



Sub Rosa

Newsletter of the Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum



No.28, Spring 2021

GETTING TO KNOW THE MUSEUM

By Sarah Waite, Assistant Curator

I'm thrilled to have joined the team at the Military Intelligence Museum (MIM) as the new Assistant Curator. Whilst it is certainly an unusual time to have started a new role, given current circumstances, I've been enjoying the opportunity to get to grips with the vast amount of work that goes on behind the scenes, as we wait until it is safe to invite visitors back to our museum.

Prior to arriving at the MIM, I completed a curatorial traineeship at Bodmin Keep, Cornwall's Army Museum. Whilst at the Keep, I curated an exhibition exploring mental health in military service and the history of military psychiatry. I enjoyed collaborating with Light Infantry veterans to create displays that directly address some of the issues faced by their community today. I also spent time caring for the diverse regimental collection, improving storage and display, providing preventative conservation, and encouraging online access to the objects through creative digital projects, such as producing short videos. I have recently joined the board of trustees for Cornwall Museums Partnership, and I am an enthusiastic advocate for culture and heritage. I hold a MA in Museum Studies from University College London and a BA in English from the University of Exeter.

I was drawn to the assistant curator position at the MIM because it sounded like a unique experience and a great opportunity to learn about the intelligence world. My interest in the subject had already been piqued down in Bodmin as the Keep was used as a site for the Joint Services School for Linguists for a time. Nearly six months into the role at the MIM and I have not been disappointed. Every day a piece of the complex MI puzzle is pieced together as I explore the collections stores, and try and work out new ways to streamline and refresh the current displays. I'm getting a crash course in all the challenges which our museum site and collections throw up. But I'm also seeing areas of huge potential. The history of military intelligence is full of exciting stories and a diverse range of awe-inspiring people. I'm keen to see a wider audience engaging with what our museum has to offer, and to help people understand that our intelligence story is more relevant to their lives than they might think.



Radio Store

I'm currently working on a long-term project to confirm what we actually have in our collection, and to ensure that everything is appropriately documented. There have been occasions where I've opened up boxes and been completely surprised by the contents. Peek inside ... Some artefacts have been misidentified in the past and part of my job is to put that right. Unless there is a Royal Heinz Regiment that I'm unaware of, then a can opener should certainly not be listed as a badge. I'm also making sure that all the objects are stored properly to provide the best protection from damage. I have the delightful job of monitoring for pests (thank you Bill!).



A peek inside ...

■ Continued on page 3

TEASER



*Who can look for modestie and sobrietie
in the souldiers, where the captaine is
given to wine or women, and spendeth
his time in riot and excesse?*

ANSWER ON P.6

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DISTRIBUTION GUIDANCE

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The Deputy Col Comdt, Col (retd) Nick Fox OBE

In 1920, the future General Charles de Gaulle said to army cadets, *'Les gens ont l'histoire qu'ils méritent'* (People get the history they deserve). The epigram is apposite to the career of Nick Fox, since 2018 the Deputy Colonel Commandant (DCC) who he says, 'Helps the Colonel Commandant to 'cultivate the soul and the ethos of the Corps Family.' And that spirit suffuses the history and heritage of the Intelligence Corps notions that permeate the interview.

Can you tell us a little of your early life?

'Born in 1957 in Grimsby, brought up in Kingston, the middle of three brothers. At an early age, I was keen on the forces, was in the Army Cadet Force and also the RAF cadets. Dad had been in the army and RAF and my grandfathers served in WWI. I entered RMAS in 1976 aged 18, sponsored by the Parachute Regiment and graduated after the Regular Commission Course in 1977.'

What was it that drew you to the Intelligence Corps?

Shortly after Sandhurst training, he found himself posted to West Belfast, 'As a platoon commander operating at the tactical level of intelligence, I got interested in what I call its "unseen hand".' So much interested him that Nick soon transferred to the Corps to begin 25 years' service with them.

First sent to the Army's Higher Education Centre in Mülheim for the colloquial German course, he was rewarded immediately with a posting back to Northern Ireland. Although, like most, in and out of Templer Barracks at Ashford over the years, it did not get him initially to see much of official Corps history.

Like most young entrants he was ambitious, more interested in adventure than history, 'I always aspired to non-static jobs, wanted to be active and at the sharp end.' In another echo of de Gaulle he says, 'I believe in taking possession of your career.' Eventually, he was lifted in to staff jobs, the last of which was Colonel, Chief of Staff of the Corps' Directorate. Thereafter was a spell 'back in the line' as Commander 1 MI Brigade where he resigned his service career in 2004.

