



Sub Rosa

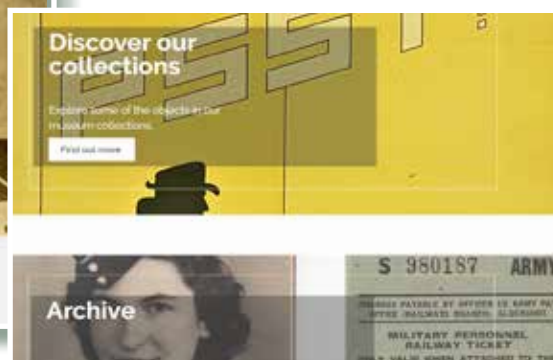
Newsletter of the Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum



No.29, Summer 2021

THE MUSEUM'S DIGITAL RELAUNCH

By Gemma Leader, Digital Communications Assistant and Sarah Waite, Assistant Curator



Using digital to reach wider audiences (by GL)

Raising awareness of the museum through digital means is one of my main focus areas. So far, this has involved getting stuck into Twitter trends and events, creating consistent weekly posts, sharing on Facebook groups, updating our website, and contacting our influencers directly to ask if they will share our content for us. I have added the MIM to the Wikipedia page of museum listings in Bedfordshire, and I will be writing a promotional piece for Mainly Museums, a website which features contributions from museums across the globe.

I introduced consistent weekly social media posts upon joining the MIM. Previously, content was ad hoc with no planning or strategy. Posting at the same time each week means that audiences know when to expect content to be released. Also, over the past six months, I have been experimenting and trialling different types of content to see what works.

This allowed me to put together a more detailed plan. This simple yet crucial step prompted questions like: What is the focus of this platform? Why are we using it? Who is our audience? When, and how often, are we sharing content? However, the content plan is not set in stone; it can evolve depending upon factors such as survey feedback, monthly statistics and museum events.

But how can we develop our content in order to catch the attention of people and organisations who wouldn't usually engage with us? For this, Twitter is working well and we can develop this. Getting involved in national conversations has enabled us to engage frequently with many different types of museum and archive across the country. Key museum and archive events that we have taken part in include:

#ExploreYourArchive, #Archive30, #MyLocalMuseum, #CuratorBattle and #MuseumSnap.

The daily or weekly themes that these campaigns offer provide an opportunity to talk with other museums, to support each other and to have some fun.

■ Continued on page 2

TEASER

What nation's junior officers in the field were not expected to wait for orders to make a decision?

ANSWER ON P.3

What's inside?

Digital relaunch	2	Spymaster.....	5
Fighting hero No. 10	3	RSMs as a curse.....	6
Bequests	3	Priory connections	6
Teaser	3	Poem.....	7
Harrier forces	4	Letters.....	7
Video podcasts	5	FICM Chair's update.....	8
Alan Edwards Award	5	Editorial.....	8

DISTRIBUTION GUIDANCE

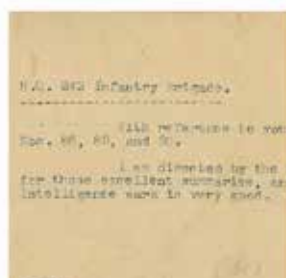
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DIGITAL RELAUNCH *continued from page 1*

The themes can also offer the chance to view and interpret collections in different ways. We have also been getting involved with events not specifically museum focused in order to reach wider audiences, including World Book Day, LGBTQ+ History Month, and Women's History Month.

Seventeenth of May saw the launch of the MIM's updated website. We wanted the site to be more visually appealing, accessible and to engage more people with our stories. To meet these aims we had to carry out a complete redesign. We launched it to coincide with museums reopening across the UK, and I contacted a host of influencers and supporters who retweeted our promotional video. In total, this video achieved over 21,000 impressions. New features include: a dedicated archive page, an Activity Corner with fun challenges created by Assistant Curator Sarah, a Support Us page, a visual guide and a page that connects to the ICA shop.

Explore our Archives below



actively promoting the website, forming relationships with our influencers and collaborating on bigger projects.

We want to improve our digital presence. If you have content you would like to see, or stories to tell, please contact mi-digitalassistant@outlook.com or 01462 814643.

there were several things that I could do to improve the accessibility of the museum, which were straightforward and low-cost.

