



Sub Rosa

Newsletter of the Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum



No.32, Summer 2022

THE ALAN EDWARDS AWARD 2022

The annual Alan Edwards Award is funded by FICM and awarded by the Intelligence Corps. It recognises individuals whose project fosters a better understanding of the diverse history and heritage of the Corps. The winner receives an inscribed memento, £200 and a year's complimentary membership of FICM.

The award was presented on Corps Day to four second lieutenants recently on the 18-week Officer Military Intelligence (OFMI) course at Chicksands, completed on 13 May 22. During their course, the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War was commemorated.



The OFMI were offered the opportunity to research the Corps role in the conflict and produce an essay to be published in the Corps journal, as well as being made available to all members of the Corps and the Corps family, acknowledging its role in the conflict, and preserving its understanding of those involved. These officers volunteered to carry out extensive research in their own time, concurrent with their OFMI workload – a sizable commitment given the intensity of the course and their relatively short service.

Through consultation with ICA, the Sam, Jonathon, Jack and Ralph identified several sources of research, including the personal accounts of retired personnel intimately linked to the Falklands War. Through research, cross-referencing, deliberation and armed with an investigatory approach, they were able to intelligently put together an essay that details the Corps role in the Falklands War. This paper will be preserved as a reflection of the Corps role in this historic victory for Britain told by those who were there. The Corps History and Heritage committee acknowledged the paper as an important capture of Corps history, something highly valued for such a young corps. ■

Chris Yates presents the award on Corps day at Chicksands.

INTELLIGENCE CORPS HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE

By Deputy Colonel Commandant OBE

Colonel (retd) Nick Fox

You may remember that I proposed to the Corps Council an appropriate Corps body to better co-ordinate the Corps' history and heritage. On 29 June 2022, I had the honour of chairing the inaugural meeting of the History & Heritage Steering Group (SG) consisting of representatives from Corps HQ, regulars, reserves and veterans, ICA, the museum, archive and FICM.

We agreed governance and confirmed its role to: 'promote, encourage and enable the collection, recording, dissemination and celebration of the Intelligence Corps history and heritage, for the benefit of the Corps family and the nation'.

Our working principles:

- All members of the Corps Family are part of our history and heritage and can contribute to it. *The ways and means to do so must be clear and simple.*
- All current and potential future members of the Corps Family and wider communities can benefit from our history and heritage. *It must therefore be accessible across appropriate platforms.*
- Contributions to the Corps' recorded history and its dissemination must take account of those elements which are sensitive. *Appropriate protocols are needed which enable rather than deter.*

We also recognised that there is a diverse range of activity linked to history and heritage across the Corps Family. The SG, with its wide representation, will provide the central focus for direction, guidance and continuity.

We also agreed a working group to implement action from, and report back to the SG. Chaired by the Corps Colonel, this will comprise all MI battalions and units in which Corps personnel serve. Others may be co-opted as required. ICA allocated a small budget, and the Disclosure warrant officer has updated advice to veterans writing their memoirs or contributing to other media about the Corps.

These new bodies will help us all develop a coherent, collective and sustained approach to the Corps' rich and varied heritage, not least by encouraging all of the Corps Family to fill the gaps in the museum and archive, and also supporting other ways of celebrating the Corps' ethos and achievements. ■

TEASER

What General wrote?

'There is a great deal of talk about loyalty from the bottom to the top. Loyalty from the top to the bottom is even more necessary and much less prevalent'
(Answer on p.6)

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Published April, August & December by Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum (FICM) (ISSN 2514-0461)

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Designed and printed by
Lemoll Design Ltd
8 Badgers Brook
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 3HB.

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(HMRC charity reg. no. XT32851)
Building 200, Chicksands
Bedfordshire, SG17 5PR

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www.friendsintelligencemuseum.org/

Affiliated with the Intelligence
Corps Association
www.roseandlaurel.uk/

Member, British Association of
Friends of Museums
www.bafm.co.uk/

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MEET OUR TWO NEW TRUSTEES

By Themselves

FICM



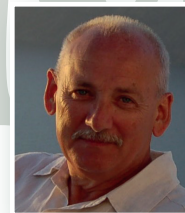
Colin Wright
Membership

Born in Belfast in 1960, I grew up in a divided society all too well known by the majority of those older former Corps members. My father had served in the Territorial Army prior to joining the Ulster Defence Regiment, and with a number of other family members having served in wars and conflicts from WWI to Aden and on to NI itself, it was not difficult to understand why I had an interest in joining up.

