

Secretary's Annual Report 2008/09

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:-

Apr 2008	Dr Gilly Carr gave us an interesting talk entitled 'The Archaeology of Occupation and the V-sign Campaign'.
May 2008	Paul Bernal gave us a very detailed talk on the M19 Fortress Mortar
June 2008	Michael Ginns MBE took a large number of members on a ramble around Batterie Roon visiting M10 and M10a, by kind permission of the owners.
July 2008	Martin Walton lead an excellent ramble visiting St Aubin's Fort.
Aug 2008	A great daytrip following the US Airborne route - thank you Paul for organising.
Sep 2008	Michael Ginns MBE took us through a fascinating miscellaneous selection of his slides.
Oct 2007	A detailed talk by Matthew Costard looking at the post war Norwegian use of German Fortifications.
Nov 2007	A very enjoyable (if poorly attended again!) archives evening.
Jan 2009	David Maindonald gave a comprehensive slide show comparing fortification photographs taken in Alderney 25 years ago to the same locations today.
Feb 2009	Colin Isherwood made a welcome return as a speaker and gave a comprehensive talk on the German Road system.

As usual all the indoor meetings were followed by refreshments ably provided by Noel Le Fondre, with helpers, to whom all thirsty members are extremely grateful.

The CI Occupation Review for 2008 was published in Guernsey..... and on time.

Matthew must be congratulated for the publication of the second of the series of guide booklets and featured Strongpoint Corbiere. 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 on the Occupation in Jersey in 'Britain at War', 'the Armourer' and the French 'Batailles' magazines during the year. In April, member Richard le Tissier published a book entitled Mined where you walk - an illustrated history of the German Occupation of Sark 1940-45.

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 a steady 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!

During 2008 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. Paul has also received permission, after a huge amount of work and lobbying to excavate the Westwall type 101v bunker at Noirmont Point, this will be happening in the near future.

In October, after nearly two years of effort by Matthew, R.N. Richtfeuer has its plaque explaining the significance of the 4.7cm loophole emplaced in the tourism office.

Donations – During the last year we have received a number of donations/loans, including 2 shell cases from an anti aircraft battery in St Ouen from David le Maistre.

Our photobank has increased during the year, thanks especially to Michael whose slides are slowly being copied to electronic media and Mr Marshall for his Alderney slides from the 1970's - more are welcome, especially if you have any pictures during the 1940's/50's.

Membership ended the year at 459, including 14 new members, During the year 54 did not renew and six members have passed away, these included some names from the early years of the CIOS; George Drew, John Le Bas, Bill Burt, Dr Hill and Fred Zimmer, Fred was a regular attendee over the years and always showed an keen interest in mechanical & Volkswagen related material.

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 EUR25/US\$25/£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 2009 and we hope to see you at our planned events throughout the coming year.



Jeremy Hamon
Secretary
01 March 2009