

Secretary's Annual Report 2007/08

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that I submit my second report for the year just ended.

During the year we held 10 regular meetings:-

April 2007	Trevor Davenport gave a very informative illustrated talk outlining the interpretation of Aerial wartime photographs of Alderney.
May 2007	Dr Gilly Carr gave a very interesting talk entitled 'Occupation Trench Art and Narratives of War'
June 2007	Michael Ginns MBE took members around the flak Batteries in St Ouen. The weather was windy to say the least!
July 2007	Martin Walton lead an excellent ramble around L'Etacq including a visit to the privately owned 670 casemate and tunnel complex - Thank you Chris
Aug 2007	A great daytrip to Maisy, Crisbecq and Azeville, the first day trip for a long time - thank you Paul for organising
Oct 2007	An excellent talk by Peter Tabb, previewing his new book it is hoped will be published in the Spring of 2008
Nov 2007	An enlightening talk by Bob le Sueur talking about Insurance during the occupation
Dec 2007	A very enjoyable (if poorly attended!) archives evening.
Jan 2008	David Maindonald gave a comprehensive slide show comparing fortification photographs taken in Guernsey 25 years ago to the same locations today.
Feb 2008	A German newsreel film was shown and our first 50:50 book sale raised £85 for the CIOS.

As usual all the indoor meetings were followed by refreshments ably provided by Dave and Odette Gardner, with helpers, to whom all thirsty members are extremely grateful.

The CI Occupation Review for 2007 was published in Jersey and on time as usual, thank you Matthew for an excellent review including the memories of Engelbert Hoppe (The M19 Commander in 1944). Engelbert was here in May and has some wonderful stories to tell, we are anticipating his return in 2008 - let us hope we are able to benefit from his visits for many more years to come.

Matthew must also be congratulated for another publication launched only a month later at a special reception held at the Noirmont Command bunker and attended by 20+ visitors from Guernsey, this was the first of a new series of guide booklets and featured Batterie Lothringen. The production is fantastic and the price enables us to inform even more tourists. Thanks also to UK member Dave Williams who greatly assisted with the production of this.

We have also seen articles published from members in 24Seven and the Armourer magazine. Also a new guidebook has been published in German by *Deutsche Atlantik Wall Archive* ("Dawa") and features most of the fortifications in our care.

Openings have been made of the Noirmont Command Bunker every week during the season. This, together with the dedication of members who open

the other sites in our care, has seen an increase in our income from bunker openings. If you would like to help in restoration or manning the door or bookstalls, please speak to any member of the Committees or members involved. All those that open our fortifications will confirm how rewarding it is to speak with tourists, locals and other visitors about their favourite hobby!

In February 2007 further excavations at the Sechsschartenturm bunker at La Corbière took place under Malcolm Amy's supervision and this will be fully opened this coming season and we will see the launch of our second guide book in May covering the Corbiere headland.

During 2007 a number of fortifications were again "threatened" by development and your committee has made a number of representations to our planning department to ensure our interests are taken into account.

Mention also needs to be made of the recent loan of a Char B tank used in Jersey and currently on loan for the summer to the Jersey War Tunnels from Bovington Tank Museum. it is quite an impressive beast and I can recommend a visit.

In the later part of 2007 there was extensive adverse media coverage of both national and local WWII re-enactment activities; this was the very situation that was anticipated at the 2006 AGM when a decision was taken by the membership not to include these activities as a part of the CIOS remit. We need to be vigilant in 2008 to ensure our status and reputation as a serious historical organisation is maintained. This is particularly important in the context of our relationship with those representatives of the States of Jersey who are responsible for the island's fortifications, and have entrusted them to our care.

Donations – During the last year we have received a number of donations/loans, including an MG34 for display at Noirmont and a selection of Documents, photographs, pictures relating to Mr & Mrs Fish interred at Wurtzach.

Our photobank has increased during the year - more are welcome, especially if you have any pictures during the 1940's/50's.

Membership peaked at nearly 500 during the year but fell back slightly, as a few did not renew or have sadly passed away (27). However, these have largely been replaced by new members and we end the year with a total of 487 one more than last year! Your committee is recommending that the annual subscription remains at the following levels: Single member £15 p.a., Couple £22.50, Junior (under 16) £11.25, Family £22.50 (plus £6.00 for each child), Overseas (not inc UK) Members EUR30/US\$30/£20.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has helped during the past year, and who may not have been mentioned by name. We have great plans for 2008 and we hope to see you at our planned events throughout the coming year.

Jeremy Hamon
Secretary
01 March 2008