However, when at first I tried to join the Royal Ulster Constabulary I was informed that I was too vertically challenged, so it was off to the Ulster Defence Regiment. On transfer to the Corps at Ashford in Squad 107, I was released into the wild and 6 Int (PI) Coy, housed then at Joint Headquarters, 'the big house' Rheindahlen, and HQ British Army of the Rhine (HQ BAOR). From there I moved to a security section in Bielefeld, HQ 1 (BR) Corps. In October 1991, as a sergeant I was posted to the British Embassy, Warsaw before returning to NI in April 1994 as the Senior Roulement Intelligence NCO 3 Inf Bde. From November 1997 to December 1998, I served in Colchester, quickly followed by a move to Chicksands as a WOII and the Army Information Security Unit, addressing the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the mission-critical IT systems that held and processed classified information. April 2001 saw me appointed as the inaugural RSM of 4 MI Bn and in June 2003 I was commissioned, resigning in April 2005.

In December 2004, at the beginning of my resettlement I formed my holistic security company, Wright Security Ltd, and employ both my sons who are presently trying to regenerate work suspended or lost due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I have worked for a number of government departments as a cyber security consultant, and since 2013 have been contracted to the Royal Navy. Throughout the pandemic, my work for the Royal Navy continued mainly in preparation for the first operational deployment of the Queen Elizabeth Aircraft Carrier-led Strike Group 2021.

In 2019, on behalf of a team set up to care for a veteran, I accepted The Painter-Stainers Enterprise Trophy. I was invited to join them as a Liveryman, and since have also become a Freeman of the City of London. ■



John Condon
Trustee

The son of a career Royal Marine, I was born in Deal into a family with four generations of military service. Following A-Levels in the sciences, I worked initially in clinical pathology (biochemistry) but, tiring of biological fluids and post-mortems before lunch, changed career path and obtained a place at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester to study agricultural science. In 1969, while still at Cirencester, the family tradition of military service caught up with me and I enlisted in the Intelligence Corps.

I served two long tours in Northern Ireland. Between 1972 and 1975 I served on security intelligence duties with 11 Security Company in Cyprus, which period included the 1974 coup d'état and resulting Turkish invasion. I also served with the Joint Service Interrogation Wing (JSIW) at Ashford and was involved in interrogation training of, and exercises with Special Forces and abroad with several NATO countries. Following retirement from the army, I formed my own surveillance and investigation business, providing services to commerce, industry and the legal profession – mostly in the investigation of major insurance and commercial fraud.

In 1999, I formed the ICA's Northern Ireland region becoming its first regional secretary. In 2001, I started a project entitled 'In the Name of the Rose' to research and record all the casualties of the Intelligence Corps since its formation. The project took four years to complete and resulted in a manuscript which is the basis for the interactive module in the museum. I was appointed as a trustee of the Military Intelligence Museum in 2005 and elected as Chairman of the Board in 2008, serving in the role until 2015. With a passion for Corps heritage and history, I have been responsible for the conception and planning of a number of other projects. In 2003, I investigated the cases of three 'no known grave' Corps casualties of WWII and eventually located all three graves in the US, Netherlands and London, later preserved by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; I am currently working on two others. I conceived and planned the 2014 Corps Centenary and First World War ceremony at Bois Guillaume in France and the 'Return of the Madonna and Child' ceremony at Arras Cathedral in 2015. Most recently, I completed a master database of over 2,500 burial/commemoration sites of both serving and retired deceased members of the Corps in the UK and abroad. ■

UNUSUAL INTELLIGENCE TASKS FOR FIELD SECURITY SECTIONS

By Fred Judge

‘MAISONS DE TOLÉRANCE’

What follows are extracts from my ‘The History of the Field Security Sections’ (FSS) held in the Corps Archive, concerning the hazards experienced in obtaining intelligence and finding a safe place to lay one’s head. It would appear that brothels became objects of security appraisal more often than one would suppose. The reader will come across several references to such establishments in the book. Here are a few examples.

In Tripoli, 22 FSS’s Capt A.WE. Winlaw was given the unusual task of ‘organising’ all the brothels in the town. In his recollection, it was ‘... somewhat of an eye-opener for one so inexperienced in such matters. Montgomery had wisely decided that, after coming all the way from Alamein to the first heavily populated and civilised town en route, the troops would, not unnaturally, seek their own pleasures and relaxation, and he had therefore overcome his puritanical principles and decided to organise their pleasure rather than let them seek them on their own; accordingly, brothels were opened and supervised for officers, warrant officers and other ranks’. Shortly after this, Winlaw volunteered for SOE training and was eventually dropped into Greece. Whether his part-time job as a madam had anything to do with his change of duties is not known.

One unusual task was for 35 FSS to carry out vetting interviews of the ‘staff’ of a brothel in Salerno.

In Brussels, 98 FSS operated closely with the military police in hunting down deserters, many of whom were ‘lifted’ from cafes, clubs and brothels.

For 252 FSS, section informants ranged from the girls in the brothel area on the outskirts of Suez, to the more distinguished members of the French Club in Port Tewfik as well as certain ‘artistes’ in the casino there.

Handing over the Baalbek area to 20 FSS, 279 FSS, probably in January 1942, moved into Syria where it set up its HQ in Homs. Sgt Tagney established a detachment in Palmyra, 150 miles north of Damascus on the edge of the Syrian Desert. He rented a house and fitted it out with furniture from a hotel but was surprised at the number of mirrors in the house. Only later did he discover that it had been a brothel or, as the war diary notes tastefully, ‘une maison de tolérance’.

