



Sub Rosa

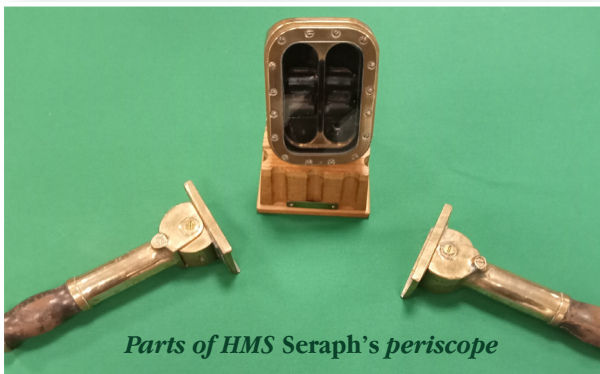
Newsletter of the Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum



No.34, Spring 2023

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE MUSEUM'S NEWEST EXHIBIT

By Nathan Doherty, Assistant Curator



Parts of HMS Seraph's periscope

I began to hunt for objects from other museums which we could acquire on loan. It's common for museums to loan artefacts to each other and most national museums have online collection databases which offered me an excellent place to start looking.

One search term I used when scrolling through databases was Operation Mincemeat, the Allied deception operation where a dead body was released near the Spanish coast. The body carried fake documents which were used to trick Nazi Germany into believing

the Allies planned to attack Greece in the summer of 1943, instead of Sicily. This led me to the discovery that artefacts from HMS Seraph were spread across a couple of different museums. It was the submarine that released the body and took part in a number of other intelligence operations during the Second World War.

I then set about finding the HMS Seraph artefacts that would be available for us to borrow. I discovered that the head and handles of the submarine's periscope as well as the honours' board were available from the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN). It was then time to arrange the loan with the NMRN. Unfortunately for me, this involved stacks and stacks of paperwork. A museum loaning an artefact to another needs an in-depth understanding of their conservation practices, environmental conditions, security situation, insurance details and a host of other documents. After a month of going back and forth with NMRN's loan team, we were finally able to collect our new treasures. We travelled down to Portsmouth, the home of the NMRN, on 6 February and returned with the periscope and honours' board. ■ **Continued on page 2**

I think the project which excites any new assistant curator the most is working on their first exhibit. Writing about it for the Friends' newsletter is, of course, not far behind. My project brief was simple. It was time to refresh our temporary exhibition space with a display that uses our Second World War Norton motorcycle. The motorcycle is on a long-term loan from the National Army Museum and was part of the Intelligence Corps' 80th anniversary commemoration exhibit. So, what next for our artefact?

I began looking for Second World War events, with upcoming anniversaries, in which motorcycles were used for intelligence purposes. I quickly discovered that the 80th anniversary of the invasion of Sicily and Italy is in 2023. The use of motorcycles by the field security sections during this campaign led me to settle on 'Intelligence During the Italy Campaign' as my debut exhibit for the MIM.

The next step was finding additional artefacts to tell the intelligence stories of the campaign. Unfortunately, our collection is light on artefacts from Italy and those we do have are already used in other displays. Undeterred,

MEET THE NEW CORPS HISTORIAN!

Col (retd)
Eric Mercer MiD
Interviewed by Chris Yates

'The happenstance of a career'

It was a cold February day when Eric and I met at the ICA offices in Chicksands. Before we even sat down, the Corps Secretary surprisingly whisked us off to one of the regular Wednesday mornings when HQ



Int Corps meet informally for tea, cake and natter in the boardroom. No sooner had we entered than Eric became engaged in conversation with Capt 'Philly' Forget, HQ's adjutant. In a sense, Eric went straight into interview mode as he reflected with her on his own time as Corps Adjutant at Ashford – a mere 47 years ago. After a while, I didn't exactly drag him away but for now he was mine, not theirs.

Back in ICA, I asked him to talk a little of his early life: 'I was born in Plymouth in 1947. Dad was a window cleaner who had been with 4 Commando in Normandy. Despite our humble home life, for secondary school I was lucky enough to receive a scholarship to attend Plymouth College'. Here, he started a lifelong love of rugby and as fly-half captained the school and county; even had a trial for England.

■ **Continued on page 2**



Honours board from HMS Seraph

What's inside?

