intelligence gathering and counter-intelligence organisation, with tasks that were later taken up by what became MI5 and MI6. One only has to read the first part of the description in the travel exhibition catalogue to see why:

The Legion of Frontiersmen is an Eye and Ear Department to assist His Majesty's Forces in time of War. It is limited to veterans discharged from the Forces, and men who have been trained by work and travel in wild countries or at sea. These men, who have lived by the trades of travel, are well fitted for service as a Field Intelligence Corps. Although officially recognised, the Legion is a self-governing and self-supporting society on which the sun never sets, because its membership extends throughout the world. Although started (by Roger Pocock in 1904) entirely without capital, at the end of the first year, March 23rd last (1906), the Corps was able to put 1,000 men into the field.



Manchester Frontiersmen attack.

Photo: Legion of Frontiersmen (now Countess Mountbatten's Own) archives.

Michael Humphries of Kings College London wrote in his 2011 article for the Institute of Historical Research:

Defence of the empire was the essence of the legion for Pocock and many of those who responded to his call to form an organization of frontiersmen. More specifically, Pocock had become convinced that Britain was in serious danger of invasion by Germany within a decade and was frustrated that few of those in positions of authority could see this threat as clearly. As he later claimed, "Our countrymen saw no danger because the Empire had no eyesight . . . How could I furnish sight to the blind Empire?" One answer was to create an organization that, through its network of

contacts, would act as a conduit for all the stories and rumours chanced upon by those British members of the "lost Legion" who were working and travelling across the globe. . . Intelligence gathering remained one of the most important professed objectives of the legion, at least until Pocock's departure in 1909, and even in the following year the then commandant-general, Sir William Serjeant, C B, wrote, "The legion exists largely in the nature of an organized and widely distributed Intelligence Corps".

By the time of the years between the two world wars they had served in many theatres of war, (including on the Western Front as part of the Belgian Army) and it was commonplace to see the legion in their distinctive uniforms attending the regular parades that took place in towns, villages and cities throughout Britain, and in many of the Dominions, especially Canada.



Armed car of Belgian Corps des Mitrailleurs. Richard Reading (Sporting Chronicle) is sitting by the gun.

Photo: Reproduced by kind permission of Alastair Cowan, son of Pat Cowan of the Manchester Troop.

Those that supported the legion included prominent military men such as HSH Prince Louis of Battenberg, and General Smuts. Prince Louis was a founder member of the legion, and also director of naval intelligence at the time. His granddaughter, Countess Mountbatten of Burma, continues the link as the legion's patron today, albeit under the reconfigured and renamed Countess of Mountbatten's own Legion of Frontiersmen. The Earl of Lonsdale was the legion's first president.

In WWI, several prominent frontiersmen were also actively involved working for MI7(b), namely the legion's founder, Roger Pocock, A J Dawson and Hugh B C Pollard. Pollard joined the legion in 1909, and later also served in the Intelligence Corps between 1916 and 1921. He also served in the SOE in WW2. His intelligence activities were notorious, involving several revolutions in Morocco and Mexico but he is remembered mainly for having developed the greatest propaganda story of WWI, the "Phantom Russian Army", during his time with Alan Ostler and one other journalist at the Daily Express. More recently, a recent discovery in the museum archive, from the

David Devitt Collection, has revealed a direct connection with a serving Corps soldier who ended up as a lieutenant colonel, and became a member of the legion in 1948 and 1949; perhaps even earlier. Devitt was engaged on intelligence duties around the empire throughout 1947 and 1948 and clearly felt that membership of the legion was important and relevant to him.



Roger Pocock in original uniform.

Photo: Reproduced by kind permission of Peel Special Collections Library, University of Alberta, Roger Pocock archive.

In one of several books published about the legion and its activities, *One Hundred Years of The Legion of Frontiersmen*, its author, Geoffrey A Pocock, subtitled his book, *Soldiers, Spies and Counter-Spies, Sacrifice and Service to the State*. In my view, the legion should be given credit and a reference within the Corps museum for the part it played in the early historical development of intelligence gathering and activity.

