

25 May 2017

Visit to Reform Club and History Seminar

Visit to Reform Club The BOD, together with the Defence Electronic History Society and Cryptos (a group focused on military history at the Reform Club) arranged a visit to the Reform Club (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reform_Club) together with a History Seminar on Friday 12 May. John Stubbington organized the UK Chapter visit and his report follows.

The Reform Club Cryptos Society, under the Chairmanship of Arnold Rosen, had created a full day event with a variety of speakers to address topics related to Signals Intelligence from pre-WW1 to the end of WW2. One of the purposes was to include speakers from the AOC UK Chapter and the DEHS. Sadly, the two speakers from DEHS were forced to withdraw for serious medical and other reasons. The morning was devoted to the two replacement speakers, both veterans of Bletchley Park and Whaddon Hall; John Croft CBE with personal experience of the Soviet Comintern cipher decrypts and Geoffrey Pidgeon as an operator/supervisor with the SIS Section VIII wartime radio communications service connecting the Park's military ULTRA traffic with commanders in the field.

The afternoon talks were from John Gallehawk, speaking about the post-war contribution by Bill Tutte to scientific advances. During WW2, Bill had been closely credited with the successful decryption of the Lorenz SZ40/42 cipher machine; this machine had 12 wheels; Enigma had 4 wheels. His solution was entirely theoretical; he had no sight of the actual machine. That was one of the most outstanding successes of the war and hardly recognised because of the intense security. John Stubbington then spoke about the Admiralty Room 40 during WW1; the inter-war signals intelligence activities; and then the Bletchley Park Headlines as used by Winston Churchill during WW2. Churchill was usually in receipt of that high-grade intelligence before his chiefs of staff and field commanders and was very aware of the senior Whitehall personalities and their conflicts – the 'prejudices and intrigues' within the corridors of power. The final talk was by Arnold Rosen speaking about the extensive compromise of the Special Operations Executive in Holland by the German Abwehr. Mistakes made in London were utterly at variance with the basic principles of security. Of fifty four agents parachuted into Holland, only seven survived; and the RAF lost twelve aircraft on those missions.

In the final plenary session, Arnold spoke about the impromptu briefing given to Cryptos about the contentious issue of WMD in Iraq and the related 'dodgy dossier' at the time when this was about the hottest subject. Some of the Cabinet Office email traffic was discussed, now available in The National Archives. Throughout the day, each subject gave rise to varied questions from within an audience which included people actually involved with those activities.



The Reform Club Library before the event began. There were about 100 attendees at the Club; 10 from the UK Chapter, 30 from DEHS and 60 as members of Cryptos and guests.

48 Aerosystems Course Award 48 ASC members graduated at RAF Cranwell on 21 April 2017. There will be a 12 month break while the syllabus is updated to reflect changing requirements and with emphasis on training systems trials officers. The course will re-convene in 2018/2019 at Boscombe Down, according to the Aries Society.



The photographs show 48 ASC members and staff and Wing Commander Phil Davies RAF (Retd), a UK Chapter Board Member, presenting Sergeant Kristian (Kris) Moody with a cheque and chapter commendation. Sgt Kris was selected as Aries Prize Winner for his project titled "Offensive Air Operations in a Low and Multi-band Radar Supported Threat Systems Environment". Hopefully Kris will be able to join us at one of our meetings to brief on his project.

AOC EW London 6-8 June 2017 UK Chapter BOD members and other volunteers will be at Olympia for EW London. The AOC booth is Stand 6 by the entrance lifts. Be sure to come say hello if you are visiting, exhibiting or attending the conference. We are particularly keen to recruit more members and are grateful for any help in that direction.

New Articles Jacey Wise MBE has provided a new article "Radar and Radio Events" – many thanks John for your prodigious and prestigious contributions, of which this is his 40th. Don't be shy – please feel free to contribute an article to the UK Chapter. As a reminder these articles are only available as attachments to UK Chapter Newsletters – they are not posted on our website. Any views contained in them are the author's alone. **To potential New Authors – don't be shy!** The UK Chapter membership and BOD includes many world class professionals and many of them are distinguished writers in their own fields and on a wide variety of media. All of them are very happy to encourage new thinkers, writers and creative folk and to help them polish their work. So, please don't be shy – send your articles and let us work together to benefit the field of EW, cyber and EM manoeuvre operations.

AOC Memberships Benefits – Webinars Chapter members can access the AOC's Live Virtual series of cutting edge webinars as well as the on-demand Virtual Series of presentations. Simply log onto the home page at www.crows.org and click on the webinar of interest. You can also access back-issues of JED - click on the "Publications" Tab then "JED" for more information.

NATO Senior Officers' Joint EW Course The NATO Staff Officers' EW Course (SOJEWEC) is run, on behalf of the NATO EW Advisory Committee, by Chapter member David Palmer OBE and UK Chapter Vice President Chris Howe MBE. The course has been run since 1999, and over 325 students have completed the training, from 11 NATO nations, 7 PfP nations and a number of NATO commands and organisations.



58th SOJEWEC course members and staff

The 56th running of the course, held at Stevenage, has just completed, and included our own membership director Ian Fish among the students. It featured our President, John Clifford OBE as a guest lecturer.

Finally That's all folks. I've listed a few dates below, where you might consider joining us and the wider AOC community in 2017. Remember, the UK Chapter is all about you, so please stay engaged and let the Board know what you want. Feedback is always welcome; otherwise we operate in a vacuum. We need more diverse and young members to become actively involved in what the Chapter does – any ideas are most welcome. In particular, please send ideas about recognising suitable individuals or organisations for AOC and/or UK Chapter awards. We are particularly keen on encouraging apprentices in industry, academics and serving personnel learning new EW-related skills.

John Clifford OBE
UK Chapter President

SOME DATES FOR YOUR 2017 DIARY

AOC EW Europe 2017 6-8 June 2017, Olympia Conference Centre, London. www.eweuropa.com

15TH EOIR & 8th RF EW Classified Conference 19-23 June 2017, Shrivenham. Further information: <https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/events/symposia/ewct>

DSEI Excel London 2017 – 12-15 September 2017 www.dsei.co.uk/

Visit to 30 Cdo Y Sqn Stonehouse Barracks Plymouth Date **September TBC** 2017

Visit to 11 EOD Regiment, RAF Northolt, Date TBD 2017

Check out our website at www.ukaoc.org

You can also check out **career opportunities** there too, by clicking on the Home Page "**EW Job Vacancies**" button.