In Civvy Street, he joined the National Crime Agency's precursors where, 'Many people were former Corps members, keeping up my association with the Family.' He retired from the agency in 2014 and became a trustee of the Military Intelligence Museum. He says,



Nick Fox OBE

Corps nationally, not for example, by county like some regiments. That's our dynamic, as a Corps family we are functionally and geographically diverse with broad skills and real responsibility at all levels.'

As DCC, what have you seen that you didn't see before?

'My eyes have opened to a lot in history and heritage, and I hope to introduce a more rigorous approach to it. For example, not enough records or details are brought back from the

field and that history is potentially lost. I hope to have this rigour put in place through the new History and Heritage Committee.' (Readers can refer to their 2020 *Sub Rosa* winter issue on this innovation.)

How can we get young serving people to better engage in history and heritage?

'All the Corps family share in our heritage; young people in the Corps are already part of its history (they might not like to hear it put that way!). We need to acknowledge that today people are reading differently, for example, using social media.' Nick says that what we did yesterday can provide lessons of history that the Intelligence Corps need to know and understand better, study and use in their theoretical and operational intelligence work, 'Don't just serve up "What we did yesterday". We must understand the lessons of history in context.'

Finally, is there anything else you would like to say?

Nick takes time on this one, thinks deeply, his brow furrowing (so far as Zoom will show). 'We must commemorate the Corps' past, secondly educate our people about it and hopefully, inspire tomorrow's people to serve.'

And then you get the history you deserve.

Thank you Nick Fox! ■

'LEARN LESSONS FROM HISTORY'
'TAKE POSSESSION OF YOUR CAREER'
'YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CORPS TODAY
ARE ALREADY ITS HISTORY'

'I volunteered for the role of DCC and was honoured to be appointed in 2017. Aside from the pleasure of reunion and contact with old comrades, I want to give something back of what I got in my Corps time.'

What is unique to the DCC job?

Because the appointment is for retired former members of the Corps, you are able to attend to more detail on some subjects, compared with serving members who are in demanding, full-time positions. The retired person can stand to the side, with an understanding of both the serving and veteran's viewpoints, allowing more time for history and heritage matters.'

What has Nick Fox been able to bring to the job?

'I have, I hope, a good understanding of veterans, who,' he hastens to add, 'are not always "grey hairs" – we have some 26-year-olds who are former Corps members. I help to support ICA and what has moved me is the way ICA goes about its work.' Solemnly, he illustrates with a story of a veteran who asked ICA for help; suffering from PTSD, through ICA he received life-changing access to treatment. Surely, a later example of the 'sharp end' job the DCC has sought.

How does ICA compare with other regimental or corps associations?

'It's not so much how ICA is different, but how different are our members, reflecting that we recruit to the

FROM THE CORPS ARCHIVE

'Allo Allo! Où se trouve le meilleur restaurant de la ville, s'il vous plait?'

For the D-Day landings, the Intelligence Corps supplied Allied officers with the Michelin Red Guide

From the Sunday Telegraph,
4 June 2000, submitted by Archivist
Joyce Hutton.



RECOLLECTION

by Peter Jeffries

The Ichabod Икабод Song

The infamous Ichabod song was composed by Squad 8/62 to remember a recruit (Pte Allan —) who had been discharged as unsuitable. He had several traits, such as playing classics on the NAAFI piano and obtaining permission from the depot company sergeant major to wear gloves when doing rifle drill, so that his 'talented hands did not get damaged'. Today, he would not have passed the psychometric tests.

On another occasion, the sergeants' mess piano had been moved to the gymnasium where an all-ranks dance was to take place. Ichabod found this piano to be far superior to the NAAFI one, and proceeded to play it whilst smoking a cigarette (a no-no in the gym). Enter stage right, LCpl — who was Corps-badged but trained as an assistant physical training instructor. On seeing Ichabod, he enquired 'Have you permission to play that piano?' To which Ichabod replied, 'With my genius,

*'caused fluttering in the
dovecotes'*

do I need permission?' He then offered the Lance Corporal a cigarette, which he accepted.

A band called 'The Ichabods' was formed by several recruits from Squad 8/62: Ptes Sam —, Ian —, Martin — (1), Martin — (2), and Freddie —. Their bass drum carried a Corps badge, with 'Ichabod' written in Cyrillic. This band played at sporting occasions and at NAAFI dances (if you have seen the film, *The Virgin Soldiers*, you will know what I am talking about). For these dances, members of the WRAC from Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield were bussed in to provide company for the then all-male Corps members; we reciprocated for their dances. I will draw a discreet veil over after-dance activity in the Depot area.