In another case, 355 FSS’s WO2 Reg Cambridge and Sgt Martin investigated the alleged sale of ammunition by British soldiers to prostitutes. As their enquiries necessitated them spending a lot of time in brothels, Cambridge persuaded his field security officer, Capt Les Masterson, to issue them with a certificate which stated that if they caught a venereal disease, the MO would be told that it was ‘caught in the line of duty’. There is another report, from Imphal, which describes how the section, together with 569 FSS, worked hard to make a brothel as comfortable as a billet. Really?

According to the Corps Archive, Sgt Armstrong of 594 FSS was involved in a case which led to the successful prosecution of a Japanese sympathiser, and a suspected agent named Turner who was an Anglo-Indian. The case was unusual in that the section was tasked to trace the source of VD infections which had become

rife in the area. Sgt Armstrong’s investigation led him to Turner. Strictly ‘in the course of duty’ Armstrong ‘became acquainted’ with Turner’s daughter, Cynthia, and subsequent enquiries revealed that Turner was in the habit of persuading British soldiers to visit certain brothels which employed badly diseased prostitutes. It was also discovered that he listened to Japanese broadcasts on his radio and persuaded local Indians to listen as well. He is believed to have been arrested and to have received a term of imprisonment.

One incident of note has come to light in 595 FSS. A large number of African men were brought to India as porters. On arriving there, things got out of hand, as there are records of them raping local women. GHQ was alarmed at this and Vic Malloys, on attachment to 595 from 594 FSS, and another sergeant, were despatched to Bombay to recruit sixteen prostitutes for ‘use’ by the Africans. It was suggested that this must have been the only time a brothel was run under field security supervision. It wasn’t. ‘Jake’ Jacobs recalls actually setting up a brothel in Eritrea in order to gather intelligence from the clientele. Not all members of FSS were squeaky clean and the reader will already have come across one or two instances of the world’s oldest profession being roped in to assist the world’s second oldest profession! One has to ask if the field security officer again acted as the madam.

And finally, in the Corps Archive’s account by G Scott, 1017 Field Service Rear Detachment in Arras was billeted in one of two former brothels. Shortly after their arrival, the madam of one of them arrived to tell the British that she had never given cause for dissatisfaction during the German occupation and she hoped this state of affairs would continue now that the British were once more in Arras. The section notes are silent on how this played out. ■

2021 Annual Financial Report

By Dave Farrell, Treasurer

The Friends began the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic with a current account balance of £10,088.74 and a deposit account balance of £8,041.32 making total funds of £18,130.06; we ended with a current account balance of £3,909.81 and £12,991.74 on deposit with total funds of £16,901.55.

2021 was another year of mainly printing and postage cost increases – and the loss of a key donor. The increasing costs were unlikely to be met by income other than subscriptions, so we asked members to increase their annual subscriptions to £20, if they could. Thanks to the majority who did so; also to those unable to increase subscriptions but who continue membership.

In 2021 FICM donated £308 to the museum for two Lenovo tablets for visitors to self-guide and £550 for two data loggers. Work on the new FICM website, which has been attracting new members, was completed with a final payment of £1,404.

Due to Covid-19, London Lunch with Lecture in May 2021 was postponed for twelve months. Ticket monies were either returned or rolled forwards as requested.

Thank you all for your support of the Friends especially to those who let us claim Gift Aid on subscriptions and donations; in 2020 we recovered £517.26 from HMRC.

Any questions: treasurer:ficm@yahoo.com

FRIENDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE CORPS MUSEUM			
CURRENT A/C NO. 11690947	Opening balance 10/1/21		
		£10,088.74	
FIXED TERM DEPOSIT A/C	Opened 10th December 2014		
		£12,991.74	
INCOME			EXPENDITURE
Events	£0.00	Printing	(£2,996.35)
Life Members	£1,534.60	Post/Stationery	£446.26
Annual Members	£3,123.77	Website	£1,591.44
Donations	£600.00	Events	£0.00
Other	£517.26	Donations	£568.52
Xfer from Dep Account	£0.00	Sub-Rosa Award	£0.00
		Other	£581.19
		Xfer to Dep Account	£5,491.90
	TOTAL INCOME	£5,775.53	TOTAL EXP
			£11,954.46
			FIXED TERM DEPOSIT
			£12,991.74
			CASH IN CURRENT ACCOUNT
			£3,909.81
			UNPRESENTED CHQS - see notes
			£0.00
		£28,856.01	which reconciles:
			£28,856.01
Unpresented cheques are:			

FIGHTING HEROES OF THE INTELLIGENCE CORPS NOS. 13 & 14

Capt L.W.A. Annis MBE & Sergeant R. Croft-Cooke BEM 29 Field Security Section during the British Invasion of Madagascar, May 1942

