

Secretary's Annual Report 2012/13

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen

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

During the year we held 10 regular meetings:-

Apr 2012	The Fall of France – an illustrated talk by Ian Ronayne – an very interesting illustrated talk by local historian Ian Ronayne.
May 2012	An excellent dinner - Thanks Noel- although attendance was not good at less than 25 (from a membership of over 450!).
June 2012	Blanche Banques - First World War prisoner of war (for German Prisoners) camp visit to remains led by Martin Walton and Colin Isherwood.
July 2012	The French day trip organised by Noel was excellent – even though the rain was intense. The weekend trip to Lorient was also a great success organised by Paul. The Boat trips were by all; reports challenging given the weather and wave heights! Thank you Noel and Paul for organising these superb trips.
Aug 2012	A very successful Military themed archives day at Noirmont, well done to all involved. Thanks to all who helped, in particular Colin Isherwood, Neil Walker, Martin Walton and of course 'Mr Noirmont' (Paul Burnal).
Sep 2012	Cezembre - A further selection of slides from Michael Ginns and Jeremy Hamon
Oct 2012	' The Fall of Singapore ' - an illustrated talk by Matthew Costard
Nov 2012	" A sign of the times Part 1 " – an illustrated talk outlining the signage used by the Germans in Jersey 1940-45 by Colin Isherwood
Jan 2013	" A sign of the times Part 2 " – an illustrated talk outlining the signage used by the Germans in Jersey 1940-45 by Colin Isherwood
Feb 2013	" Kampf um Norwegen " a German propoganda film was shown of the early Norwegen campaign with an overview talk by Jeremy Hamon

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 2012 was published in Guernsey and very early in March. An excellent publication as usual, running to a record 212 pages! Matthew had also been working very hard for the last few years on the republication of the German Tunnels in Jersey book which was published in August 2012. This is an excellent book and I would recommend it to all.

Other non-CIOS, publications in 2012 included John Nettles' book; Jewels and Jackboots: Hitler's British Isles, the German Occupation of the British Channel Islands 1940-1945, Gisela Rothenhausler translation of Reaching Across the Barbed Wire: French PoWs, Internees from the Channel Island and Jewish Prisoners from Bergen-Belsen in Schloss Wurzach (1940-1945) and Member Ian Ronayne's book Jersey War Walks: Exploring the Fortified Isle. Jersey and the occupation has also appeared regularly in Britain at War and the Armourer magazines

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. A huge number of visitor specialist Groups have been accommodated throughout the year, special mention of the Swiss army group including the highest ranking Officer in the Swiss army – a return visit to Fort St Maurice looked after by them is on Paul's future hoped-for visits. A number of people help with these mostly during weekdays – thanks especially to Paul Bernal, Damien Horn, Martin Walton and Malcolm Amy and others for helping to make these visits happen, quite often at short notice. I would also like to thank Cristin Bouchet, Jonathan Bull and Neil Walker for volunteering following last years AGM, when it became evident that Corbiere openings would be less frequent than ideally we, and our supporters, Jersey Tourism, would like. Also the Festival of music concert on 11th May at the Command bunker was a sell out with 70 people in attendance.

Mains electricity supply has now been connected to Corbiere and should be operational for the 2013 season. Our thanks go to Tony Chalker for supervising this, the third mains electricity project.

During 2012 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 site and Living Legend sites have been of particular concern. The searchlight shelter was saved from demolition and refurbished thanks to Matthew's intervention. We have also completed the Jersey Heritage re-survey of historic buildings in relation to a significant number of Occupation sites.

Donations – During the last year we have received a number of donations/loans, a separate Archivist report will be given by Colin at the AGM. Also thank you to a number of members who have supplied photographs to our archive, both recent and old.

During 2012, Colin Isherwood, having recovered very quickly from a heart attack, has also greatly helped in organising events where our artefacts can be shown and with answering some of the ever increasing number of e-mailed enquiries on diverse (and sometimes very obscure) topics. Colin has prepared a report to present at the AGM.

I am still able to fill our regular meeting slots and have continued to use members expertise in non - Jersey based lectures that I have believed to be of interest to members. 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 2014 series already!

Membership ended the year at 418 (a decrease from 462 in 2011), however we have seen a higher number of new members at 41; but during the year 85 did not renew a lot from the UK, I suspect the financial crisis has meant those who do not actively participate have felt that renewal was a luxury that can no longer be indulged, some of these have also sadly passed away. Standing order take up has been encouraging at 36 of the 357 renewals processed and for 2013 you can set up to pay via standing order at this time.

Your Committee is recommending that the annual subscription be maintained to the following levels: Single member £18 p.a., Couple £27.00, Junior (under 16) £13.50, Family £27.00 (plus £6.00 for each child), Overseas (not inc UK) Members EUR25/US\$35/£23.

As noted at the 2012 AGM and after 24 years in the seat, Matthew Costard has stepped down from the role of Editor of publications but is standing as a proposed Vice President and if elected is happy to continue as Heritage and Planning Liaison Officer to ensure our interests are represented with planning and heritage bodies.

Also stepping down for the Committee this year is Michael Ginns MBE. *Paul is planning to speak on MG stepping down so this is for the record* [It is hard to put into words the contribution that Michael has made to both the profile of occupation history in general and the Occupation Society, Michael was vice-president from 1971-73 & 2005-12, President 1974-76 & 1999-2005 and Secretary from 1976 until I took the Baton a number of years ago, I am sure Michael will still be contributing and using his

encyclopaedic knowledge to answer all those questions that members and the public ask, and correcting misstatements made by the media and others for a long time to come.]

I am also pleased to report a very able candidate has stepped forward for the role of Editor of Publications, this being a double act of Paul and Ian Ronayne, Paul being the named editor assisted by Ian who is an experienced author in his own right who has had a number of books published, including two in 2012.

I would also like to specifically thank Tony Chalker for undertaking the Fortifications co-ordination responsibility, this role is greatly assisted by Tony's detailed knowledge of planning and building matters and his ability to evaluate the multitude of requests and interests and then make fair decision on matters.

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. I like to think that 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, if anyone else is thinking they would like to become more involved please step forward when an opportunity exists or a gap is identified. I am very happy to speak to anyone about what each role involves – it is essential that new blood is introduced to our Committee and Board of Directors so we continue to flourish in the future.

A lot of work has been completed by member Tom Brossman on a revamp to our website, we had hoped to go live with this at the AGM but the AGM administration work has taken precedence and this will hopefully be ready for launch around Liberation day. We have great plans for 2013 and beyond, and we hope to see you at our events throughout the coming year.



Jeremy Hamon
Secretary
09 March 2013