The most obvious change to make was to make the accessibility information on our website more prominent and more detailed. The Museum and Heritage Access: 2020 Survey found that only one in five survey respondents would visit without checking access information online, and that over half of respondents would not visit a museum if an access facility they needed was not advertised online (<https://vocaleyes.co.uk/museum-and-heritage-access-survey-2020/>) It was clear that part of the MIM's website refresh had to include the development of a dedicated, easily navigable access page. In addition, a small but effective change was to slightly alter the tone of the website's access information to be more welcoming, rather than giving the impression that a disabled visitor would be putting staff out by enquiring about access.

I also put together a visual guide for visitors which can be downloaded from the website. It is a walk-through of the museum, shown through photographs and easy to read text which highlights facilities and sensory information. A visual guide can help many visitors prepare for the visit, whether they're living with autism, learning difficulties, or simply interested in familiarising themselves with a new space to ensure their comfort.

The staff at the MIM are continually looking into ways in which our museum environment can be more accessible, routinely making small improvements where we can. I hope, when our museum fully reopens to the public, disabled visitors feel increasingly confident to visit us, as we demonstrate a commitment to learning and changing the way we do things.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for the museum do contact: mi-assistantcurator@outlook.com or 01462 814643. ■

Activity Corner

Do you have what it takes to be a secret agent?

Try our fun, printable activity packs. Just click on the red buttons below to download the PDF files.

Share your progress with us on social media



Interestingly, feedback from the website survey indicates that not everyone who visits us online would visit in person, because of travel. This demonstrates just how important our website is, as we can reach people no matter where in the world they live.

At least once a month we aim to add new website content, whether that be a recent donation, an item from our archive or collection, or a new article. We will be

Improving Museum Accessibility (by SW)

A large part of my role as assistant curator at the MIM is to encourage as many people as possible to engage with our collection and story. Simply being open and free to visit is not enough; for many, there are still significant barriers to entry. With this in mind, I began an access review of our museum during the lockdown. Using data and research published by access-focused organisations online, combined with the intelligence provided by representatives from the National Autistic Society who visited the museum in early 2020, I was able to identify the main areas that required change. Some things were out of our control: the location of our museum 'behind the wire'; and we don't own the building. However, I found that



Lt Col James Pullar Hannah DSO

By Harry Fecitt MBE TD

A resistance organisation in Malaya mainly composed of Chinese had been established under the name of DALFORCE in 1942 before the fall of Singapore and had fought with courage and determination to the end, suffering heavy casualties. The remnants of this force, who had escaped capture and subsequent execution by the Japanese, became the nucleus of the resistance movement in Malaya together with Force 136 'stay behind' groups. From page 279 of the *British Official History, The War Against Japan, Vol V, the Surrender of Japan*.

In May 1940, James (Jim) Hannah was commissioned into the Royal Army Pay Corps and in August 1942 he transferred into the Intelligence Corps. The *London Gazette* of 25 September 1947 published the award of a Companionship of the Distinguished Service Order to Jim Hannah 'in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Field (prior to September 1945)'. His very explicit, original citation states:

In 1943 this officer volunteered in England for operations in Jap occupied Malaya. Between September 1943 and March 1944 he made 5 separate attempts to land by submarine in Malaya to join up with the Force 136 party already there. On each occasion the party were unable to receive him owing to Japanese activity on the coast. Each of these attempts involved the taking part in a hazardous submarine operational patrol of 28 days.

When at the end of 1944 aircraft capable of making the journey to Malaya became available Lieutenant Colonel HANNAH volunteered to lead a parachute party to find the original Force 136 party, contact with which had been lost for nearly a year. Wireless contact was however made with them before he left and on February 26th 1945, he was dropped by parachute into Malaya, one of the earliest to do so and one of the first to recontact the original Force 136 party and Malayan Peoples Anti-Japanese Army.

He was made group liaison officer for Perak and immediately organised the raising, arming and training of 5 patrols with such success that by the time of the Jap surrender he, with 15 British officers under his command, controlled over 800 armed and trained guerrillas stationed along the Japanese lines of communication in Perak.

This most successful build up was the result of Colonel HANNAH's determination and leadership in the face of many difficulties and in the heart of enemy occupied territory. Though barred by policy from any general offensive activity, nevertheless his patrols had numerous clashes with the Japs while receiving stores and personnel in dropping zones outside the jungle. Whenever possible he led all such skirmishes himself and the high morale of his men was mainly due to his own fearlessness.

On July 7th he and his 2nd in Command, alone and armed only with carbines, covered the withdrawal of a patrol which had got into difficulties in face of a greatly superior force of the enemy. They succeeded in holding up the enemy until withdrawal was completed and only withdrew themselves in face of heavy machine gun and mortar fire.