The last word goes to Rudyard Kipling who was adopted by the legion as its favourite poet for the lines he wrote that epitomised the spirit of the legion:

There's a legion that never was listed
That carries no colours or crest,
But, split in a thousand detachments,
Is breaking the road for the rest.

RBD, October 2014

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Story of an Unusual Medal by Tony Crawford



Tony's squad 1961

Photo: AC

I joined the Royal Marines for National Service in September 1958 and was subsequently commissioned into the Devon and Dorsets. However, I was keen to see Africa and applied for a secondment. I was first offered the Somaliland Scouts but declined as I understood that this would involve working with camels, which I remembered from visits to zoos were smelly and bad tempered. I therefore opted for the Royal West African Frontier Force, which sounded more like it, and was posted to the 4th Battalion the Queen's Own Nigerian Regiment stationed in Ibadan, a very large city in Western Nigeria.

After a few months we were deployed to the British Southern Cameroons. My mother found it strange that we were going to Scotland! Our job was to stop the insurgency in the then French Cameroons from spilling over into the British Cameroons. In this we were successful. My abiding memory is how wet the Southern Cameroons were. In places the rainfall was over 400 inches a year.

We then came back to Nigeria and took part in the independence celebrations. I was appointed administrative officer for the British troops that took part. They were the Plymouth Royal Marine Band and a platoon from the Parachute Regiment. I was given a barracks, transport, staff and a wad of cash to pay for their food. I was then just left to get on with it. Fortunately the Royal Marines brought a colour sergeant with them who proved a tower of strength. Along with everyone serving in the Nigerian Army and Navy I was granted the Nigerian Independence Medal.

In October 1960 Belgium granted the Congo independence. But there were no preparations and no suitably trained personnel to take over. Much of this vast and mineral rich country rapidly fell into chaos with violence taken against the remaining Belgians. The South Eastern Province, Katanga, declared secession and was supported by some Western commercial interests. Their leader, Mosie Tshombe, raised a military force, the Katanga Gendarmerie, largely officered by Belgian, French and South African mercenaries. They were fearsome people.

We were deployed to Katanga as part of the United Nations Force and given, as we understood it, the task of attempting to keep the gendarmerie and central government forces apart. We had mixed success as the former were better and more heavily armed than us and we had more restrictions imposed on us as we were under UN rules.

We flew from Lagos to Katanga in USAF Globemaster aircraft and tasked to relieve an Irish battalion, who had just lost nine men in a "tribal" ambush known as the Niemba Massacre. I was given the task of making a helicopter recce up the route to Manono, a mining town, about 150 miles to the north where we were to be based. As we flew over the rough boundary between the two sides, the helicopter was fired upon. The Norwegian pilot understandably took violent evasive action. I, who was peering out through the door and for some reason not strapped in, nearly fell out. It was rather worrying.

Anyway a few days later the battalion moved

up the rough road to Manono. It was like a Wild West wagon train. We were soon ambushed and had to put in a two-company attack to clear the road. After some further skirmishing we eventually reached Manono. We remained there for several months spending most of our time patrolling. The gendarmerie eventually drove the Congolese Army back and passed through us. I was standing watching their armoured jeep convoy mounting .3 and .5 Browning machine guns, when I heard a voice behind me say in a South African accent "Are you a British Officer, man?" It was a mercenary. I replied, on reflection somewhat pompously, "Yes, as a matter of fact I am." He said he wished to surrender as he was fed up with all the killing. I accepted his surrender and got rid of him to battalion headquarters as quickly as possible.

When I reached the end of my engagement I returned to UK and joined the Corps as a regular. I had qualified for the UN Congo medal.

One lesson we all learned in situations like this it was the civilians who suffered most. Many years later I met our CO, Brigadier Rollo Price who had been awarded the DSO, who told me he never expected to get us out of the Congo. All I can say is that I am glad he did not tell us at the time! He always exuded a cheerful confidence allied to calmness whenever things got tricky.