Set to the tune of 'The Red Flag', the song caused fluttering in the dovecotes, especially in the presence of more pukka regiments. The words, as I remember them, went:

(Chorus)

*Oh Ichabod, my Ichabod
Oh, have you seen my Ichabod?
In summer sun or winter snow,
Your khaki gloves will always glow,
Oh Ichabod, my Ichabod,
Oh, have you seen my Ichabod?*

(Verse)

*The new recruits in khaki suits
And gungy belts, and pimply boots,
Had joined the corps the day before,
And had been told to bull the floor;
When from the depot came the cry
'Don't want to work, I want to spy.'
Oh Ichabod, my Ichabod,
Oh, have you seen my Ichabod?*

(Chorus)

(Verse)

*In —'s gym he tried to play,
He tried to play a symphony,
When in strode —, mighty mad,
In PT vest and gym-kit clad.
Oh Ichabod, my Ichabod
Oh, have you seen my Ichabod?*

(Chorus)

*(If readers know more verses, please let us
know: editor:ficm@gmail.com Ed.) ■*

GETTING TO KNOW THE MUSEUM

continued from front page ...

This job is not for the squeamish.

By working methodically through the collections, I've come across seemingly innocuous items which I discover later actually have interesting stories behind them that haven't been recorded, for example, a couple of Maria Theresa thalers.



These silver dollar coins were especially minted by the British to pay East African irregulars during World War Two who acted as scouts, guides, agents and fighting troops. How fantastic to be able to find an object that can illustrate the history of the vast numbers of indigenous people who have been integral to the success of many intelligence gathering operations but who rarely are remembered or celebrated in our heritage institutions. Hopefully, as I continue my work there will be more of these discoveries that can diversify the stories that the MIM can tell and increase our relevance to different audiences.



Whilst the museum is closed to the public, the team is taking the opportunity to improve the gallery displays. We have been rewriting text panels and labels so that they can be read clearly and are accessible to people with no prior knowledge of MI. As I don't come from a military background, I've been able to spot acronyms and initialisms, references that have no meaning to those of us not familiar with military culture. I've also started thinking about how the MIM can better engage families who live on the Chicksands site. I've enjoyed coming up with ideas for fun home-learning activities which get children and adults alike thinking creatively.

So with two new members of staff at the museum, myself and Gemma our new Digital Communications Assistant, both of us bringing fresh ideas, energy, and enthusiasm, be sure to watch this space and schedule a visit when we (hopefully) open later this year! ■

The Museum Gears up for Visitors

by Bill Steadman, Curator

'We are looking into how we can safely invite visitors back to the museum. A guided tour puts the whole thing into context and is arguably indispensable. However, it will take time to rebuild visitor confidence that museums are safe places to visit, and as we will never be able to guarantee that every visitor is safe to let in, we will continue to run a certain level of risk no matter how much cleaning we do.

Providing guided tours without a human guide may be an answer. A further benefit would be that using

a tablet with video as well as audio will allow visitors to see what they are hearing about (avoiding spatial confusion!) and will also allow us to show close-ups of the artefacts. We can also develop 'side shoots' of data to support the main display.

As we are developing the content in-house, the only cost is for two tablets. Although we are unlikely to accept more than a single person/family group at one time, having two devices will give us the capacity to clean them before and after use, update one at a time and use one to develop and test new content.

*'FICM Funds Two Tablets as
Non-Human Tour Guides'*

JARIC Fifty Years Ago

Preparation. In the mid-1960s, I joined the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre as a civilian employee of the army. In the drawing office, we were tracing photographic coverage from the old Medmenham blueprints on to acetate sheets using etching ink. That meant black fingernails until the ruling-pen (rapidograph) and radiograph became familiar. Later, I was producing a triple folder for each country with a base map and acetate overlays for oblique and overhead photography. For some areas, the latest maps were those of Captain Cook with landmass profiles to aid navigation. I also took a turn at transferring old spools of film on to microfilm using a light table and pedal-operated overhead camera. About this time, one of the military police, recently returned from Northern Ireland, arrested a man acting strangely in the adjoining field; he turned out to be employed by a local farmer as a scarecrow.

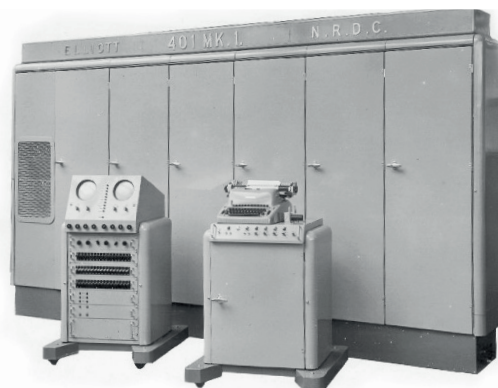
Transition. Then I worked in the computer room. The computer was an Elliott housed in four locker-sized cabinets. It worked on 4 mm film wound round a series of spools and used ticker-tape on which I typed endless azimuth figures for satellite tracking. It was a noisy machine, and if fed the right tape would play 'A Life on the Ocean Wave'. The army, of course, is multi-skilled.