After the surrender Lieutenant Colonel HANNAH made the first Allied contact with the Japs and it was largely due to his tact and firmness that there were no serious clashes between the Japs and guerrillas.

It is recommended that this officer be awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

This citation leaves no doubt that Jim Hannah was a brave, determined and resourceful leader, well-suited to operations behind enemy lines.

The background to Jim's insertion into Japanese-occupied Malaya was the need for the preparation on the ground of guerrilla groups to support Operation Zipper, the proposed Allied invasion of Malaya. The guerrillas, mainly of local Chinese extraction, had formed themselves into the Malayan Peoples Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA) whose groups he had been living in the jungle and skirmishing with the Japanese invaders. But they needed to be well-armed, organised and trained if they were to be a painful thorn in the side of the Japanese during Op Zipper.

As can be seen from Jim's citation, Force 136 (Special Operations Executive) had men on the ground in Malaya but without effective

communications back to Ceylon and India. Concurrently with Jim's drop, four more Force 136 teams parachuted into different regions of Malaya. This resulted in a total of over 90 British officers, 48 wireless transmitter sets, and over 130 Gurkhas, who formed six Gurkha Special Groups of trainers and combat leaders on the ground. These inserted teams controlled around 4,000 guerrilla fighters and several thousand auxiliaries who provided support from within the civilian population. MPAJA retitled itself to AJUF (Anti-Japanese Union and Forces) and agreed to work under Allied command until the surrender of Japan. Operation Zipper finally took place on 9 September, one week after VJ Day, the day the Japanese capitulated. The operation was unopposed and British troops were in Kuala Lumpur by 13 September 1945.

On 8 April 1949, during the Malayan Emergency, Lt Col Jim Hannah DSO was Mentioned in Despatches whilst serving in the Federation of Malaya Volunteer State Forces. No doubt he was having an energetic and interesting time in combatting his old guerrilla soldiers who were now known as the Malayan National Liberation Army. Jim ceased soldiering in February 1960. ■



Bequests

By Dave Farrell, Treasurer

To help the Friends deliver their aims, please consider leaving them something in your will. To leave a fixed sum of money, we suggest the following words.

I give the sum of (in words and numbers) pounds to the Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum, HMRC-regulated charity no. XT32851, resident at Building 200, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5PR for its declared aims, and I direct that a receipt signed by a trustee of FICM shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

If, at the date of my death, any charity named as a beneficiary in my will or any codicil thereto has

'Thank you for your support.'

changed its name, or amalgamated with or transferred its assets to another body, then my executors shall give effect to any gift made to such charity as if it had been made (in the first case) to the body in its changed name or (in the second place) to the body which results from such amalgamation or to which such transfer has been made.



ANSWER TO THE TEASER

Messages sent by French Army commanders to desert outposts in the 1920s were preceded by *J'espère que vous n'aurez pas attendu cet ordre pour prendre une décision*: 'I hope you haven't been waiting for this order to take a decision'. In *L'empire des sables. La France au Sabel 1860-1960* by Emmanuel Garnier (2018). Sub Rosa informed by Prof Stephen W. Smith of Duke University.

The RAF Germany Harrier Force in the Early 1970s

In the early 1970s, the RAF Germany Harrier Force formed at RAF Wildenrath with three squadrons, one of which, 4 Sqn, had the primary role of tactical air reconnaissance initially equipped with the Harrier GR 1 that carried a pod fitted with five-day-only cameras. A typical reconnaissance mission included 45 minutes from the engine switch-off time for the film to be processed, interpreted and the dispatch of the report (RECCEXREP) to the demander. It was the epitome of wartime – 90 per cent preparing and waiting, followed by 10 per cent of frantic action.

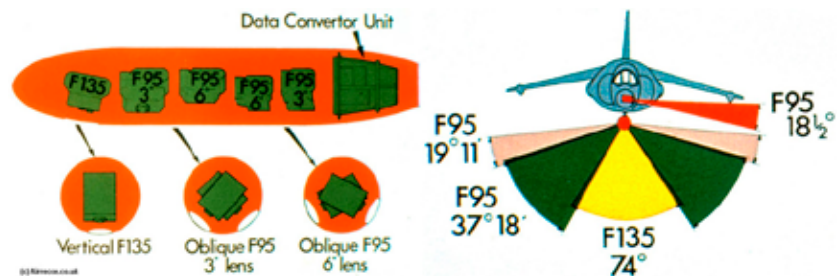
since 1944. They were in the RAF blue battledress with shoes – not all of them had boots – and the greatest variety of steel helmet patterns ever seen, and they only had blankets for sleeping in the field. My colleague said that he had not seen a German Pickelhaube but he was confident that we would see one soon.

