

Bletchley Park and the Enigma Machine

A report by Alan Lee on a talk by Audrey Wind

SHORTLY AFTER THE END OF WWI, Arthur Scherbius, a German inventor, developed a rotary electro-mechanical enciphering machine for commercial use, thus Enigma was born. This was later removed from sale, modified and used widely by the German armed forces.

In 1932 Poland was determined to break Enigma's codes. They were helped a great deal by receiving, via the French, documents stolen by a German cipher clerk given the code name ASCHE (Ashes). He was later discovered, arrested and shot for his treachery in 1943.

By 1933 the Poles had broken Enigma and had invented a machine, named

Bomba, after the ice cream, to assist them.

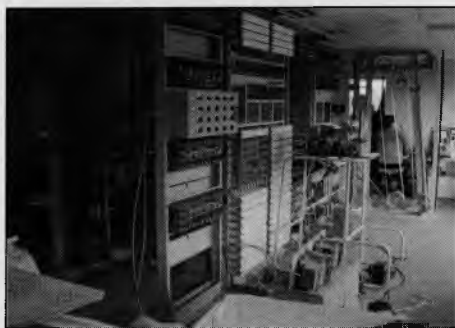
The Germans had by 1939 increased the sophistication of Enigma which at the time stopped further analysis of the codes. Fearing the worst the Poles handed over their secret research to



Enigma Machine



Lorenz Machine



Colossus - world's first electronic computer

the British and the French.

At that time Bletchley Park was the world's first large scale codebreaking centre, Britain's best kept secret and Churchill's secret passion; he called the codebreakers there the *geese that laid the golden eggs that never cackled*. By 1940 they were using their own *Bombe* machines to crack the codes.

About 8,500 people worked at Bletchley during WWII in total secrecy and were sworn never to reveal details of the work there and it was not until 30 years after the war that these secrets came to light. One couple who married kept the secret from each other, longer than the 30



Bletchley Park House

years, not even telling each other they worked at Bletchley.

Ultra was the name given to Allied Intelligence obtained from cryptanalysis. This played an important role in many major battles, most critically in the battle of the Atlantic.

Being one of those engaged in the secret Ultra work Audrey let us into some

fascinating details of her time there with plenty of personal stories to enliven the talk. She bought along an Enigma machine in a wooden case and many books on the subject.

The members present were entertained by a most enlightening talk on a most unusual subject. Many congratulations go to Audrey.

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The work of the **PLANNING** *Sub-Committee*

Report by
JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

The news that Connaught Barracks could soon be transformed into a carbon neutral "eco-village" with local building materials and solar panels (etc) by English Partnerships and EcoCities would be a breath-taking follow-up to Dover's victorious anti-Open Prison campaign. Dover would become even more famous. Bearing in mind, however, the years-long gaps between proposals and fruitions - witness, for example, DTIZ and Asda, the Slip Road from the Eastern Docks, an alternative to Operation Stack, the opening of the White Cliffs Business Park Phase 2, the widening of the Crabble Road junction, a visible start to the transformation of Buckland Paper Mill ... one may be forgiven for crossing one's fingers.

Although not quite on the same scale, Dover's impatience with the continuing uncertainties on the future of Buckland Hospital has been emphatically expressed as was concern for the future of Connaught Barracks. We trust that the two portable

buildings to be erected on the Health Centre site are not the eventual answer. In the same context we are pleased to have taken part in the successful Dover-wide condemnation of the proposed Burlington House Megaposter. We also note that, after more years of waiting, the conversions of the United Reformed Church, the Salvation Army Citadel and the Churchill Club into housing are at last visibly proceeding.

As to the Harbour Board's 30-Year Plan, our reservations, notably about the Wellington Dock, which, as already in Hythe, Southampton and Chatham etc, could offer superior quayside housing with marina mooring alongside, have been strongly, expressed and acknowledged.

We have sent vivid pictures of litter behind Biggin Street, outside the Telephone Exchange, Effingham Passage, etc to Dover District Council's Environmental Protection Officer and await her response. We also await DDC's Development Control Manager's response to our photographic evidence of unauthorised building at Rix Scaffolding in 2006.

We congratulate Dover Town Council on the impending new Pavilion at the Western Heights Sports Ground.

We hope that the Transportation Study may eventually materialize.

We have to admit that the Dover Earthquake was not the fault of Town, District, County or even Regional Councils.