Our Royal Engineers surveyors had come from climates as diverse as the Gulf and the Antarctic. The most unassuming sergeant held the BEM for bravery. The most battered six-footer knitted Aran sweaters for his children. Little wonder that a locker-room was soon transformed with table, armchairs, a cupboard for tea- and coffee-making equipment, a bookcase as a dresser for mugs and even a scrap of carpet. Here we gathered for NAAFI breaks and the three-dimensional noughts and crosses league, played with coloured map pins on layers of perspex.

Completion. The New Age dawned with the arrival of an ICL computer. Kept spotlessly clean in its air-conditioned room, it was just as large but used the kind of tape used in tape recorders. Discs were about eighteen inches in diameter by five inches deep, and heavy. The machine could print its own maps. More civilians were taken on and our new officer did not appreciate the photograph of his revered predecessor pinned to the noticeboard.

Despite evening classes in programming and training at ICL, the day came when I blacked out the whole windowless building by turning on the computer's switches in the wrong order. I realised I was no asset in an age when even scarecrows were automated. My friend in JARIC library told me of her apprenticeship to a court dressmaker and so I enrolled on a course of design for embroidery teachers at Loughborough College of Art. There, I met my future partner, Tom Gamble, who was later commissioned by the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers to paint *Chicksands Priory* – not digitally produced, but in watercolours. ■

(Tom Gamble was a Friend until his death last year, and Joceyln has elected to become a Friend. Ed.)



Based at RAF Brampton, Cambridgeshire from 1957 to 2013, JARIC was the UK's national strategic imagery intelligence provider. One of its major tasks was the plotting and analysis of captured German Air Force reconnaissance photography. What had not been destroyed, or captured by the Soviets was discovered in several locations by the Allies and shipped back to the UK. The joint UK/US work on this imagery provided unique intelligence on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe during the early Cold War years before the advent of satellite imagery. From NCAP <https://ncap.org.uk/JARIC>



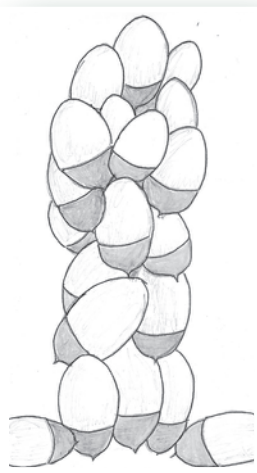
A CORPS CONJECTURE *by Lester Hillman*

'Hello Sunray, this Is Acorn, Over'

Those Corps members of a certain vintage, particularly from the 1970s and 1980s, may recall exotic radio call-signs inhabiting the ether. Appointment titles such as Sunray (command), Glowworm (ground liaison), Hawkeye (Army Air Corps), Pronto (signals), Rickshaw (ordnance) and Starlight (medical) filled the airwaves. The roll call went on, with Atoll, Playtime, Molar, Ironside, Boxwood and woe betide anyone getting an earful from Watchdog (provost). Amongst this distinguished community was Acorn (intelligence officer), offering a passing association to wisdom, via oaks and Cypress Green.

Roll on to 2020 and a Corps landmark anniversary. Just as silver denotes 25 years and gold 50 years, there is a symbol for 80 – oak. The arrival of an 'oak anniversary' of the re-formation of the Corps in 1940 presented the opportunity to celebrate Corps heritage with the planting of an oak tree at Chicksands. This, along with other initiatives clustering around July, deftly navigated the Corps through an uprooted year. Tentatively explored was another idea: a tree sculpture. Whilst this was not taken forward, an invitation has kindly been extended to imagine it.* It may be of interest to illustrate some of the practicalities and possibilities, the risks and rewards.

■ *Continued on page 4*



Pen & pencil,
Lester Hilman 2021

A column of wood, transformed spectacularly and dynamically by a chainsaw artist in front of a Chicksands 2020 Corps Day audience would have certainly offered drama. Within just a few short hours, a three-dimensional pillar of acorns would emerge, forever to bask in the sunray warmth. Carefully planted in the Chicksands landscape, engagement for small children, on through a tech-savvy generation to grizzled veterans might be grafted on. Here would be all manner of communication. Quirky little surprises – ‘secret squirrels’, cheeky worms, hidden cavities and

even a dead-letter box. QR codes triggering a radio exchange beamed into smart phones would deliver further engagement. Around it, a circular seat would provide rest and places for plaque dedications. Illuminated on winter nights, the acorn oak might transform at Christmas. In the summer, it could offer a modest focus for musical, mess, church service or impromptu gatherings.