At the evening meal at the field kitchen we became the butt of RAF humour when we produced issue mess-tins. We were then briefed on the next day's site move



last action before he was overwhelmed was to fire a cartridge heavenwards.

Dusk stand-to came and went, and as night fell, sounds like a herd of wounded rhinos were heard moving up the hill. This was duly challenged by our sentry. When his challenge was not answered after three times, the



The Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre (RIC) consisted of a number of Air Transportable Reconnaissance Exploitation Laboratories (ATREL) mounted on a 4-tonne flat-bed truck, and contained all the equipment needed to process and interpret film, with five being known as a Clutch.



The ATRELS were joined together by railway corridor-like connectors. This was all very well on a hard standing or firm ground, but it was a different kettle of fish on wet or uneven ground when the vehicles would sink and distort the connections. To disconnect them required a considerable application of force, usually by a sledgehammer. Mobile generators provided electrical power.

I joined my first Harrier field deployment in September 1971 when I, and another army photographic interpreter, joined the 4 Sqn site 'somewhere in Germany' as reinforcements. We caused consternation among the RAF by arriving in our own Land Rover with camouflage nets. We were dressed in the then new DPM combat kit, with 58 pattern webbing and sleeping bags. We felt sorry for the RAF, who had not lived in the field

that would be carried out in slow time and in daylight, because this was the first time that this evolution had been practised. Vehicles were to be packed and ready to move by 12.00 hours – so, no rush then. Then came the crunch. The field kitchen would close immediately and would not reopen until breakfast the day after the move. We were all issued with a 24-hour Compo pack and a Hexamine burner – what price mess tins now?

For the move, vehicles were formed into packets. As our packet was about to depart, our officer in charge reached for the short-range Storno radio to inform site HQ that we were moving. He was strongly dissuaded from this action by a SNCO who explained that 'if it radiates, it can be detected'. Well, it was slightly shorter and more direct than that. Said officer then walked over to site HQ to book us out. The journey to the Geseke site was uneventful but as we passed through towns, the air sentries, who were in the vehicle cab roof 'Rommel hatches', were told they could sit in the cab. This was not complied with because the airmen picked for this duty preferred to interact with the visions of German loveliness in their summer dresses – very un-PC. When we arrived at the site, after a supposedly Secret move, we were greeted by a German 'bratty wagon' doing a roaring trade in the car park opposite the airstrip.

Notwithstanding this, we set up and made ready for operations, including site defences. The army was duly lumbered with the latter. The exercise 'enemy' were the aircrew who were tasked with giving the RIC a hard time. One of our sentries 'volunteered' to be point sentry, to give us early warning of intruders and he was given a Very pistol and cartridges, with orders that his

sentry came out with the immortal line: 'Halt! Stand up and be recognised or I'll fill you with coloured leets.' This was followed by the sound of rhinos departing at a fast pace.

The Geseke site was owned by a German aristocrat, who kept wild boar in a fenced compound for him to hunt. He let it be known that he would be delighted if some brave RAF officers would come hunting with him – the queue of 'volunteers' was not long. One evening there was an alarmed call of 'There's a boar loose', followed by that well-known military action: abandonment in disorder. When the alarm was cancelled, people were found in the most amazing places, like three people in a closed Harrier cockpit designed for one!

Besides the Intelligence Corps, there were also Royal Engineers whose main duty was to maintain the strip in operational conditions. One day, the RAF were digging field latrines in very hot sun. They were making little progress because the ground was very rocky. Enter stage right, a mobile trench digger with a sergeant and a sapper. Asked by an RAF officer if they could help dig the latrines, they responded by deploying the digger and digging the latrine trench in quick time. When asked by the RAF why they hadn't used the digger before, the sappers came up with the old army reply: 'Because you never asked us ... Sir' with sufficient gap between 'us' and 'Sir' to convey the level of respect felt by them. ■

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Sharing the Secrets: Bringing History Alive

By Dr Helen Fry

In this fast-changing digital era and particularly during the pandemic, we have witnessed an increase in online talks and podcasts via platforms like Zoom and similar media. Our ability to connect to reach a global audience, and not only within our immediate proximity, provides new opportunities but also challenges – especially when the technology has a glitch, as many of us no doubt have experienced in Zoom meetings. It has brought advantages for FICM's support of the museum. Since May 2020, a small team that included me as historian, an ex-BBC cameraman and sound technician, and production manager Maj (retd) Mike Shearer have been filming a series of video podcasts (vid-podcasts) for the MIM and MMI, to be launched during 2021. So far, over 23 vid-podcasts have been filmed and edited to promote the museum and its heritage, and these vid-casts are ready for launch on YouTube and other platforms on the internet.



