

Secretaries Report 2009/10



Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen

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

During the year we held 10 regular meetings:-

Apr 2009	David Chapman gave a talk on Methodism during the Occupation to tie in with his book published at the same time.
May 2009	A successful archives day at the War Tunnels which coincided with the publication of the 2009 annual Review. Our annual dinner was held on 9 th May 2009 in the Lighthouse Restaurant at La Corbiere. We were once again joined by Engelbert Hoppe.
June 2009	Martin Walton led a very interesting and damp walk to the lesser known batterie Mackensen at St Martin.
July 2009	Paul Bernal lead an excellent ramble visiting Rozel Fort. Two tranches of visitors were guided around the fascinating and largely undiscovered fort, which has had a significant amount of renovation works undertaken by the enthusiastic owner.
July 2009	A great weekend trip to the St Nazaire area, covering the Resistance Museum at St Marcel, the grand blockhouse at Batz-Sur-Mer and the U-boat bunkers at St Nazaire organised by Paul Bernal - thank you Paul!
Sep 2009	"German Optics - an Introduction" – an excellent lecture given by Neil Walker.
Oct 2009	A further selection of slides covering the German Railways with fascinating commentary by Michael Ginns MBE,
Nov 2009	A very enjoyable lecture on banking during the Occupation delivered by Mrs Mary Gibb.
Jan 2010	David Maindonald gave a comprehensive slide show covering the little known subject of telephone and exchange bunkers.
Feb 2010	A superb Cold (it was 2°C) War bunker visit organised by Mark Lamerton and ably given by Michael Long. I must say that the visit was like a time warp with a lot of 1960's/70's material still in situ..

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 2009 was published in Jersey and on time as usual. Thank you, Matthew, for an excellent Review including the post-war memories of Engelbert Hoppe (the M19 Commander in 1944). The third guide booklet covering the St Aubin's bay shoreline defences was not published in 2009, but work on the book is well in hand, and we do anticipate that it will appear shortly..

The Noirmont Command Bunker has opened 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 the restoration or by manning the door or bookstalls, please speak to any member of the Committees, or other 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 the later stages of 2009, Paul Bernal achieved a first – mains electricity, which is now available at the Noirmont Command Bunker and Tower. Paul has also carried out the excavation of the Type 101v personnel bunker at Noirmont, gaining entry in February 2010. The bunker is in excellent internal condition, complete with a rare mural, doors and even the original red lino floor covering!

During 2009 a number of fortifications were again "threatened" by development, and Matthew Costard, on behalf of your Committee, has made representations to our Planning Department to ensure that our interests are taken into account. The Plemont and Living Legend sites have been of particular concern; the architects of the Plemont development have given assurances that the bunkers will not be disturbed, but we have yet to see what will happen in the case of the Living Legend where it has been proposed to demolish the top (ground) floor of the pSSI listed Type 609 Fortress Commander's Bunker to make way for housing!

Visit our website www.ciosjersey.org.uk

Donations – During the last year we have received a number of donations/loans, including a number of photographs and slides, a manikin and a 1944 aerial Photograph.

During 2009 Colin Isherwood took on the position of archivist, Colin has made great progress with this vital role and has a number of ideas and initiatives that are likely to roll out over the next few years. I must also take time to thank long standing member, John Germain, for so ably covering this role during the past few years.

In April we had a visit from Tony Robinson of Time Team. He was really impressed by the fortifications in our care and showed great enthusiasm for our activities.

October saw the publication by the Jersey War Tunnels of Michael Ginns's definitive book on the occupation of Jersey. Entitled "Jersey Occupied 1940-45", the book runs to 540 pages and will be the standard reference volume on the Occupation for historians and enthusiasts alike

Membership ended the year at 454, including 29 new members; during the year 42 did not renew, some of these sadly passing away.

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.

I had a number of enquiries regarding the late issuance of membership cards in 2009, and must advise that this delay was, in turn, due to the delay in implementing the incorporation changes. I am looking to produce press out cards for 2010, which will be despatched after the AGM.

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 2010 and we hope to see you at our events throughout the coming year.



Jeremy Hamon
Secretary
01 March 2010

Visit our website www.ciosjersey.org.uk