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TEASER

What English lieutenant general said this?

'On becoming soldiers, we have not ceased to be citizens'

(Answer on p.3)

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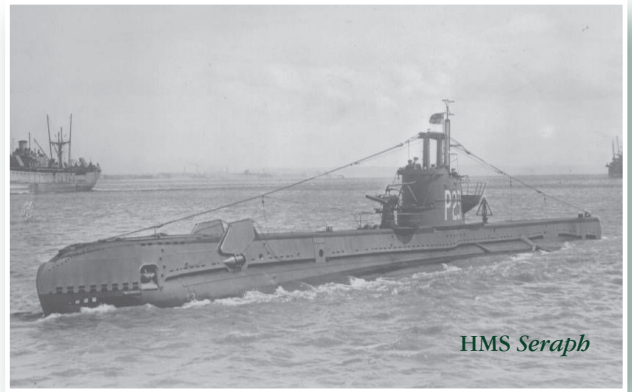
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BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE MUSEUM'S NEWEST EXHIBITION *Continued from p. 1*

The installation of an exhibit takes time, with a lot of planning, decorating and building needed to bring it to life. Ours took a full week but by the end of it we were satisfied it had been a week well spent. HMS *Seraph's* artefacts have their own display case so that we'd have the space to tell the full story of the secret submarine. We created separated display panels for Operation Mincemeat, doing justice to a story that has gained its own place in popular imagination. The motorcycle then completes the exhibit by helping to tell the story of the field security units and the invasion of Sicily. ■



To see the new exhibition book a visit before 1 December.

MEET THE NEW CORPS HISTORIAN!

Continued from p. 1

His first job was as a civil servant at Scotland Yard where rugby continued to sustain him and it was there that he started thinking about the armed services but only if he could play, yes, rugby. He got interested in the army – mostly to play rugby – and went to Mons Officer Cadet School in 1967 and began a three-year short service commission with the subalterns' course for the Intelligence Corps.

His first posting got him to BAOR where he represented them at rugby, once playing against, and this was the Cold War of the late 1960s, Romania. From then until his departure from the army in 1999, Eric rose to colonel working at home and abroad in a variety of posts. (Cautionary note, this is not Eric's full CV but a few of his postings picked out.) 'My best job was in Berlin as OC 3 Int & Sy Coy 1985 to 87: a fascinating professional experience'. Before and after that there was the Army Staff College, the Falkland Islands, 8 Detachment, Northern Ireland twice (receiving an MiD) and CO Intelligence & Sy Gp (Volunteers) the last 'An interesting and enjoyable job with over 450 volunteers throughout the UK; these days there are more than twice that number.' Another assignment that got him talking with enthusiasm was his promotion in 1988 to lieutenant colonel to the wonderfully named Concepts Division at MoD, where 'As the intelligence focus, I assisted in preparing papers for the Defence Board that took scenarios of warfighting forwards ten to twenty-five years.'

In answer to my request for a photo he said, with a sparkle in his eye: 'In 1992, I accompanied the Commander 1 (BR) Corps on a visit to Russia and Kyrgyzstan to meet the latter's defence minister. I was presented with a Russian officer's hat and made an honorary member of the Kyrgyzstan 8 Guards 'Paniflov' Motor Rifle Division, which had been a Soviet motor rifle division at the Battle of Moscow in 1941-42.'

Eric finished his military career at Brussels as 2IC of a multinational programme called Battlefield Information

Collection and Exploitation Systems but stayed on as a civilian until 2013. Interestingly, he received the Albanian Medal for Distinguished Service for 'assistance and advice' given to the Albanian military intelligence community.

Since 2018 he has been toiling as a volunteer in the

Intelligence Corps Archive where he was strongly encouraged to become the next corps historian, and last year he agreed. Many readers will know that the retiring historian was Fred Judge (see the 2022 winter issue of *Sub Rosa*). Referring to Fred, Eric says it all: 'I have massive shoes to fill'. Of his new role, he says it's 'To maintain the archive's continuing ability to help others learn about the Corps within appropriate boundaries, showing the professionalism of the Corps.' One well-received initiative he organised for the volunteer community was the first post-Covid Christmas party. That was at Henlow in December and many thanks to him for a smashing convivial festive do.