AC Oct 2014



The UN Congo Medal

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Handcuffs used on Nazi war criminals by Andy Cole, museum volunteer

In 1985 amongst other important items presented to the Military Intelligence Museum is a set of handcuffs used on at least three Nazi war criminals, the most notorious of whom was Rudolf Höss, former commandant of Auschwitz camp. Relevant to the Corps museum is the way Höss was captured. The FSS managed to locate and question Frau Höss regarding her husband. She claimed that he had been killed. The interview room used at the time backed onto a railway line and a scheme was devised to bring a locomotive alongside the building during questioning. Frau Höss was told that the train was to transport her three young sons to Siberia unless she revealed the hiding place of her husband. She was given a piece of paper and a pencil and left to ponder this situation. She broke quickly. She and her sons were released, Höss was arrested and handed over to the War Crimes Tribunal and eventually hanged in Poland.

Museum volunteer Andy Cole takes up the story of this intriguing artefact. **Ed.**

The Artefact

German Police Handcuffs. (ASFIC: 1416.1)

These now slightly rusty steel handcuffs were presented to the museum on 20 March 1985. They are marked Deutsche Polizei, and are remarkable as they bear the engraved record of three notable Nazis on whom the handcuffs were applied in 1946. Inscriptions in Gothic script read: Rudolf Höss 14th March 1946, Hans Bothmann 31st March 1946, and Rudolf Renner 27th June 1946.

The Men

Rudolf Franz Ferdinand Höss is the most notorious of the three Nazis. He seemed perfectly to fit the mould of Hitler's henchmen. Despite a strict Catholic upbringing, he became a thug who in 1923 earned a 10-year prison sentence for complicity in the murder of schoolteacher Walther Kadow. The unfortunate Kadow was beaten to death at the request of a local farmer, Martin Bormann, later to become

Hitler's private secretary. Bormann was also convicted and was sentenced to one year. Höss was released from prison in July 1928. Rudolf Höss, the eldest of three siblings was born on 25 November 1901 in Baden-Baden. In WWI Höss served in the 21st Regiment of Dragoons and at the age of 15 was deployed in Turkey. He fought in the Ottoman Sixth Army in Baghdad, Kut-el-Amara and in Palestine. He was wounded three times and contracted malaria. For his efforts, he was awarded the Iron Cross, First & Second Class and the Gallipoli Star.

After the end of hostilities, Höss completed his education and embarked on a paramilitary lifestyle initially in the East Prussian Volunteer Corps and then the Freikorps Rossbach. He joined the Nazi party in 1923 prior to murdering the unfortunate Walther Kadow and in 1934 he was invited to join the SS as an SS-Mann becoming an ardent admirer of SS leader Himmler. He apparently believed every word which came from Himmler's lips and followed his "gospel" doctrine to the letter. Later in 1934 Höss joined the SS-Totenkopfverbände and in December was appointed as a Blockführer at the Dachau concentration camp. Under the guidance of the commandant Theodore Eicke (article in *Sub Rosa* #8 refers), a mean streak in Höss was nurtured.

In 1938, he was promoted to the rank of SS-Hauptsturmführer (Captain), transferred to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and in 1939 joined the Waffen SS. After a short spell at Sachsenhausen, in 1940 he was appointed commandant of the new Auschwitz concentration camp. Here he oversaw the expansion of the camp into the twin Auschwitz-Birkenau complex before departing in November 1943.

Höss returned to Auschwitz in May 1944 to oversee the new "efficiencies" in the killing process. Known as Aktion Höss, this process saw 430,000 Hungarian Jews murdered in a 56-day period. This corpse disposal crisis

resulted in the cremation of many thousands in open pits. These poor souls are added to the estimated 1.6 million victims at Auschwitz under Höss.

At the end of the war Höss disguised himself in a German sailor's uniform and evaded capture until 11 March 1946 when he was arrested by the British. Höss was convicted by the Polish authorities at their Supreme National Tribunal, having been handed over by the Nuremberg Tribunal. On 2 April 1947 he was hanged on a specially constructed gallows adjacent to the crematorium on the Auschwitz site.

