

Secretary's Annual Report 2010/11

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen

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

During the year we held 10 regular meetings:-

Apr 2010	Tunnels - A fascinating selection of slides and talk by Michael Ginns MBE. We were further grateful to have the moving testimony of two people who had visited HO2 at the time of the tragic deaths of the two boys in 1962.
May 2010	Members were treated to a fascinating talk by Mark Lamerton – 'Liberation: the first 12 hours'. Our annual dinner was held on 8th May 2010 at the Monterey Hotel. Thanks to Noel for organising a well-attended dinner.
June 2010	Paul organised a great day trip to Guernsey so we could see recent restoration progress in our neighbouring island. Thanks to the CIOS (Guernsey), Festung Guernsey and Richard Heaume.
July 2010	Fantastic ramble around Batterie Seydlitz. Thanks to Colin for organising and to Oscar Chevalier for giving us access to his land and providing some fabulous insights into life during the Occupation in this area.
Aug 2010	Archives day at Noirmont point – WOW! Hundreds of people came to see the various displays. A very successful event – one we will be repeating in 2011. Thanks to all who helped, in particular Colin Isherwood, Neil Walker, Martin Walton and of course 'Mr Noirmont' (Paul Bernal).
Sep 2010	A very interesting talk on De Gaulle's short visit to Jersey en-route to London in 1940 by Robin Pallot.
Oct 2010	'French Tanks - an overview of their development 1917-40, their use in Jersey as runners and as fixed fortifications (turrets)' - An illustrated talk by Jeremy Hamon.
Nov 2010	'Flak and rangefinding' – Another fascinating instalment by Neil Walker.
Jan 2011	'Observation posts and similar structures' - an excellent illustrated talk by David Maindonald. The CIOS thanks David for his series of excellent talks these last 5 years - he is taking a (well deserved) year off in 2012!
Feb 2011	'Swiss fortifications – an indepth look at the history and strategy employed by the Swiss to counter invasion since the bronze age' by Jeffrey Giovannoni

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.

After a number of years of consideration, the structure of the CIOS finally changed in 2010, when a Company Limited by Guarantee was incorporated to carry out all the activities of the CIOS Association (except memberships). Memberships was left as an Association activity because there is a significant number (200+) of non-Jersey members, and it would be difficult to explain the complexities of the corporate structure to those outside of Jersey and obtain the full details of each and every member! Also, there is no provision for "junior" members of a Limited Company. I would like to thank Ian Strang and Jeffrey Giovannoni from Voisin's law firm for steering us through a surprisingly complex change. We are now registered with the Jersey Financial Services Commission as a not-for profit organisation and I am intending to apply for membership of the Jersey Association of Charities.

The CI Occupation Review for 2010 was published in Guernsey and on time. Although we received the first batch very quickly we had a long wait for the second, which meant that some members received their Review quite a while after the first batch was sent out. The third guide booklet in our series, covering the St Aubin's Bay shoreline defences, was published near the end of 2010. Thank you, Matthew, for putting this together.

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!

It will be recalled that, in November 2009, the Command Bunker was re-connected to the mains electricity supply, and I am delighted to advise that, in the later stages of 2010, mains electricity was also installed in the Millbrook bunker. Our thanks go to Tony Chalker who supervised both projects.

During 2010 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 Plémont and Living Legend sites are still of particular concern. We have been asked to assist with the Jersey Heritage re-survey of historic buildings and I hope this will give an opportunity for the key information to be recorded for the Occupation sites and the appropriate level of protection afforded for the future.

Donations – During the last year we have received a number of donations/loans, including the fabulous Soldatenheim visitors' book from the St Brelade's Bay Hotel kindly donated by Mrs Amanda Colley. Thanks to Matthew this is now in the safe hands of the Society's collection at the Jersey Archive for all to view. I am hoping to schedule an illustrated talk on this for early 2012... Also received was a two-part DVD on the History of V6 and U-Boats in CI waters from John Wallbridge. Also thank you to a number of members who have supplied photographs to our archive, both recent and old.

During 2010 Colin Isherwood has made huge progress in his position of archivist. This is a vital role and he has successfully tried out a number of new ideas (did you sample his parsnip coffee at the archives day?!) Colin has also greatly helped with answering some of the ever increasing number of e-mailed enquiries on diverse (and sometimes very obscure) topics.

I am still able to fill our regular meeting slots and have recently used members expertise in non-Jersey based lectures that I have believed to be of interest to members – if you have any comment on this trend please let me know, as I do try to have a variety of speakers covering as wide a range of topics as possible. If you know of a speaker or are able to access a private area for a walk please also let me know as I am filling up the 2012 series already!

Membership ended the year at 462 (an increase from 454 in 2010), including 34 new members; during the year 26 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.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Directors and all members who have helped during the past year, and who may not have been mentioned by name. The Board of Directors is looking at succession planning so new enthusiastic members are given a chance to participate in the wide range of activities undertaken and to ensure the burden does not become overwhelming for some individuals. We will be looking at the structure of the CIOS in 2011 and establishing, in outline, the tasks necessary (or desirable) to achieve our objectives. There will be opportunities to use your skills for the benefit of the CIOS, and I would like to ask you to step forward when an opportunity exists or a gap is identified. An example of this is Neil Walker who, as he has experience in the field, has volunteered to co-ordinate a risk assessment of all our sites open to the public.

We have great plans for 2011 and beyond, and we hope to see you at our events throughout the coming year.



Jeremy Hamon
Secretary
09 March 2011