Parallel with what Eric calls the 'happenstance of his career', he married Jill in 1974 and they have two children and three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way; they live in Buckinghamshire. Eric claims that his life and career has been a result of a blend of happening and circumstance, that he did not intentionally set out to do all that he did. Well, your interviewer thinks he is selling himself a little short. Let's see what size shoes he leaves behind for his own successor.



Thanks for speaking to *Sub Rosa*! ■

No. 24318503 Staff Sergeant Roger David Marshall BEM A COLD WAR HERO

By Harry Fecitt MBE TD

The Cold War in Africa - During the Cold War, the confrontation between the Western Powers led by the United States of America, and the Soviet Bloc and its allies, Africa with its mineral wealth was a main area of conflict.

In June 1960, Belgium gave independence to its massive territory in central Africa which is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Crisis followed crisis as Western-backed political initiatives failed, and in 1964, Stanleyville, now named Kisangani, was occupied by Soviet-supported rebel forces who enjoyed physically harming Europeans who had remained in the territory; many of these Europeans worked in religious missions. The USA, through its Central Intelligence Agency, intervened directly by employing anti-communist Cuban pilots plus mercenaries, principally recruited in South Africa and Belgium. The Soviets infiltrated communist Cubans, including the legendary Che Guevara, into the Congo to assist the rebels but the USA-backed forces won the day. Russia was not going to lose through lack of effective force again.

In April 1974, the Carnation Revolution in Portugal quickly led to Portuguese African territories becoming independent. Angola was the largest such territory and its fossil fuel holdings and strategic location on the Atlantic coastline led to warfare between the regional power, apartheid South Africa, and communist Cuban troops supported by Russia. Cuban aircraft and armour proved decisive in halting a serious South African incursion into Angola, and the South Africans chose to withdraw into what is now Namibia.

In Ethiopia in September 1974, disgruntled military officers who named themselves the Derg staged a coup and overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie. The Derg then established Ethiopia as a Marxist-Leninist state. Various anti-Derg groups rebelled, including Eritrean separatists fighting for their own independence. Soviet, East German, Cuban and Libyan forces were flown in to support Derg activities.

Starting in 1983, a two-year famine and failed Derg economic policies led to increased popular support for the rebels.

The Derg dissolved itself in 1987, forming a successor government named the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia controlled by the Workers' Party of Ethiopia. Shortly afterwards, Russia commenced withdrawal from involvement in Ethiopia and in May 1991 the rebels won the war. This civil war is estimated to have caused the deaths of 1,400,000 people, 1,000,000 of them famine victims.

In November 1984, the Royal Air Force sent six Hercules C-130 aircraft to assist in the famine disaster-relief operation, the crews making four to five sorties a day in difficult conditions, operating out of Addis Ababa airport. As can be seen in the citation below, SSgt Roger David Marshall, Intelligence Corps, made a significant contribution to the understanding of what was happening in Ethiopia at that time.

CITATION FOR BEM

(National Archives reference WO 373/180/113. Originally classified SECRET UK EYES A.)

SSgt Marshall was posted to the Special Intelligence Wing in August 1983 as a surveillance instructor. This followed an intensive tour on special duties in Northern Ireland for which he was Mentioned in Despatches. Since his arrival, SSgt Marshall's work has been of a very high standard, demonstrating particular qualities of initiative, resource and individual responsibility.

In November 1984, at very short notice, Special Intelligence Wing were called upon to provide a field intelligence NCO to carry out highly sensitive intelligence-gathering operations in Ethiopia under the direction of the Defence Intelligence Staff. Although he had no direct experience of such work, SSgt Marshall was selected on the basis of his personal qualities. His task was to use the cover of an air despatch NCO, deployed with



the Royal Air Force detachment in Ethiopia, to collect de visu [visual] information and intelligence on local and overseas forces deployed in-country. Within his overall directive, he has worked entirely at his own initiative in conditions of very high political sensitivity.

SSgt Marshall has now completed three deployments to Ethiopia, the first of which necessitated the postponement of his marriage. He has collected a wealth of highly available information on Soviet, Polish, East German, Cuban, Libyan and Ethiopian forces and equipment. His detailed reports have made a contribution to the Defence Intelligence Staff product out of all proportion to that which could have reasonably been expected of one man. Moreover, he has demonstrated outstanding levels of professionalism, tact and diplomacy in completing his task without causing embarrassment and has achieved the maximum possible exploitation of his role, given the necessary political constraints upon him.