Hans Johann Bothmann served in the Gestapo. He hanged himself in his prison cell on 4 April 1946, a month after his arrest by the British and four days after his last introduction to the police handcuffs. Bothmann's claim to fame is being the last commandant of the Chelmno camp, in which 180,000 prisoners were killed including the Jews of the Lodz Ghetto in Poland.

Bothmann was born in northern Germany in November 1911. He joined the Hitler Youth in 1932 and shortly afterwards got a full-time job with the Gestapo. In 1937 he became a Kriminalkommissar. His next appointment was SS-Sturmabführer in charge of Chelmno until March 1943 when the camp temporarily ceased operations, following the decision to send the remaining Lodz Ghetto Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Bothmann was transferred to Yugoslavia where he formed the Sonderkommando Bothmann, a company of gendarmerie attached to the Prinz Eugen Division of the SS. He fought against the Yugoslav partisans for a year before being recalled to Chelmno to supervise the extermination of a new batch of 70,000 Jews from Bohemia, Moravia and Germany. When this batch of prisoners was executed in September 1944, the SS brought in a new Kommando unit to exhume and cremate evidence of genocide. Bothmann participated in the shooting of the last few Jewish workers before fleeing the site just ahead of the Russian liberators. His final assignment was in Flensburg with SiPo (Sicherheitspolizei) and border police before the war's end. He was tracked down by the British and committed suicide in prison cell on 4 April 1946.

Rudolf Renner probably also served in the Gestapo. Research fails to determine more reliable information on Renner.

Sources: museum archives and Wikipedia.



Handcuffs on display in the Corps museum

Photo: MC

AC, October 2014

HISTORICAL NOTE

Kiel Listening Station (HMS Royal Charlotte) in 1958 by Leading Coder (Special) Alan Smith, 1956–58.



Anthony Camacho and Gordon Clough (with specs, later presenter on BBC Today programme) at the yacht club near the listening station.

Photo: AS

At Kiel we received Russian language messages on our radio sets. We wrote down what we heard in abbreviated word form and we recorded the transmission. We then passed the recorded tapes to the Transcription Service where the tapes were listened to and analysed in greater precision and the operator had the time to listen to specific parts of the recording several times, rewinding the tape as much as needed and even asking other operators to listen in and give a second or third opinion on the recorded Russian. This could be very useful where the recording was poor quality or slang, colloquialisms, swearing or recondite technical terms were used. The operator would write out a much more complete fair copy than the primary “take”. I do not know if this service was performed in Cuxhaven. My guess is that we did this because it helped GCHQ and we still had the opportunity to verify any confusion with the radio operator who had originally taken the intercept, e.g. for intentions of tone or emphasis. These transcribers were of course coders who took turns to fulfil this function rather than listening.

Unlike Cuxhaven I don’t remember us having any commissioned officer of the watch. I only remember this function fulfilled by a petty officer. The officer of the watch sat at a master console on a raised dais, where he could observe any misbehaviour or sleeping coder. Maybe my memory is incorrect but I have a feeling that at his console he could monitor to what transmissions we were listening at our individual stations. We had slight contact with our captain and most contact with the hierarchy was via the “Jimmy” (a first lieutenant).

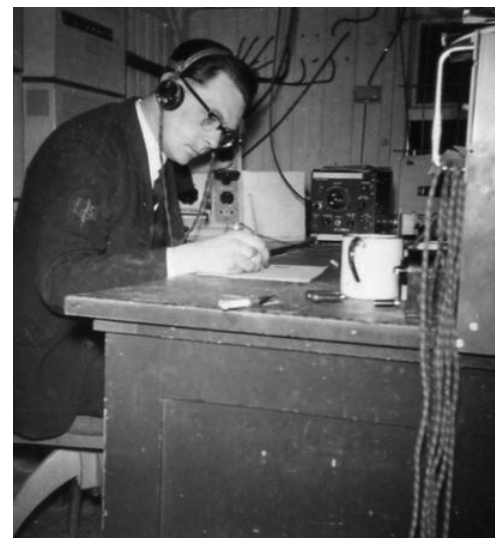
Those coders on watch duty were deployed on fixed frequency or “search within a given waveband range”. The latter was the more interesting assignment because one received a more interesting range of inputs. Many listened for a short time to American Forces Network, a source of good jazz programmes. Others listened to Radio Moscow and on one night watch I heard and recorded a retransmission of the baritone singer, Paul Robeson, singing one of the Russian anthems (Sheeroka Strana maya radnaya ...) which I taped and it was quickly printed out in the transcription room. I still know the lyrics by heart and they give an excellent lesson in Russian grammar, declension case endings and short adjectival forms. There is now an excellent hour-long recording of Robeson’s famous 1949 Moscow concert on You Tube in which he addresses the audience in Russian.