By Harry Fecitt MBE TD



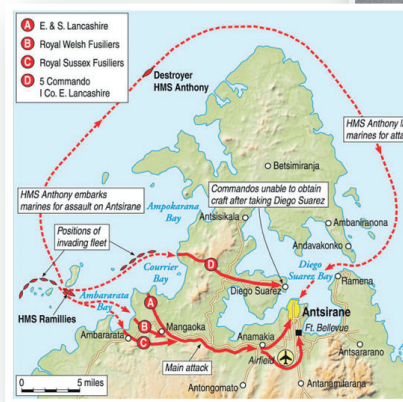
Diego Suarez harbour during
OPERATION IRONCLAD

Vichy French Madagascar

Following the successful German invasion of France in 1940, a new pro-Axis French government was formed at Vichy. The French colonial empire was expected to comply with directions from Vichy, and the governor of the large Indian Ocean island of Madagascar complied. When Japan entered the war in December 1941, Japanese naval units posed a threat in the Indian Ocean to vital shipping routes to South Africa and around the Cape to operational theatres in the Middle East and India. Madagascar assumed strategic importance.

Vichy French forces on Madagascar numbered about 8,000, consisting of French, Senegalese and indigenous Malagasy troops supported by 75 mm field artillery, coastal batteries and obsolete fighter aircraft and light bombers. Supported by powerful naval gunfire missions, plus air cover from two carriers, 121 Force British amphibious troops comprising three brigades and an Army Commando, landed near the principal Malagasy harbour of Diego Suarez in Op Ironclad. After initial stubborn resistance from the French, the Diego Suarez area was seized, but three Japanese submarines were subsequently active; two of them launched miniature submarines, one of which caused serious damage to two British naval vessels.

Most of 121 Force then proceeded to India, leaving 29 Independent Brigade along with its integral 29 Field Security Section, to garrison and pacify the captured area where enemy individuals were still active. The section contained two stalwart soldiers who fought at the sharp end whenever required. They were the commander, Capt Leslie William Anthony Annis, and



Sgt Rupert Croft-Cooke, who both received awards. Their citations describe their activities.

153090 Captain L.W.A. Annis MBE, Intelligence Corps

Diego Suarez, Madagascar. 5 May 1942 to 30 June 1942.

During the battle for Diego Suarez, this officer displayed considerable courage and initiative in pursuit of enemy snipers and in acquisition of intelligence. On the night of 5 and 6 May 1942, on his own initiative and accompanied by several of his men, he entered the Scama factory (5 kms south of Diego) although this was known to contain snipers and brought back the manager who gave valuable information regarding enemy dispositions. Since the occupation, he has not spared himself and has at all times carried out security duties with energy and skill. He especially distinguished himself during the period 1 to 10 June 1942 in the expedition which penetrated 400 kms into enemy occupied territory, and it was his initiative and skill and persistence which contributed largely to the capture of the German agent Rickeheer

and his companion general. At all times he has never allowed personal risk to deter him in his security duties and all his work has been of an exceptionally high order.

10350023 Sergeant Rupert Croft-Cooke BEM Intelligence Corps

Diego Suarez, Madagascar. 5 May 1942 to 30 June 1942.

This NCO has displayed outstanding skill, initiative and enthusiasm in security work both during and since the occupation of Diego Suarez. In particular, he distinguished himself in the expedition (1 to 10 June 1942) which penetrated some 400 kms into enemy occupied territory and by his persistence and enthusiasm contributed largely to the capture of the German agent Rickeheer and his companion general. His work throughout has been of an outstanding high order, and he has at all times put his security duties before personal considerations of discomfort.

Subsequently

The brigade moved on to India, entering Burma in February 1944 and fighting in that theatre for the remainder of the war. King's African Rifles and South African troops completed the conquest of Madagascar. Germany had an interest in the island, despite having agreed it to be within the Japanese sphere of influence. German ambitions, with some connivance from Vichy, were designed to move 4,000,000 Jews from Europe to the island under the Nazi Madagascar Plan, with the island being governed as a police state under the SS. But British naval dominance thwarted the plan and systematic genocide in Europe was chosen instead. ■

Senior Master Sergeant Don Beets By Tony Hetherington

The Corps' museum and archive have lost one of their long-standing active supporters, with the passing in May of Don Beets. Despite never having been a member of the Corps, Don could uniquely claim to have arrived at Chicksands before the Corps itself – and then never to have left.

Don was born into a farming family in Kansas and served for 26 years in the United States Air Force. After training as a radio operator, he soon moved closer to the intelligence world as a radio traffic analyst, with several postings to Chicksands during the decades that it was an American SIGINT base. He also served at RAF Kirknewton in Scotland, which from 1952 to 1966 accommodated a radio facility operated by the USAF Security Service. Like Chicksands, the Scottish base monitored Soviet Bloc transmissions, sending product on to the National Security Agency. It was during this posting that Don met and later married Margaret, his Scottish wife.