In every way, SSgt Marshall has been a credit to his Corps and the army, and his performance has been above and beyond all expectations. He richly deserves recognition.

Recommended on 1 April 1985 by Lt Col C.D. Parr, SO1 Special Intelligence Wing. ■

*Answer to Teaser
'Old Ironsides', Lieutenant
General of Cavalry
Oliver Cromwell
Address to Parliament, 1647*



The Art of Intelligence

By Steve Williams



Chicksands acrylic composite, discussed with Curator Bill Steadman during my visit to Chicksands, incorporating Military Intelligence Museum, Chicksands Priory, Intelligence Corps in combat, Intelligence Corps crest, field operative, Bletchley Park, Trent Park House, 3-D reconnaissance viewer, the Elephant Cage.

From my schooldays I have always enjoyed painting as did my two brothers; my younger brother Stuart and I shared time with the Police Service, and Stuart has a painting picturing Sir Edward Henry, pioneer of the fingerprint department, displayed at New Scotland Yard where Stuart worked. The three of us have been self-taught Liverpool artists, with me attending the now-famous Liverpool College of Art where I was in my first year as Lennon and McCartney were in their final year.



GCHQ acrylic composite, incorporating suggestions of Benball, Bude, Menwith Hill, Scarborough, Cheltenham, Oakley, Bletchley Park, Colossus at Bletchley. The 6 relates to Hut 6 at BP. 1919 was the year GC&CS began. WW1 interception and cryptanalysis. Figure is Tony Sale.



Trent Park acrylic composite, incorporating suggestions of Trent Park House, The White House, Latimer House, The M Room, Secret Listeners, Intelligence Corps badge, main gate, V-2 rocket, Thomas Joseph Kendrick, German generals in conversation. Persecution of Jews (Yellow Star).

Also, as an avid reader, my leaning was toward intelligence writing, both fact and fiction, with fact quickly becoming of more interest. This eventually led me to visit Bletchley Park where in 2009 I met General Manager Kelsey Griffin and CEO Simon Greenish. Kelsey, in conversation, said she was interested in having a painting of the Mansion to hang in the Grand Dining Room, and so my intelligence art began. As the Park was struggling for funding, I offered to produce several paintings along the theme of intelligence in WWII.

Over the next few years, funding to the Park from my paintings grew to around £85,000 from sales of paintings, postcards and stamps. I met several intelligence-related people through this work, including Lynn Philip Hodgson, who had set up a Camp X (SOE training camp) museum on that site on the shores of Lake Ontario.

Contacts via Bletchley also invited me to produce paintings for a related government office in London, which I enjoyed greatly, and other related work for that department, including Christmas cards with an intelligence twist.

Through Mark Birdsall and Debbie McDonald, *Eye Spy Intelligence Magazine* was helpful to me in the direction of intelligence matters.

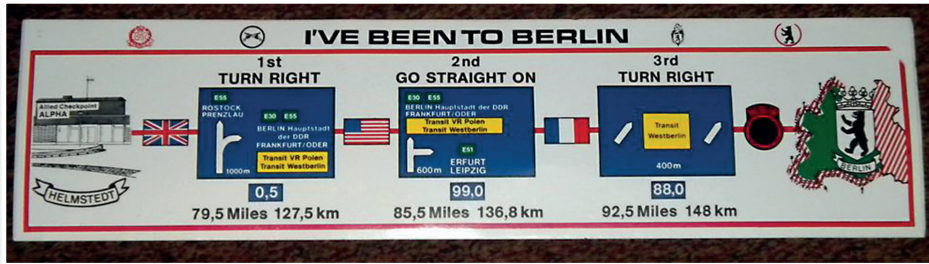
For some years now, I have tutored art groups and societies around the North West, where I offer tutoring in all mediums, with acrylic and pastel being favourites of mine.

For my personal pleasure, I have completed composite paintings comprising the histories of GCHQ and Trent Park. The latter was after speaking with Dr Helen Fry, who agreed to find a home for the paintings which turned out to be the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands, where they now hang.