The interviews are broad in focus: from intelligence during the days of the Civil War through to the 19th century, First World War, Second World War, the Cold War and then contemporary times. These have included interviews with: Col Tim Collins, known for his 'Eve of Battle' speech during the Iraq War, speaking to me about 'intelligence from a soldier's perspective'; spy-thriller novelist Frederick Forsyth – author of *The Day of the Jackal* and *The Odessa File* – interviewed about his time as a journalist behind the Iron Curtain in 1962, and the tensions and challenges of being under constant surveillance by the Stasi. An interview has been



Interviewing Frederick Forsyth

conducted with historian Dan Snow about the importance of history and intelligence; Gill Bennett (former chief historian of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) on various aspects of British intelligence; and SOE veteran Mildred Schutz. It has been a privilege to interview Chief of Defence Intelligence, Lt Gen Sir Jim Hockenhull, who spoke with enthusiasm and vision about the work of Defence Intelligence, its diversity and the characteristics of a good operator.

During these challenging days of the pandemic, FICM has been of practical help in offering its professional Zoom account to host the recording of special interviews as part of the above vid-podcast series. To cite two examples: we were able to interview a World War Two veteran, Rudi Haymann, who lives in Chile (approaching his 100th birthday and who had been unable to visit England due to travel restrictions). We were able to record his wartime memories as an interrogator for use in the museum archives and future displays. The second interview was a transatlantic one with actress and producer Sarah Megan Thomas (based in the United States) who spoke to me about the inspiration behind the script of her new film, *A Call to Spy*, about SOE's Vera Atkins and agents Virginia Hall and Noor Khan.

Going forwards in 2021 and 2022, there is an active plan to film further interviews to discuss, enhance and shine a light on the history of military intelligence (army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force), as well as the Intelligence Corps – sharing the secrets that can now be told. This project strongly underpins the work of FICM and FICM's charter to support the history and heritage of the Intelligence Corps and museum. These vid-casts will make this history more accessible to a wider audience and offer potential for raising funds for the museum. ■

ALAN EDWARDS AWARD 2021

Awarded to 3 MI

To mark the Corps' 80th year, the soldiers and officers of 3 MI Bn were asked to visit, maintain and research the graves of Intelligence Corps personnel buried within Greater London and South East England. This was done during the Covid-19 pandemic, in reserve personnel's own time, with no Reserve Service Day or financial incentives. The number of volunteers was humbling; each of the twenty graves could have been covered many times. Personnel went above and beyond the remit, researching not just the individuals in question but also the cemeteries they were buried in and the links to the wider communities. They consulted with the Military Intelligence Museum curator and archivist.

With that hard work completed over the summer and autumn of 2020, 3 MI published an electronic booklet in time for Remembrance Sunday. This captured photographs of the graves and cemeteries, newspaper articles about the soldiers commemorated and much more. Whilst Covid-19 prevented printed publication of the booklet, the electronic version is now held by the MIM and Int Corps HQ. The activity sets the standard for other units and shows the respect that the current Corps' soldiers, regular and reserve, have towards those who have gone before them.

The award of £200 and inscribed memento will be presented by the Friends at the postponed Corps Day lunch on 11 September. The winner of the award is also given a year's membership of FICM; Cpl Alex Singer was selected as 'central to the battalion activity' and she will represent 3 MI with complimentary membership.

Like to Contribute? Complain? Commend? Comment?

We welcome your written offerings on the museum, history and heritage of the Corps and on the newsletter. They will be edited for *Sub Rosa*'s house style and for length. Send to editor.ficm@gmail.com

Instructions for Contributors

1. Word/Pages document in Times New Roman 12, all single spacing.
2. Word count:
 - a. For *Sub Rosa*
 - i. Up to 500 for news and book reviews.
 - ii. Up to a 1,000 for other articles.
 - b. For the website, about 5,000.
3. Photographs:
 - a. High resolution.
 - b. Captioned.
 - c. Name of the photographer.
 - d. Permission from living people in it.
4. For articles previously published, details of permission to reproduce.
5. We may send articles to the Intelligence Corps Legal and Disclosure Cell for review.

FORTHCOMING BOOK

SPYMASTER: THE MAN WHO SAVED MI6, By Helen Fry

The dramatic story of a man who stood at the centre of British intelligence operations for MI6 and the Intelligence Corps, the ultimate spymaster of the 20th century: Thomas Kendrick.