I have one memory of capturing a very significant message sequence. It started in an afternoon watch and continued for three days. It started with a very low signal strength and it took some effort to tune in for improved reception at an acceptable or usable level. We formed the opinion that it was a tank battle exercise and much of it was transmitted in plain language with other parts in code. Later I received an informal congratulatory message from GCHQ that it had been a very useful intercept. I imagine it was forbidden for security reasons to pass a formal message back to the listening station. I have a memory that it had taken place beyond the Urals and that may be why the Russians had thought we would not overhear it and hence had used plain language. I think

it had been on shortwave and that we would not have received it without some deviation of the atmospheric conditions. Subsequent watches continued to monitor that frequency and we recorded the entire mock battle exercise over several days. Of course it is now a long time in the past and it is possible that some points may by now be exaggerated or mistaken. However the substance of the report is accurate.

There were very few regular administrative staff at Kiel. The maintenance of the aerials thus was performed by the coders under the command of a technical CPO. This CPO seemed to appreciate the duty-free spirits of that foreign station and thus was often in poor shape when commanding the aerial crew. I remember one operation where we were erecting a new 150-foot aerial mast in several sections. We had just about manoeuvred it into a vertical position when the CPO’s inadequate preparation failed and his only advice to us was a screamed command of “Run for it”, as the mast came crashing to the ground. For us it seemed extremely amusing but seen from a modern health and safety culture I suppose it would be seen as very poor supervision and a boring course on safety would be quickly organised.

AS, September 2014



Hugh Baillie on watch when the station was at Cuxhaven, 1955, using a B40 set, standard issue to RN ships for many years.

Photo: AS

This script and photographs were kindly provided by Dr Dennis Mills. Ed.

MEET A VOLUNTEER

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



One of Richard's (inset) detailed railway models

Photo: CIGY

Meet Richard Harper, born Carshalton in 1947, attended Whitgift School, South Croydon, from there to Woolwich Polytechnic for a four-year course in international marketing. That course offered the chance to make use of his (still) excellent German and French. His third year was spent on language immersion: near Mönchen Gladbach (so he came close to the Corps in one sense!); and six months in Paris ... in 1968. During the turmoil and street violence, one night he was there the Bourse was set alight; Richard admits to having being quite anxious. In his fourth year of the course he began as a trainee with the Charles Churchill machine tools company, set up in the late nineteenth century but closed in the 1970s along with much of Britain's manufacturing. With them he took an ONC in Mechanical Engineering. He also worked for Matrix

Churchill, infamous during the Arms-to-Iraq scandals of the 1990s. Later he joined the food processing equipment company Baker Perkins for whom he travelled in Germany. Now retired, the trilingual Richard has always been interested in, and proud of Britain's military traditions and history, and he jumped when he spotted the museum's advertisement for volunteers. He finds the archives fascinating and once stumbled across a WWII training course group photo that included his father's best friend. Richard has been a volunteer for over two years, enjoys the friendly atmosphere, and really looks forward to his regular all-day Thursday, although at first he struggled with the computer. What does he like the best about it? "Well, the free tea and biscuits are a great boon," he says with a straight face. Encouraged to say more, he says "Although up at the museum is the

sexy bit, I prefer helping to prepare our thousands of documents for research. Especially with the wartime documents where I can use my German."

In his non-volunteer life, Richard is an accomplished railway modeller, a love he inherited at a young age from his father. He is building a scale model of pretty Sidmouth railway station – one of many lost to Dr Beeching's review in the 1960s – which he says should do well on the model railway exhibition circuit.