From Helen, I heard of FICM and promptly became a member. This is my potted intelligence-painting history. I've enjoyed working on these paintings and am privileged to see them displayed in such a fine museum. ■

Up and Down the Berlin Road Corridor

By Tony Moore



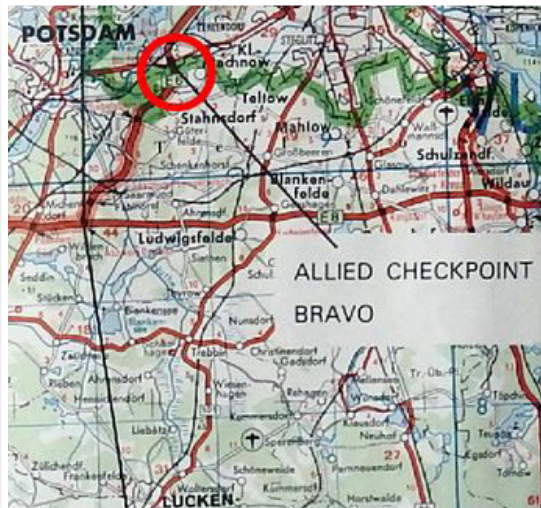
I made a trip to Denmark in 1975 as part of 13th Signal Regiment's adventure training initiative for young sergeants. Organise something, somewhere, and do it! I got three willing volunteers and elected to go to Denmark to fish the waters around Silkeborg that were world championship level. The logistics, catering and administration, including two British travel documents (BTD) - one for Taff and me, who would travel in one car, and the other for Keith and Tom, who would travel in another car – were soon sorted. Sadly, soon before we were due to depart, Tom pulled out on compassionate grounds, needing a change to Keith's documentation. Additional preparation, in the form of the purchase of spirits and cigarettes – purely for bartering purposes – was made and loaded in my car.

Despite having at least 800 cigarettes in the car, I had none with me as I approached the Soviet sentry at Checkpoint Bravo on the way out of Berlin. Obviously, he asked me if I had any cigarettes. I could not go back to the car, so said no. I ensured however that, at the other end, I had several packets stuffed in my waistband, should the same question arise. On approaching the sentry, he asked for lighters! I have cigarettes, I said, no, lighters were what was wanted – again I was frustrated. More was to come in that at the Danish border, their customs were displeased at the excess amounts of spirits and tobacco I had – duty had to be paid!

A good few days' fishing followed, but I ensured that I bought some disposable lighters in Silkeborg. On the return journey, I approached the Soviet sentry at Checkpoint Alpha with cigarettes in my waistband, lighters in my pockets and thought I was well set; surely, a furry hat or sturdy leather belt would shortly be mine. The sentry bluntly asked for *Playboy* and was not interested in any tobacco or associated products. At the other end, I didn't even bother with anything, nor was I asked for anything by the sentry. Potential trade with the sentries on all future trips through the corridor was put on hold.

Some may say the Soviet sentries were not very bright; I believe the opposite, that they were well educated and competent in two or three languages. On one occasion I responded perhaps a little too quickly to the sentry's invitation in Russian to proceed to their checkpoint building, to hand in my BTD. Whilst I was inside, he approached the front window and spoke to the staff inside stating, in German, that I understood Russian – which I heard and understood. I would be surprised if my knowledge of Russian was a major surprise to them but shone a light on the ability of the sentry.

Another tale concerns a journey back to Berlin in 1981, after announcing my wife's pregnancy in person to our respective parents, the first to carry my family name on my side, and a first, and only, grandchild for her parents. Reporting to Checkpoint Alpha at Helmstedt, I noticed that there was a French driver just ahead of me and, as I returned to my car, an American entered the building. The drive was uneventful until about two thirds of the way there, when I became aware of the lack of other



traffic in both directions. At some points, I could see a car in front of me, presumably the French one, and one behind, logically the American. Then I noticed that the slip roads were blocked by Vopos, stopping local traffic from joining. At this point, I became a little concerned, though remembered they had no authority over us – officially. Having passed the town of Brandenburg, I saw 'blues and twos' on the opposite carriageway at high speed, followed by a cavalcade of large, black limousines and more police behind. Soon after that, the Vopos reopened the road and traffic slowly returned to normal and the rest of the journey proceeded without incident, although I did make a report at Checkpoint Bravo. Getting home, and tuning in to East German television, I learned that the East German head of state, Erich

Honecker, had travelled to Brandenburg that afternoon; it was his cavalcade we had seen and that had closed the autobahn.