Historian Helen Fry is the author of numerous books on intelligence, including MI9, *The Walls Have Ears* and *The London Cage*. She is a trustee of FICM, an ambassador for the Museum of Military Intelligence, and President of the Friends of the National Archives.

Spymaster is published on 12 October 2021 by Yale University Press.



The Curse of the RSMs

From our point of view in 51 Security Section, Celle, our most important visit was that of the outgoing and incoming Group RSMs. As any NCO, especially a senior NCO, will explain, it is vital to keep the RSM on your side. Failure to do so could result in a multitude of extra duties or the forced membership of some horrific mess committee which would demand a constant presence in the mess and the endless completion of obscure military forms connected with the well-being of that mess. The senior NCOs of 51 Security Section were members of the SIB mess and the junior NCOs belonged to the RMP corporals' mess. Membership of a mess was compulsory for all NCOs in the British Army.

Towards the end of February, the two gentlemen in question appeared on the section doorstep where they were greeted by the section warrant officer who passed them quickly into the OC, who, just as quickly, passed them back out again to the section warrant officer. He then briefed them about warrant officer-type things and escorted them around the rest of the section where JNCOs were studied for over-length hair; scruffy boots, shabby uniforms, and a failure to answer rapidly fired questions quickly enough. Failure to please resulted in the loss of one's name. For those not understanding this: 'Take his name! Take his name!'

Security intelligence operators, uncomfortable in their

now long-forgotten uniforms, came in for particular scrutiny. There was always a danger that the RSM, fearing that we might be going native, would insist on a few days' attachment to the Group HQ to remind us of what soldiering was all about. It was a rare occurrence, but not unknown. Having 'gripped' one or two JNCOs and satisfied their honour, the RSMs were then directed towards the bar, which, after all, was high on their list of required inspections, if only to satisfy themselves that the eavesdropping bugs were working correctly.



The rest of the day passed uneventfully. The section committed itself to full participation in various shooting competitions and qualifications, agreed that more people should attend the annual regimental training week and made polite remarks about the careers of both RSMs. I believe that the incoming RSM was WO1 Ken Moore MBE, who was starting his 'retirement posting'. Ken died on 30 March 1992 at the tragically young age of 55.

As they were staying overnight, arrangements were made for some 'proper' entertainment. Here, one particular contact was heaven-sent. This was a former British soldier who lived on the local economy in Celle and ran a bar which sold rather expensive beer and Babycham served by local maidens of questionable virtue. We therefore made arrangements with him for a cut-price evening for our honoured guests. In return, we promised to put in a good word for him with the SNCOs' and WOs' mess at 94 Locating Regiment RA. The evening was a stunning success. The experienced barmaids made all the right noises and, although nothing really improper occurred, both RSMs left at 0200 hrs the following morning in a most euphoric state and highly complimentary about the section's contacts.

Our contact duly received an invitation to the 94 Locating Regiment's Christmas ball where he purchased vast quantities of raffle tickets, and made a huge donation to one of the local charities represented there. It remained a constant source of amusement to us that many of the senior officers at the ball remained in total ignorance of this benevolent guest's true vocation. ■

HISTORICAL

The Priory, the Intelligence Corps and Me

By Neil Lidyard-Davies



I must thank my late father for my obsession with genealogy. The legacy he handed down to my brother and me, following his death in 2011, was several files of half-finished family trees, photocopies of census documents that had seen better days, copies of medal cards and other paraphernalia linked to this topic.

However, this hobby led me to discover some historically significant ancestors that still influence the modern world. I discovered that I am a direct descendant of the two founders of the Gilbertine Priory at Chicksands: Rohese de Vere, Countess of Essex and her second husband, Payne de Beauchamp, Lord of Bedford.

The Priory, founded about 1152, was the home of the Gilbertine Order formed in about 1130 by St Gilbert of Sempringham. It was only one of ten religious houses in England that housed both nuns and canons. By 1200, it was one of the largest and wealthiest Gilbertine houses. Fleeing the wrath of King Henry II after the Council of Northampton in 1164, Archbishop Thomas Becket is said to have spent a short time at Chicksands Priory.

I discovered my links to the founders after following a thread on the maternal side of my family. Reaching back to the late 16th, early 17th centuries, I found

a noblewoman, Lady Mary Mansel, my 12th great-grandmother. That was when the fun began. I was soon knee-deep in knights of the realm stretching back to the mid-12th century and to Simon de Beauchamp, my 26th great-grandfather. His parents were Payne de Beauchamp and Rohese de Vere, who I now know to be my 27th great-grandparents and founders of the Priory at Chicksands.