A tree trunk of respectable girth rising, say, to 10 feet above ground-level translates into a good few tons. A nightmare to manoeuvre in, it would need a carefully selected site accommodating significant foundations. Beneath the most benign of surfaces all manner of problems can lurk; any site at Chicksands is a candidate for archaeology. Then there are utilities, settlement risks, drainage issues and not forgetting to second-guess local moles. A successful site calls for needs accessibility and visibility but at the same time fit within a working landscape. The structure would need to withstand frost, snow, ice, rain, soil and leaf accumulation. Weeds and vegetation along with birds and insects would all strive to make their mark. Minimised, if not zero, maintenance needs to be factored in. The noblest of objectives are soon sullied by refuse accumulation and unwanted graffiti. A successful design calls for artificial lighting and paving. A design allowing further acorns atop the original structure would signal optimism. A design would need to discourage impulsive climbing, something else for the risk and safety appraisal. But what if the Corps moves? An eye to sunset scenarios would be just as prudent.

What else? There are of course cost, permissions and consents, timescales and management of such a project. Almost every call sign might have a say or be able to offer guidance. Chicksands sits in the middle of mature woodland. Trees do fall or come to the end of a useful life. Contrary to the old saying, you can see the wood for the trees.

Who pays? A call to Sunray would soon axe any ideas that money grows on trees. A low-cost option, geared to a short, live performance event, might work. Acorn components might be individually prefabricated to be slotted into place and build a column. The chainsaw theatre would be less interesting, but the result would be more flexible, lighter and cheaper.

Performance events feature on TV from time to time and discussions with a professional carver proved valuable. Holdfast and Playtime (engineer and transport) expertise along with that of others was sought. It was not entirely a surprise that within the Corps community, amongst veterans and the families of serving personnel, remarkable skills surfaced. My own career has included managing regulations for trees, public and private proposals, notifications, surveys, consents, enforcement and commissioning consultants. A recent invitation to advise on an urban forest initiative in London offered encouragement that even in the present climate funds are out there.

So, whilst for now the ‘acorn oak’ may not have taken root, they do say, ‘great oaks from little ...’ ■

**By the editor.*

HISTORICAL

Birth of the Warsaw Pact

by Fred Judge

Many have discussed the actual date of the birth of the Warsaw Pact and a consensus was often difficult to find. However, one of my last jobs with BSSO(G), before the Civil Service threw me out in 1999 for being too old at 60, was to go through BSSO’s registry to seek out and rescue as many documents which I and the head of



Signing of the treaty

registry considered too valuable to be destroyed. One of those documents was a letter written by ‘Crash’ Abbotts OBE, the Head of the Berlin Intelligence Staff, to Brig C. H. Tarver DSO, who was the military commander of BSSO in 1955. This letter, along with several others we rescued, is now in a file in our archives (Accession No. 5136A).

On 5 May 1955, the Federal Republic of Germany became a sovereign state and was granted membership of Nato. The day before, Abbotts outlined his thoughts on how the Soviet Union and its newly acquired satellite countries would react. He predicted that on 8 May, the Day of Liberation in East Germany, the DDR would host many high-ranking visitors from the communist bloc in East Berlin. On 9 May, West Germany would become a member of Nato and this would be followed by a conference in Warsaw to which all the Eastern Bloc countries and China would send delegates. The Vienna talks were also due to start on 12 May.

In his letter, Abbotts wrote:

‘I firmly believe that the 8th May and the 11th May will both produce large-sized rabbits from the Eastern hat and my own guesses are they may take the following forms:

a. The 8th May

- i) *An announcement by Ulbricht [First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) from 1950 to 1971] that ‘S’ Day [Sovereignty Day] has turned the partition of Germany into a fait accompli.*
- ii) *Since the Federal Republic now has the ‘All-Clear’ to re-arm, the DDR must do the same – this may take the form of a formal proclamation of the creation of a Wehrmacht.*
- iii) *Since a real split exists between East and West Germany it is intolerable that Berlin should continue to function as a spy centre in the heart of their country.*
- iv) *In the face of requests for protection from the peace-loving citizens of the DDR, it will be necessary to intensify controls on the East/West demarcation line and around the perimeter of Berlin.*
- v) *The Russian spokesman may well then proclaim the conclusion of a separate peace with Eastern Germany on the basis that ‘S’ Day in the West had released them from their agreements at Potsdam.*
- vi) *This would be followed by a pledge to support the DDR should it be an object of aggression from the West.*
- vii) *Once more barking back to Potsdam, the Russians may well express their opinion that the Western Allies are no longer in Berlin as a right.*
- ix) *[Abbotts omitted the ‘viii’]. The Polish and Czech representatives will then probably confirm that their own States will similarly give all support to the DDR.*

b. The Warsaw Conference of the 11th May.