Don also saw the Cold War in close-up. In the autumn of 1962, he was on duty in Florida as Russian ships carrying nuclear missiles sailed towards Cuba before turning back and ending one of the closest hostile encounters between Moscow and the West. And Don was at the sharp end again a few years later, when he was posted to Da Nang in Vietnam, where his base came under attack by the Viet Cong. Don happened to be taking a shower as rockets began to land, was forced to leave the building and take cover stark naked.

Don and Margaret spent much of their married life in Letchworth with their two children. And in retirement he set up the USAF display in the museum. He embodied the common purpose of his adopted country and the country of his birth, often wearing a tie with the two flags linked. Don was a volunteer for the museum for more than 15 years (see *Sub Rosa* spring 2014). He will be missed.

FILM REVIEW

By Lester Hillman, SR's Drama Critic

Operation Mincemeat

This story of the spectacular British World War II deception is out as a Warner Bros film directed by John Madden, starring Colin Firth. It is a new interpretation of the 1956 film *The Man Who Never Was*. It has links to the Chicksands-based Intelligence Corps and associations that snake right up to the doors of the Military Intelligence Museum with its heritage story for visitors.

The Curzon Mayfair premiere was 12 April with general release 15 April. Launch dates have been jinxed, previously scheduled for January 2022 and then 22 April. It was then brought forward to Good Friday. The April release has offered heightened drama as it was in April 1943 that the events portrayed actually reached their climax.

For more than five years, the Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum have been ahead of the game, exploring the story. In 1943, Op Mincemeat was under the direction of Sir John Masterman, Int Corps. He headed the '20' or 'XX' Committee (i.e. 'double cross'). In July 2016, the museum acquired his medals and these are proudly on display at Chicksands (see SR No.15, 2016.)

Although Masterman features in the film, he gets squeezed out early on, in part making room for Ian Fleming with a nod to the future exotic spying gadgets of James Bond. This airbrushing even confuses a recent review of the film. The film launch has achieved a creditable clutch of articles and interest including one by Admiral Lord West. In the film the Intelligence Corps does manage a subtle walk-on part in a reference to author John Buchan, who served in World War I intelligence. The museum actually has a wartime Christmas dinner menu signed by Buchan. (See SR No. 14 2016). In the film, Lt Cdr Montagu reads Buchan's *The 39 Steps* to his son at bedtime and later there is endorsement of Buchan's writing.

In the last decade, the Friends have rolled out walks, articles and given lectures to other Priory organisations. A highly successful afternoon seminar and ration-book-inspired tea party was held on Saturday, 8 September 2017 for the Friends of the Chicksands Priory. Initiatives chimed with the 75th anniversary of the successful allied landings in Sicily 10 July 1943, the focus of the deception and a turning point in World War II. The locations around St Pancras, where key events played out in the early months of 1943, have been explored drawing upon FICM expertise. 'Intelligence Corps – The Musical', a West End production value offering by 'Spit Lip', was reviewed in *Sub Rosa* No. 26 Summer 2020. Such occasions are opportunities to publicise the museum, the Masterman medals acquisition and their display.



Alas, the new film does not include location shots of the St Pancras/King's Cross area. Fact and fiction are further entwined in a story line weaving in the German plans to assassinate Hitler. The film is based on the book of the same name by Ben Macintyre published in 2010 which drew upon material released since the 1956 film. Other previous portrayals included no fewer than three *Goon Shows* (1953–1958). Larry Stephens, a former WWII commando and one of the Goon's script writers, died in St Pancras Hospital in 1959. In an ironic twist, details of his death may have been reviewed by Sir Bentley Purchase who was still in post as the St Pancras coroner. Both hospital and coroner feature in the film.

Early on in the film, Montagu approaches the family home in the dark crossing a rather grand, paved Bedford Square. I had worked on the resurfacing and landscaping design which is still holding up well five decades on. Credits at the end of the film roll for a full 10 minutes. Alas, it was difficult to spot technical and military advisory acknowledgements, and reference to me or the sterling heritage assets seem not to have survived the cutting room.

Would I recommend the film? Normally I rarely go to the cinema. The 5 p.m. Sunday prelaunch London screening (£13.80 with pensioner discount) attracted a 25 per cent capacity audience of mixed ages. I enjoyed it and am glad I went. From a few casual and wildly unscientific enquiries coming out, general approval was confirmed. ■

TONY HETHERINGTON RETIRES AS TRUSTEE AFTER TEN YEARS

By Chris Yates

Asked how he would like to be remembered as Chair of the Friends (2015–2019), Tony said 'During my time FICM increased membership, raised tens of thousands of pounds for the museum and provided membership benefits such as Lunch with Lectures and the newsletter. I fondly remember working with others and building on the legacy of my predecessor, John Quenby.'