So, what is the connection between the Priory, the Intelligence Corps and me? Having served in the cavalry for nine years, I decided to transfer to the Corps in 1992, passing out with intake 133 in 1993. During my 13 years with the Corps, I completed operational tours of Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Sierra Leone, served in 2 MI Bn and was attached to specialist military units for a number of years. I retired from the army in 2005.

I had visited Chicksands on several occasions during my time with the Corps and knew a little of the history of the Priory. However, it wasn't until I retired and became an MoD civil servant that I visited and stayed in the Priory. Had I known then the significance of my links to this important location, I would have paid my respects to my 27th great-grandmother who is buried there. ■

POEMS

By Former Members of the Corps

Reflections

While Echo pined into a shade,
Narcissus, by the water's shelf,
Met with a lurking death, and made
An alligator of himself.

Of many selves that meet in me
The meanest has the most persisted.
The one that joined the ARP
When half humanity enlisted.

A shifty and insidious ghost,
Of all my selves he is the one,
Though it's with him I meet the most,
I'd go the longest way to shun.

When manhood crests the full red stream
Of comradeship, and breasts the surge,
Dreaming a chilled amphibious dream,
He haunts the shadows by the verge.

Out of the mirror in hotels
He makes for me, but as I pass,
Recedes into their glazing wells
And leaves no ripples on the glass.

Along the windows of the shops,
And in the tankard's curving base,
I have surprised him as he drops
Into the void without a trace.

He shaves the surfaces; he snails
His sheeny track along the walls:
The windows seem a myriad scales
Through which an endless serpent crawls.

His form is one, his number legion:
He incubates in hushed platoons,
Denizens of the glassy region
And of the vitreous lagoons.

Each time I step into the street
I multiply his gliding swarms,
Along the panes to launch a fleet
Of bloodless and reptilian forms.

I know the scar upon his cheek,
His limp, his stare, his friendly smile –
Though human in his main physique,
Yet saurian in his lurking guile.

Well on this side of make-believe,
Though edging always to the flanks,
He wears my chevrons on his sleeve
As though he earned them in the ranks

In him, behind each sheet of glaze,
A Eunuch with a bowstring hides:
Under each film, with lidless gaze,
A sleepless alligator slides.

Within his heart, so chilled and squamous,
He knows I've but to sell my pride
To make him safe, and rich, and famous;
And he would fatten if I died.

In feigned petition from the sash
He swerves to me, and I from him:
But if one day you hear a splash,
You know he's fastened on a limb.

No ripple on the glassy frame
Will show you where a man was drowned;
But Echo, practising his Fame,
Will pine once more into a sound.

From *Talking Bronco* (1946)

Sergeant Roy Campbell (1901–57) was a South African who enlisted into the British Army. While training in guerrilla warfare against the Japanese Army, he was severely injured and, unfit for active service, was posted to the Intelligence Corps Depot in July 1942, thence to East Africa as a military censor and coast watcher. A member of the Bloomsbury Group that he later satirised, unusual for a leading poet in the 1930s, he supported General Franco's side in the Spanish Civil War for which he was called a fascist by Stephen Spender, Louis MacNeice and Hugh MacDiarmid. But he denounced Nazism in 1941 and, after the war, campaigned against the apartheid of his native country.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good morning from a sunny Scilly. Page three of the spring issue held two particular memories for me. The Ichabod song which I recall learning in the Maresfield NAAFI but which I cannot remember much more of now. It gave me a good laugh! Right beside that is the photo of the Maria Theresa thalers. I recognised them immediately because they were also used in Oman to pay agents, including providing extra coins for them to use themselves to buy info or gain access. I still have a couple and thought for a moment that the museum had nicked them.

David Duncan, April 2021

Thanks for the spring edition of *Sub Rosa*. As ever, a cracking good read. One small nitpick. My surname is spelt Jefferies not Jeffries. Don't worry, I have been fighting this for years and I once upset the RSM in Germany by not turning up for duty. When he phoned me to say why wasn't I there at Group HQ, I pointed out that I was Jefferies and not Jeffries. We had a Cpl Jeffries in the HQ at the time, so I claimed that SSgt Jeffries was not there as there was no other indication who it was. I got over to Gp HQ ready for duty and said that if my regimental number had been on the duty list, I could have been there, but I was peed off with having my surname misspelt. Making a point. RSM ensured me that it would not happen again, and an act of war was reduced to a minor parking offence.