"If you want to see the very best of railway modelling, go to Pendon Museum in Abingdon," he says. "But now I must work on these documents ..." Richard, for your contribution to the museum: *danke schön!*

CIGY, October 2013

BOOK REVIEW: MY SECRET FALKLANDS WAR

by Sidney Edwards, Book Guild Ltd, 2014, 108 pp.

Sidney Edwards was an RAF officer who had been the British Air Attaché in Madrid and was a fluent Spanish speaker. The book deals with his deployment to Santiago in Chile to facilitate covert Chilean co-operation on a number of matters that would help Britain prosecute the Falklands War. His task was helped by the Chilean belief that if Argentina had won in 1982, Chile would have been the next target because of their ongoing disputes with Argentina.

Although the book is a short one (112 pages) it is packed with fascinating details of operations of the "we have long suspected that" variety, as well as laying to rest some

myths that have grown out of the 1982 conflict. He was selected for the task by Ken Hayr, sadly killed in 2001, who recognised his qualities for liaising with the Chilean Air Force at high level as well as his fluent Spanish. I met several Chilean officers on a visit there in 1998 and although most of them spoke good English, they would have respected someone who spoke their language.

The book is written in an easily understandable personal style and covers the day-to-day relationships with the Chilean Air Force high command as well as exposing how much they bent over backwards to offer us support without compromising their

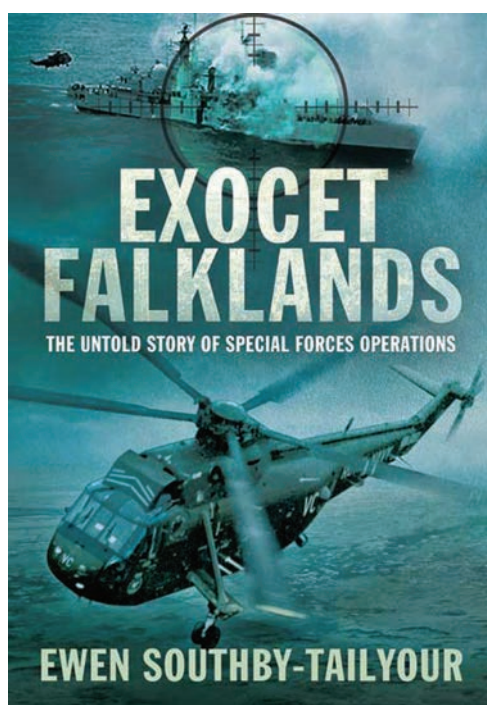
apparent neutrality. Without spoiling the book for the potential reader it deals with such items as the aftermath of the Sea King that became "temporarily uncertain of its position," the delivery of Hunters to the Chilean Air Force and puts to bed the myth that our Canberra PR9s operated from Chile. They never got closer than Belize.

My own summary is that, although short, the book is a fascinating insight into some little-known aspects of the Falklands War. I would certainly recommend it to any student of the 1982 events in the South Atlantic. I got my copy through Amazon for £5.93.

PJ, August 2014

BOOK REVIEW: EXOCET FALKLANDS

by Lt Col (Retd) Ewen Southby-Tailyour, RM, Pen and Sword Publications, 2014. 314 pp.



Ewen Southby-Tailyour was commander of Naval Party 8901 in 1978 when he spent a lot of time sailing in the Falklands waters charting much of the coastline which became invaluable to those tasked with retaking the islands. During Operation Corporate he was inshore navigational adviser to the amphibious staff whilst commanding the Task Force Landing Craft Squadron. He is therefore uniquely qualified to write authoritatively about the campaign.