Tony recalls one occasion with pride. In 2016, he alone discovered that the John Masterman medals were being auctioned, obtained funding from the museum trustees to bid up to £10,000 and secured them for the museum (see *Sub Rosa*, Winter 2016). He nearly didn't make the auction owing to a train derailment, but in the end he (and, as it happened, your editor) were able to toast the medals in a London pub.

Tony lives in New Brighton, Wallasey, from where he'll continue his later-life career as ace investigator for the *Financial Mail on Sunday*.

LETTERS to the Editor

Thank you for another great Sub Rosa. Reading Fred's article on the Red AF, reminded me when Astrid Proll was arrested in North London in 1978. There was a campaign demanding her release which included posters on the Underground

The posters were many but the one that stuck in my mind declared 'Free Astrid Proll' in large letters, under which was an equally large sticker with additional words: 'With every packet of Daz'

David Elvy
April 2022

FREE
ASTRID
PROLL

WITH EVERY PACKET OF
DAZ

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT FORMER CORPS MEMBERS

*By Fred Judge,
Corps Historian*

The museum and archives frequently receive requests for information about former members of the Corps. These sometimes go back to WWI as well as WWII and subsequent conflicts. Since the beginning of this century, we have been trying to address the problem of identifying and isolating information relating to individual soldiers as well as the units in which they served. This has resulted in the compilation of quite a lot of databases. Their function is as repositories of information for family and other military historians and museums here and abroad.

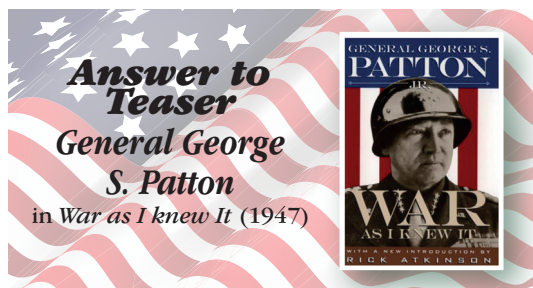
Information about those who have died and for whom we are trying to compile decent obituaries is of the greatest importance. Now that only a mere handful of those who served in WWII remains, the emphasis now lies on obtaining information about those who served well after the end of WWII. Unless they have already left their recollections in the archives, we now depend on former colleagues and family members to supply information in order that we may write decent, accurate obituaries.

Information about Corps members who joined up after 1960 would normally be held at HQ ICA, but only if they maintained their links to the Corps as members of ICA. Other personal records are held in the archives. These records are mainly the recollections of former members of the Corps who deposited an account of their service with us before they retired. There are now probably several hundred, if not a few thousand, with personal recollections dating from WWII to the present day. Outside of the Corps, the only other source of reliable information is the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. These records are available to family members at a cost of £30 (at the time of writing). Application can be made through the APC's own website or forms can be downloaded from the MOD Veterans' website.

Of course, many former members of the Corps went on to greater things in government, the arts, the City and theatre. A search of The London Gazette, The National Archives, Google and the national press will often produce much additional information. In addition, the Imperial War- and National Army Museums can sometimes produce interesting information, and we can access several links to other authorities, organisations and individuals which can be of use to us.

Until recently, all this work was carried out by a small bevy of volunteers under the direction of our archivist, Joyce Hutton. However, the pandemic put paid to much of this. We have also had to cope with the deaths of two of our long-term volunteers, not to mention the advancing senility of others, including me. I mention this aspect because somebody out there might like to offer his or her services to us. Younger blood is now essential.

If you are interested in offering your services as a volunteer researcher then get in touch with HQ ICA, Joyce or even me. I should add that both Joyce and I will be joining the ranks of retirees at the end of this year. ■



Getting Started in the Museum

By Nathan Doherty, Assistant Curator



I'm delighted to be the newest member of the Military Intelligence Museum (MIM) team. Starting just as the museum reopened to the public, I've got stuck into every aspect of working in a museum. Originally from Sheffield, I have enjoyed the adventure of moving to Bedford and settling into a quieter part of the country. I previously worked as a barista at a coffee shop, which gave me excellent tea- and coffee-making skills – a must for anyone getting started on the career ladder!

This is my first job in the museum sector, having completed a master's degree in Modern History and built up several years of voluntary experience in heritage. I have previously helped produce an exhibit on the impact of WWII on my local community at the Experience Barnsley Museum. I enjoyed being able to tell the story of how ordinary people came together to make extraordinary contributions on the home front. I also helped Sheffield Cathedral deliver its busy events and educational programme. Here, I got to work with a small passionate team of volunteers as we aimed to connect our local community to its heritage.

My fascination with British military history drew me to the opportunity to work at the MIM, having previously studied intelligence topics including the D-Day deception campaign. However, wartime diplomacy was my biggest focus in education; at university I completed two dissertations on British ambassadors during world wars. I have found the work of an intelligencer and an ambassador to be strikingly similar. An ambassador takes direction from the Foreign Office, collects information, seeks to understand what it means and then disseminates it back to the Foreign Office. Very similar to how the intelligence cycle operates.