- i) *The Chairman, be he Pole or Russian, will draw the attention of the meeting to the fact that the Federal Republic has entered into a military alliance within the NATO framework. As a consequence, the view will be expressed, in the face of such a threat, the Eastern countries must follow suit and a formal announcement of the creation of the Eastern Military Bloc will be promulgated.’*

As it turned out, his prophecy was remarkably accurate and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, which we have always known as The Warsaw Pact, officially came into being on 14 May 1955. ■



MoD assessed that Gaddafi would probably try to use terrorist allies to get his revenge and the most likely of these was Abu Nidal, a notorious extremist who had formed the Abu Nidal Organisation (ANO) which had carried out atrocities already. We felt that Cyprus was a more likely target as it was easier to access for the ANO and the larger bases there provided more scope.

There were several fraught weeks for us, though, as signal traffic about the perceived threat, initially from the Libyan air force and then the potential terrorist one, grew exponentially. I was a frequent visitor to the communications centre at all hours, checking signals and also with our chief of staff about their implications. I secured them until morning and then took them to the Governor's Residence called the Convent. He was

'Gaddafi threatened to attack British bases in the Mediterranean'

also the C-in-C and part of my role was to keep him informed, via his senior staff officers.

There was a real concern in the military hierarchy that we were not ready to face such a threat because everything was very relaxed, e.g. we wore uniform everywhere compared with the UK and its Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) threat. We were asked for suggestions to rectify this. One was for a PS survey of the Convent which was done by our WO 2. The other was to mention the Anti-Terrorist Survey Team in London and its novel approach to security. The upshot was a survey done by them in Gibraltar on the basis of ANO methods of operation rather than from their usual PIRA perspective. They produced a comprehensive report on the likely MoD-related targets and the way in which they would attack them. Some of their recommendations were implemented and one of their observations was fully validated when PIRA planned a bomb attack against the weekly changing of the guard at the Convent. The band of the Royal Anglian Regiment parked their coach in a large space within the town and some distance from the Convent. They formed up there and marched to the ceremony. In order to ensure a space in the very busy town area and with parking a nightmare (tell me about it!), it had been necessary for PIRA to occupy it on the preceding Sunday. Components of a car bomb were found in a car in Marbella, identified by the keys found in a bag as one used by the PIRA team. They clearly planned to switch cars but had not yet done so. The planned site was exactly the same as that noted by the ATST for a similar scenario they envisaged for an ANO attack on the band.

Three PIRA conspirators were shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar, long after my departure. ■

In February 1986, I became the SO2 G2 in Fortress Headquarters (FHQ) Gibraltar. It commanded a reduced garrison and was situated at Rosia Bay. The Corps' presence had been tiny but increased due to the Falklands conflict when Spain was a strong supporter of Argentina and hoped that defeat for the UK would strengthen its claim to Gibraltar. There was no internal threat as the Gibraltarians were very loyal and it was a small community. The Cold War still gave us a reminder when a Soviet SIGINT trawler anchored close to FHQ – just to annoy the brigadier.

The Corps reduced to only three of us. I was in a secure room office inside FHQ and the others in a small building nearby, overshadowed by a 100-ton gun. A key part of my role was that of Fortress intelligence officer. As such, all sensitive material was held in my secure rooms. Documents were received routinely through the MoD courier system, but many came in the shape of signals. The communications centre was deep inside a tunnel under the Rock and in the naval base. Signals arrived at any time and the operators followed the precedence system to inform me.

The rate of these increased greatly during our first crisis. Libya's Colonel Gaddafi had been supporting international terrorist attacks, and the final straw for the US came on 5 April 1986 when Libyan agents bombed a nightclub in West Berlin, killing three people and injuring 229 others. West Germany and the US obtained cable transcripts from Libyan agents in East Germany who were involved in the attack. Detailed information was retrieved from Stasi archives later and investigated by a reunited Germany, leading to the prosecution of those agents.

An American airstrike was carried out on 15 April against Libya from their aircraft carriers and UK bases. It was a substantial raid, mainly on military targets in Tripoli. Libya's initial response was the ineffectual firing of Scud missiles at a US Coast Guard station on Lampedusa, but they landed in the sea.