My final tale is more poignant. Most of my drives through the corridor in the mid-1970s were made in my flame-orange Ford Capri Mk II. The majority of East Germans drove – if they had a car – the famous Trabant, likely in cream or off-white. I distinctly remember, as I slowed to make the first of the three interchanges on the trip from Berlin, such a Trabbie pulling past me. Dad was driving, Mum beside him in the passenger seat, both looking steadfastly forwards. In the back, however, were two young children staring at my car, noses pressed against the side window. I hope that, when they were older, they could set their sights on something better than a Trabbie. That hope may have been realised as, on trips in East Germany after 1989, it seems the locals had either renovated their houses or had a Mercedes or BMW in the driveway.



I was a direct entrant in Squad 29 serving 1969–1994 and elected to become an AN(SI). My first posting to Germany included a year in Berlin and I subsequently undertook Russian language training, spending three further tours in Berlin, leaving in July 1989 just months before the Wall fell. ■

OUR NEWEST TRUSTEE

By Andrew 'Andy' Harrison, Trustee (Website)

Do you remember when you first visited the Intelligence Corps Museum? I joined the regular Corps in 1986 and, whilst I'm sure that we would have been taken there during either our basic or trade training, I have absolutely no memory of that! I do, however, recall manning the museum when I later returned to Ashford in on my Drill & Duties 2 course. We hosted the local Scout pack for a day of military activities; I suspect they all preferred the assault course.

The next time I visited the museum would have been during a four-year stint at Chicksands with the Army Information Security Unit. I may even have made it into the museum twice.

'So what?' I hear you cry. Well, two, maybe three visits to the museum over a 24-year career (TA and regular) seems poor to me. Do you recall when you last visited the museum? Shouldn't we visit and support the museum as often as we can?

But why? As well as maintaining our connections with the past, it helps us to learn from the successes and failures of our predecessors and apply those lessons to the future. Intelligence operations are now firmly embedded in the military, but they are also now found across other government agencies and the commercial world. 'Threat intelligence' is now a big part of the cybersecurity world. And if we can't learn, then we can at least take inspiration from those that have been tested in conflict.

I feel that we should ensure that we have a museum which celebrates the achievements of intelligence over the years, provides a vehicle that allows us to learn and allows us to plot the progress as intelligence activities develop. To that end I have joined the growing ranks of the Friends of the Intelligence Corps Museum which I believe all Corps members should support. For my sins, I have also agreed to become a trustee and take on the website management role.

I've been out of the Corps circuit for



some time now, especially since the commercial company that I worked for closed its office in Vauxhall which, for some inexplicable reason (I suspect snobbery), was always referred to as the 'Southbank office'! However, I have not lost my military ties and, wearing another hat, I am also a committed conservationist and bird-lover (no tittering at the back, please). I am a volunteer surveyor for the British Trust for Ornithology and, on a more military theme, a committee member for the Army Ornithological Society (AOS). Military personnel tend to make good birdwatchers and surveyors (must be all



those OP duties) and it's a bit lonely as the only Corps member of the AOS.

So, let's drum up more support for FICM and, if you also have an interest in conservation and birdwatching, please consider joining the AOS too!

I look forward to meeting many of you while performing my new duties. ■

FROM THE ARCHIVE

The Renegade Miss Bingham

by Richard Harper

Recently I have been reviewing the hundreds of Corps Field Security Section and other unit files. I found an article from a January 1999 *Sunday Times* magazine, attached to a typed note with the words 'In today's ST. At least it pinpoints where 427 FSS was on 30 Mar 1945'. I think the story illustrates that mundane issues still had to be dealt with when Europe was going through the most enormous upheaval.

The ST article had been written to coincide with the release of *Tea with Mussolini*, by Franco Zeffirelli, a story of several English women living in Florence before and during the war.