Since I've joined the museum, I have had the opportunity to get hands-on with the reserve collection. I have helped identify objects and ensure they are being correctly placed onto the database. I also helped with the fundraiser for the mobile exhibition, including painting the trailer.

I have taken over the social media and digital content produced by the museum including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the museum's website. I have put together commemorative posts about the Falklands War, Berlin Airlift and



Roving exhibition trailer

UN involvement in Bosnia in 1992. The historian in me has loved the opportunity to cover a range of topics and I have found military intelligence to be an enticing lens to view the past through.

Recently, I started a research project on the British Security Coordination, a WWII intelligence organisation located in the United States. They were secret influencers who used propaganda to try and persuade the United States to join the war. The head of the organisation was a man named William Stephenson, one of the real-life people who inspired Ian Fleming's James Bond character. Starting here has also given me the chance to take part in a range of interesting training programmes. I have learnt about potential hazards in a museum's collection, the basics of museum fundraising and how to get the most out of the digital world. I also took part in a week-long curatorial training course at the National Army Museum. It gave me the opportunity to meet other people who are also just starting out in their careers, to exchange notes and ideas.

I'm excited to continue my journey here at the museum and do my part to bring ideas, passion and energy to the MIM. ■

Ben Hodges Returns to Help the Friends

Ben Hodges, a former trustee of the Friends, returns to give much-needed help with managing our Facebook and LinkedIn accounts. One of his tasks will be to post on Facebook items from the MIM account and contributors such as 'The Soldier Behind The Medals', a Facebook group managed by Mark Wilson, who is also a Friend. Other postings will be for original FICM material such as Lunch with Lectures, *Sub Rosa*, website enhancement and fundraising. Ben can't give the necessary time as a full trustee, therefore Mike Palmer will take his work to the board.

Helen Fry will continue to manage Twitter for the time being.

A Pair o' Blackbards

Yo're late, mi 'arbingers o'spring
Wi' t'song you share wi' me –
Coom! Peerk on' t' clooase-line! Mek id swing!
Or t'topmoast bronch o't'tree.

Aw'll noan 'owd yo're shy or skeered –
Yor song aw've waited fo',
An' evry moorn, baht fail, aw've peered
Through t'cart'ns, jus fo' yo.

Through t'winter months, s'cowd, s'drear,
Ah've bided fo' yor song,
An' neaw es Springtime's o' but 'ere,
Yo'll surely nod bi long!

Looak! T'primrooas pale 'n't daffidil!
're bravin' t'chill o't'morn,
Wek up! 'op clooas t't'winda'sill,
'ull noan feyl soa fo' loorn

Reause up, yo laggards, set t'wark!
Sing! Oppen wide yor throoats!
Join in wi'throastle, thrush an' lark
Yor silver sheawer o' nooates.

Fo't'last time, then, wull t' ged agate?
Wull't sing yor threbble part?
Aw've o'ready 'ed too long t'wait –
Id's time yo med a start!

Lancashire Evening Telegraph

3 June 1966



Sergeant Frederick Rose (1914-2007) was born in Blackburn and studied at Manchester University under the eminent historian, A.J.P. Taylor. During the Second World War, he served in the Intelligence Corps in Belgium and Germany. Later, he became an English teacher and was widely known as a published Lancashire-dialect poet under the pseudonym, 'Mick o'Pleasington'

Photo Lancashire Telegraph (2007).

Cromwell on the Eve of the Battle of Preston 1648

'Pitch camp lads!' cried Cromwell
Having crossed Ribble's banks;
'Keep powder in flasks dry,
And give the Lord thanks –
From Knaresbro' in Yorkshire
We've marched this long day,
Tomorrow to Preston
We'll be on our way!'

At the hall of the Shireburns
Near Hodder, he said,
I'll rap on the door
And I'll get me a bed
For I vow I am weary
And in need of repose.
But whether I'm welcome
The Lord only knows!'

He rapped on the door,
'Twas barred from within,
And he knew at the glance
From the varlet's sly grin
That some mischief was planned,
As he lay sound asleep,
By a sword or a dagger
Thrust into him deep.

And not for his cause,
So a bed he disdained
And a table he chose
Still wearing his armour,
He lay on it that night
With his sword in his left hand
And his pistol in right.

No murderers came
To disturb his repose,
But neither did sleep,
And at cock crow he rose
With his temper so vile,
That his Roundheads all said,
'Tis clear that our 'Ollie
Ain't slept in a bed!'

That morning to Preston
They hurried away,
And the table at Stonyhurst
Is there to this day.
Now you all must agree
That when put to the test,
That table was hardly
The best place to rest.

Lancashire Telegraph

18 September 1998

LETTERS *to the Editor*

Simon Diffey 1964–2022

I wish to take the opportunity to mark the death of Simon Diffey who was killed recently in a tragic road accident. Simon was a 'silent' friend of FICM who was especially involved in the creation of the newsletter, which I felt would be an essential cornerstone in the rebirth of FICM. We worked together on the first concepts of our newsletter for which the Sub Rosa masthead was quickly adopted.