The 314-page book covers three Special Forces operations – Plum Duff and Mikado mounted by the SAS and Kettledrum by the SBS. Their aim was to destroy Argentina's Exocet missile stocks and/or their delivery means so that their threat to the British Task Force was annulled. Plum Duff was the insertion of a reconnaissance patrol by helicopter near to Rio Grande airfield, which was the forward operating base for the Argentine Navy's Super Etendards. The mission was aborted because the drop-off points were apparently compromised and the troops and helicopter crew ended up in Chile. On this judgement the mission could be judged a failure. Mikado was the proposal to airlift a Squadron of SAS in two C-130s at Rio Grande to destroy the missiles, aircraft and aircrew. This suicidal mission would never have been sanctioned by Whitehall but SF planning continued regardless. Kettledrum was to insert an SBS patrol from a conventional submarine (HMS Onyx) to attack an airbase that had not taken any active part in the Exocet campaign, but was believed to be a resting place for the Super Etendards and their crews. Again this operation was not

authorised, because by the time it would have taken place Argentina was "fresh out" of airborne Exocets and the SBS, and Onyx could be better employed elsewhere.

The book shows that the operations were planned and mounted by the respective SF headquarters in their "security bubbles" from which some of the participants, such as the RAF's Special Forces Flight, and the higher commands and in-theatre commanders were excluded. This maintenance of security was taken to ridiculous lengths. The other objective was to "maintain the SF myth". Both are very dangerous premises on which to conduct high-risk operations. Consequently, higher commands and in-theatre commanders were often kept in the dark about the detail of SF plans and operations and no one seems to have had a grip on the big picture.

One recurring theme is the appalling lack of even basic intelligence material such as current mapping and aerial photography. In 1982, Argentina was on "library status" in the DIS which meant that material was filed but not analysed or assessed; not to have reasonable quality mapping or up-to-date aerial photography seems bizarre. Always remember "Sods Law of Intelligence": if you take your eye off the ball that is the one that will bite you. For aerial photography we were dependent on the US whose satellites were concentrated on more pressing matters, such as the Warsaw Pact. Today, consulting Google Earth would solve this aspect. Other sources such as GCHQ and the SIS had few assets directed at the South Atlantic. This tight compartmentalisation contributed to some of the intelligence gaps and failures. Thank heavens that today we now operate in a proper "all-source" environment and compartment walls have come down.

Another contributory factor was the SF's apparent reluctance to either consult or believe agencies that were not part of the SF "club."

An unintended consequence of the aborting of Plum Duff was that the 51 Sqn Nimrod flights out of Chile had to be abandoned because the Chileans were not prepared to be seen to be directly supporting British operations. The loss of this unique intelligence gathering and interpretation capability immediately before the San Carlos landings and the subsequent battles, was a blow to the conduct of operations. If it had been available during this time it could have provided valuable early warning of Argentine operations and intentions.

The book is written in an easy-to-read style and is a fascinating insight into the psyche of the Special Forces and the disconnects that occurred during that time between them and the normal chain of command. It also shows that there was too much compartmentalisation in many parts of our organisations. Since 1982 this lesson has been well learned and planning, intelligence and operations are now better co-ordinated. My only criticism is that some of the referencing could be better. For example, where a person is referred to in the main body the reference states something like "later General Sir Fred." This is annoying because you then have to go back to the main body to understand the reference. Notwithstanding this I would certainly recommend the book to any serious student of events in the South Atlantic in 1982.

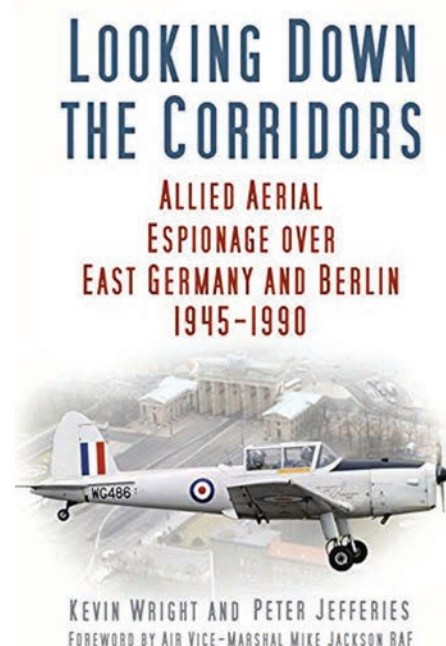
PJ, October 2014

BOOKMARK

Peter Jefferies gives us a heads-up on *Looking Down The Corridors – Allied Aerial Espionage over East Germany 1945–1990* by Kevin Wright and Peter Jefferies, due for publication by History Press in May.