Records list 114 men and women living in Italy after the outbreak of war, classified as 'renegade British subjects'. A letter with this list warns that 'some of these individuals may have committed acts which will render them liable to prosecution



under Defence Regulations or the Treachery Act. They should therefore be arrested and detained'. One of the ladies who appeared on this list was a certain Miss Bingham, born in London in 1893 of an English mother and a Peruvian father (an ex-president of Peru), and who had settled in Italy in 1925 'because of her dislike of the English climate'. At the outbreak of war she was interned in San Gimignano. Witnesses during this internment stated that Miss Bingham 'had worn a Fascist badge and given Fascist salutes'. After release in 1944 and returning to Florence, she: 'manifested pro-British and anti-Italian sentiments, which have bordered on the hysterical'. The investigating officer was in 427 FSS. A detailed report on his findings was submitted in the form of a letter by a brigadier with HQ 15th Army Group. The letter ends: 'This office is of the opinion that Subject does not constitute any security threat. In view however of the adverse report on her it has been deemed advisable to order Subject to report weekly to 427 FS Section (Florence) and not to leave Florence without permission from that Section'.

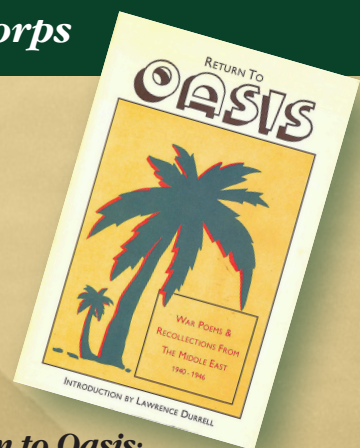
No one knows what happened to Miss Bingham but presumably the climate persuaded her to stay in Italy. ■

(First appeared in *Sub Rosa*, No. 13, spring 2016)

To an Unseen Child

Your notion of Daddy is still a bit dim,
Though Mummy has told you a lot about him!
I'm sorry I have to be so far away,
But I'm doing my best to work for the day
When I help you to learn all those beautiful words
Like seaside and swimming and mountains and birds,
My hope and my prayer are that you never may
Give some words the meaning that we use today,
You'll think of brick walls when you hear the word mortar,
And tanks will be vessels for storing up water,
A line will be something you use with a rod,
And shelling mean taking the peas from a pod,
If this can come true I shall think it worthwhile
To have spent so much time in the land of the Nile.

Sidney Stainthorp 1943



**From *Return to Oasis:*
War Poems and Recollections
from the Middle East
1940–1946
published in 1980**

Sergeant (commissioned rank n/k) Sidney Stainthorp (1915–70) was a customs and excise officer who volunteered in January 1940, trained in the Royal Armoured Corps, went to the Middle East as a sergeant and was commissioned there. He was in the Intelligence Corps in Benghazi. This poem was written in 1943 and he managed to see his child for the first time in 1945.

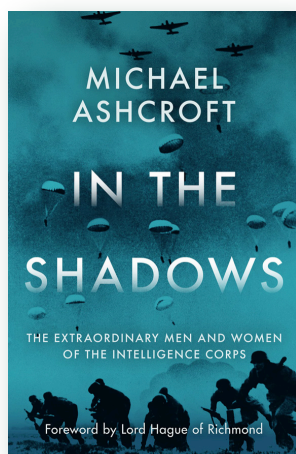
THE STORY OF A BOOK

In the Shadows: The Extraordinary Men and Women of the Intelligence Corps by Michael Ashcroft

By John Condon, Trustee (History & Heritage)

In 2019, Brig (ret'd) Brian Parritt wrote a draft paper on the development of the Intelligence Corps and sent it for comment to several ex-directors of the Corps. When Maj Gen (ret'd) Mick Laurie read it, he realised that it could provide the basis for an inspiring book on the Corps. Not a standard regimental history but rather one which spotlighted the role and contribution of individual Corps officers and soldiers who had achieved notable things, and which would illustrate the specialist skills, adaptability and resourcefulness of the Corps in the face of conventional and asymmetric warfare. As General Mick described it: 'The story of ordinary men and women who joined the Corps and achieved extraordinary things'.