Simon ran a small specialist print company where I was able to work on design and layout concepts, which I am pleased

to say seem to have withstood the test of time. He was a tremendous supporter of FICM and was enthusiastic in making sure that our cash-careful trust paid only the bare minimum of print costs, while enjoying access to all the online design facilities and house layout specialists at his disposal free of charge.

The loss of this true friend is noted with much sadness.

John Quenby, June 2022

Trustee Matters

- In May, trustees approved a donation of £1,123 for an exhibition tent and accessories to complement the museum's roving trailer.
- Colin Wright appointed trustee (see p. 2).
- John Condon appointed trustee (see p. 2).
- Tony Hetherington resigns as trustee (see p. 5).
- Tony Moore to manage FICM's membership of the British Association of Friends of Museums
- Mike Palmer continues to represent FICM as observer at MIM trustee meetings.
- Chris Yates represented FICM at the inaugural meeting of the Intelligence Corps History and Heritage Steering Group (see p. 1).
- Trustee meetings in 2022: 18 January, 17 May, 19 October.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Wednesday 8 July saw me at an ICA North-West region monthly meeting at 6 MI's Manchester premises, to which I had been kindly invited by the secretary, Mike Walker. Although I was there primarily to address members about another of my roles, that of editing *The Rose and The Laurel*, it was also a chance to promote the benefits of the Friends.

The wood-panelled all ranks mess delivered a fine dinner of stewed beef, mushrooms and broccoli supplied by the cookhouse. Of the members present, I had a fascinating chat with a gentleman, clutching a glass of red, who had served in the Corp HQ in Brussels in 1945 as part of the British Liberation Army. But as the evening wore on and the ranks of ICA members thinned, I wondered when I was to speak. Finally, well past 9 p.m., in trooped thirty or so uniformed men and women of 6 MI who had just finished an evening's training. It was to be them I was to address and I had to quickly alter my preparation from extolling the virtues of the R&L to centenarians, to that of a sea of expectant young faces.

As I went through my piece, my mind drifted a little and those faces seemed to become my own and those of my own comrades-in-arms, serving in the early Sixties as part of the army of the Rhine. Whatever I said they seemed polite enough about it, and their OIC generously said a few words of thanks. It left me with the feeling that those of us in volunteer work out of Chicksands don't often get the chance to encounter the young people who make up most of the Corps. To address those youngsters fresh from that evening's training was a not to be forgotten privilege, perhaps supporting in a small part what the Roman military expert, Vegetius, wrote in AD 378: 'The courage of a soldier is heightened by knowledge of his profession'. ■

Lunch with Lecture 2022

By Tony Moore, Board Secretary

On Monday 23 May, twenty-three Friends gathered in the El Alamein Room at the Victory Services Club in London for Lunch with Lecture.

Mike Palmer, Chair of FICM, introduced the event and provided an update on FICM activities and specifically thanked members for their overwhelmingly positive response to the increase in subscription rates. He also thanked ICA for their part-sponsorship of the event, which has helped to offset the cost.

The main talk was by Paul Rimmer, a former senior civil servant who retired in 2020 from the post of Deputy Chief of Defence Intelligence. Paul was a civil servant for 37 years, two-thirds of them in the intelligence field. He felt that Defence Intelligence (DI) is presently in a strong position, due to the situation in Ukraine, and mentioned how the use of intelligence was changing, citing twice-daily updates, which can be viewed by searching MOD tweets.

Paul mentioned situations in theatres as varied as Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, Mali, and Sierra Leone in which he had been involved in DI, emphasising how intelligence should be used to influence better-informed policy decisions and stressed the need for co-operation between DI and other operational staffs, rather than the former working in a vacuum.

Saying, 'It's nice to see you all here today to listen to a talk on a subject which ought to be intrinsically uninteresting', he concluded with a quote from Sir Rodric Braithwaite, JIC Chairman 1992-93: 'The subject of intelligence attracts attention out of proportion to its real importance. My theory is that this is because secrets are like sex. Most of us think that others get more than we do. Some of us cannot have enough of either. Both encourage fantasy. Both send the press into a feeding frenzy. All this distorts sensible discussion'.

Following the talk, Friends had the chance to chat with one another whilst enjoying an excellent three-course meal. Thanks to Dave Farrell and Mike Cooksey for organising such a successful event.

At the recent trustee meeting, it was decided to set up a trustee sub-committee to review how future events, such as Lunch with Lecture, should be run. If you have any thoughts, please send them in. ■



Date for Your Diary FICM Lunch with Lectures 2023

Thursday
20 April 2023
Victory Services Club,
London

We revert to our original programme of two speakers, before and after lunch. They will be
Deputy Col Comdt Col (ret'd) Nick Fox
Helen Fry, Celebrated Military Historian

For registration and payment details, look out for emails and your winter issue of *Sub Rosa*.