Because of UK support for the raid, Gaddafi threatened to attack British bases in the Mediterranean. The MoD took it so seriously that they carried out an operation to protect Gibraltar from air attacks. The bases on Cyprus would also have been reinforced. Locally, air defence troops were deployed from the UK with Rapier missiles. They occupied strategic points on the Rock and stayed for several weeks until the MoD considered it safe enough for them to be withdrawn. That was from the overt threat, but a covert one remained. The

'A Soviet SIGINT trawler anchored close to FHQ – just to annoy the brigadier'

ERRATUM

In Sam Southam's interview on page 6 of the winter issue, the actual response in answer to What was your first exposure to ICA? is: My first exposure to ICA was in basic training when we were 'asked' to sign up to ICA. Then, later in the late 80s when organising a squash tour to Berlin, we applied for ICA funding, then when in FD, I was co-opted as a trustee (the first of three times as a trustee).

Apologies to Sam for this editing error. Ed.

ANSWER TO THE TEASER

Matthew Sutcliffe in
The Practice, Proceedings and Lawes
of Armes (1593)

POEMS

July 1941

The cuckoo, dumb,
Thinks to depart.
It seems not long
Since he was come
With joyful song
Foretelling May,
And sick at heart
With thoughts of doom
We heard his cry.
Now winged in gloom
He flies away,
And death is nigh.

Peace

At last, after these many years, the dead
Unloose the grip in which they held our hearts;
The maimed, the sick, the prisoners release
Us from their bonds, no longer forced to feel
Their pain, their unimaginable dread
Not now condemned to fathom. Peace
Its mercy also unto us imparts,
Who likewise fought, though not with flame and steel,
Who likewise suffered, though none saw us bleed.
Peace is also for us. Oh true, the dead
Their visitation will not cease, their haunts
Still in the mind will keep; for there's no force
By which the laden memory can be freed
From what it holds. But now they will not come
Nightly, like Furies, riding us in sleep,
Plying the thong of pity and remorse,
Nor whisper daily in our ears the taunts
Of bitter self-contempt. But slow, and slow,
The shadows of the lengthening years will creep
Between our eyes and theirs, and years will numb
The pang of our imaginary woe.

In Dancer's End – The Wedding Gift by Enoch Powell, Falcon Press (1951)

Brigadier John Enoch Powell MBE (1912–1998), British politician, soldier, poet and classicist who studied under the eminent poet, A.E. Housman, and himself wrote four books of poetry. A professor of Ancient Greek at age 25 and at one time the youngest brigadier in the British Army, he served in the Intelligence Corps in the Middle East, South East Asia and India. Minister of Health from 1960 to 63, he called his promotion from private to lance corporal, 'greater than entering the Cabinet'. He is infamous for his 'Rivers of Blood' speech in 1968 for which he was removed as Shadow Defence Secretary.

Also read Paul Croxson's intriguing and article: 'Enoch Powell – 100 Years On', posted on FICM's website, 13 May 2013.



2020 Annual Financial Report

By Dave Farrell

The Friends began the calendar year with a current account balance of £11,179.37 and a deposit account balance of £8,034.24; we ended with balances of £10,088.74 and £8,041.32 respectively. The table shows our income and expenditure.

There were two main areas of expenditure. The first was for archival storage boxes for the museum costing £3,201.66 and, later in the year, the funding of an additional PC workstation (plus peripherals) for the new assistant curator at a cost of £750.

The second area was the FICM website. Apart from our annual payments for the domain name and hosting fees etc, we embarked on a major project to update the website. Firstly, we added a secure socket layer (SSL is a computing protocol that encrypts data sent via the internet); we then commissioned a complete redesign of the website to improve its look, functionality and 'feel'. Work done so far totals £2,027.99, with a final payment of around £1,260 to be made in 2021 as the project is completed.

Our planned Lunch with Lecture event at the Victory Services Club in May was postponed until the autumn but Government restrictions postponed it again until 2021. Ticket monies were either returned or rolled forwards at the request of the intended attendees.

Thank you for your support of the Friends, especially to those who allow us to claim Gift Aid; in 2020, we recovered £696.87 from HMRC as a result of your generosity.

Questions? Please contact me:
treasurer.ficm@yahoo.com

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE as at, and including, 31st December 2020			
CURRENT A/C NO. 11690947	Opening balance 1st 1/20		
	£11,179.37		
NEW FIXED TERM DEPOSIT A/C	Opened 18th December 2014		
	£8,041.32		
INCOME			
Events	£467.50	EXPENDITURE	
Life Members	£300.00	Printing	£ 3,201.66
Annual Members	£23,312.00	Post/Staty	£ 360.36
Donations	£5,622.00	Website	£ 2,114.25
Other	£896.87	Events	£ 516.25
		Donations	£ 3,961.66
		Alan Edwards Award	£ 100.00
		Other	£ 127.60
		TOTAL EXP	£10,088.00
		FIXED TERM DEPOSIT	£ 8,041.32
		CASH IN CURRENT ACCOUNT	£10,088.74
		UNPRESENTED CHQS - see notes	£ -
		TOTAL INCOME	£9,598.37
		TOTAL INCOME	£28,819.06
		which reconciles:	£28,819.06
		Unpresented cheques are:	