And so, Project Rose was born. At General Mick's suggestion, Lord Michael Ashcroft, KCMG (Vice Patron of the museum) agreed to produce and publish the book. During the early stages I was asked to be the Historical & Research Co-ordinator for the project, to provide historical context, liaison with the many individual story contributors – serving and veteran members of the Corps – and selection of the final content. Appeals broadcast from HQ Int Corps and ICA resulted in a wealth of material, ranging from the birth of the Corps in 1914 through to Iraq and Afghanistan and lots



in between. Where possible, stories highlighting all the Corps' skills (plus some extra-mural activities) were covered. Early in the research, I formed an advisory committee of four Corps veteran stalwarts – Col (ret'd) Nick Fox, Lt Col (ret'd) Alfie Knought, Maj (ret'd) Tony Hall and former WOII Fred Judge – to assist me with aspects of the Cold War and Northern Ireland. Their input was to prove vital.

Despite research delays caused by the Covid pandemic, the project steamed ahead for the next two years. The final title was agreed as the book took shape.

It was launched on 15 November 2022 at the Banqueting Hall in Westminster. Several hundred guests, including many serving and veteran members of the Corps, the families of some of our recent conflict casualties and assorted political and media personalities, listened to Lord Ashcroft's stirring

acknowledgement of the Corps and its role in keeping Britain safe.

And the icing on the cake. In February 2023, *In the Shadows* won the Best Non-Fiction book award at the 2022 Parliamentary Book Awards. ■

TRUSTEE MATTERS

- Andy Harrison takes responsibility for the website
- Dave Farrell attends MIM trustee meeting as observer
- Trustees prepare for the 2023 Lunch with Lectures
- FICM leaves British Association of Friends of Museums
- Helen Fry's ongoing support for new museum's website
- Tony Moore resigns as board secretary
- Chris Yates appointed board secretary
- Trustee meetings for 2023: 17 January, 20 June and 17 October

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SUB ROSA three times a year



<https://friendsintelligencemuseum.org>
To enrol online

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

In much less than a year, the board of trustees have seen a whirlwind of movement, most notably from three new incoming trustees, all former Corps members.

This month's newsletter sees articles by two of these newbies: John Condon, a former chair of the museum trustees, writes of his supporting work on Lord Michael Ashcroft's book on the Corps; Andy Harrison, of no less than the Army Ornithological Society, now looking after FICM's website, introduces himself.

In the winter issue, the third newbie, Colin Wright, wrote of his work-to-be in raising membership numbers. We said goodbye to Tony Moore after his five years as the board secretary and yours truly came back onto the board after a few months flapping in the wind. The new faces, seemingly much younger-looking than others, are going to make a big difference to the way that this charity serves the museum and Corps history and heritage. Still under the untiring leadership of Mike Palmer, the Friends can look forward to a good future.

Not least of the gems that you may perhaps have read by the time you've got to the back page, is the article straight from the curating staff's mouth, providing another aspect to the ever-fascinating story of Operation Mincemeat and describing new artefacts you can go and look at in the museum. There's another Hero of the Intelligence Corps from the seemingly inexhaustible pen of Harry Fecitt; a fascinating Cold War recollection by the Tony Moore named above; look below and see proof that the board has at least one nationally famous person in Helen Fry; and Richard Harper's gently written story of Miss Bingham, the subject of a field security section investigation in the time of Mussolini.

There are two other pieces that I hope make this issue one to savour: on page 4, the artist Steve Williams puts words to his three beautiful composite paintings of the Intelligence Corps; not least is the heart-rending poem of a wartime Intelligence Corps soldier to the child, 'Your notion of Daddy is still a bit dim', he has not yet clapped eyes on. Reminds me a little of my own 19-year-old father who went up a French beach on 6 June 1944, a fortnight after I was born. Luckily, my notion of my Dad was not to be dimmed, even by the German shrapnel that brought him home for convalescence before he headed to India, back into the fray. ■

FICM TRUSTEE WINS ...

Woman of the Year Award

Our trustee, Dr Helen Fry, was amongst the 400 women recognised for their achievements at the 2022 Women of the Year Lunch & Awards in central London last October.

She continues to be active and passionate in bringing the Corps' history to life. She has appeared recently in a number of documentaries: *Secrets of the Spies* (ITV); *The Real Spies Among Friends* (ITVX); *No Place Like Home* (C5) with Fern Britton filming at Latimer House; and *Secrets of the London Underground* (C5).

Her new book *Women in Intelligence: The Hidden History of Two World Wars* comes out this September. ■