More details appear on the FICM website.

www.intelligencemuseum.org



PLANNED EVENTS

16 April 2015 – London Lunch with Lectures* – SFC

The Schürhoff Diary from the First World War, by Dr J M Beach, author of *Haig's Intelligence* and other works. Jim is Senior Lecturer in Twentieth Century History, University of Northampton.

Corporal Vince Schürhoff came from a Birmingham business family that was German on his father's side. He joined the British army in 1914 and served with 16/Warwicks until 1916. He was then seconded to signals intelligence work and later transferred to the Royal Engineers (Signal Service). Employed in a variety of intelligence roles, he was awarded the Military Medal in 1918. His diary provides an excellent window into the physical and mental worlds of a middle-class junior NCO on the Western Front, recording the nuances of life in the trenches and behind the lines. He also offers a rare contemporaneous account of grassroots intelligence work during the First World War.

A copy of Schürhoff's diary is held by the museum archives and Jim has edited it for publication by the Army Records Society in October 2015.

The 3 Commando Brigade Intelligence Section during the Falklands Campaign, by Nick van der Bijl, author of *Sharing the Secret: a History of the Intelligence Corps 1940-2010*.

When Argentina invaded the Falklands in 1982, 3 Commando Brigade deployed by sea to the South Atlantic and four months later recaptured the territories. Nick van der Bijl was the sole Int Corps member serving with the brigade and his presentation will describe the intelligence highs and lows, so far as he was concerned, of fighting an enemy about which he knew nothing when he left UK.

Nick, whose service career spanned more than 20 years, is now an author with fourteen books published.

Please send expressions of interest as soon as possible to Tony Hetherington (Secretary) direct at windscale@msn.com or by mail to FICM at Chicksands. Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis. With costs held at £39.50 per head, tea or coffee on arrival plus a full three-course lunch with wine and two fascinating intelligence-related lectures, this is guaranteed to be a popular event!

The event is open to FICM members, who may also introduce one guest.

18 July 2015 (Date TBC) - Corps Day at Chicksands

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO IN ANOTHER PLACE

Radical Ideas for Corps Training? An item in Intelligence Corps Newsletter, issue no. 3, circa January 1989.

The Combat Lexicographer

A letter has been received from Major S—, OC Trinning Wong and renowned innovator, which points the way ahead for the Royal Supernumerary Corps. Rightly taking umbrage at the incorrect spelling of supernumerary in Newsletter no. 2, Major S quotes this gross error (perpetrated by the previous editor) as vindication of his policy of making literacy – especially the ability to spell and a good prose style – prerequisites for the operator in the Corps. “I am vindicated,” says the major in his letter, “and those who mocked my introduction of spelling tests for D & D candidates have been shown to be military Luddites standing in

the way of progress. No longer does the Corps need men who can march and shoot, it needs men who can strip, polish and reassemble the oxymoron, simile and subordinate clause, metaphorically speaking.”

Major S continues to detail some of the changes he has wrought in Corps training in pursuit of this new policy: e.g. during drill periods, in order to promote spelling skills, key parts of orders will be spelled out in full. “Move to the right in threes: R – I – G – H – T Turn!; the squad will A – D – V – A – N – C – E/P – R – E – S – E – N – T Arms!” And so on.

It is understood from the major's letter that he has forwarded some very radical

ideas to MOD for approval. He suggests that no longer will the Corps be armed with the SMG and 9 mm pistol: S Sgts and below will now carry the Concise Combat Dictionary, WOs and above will be armed with the new Thesaurus 80. In Major S's own words: “No longer will the crude and outdated methods of bayonet and bullet be employed to confound the Queen's enemies; the modern Corps soldier will close with the enemy and reason with him.”

(Source: Intelligence Corps Museum Archives, Accession no. 2988.)

CIGY, October 2014