NOTICES AND NOTES FOR MEMBERS

Trustee Matters

Meeting dates for 2021 are 19 January, 18 May and 19 October

- Chair of Museum Trustees, Alistair Sommerlad, attended the 19 January meeting and briefed trustees on latest museum developments
- As they do for the main meetings, your trustees continue their work on sub-committees by Zoom.
- In January 2021, FICM Trustee Helen Fry was also appointed a trustee of the Medmenham Collection Trust. Congratulations!

EDITORIAL

Your newsletter enters its tenth year of publication in a strong position, carrying a torch of support for four entities: the Friends, the museum, ICA and the Intelligence Corps. Last year, FICM initiated a move to work closer with ICA on the history and heritage of the Corps. What better flagbearer for that than *Sub Rosa*, in which in 2020 alone we carried five original recollections; eight historical pieces; four book reviews; unique interviews of two serving members and one retired; three poems by members of the Corps; many other news items. Without *Sub Rosa*, these mostly original pieces would not have seen the light of day. Added to that, in this issue we have another five articles, poems and a couple of lighter-hearted insertions, not to speak of significant news items. In addition, it is pleasing (especially for the editor) to report that we are usually fully subscribed for non-news content well before publication – a measure of the popularity among writers keen on getting into print with us. This is not to say that we won't entertain more; if you have something to

recollect, opine upon or research please get in touch. As you can read elsewhere in this issue, FICM is moving more online in order to capture wider interest and participation. Nevertheless, there remains a vital place for the printed word, for which usually more consideration is given to style and language compared with the more crammed and largely unedited maximum 280 characters in a tweet. Both forms are valid and worthwhile, and we encourage your engagement in each.

A slight apology for quoting Charles de Gaulle in successive issues of the newsletter, particularly as that famous general, happy to accept British hospitality in WWII, repaid it with petulant displays of 'Non' as we attempted to get into Europe (in the days when we were knocking on their door to get in). We do try for variety to lay before you but sometimes a repeated source makes for a salutary message; in this case, how we make our history with today's behaviour.

Contact the editor at editor:ficm@gmail.com ■

FICM ON TWITTER *By Helen Fry*

FICM has entered the modern world of social media with its first ever presence on Twitter. Former trustee, Ben Hodges, in just a few months successfully managed the account and built up our followers to 502. With Ben's resignation due to work commitments, from November 2020 this role has been mine.

Support continues to grow and at the time of going to press our Twitter followers number 710 and rising. This provides FICM with an important opportunity to engage with the public on the heritage of the Intelligence Corps and showcase our support for the Military Intelligence Museum. Our activities consist of occasional tweets about our work and heritage support, as well as retweeting the tweets generated from the Military Intelligence Museum and the Intelligence Corps.

Being part of this modern communication network has not been without its challenges. During December 2020, one of our followers noticed that our account had 'liked' a

post by politician, Nigel Farage. This led to concerns that the account might have been hacked, because FICM does not engage in any kind of political activity or support of politicians. Another possible explanation could have been, in this age of touchscreen devices when Twitter tends to jump to another post just as a particular post is being 'liked', Farage's tweet may have been 'liked' inadvertently.

This incident was followed on Christmas Eve by a reverse-engineered photograph being tagged to the Twitter account that showed myself operating the account.

The good news is that since January 2021 the bizarre activities on our account have ceased, after Twitter sent a message to say it had blocked some strange activity on our account. This is reassuring, and FICM can continue to raise awareness of our work and heritage to build support for the museum and engage with new audiences.

Follow FICM on Twitter @FICMuseum ■



New Website for FICM!

Restrictions caused by Covid-19 have eliminated our member-facing activity. We have used this period to look at our procedures and practices in an effort to improve our communication and messaging systems to better enable us to serve our members. As a part of this, we have improved FICM's online presence.

Our new website, to be found at <https://www.friendsintelligencemuseum.org>, provides a greater understanding of FICM's activity and support for the museum and importantly has an online, completely automated facility for enrolment of new Friends. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions have prevented us from obtaining up-to-date images for the website for the time being, but the content will be upgraded and enhanced as we go forward. Please take a look at your new website and any feedback would be very welcome.

We have also updated our email platform to better communicate with you. We won't inundate you with emails but we will keep you better informed of FICM's and the museum's activity. Again, your feedback will be welcome.

Thanks again for your support for FICM, the museum and the history and heritage of the Corps; we look forward to properly meeting again when restrictions permit. ■



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