Peter Jefferies, April 2021

The Corps has struck gold with the rescheduling of Corps Day to hit Templer's birthday. Templer was probably the last person from the Corps to get a St George's Chapel, Windsor funeral before that of the Colonel-in-Chief. Both were field marshals.

Templer was a Constable of the Tower at Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress the Tower of London from 1965 to 1970. The Corps has been punching above its weight there too. Templer, born 1898, hits 125 years in 2023. Then there is the Templer Study Centre at the National Army Museum (NAM). The Tower and NAM might offer opportunities for future events – ICA SLAM, FICM. The Page Turning service at St James Garlickbythe this morning was cancelled due to a Covid case. Will see what we can do for Page Turning on St James Day, Sunday 25th July, before St James closes till September.

Lester Hillman, July 2021

NOTICES AND NOTES FOR MEMBERS

Paul Croxson

(1936-2021)

FICM Trustee Paul Croxson, one of the founders of this charity, died recently after a long illness. A former national serviceman stationed with SIGINT, he was a prolific contributor to *Sub Rosa* and *The Rose and the Laurel*.

His 'Get Some In!' in the 2017 journal is a classic national service recollection. Paul's contribution to Corps history and heritage cannot be overstated. He is survived by his wife Pam. (CY)

Paul's full obituary will appear in the 2021 issue of The Rose and the Laurel.

EDITORIAL

Digital Doings

On the front page you can read about how the museum is getting along with the digital world, which for some fifteen months has been the only window into the marvellous exhibits and presentations that await the visitor. It is probably true that for most of the Friends, the online world came late into their lives while younger people gain a quicker affinity with virtuality. Therefore, the museum is lucky to have people of the demographic of Sarah and Gemma who are applying their resourceful expertise to a museum that first opened in the very different world of 1970.

As FICM's chair writes on this page, the Friends are also intent on getting a better place in the digital world, demonstrated by the successful new website and increased social media presence. All this is museum inclined, as it should be, and the reason for the Friends'

existence since 2011. Not least of the changes is that the days of filling in a paper enrolment form are over; by typing and clicking you can now join the Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum – from anywhere in the world. And people are doing just that.

We should also remember that the Friends are putting effort into pursuing their third objective, put in place a year ago, of supporting the history and heritage of the Intelligence Corps. Along with this, we stand four-square with the Intelligence Corps Association whose considerable financial and organisational muscle has furthered the Corps' history and heritage since the Second World War.

All this then, as we all keep up with what Edmund Spenser, in far-off 1596, called the 'ever-whirling wheel of change'.

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

UPDATE FOR MEMBERS *By Mike Palmer, Chair FICM*

Iwelcome this opportunity to update all Friends on the activities of the trustees during the past challenging year. Increased use of virtual meeting has enabled the trustees to both stay in touch and develop significant changes for FICM in this digital era.

The trust launched its upgraded website in early March. With eye-catching presentation, it is designed to be engaging and more informative about the trust and its activities. One important change has been the online enrolment facility which has been well received and encouragingly, very well used. I hope you can take the opportunity to see it for yourself at www.friendsintelligencemuseum.org

To complement the website changes, FICM is also updating its email facility. The inability to effectively communicate with Friends has long been a concern for the trustees. Over the past year, we have been identifying the most appropriate platform for good two-way communication within our trust. Further information will be sent to you shortly using the new system, the first step towards better dialogue between trustees and Friends.

The pandemic has forced two postponements of the ever-popular annual Lunch with Lecture held in London in April annually, and it is anticipated that the event will be reinstated in 2022. However, as more people become comfortable using forums such as Zoom and Teams, the trustees will look at taking some of these popular lectures online. This will make them less London-centric, thus more available to Friends throughout the United Kingdom, perhaps even throughout the world.

I hope the above encourages your belief that both FICM and the museum remain strong and positive about the future despite the past challenging year.

Two Additional Trustees sought

Finally, I invite all Friends to become more involved with the running of the trust. FICM is seeking two additional trustees, ideally from within the current membership. If there is one thing that we have learned over the past year, it is that technology can provide the platform and accessibility so that distance is no longer a barrier to teamwork and cohesiveness. Therefore, your residence in more outlying regions is not a barrier to your involvement as a trustee. Apart from additional trustees, FICM is also seeking support in specific areas. If you have expertise or knowledge, particularly in marketing, social media, editing and event-planning that could support FICM, I would like to discuss it with you, initially, purely fact-finding on your knowledge and your availability. If you have an interest in supporting FICM as either a trustee or as a 'guru'.

Please email me at chair:ficm@btmail.com ■



BRIXMIS operations

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