



The Bulldog Bulletin



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: Priya Guha British Consul General



CALDERDALE



CRAYFORD



EAST BARNET

The Newsletter of The Royal British Legion
California Branch No 1

November, 2012



CAMDEN



CROYDON

The Royal British Legion

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EAST DEAN

RBL Chairman's November report,



It is looking like we should have a really good attendance at the Festival of Remembrance this year, Unfortunately the British Consul General Priya Guha will not be attending as she will be in London on official business. Flt. Lt. Jason Orr RAF will be representing the British Consul General.

We are privileged again to have the German Consul General Peter Rothen, his wife, and Dr. Gregor Gysi who is a member of the German Parliament.

There will be four rows for the Legion on the left-hand side facing the Altar, for British Legion members and their families. Please do not sit on the right hand side as this is the V.I.P. Section.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday November 20th. at 6.00 p.m. at the War Memorial Building, Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco in Room 219.

**I have received the membership cards from London,
so please send in your Dues now, they are \$30.00**

Please make your cheque payable to the Royal British Legion and mail to Pamela Sweetman, Treasurer, 2616 Snowy Egret Way, Elk Grove, CA 95757



The Royal British Legion

Will Present
The Thirty Fourth Annual San Francisco

Festival of Remembrance



Sunday, November 11th 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

Preceding the Service, The Salvation Army Band will Present a short
concert, starting at 2:30 p.m.

Untouched for almost seven decades, the tunnel used in the **Great Escape** has finally been unearthed.

The 111-yard passage nicknamed 'Harry' by Allied prisoners was sealed by the Germans after the audacious break-out from the POW camp Stalag Luft III in western Poland .

Despite huge interest in the subject, encouraged by the film starring Steve McQueen, the tunnel remained undisturbed over the decades because it was behind the Iron Curtain and the Soviet authorities had no interest in its significance.

But at last British archaeologists have excavated it, and discovered its remarkable secrets.



Many of the bed boards which had been joined together to stop it collapsing were still in position.

And the ventilation shaft, ingeniously crafted from used powdered milk containers known as Klim Tins, remained in working order.

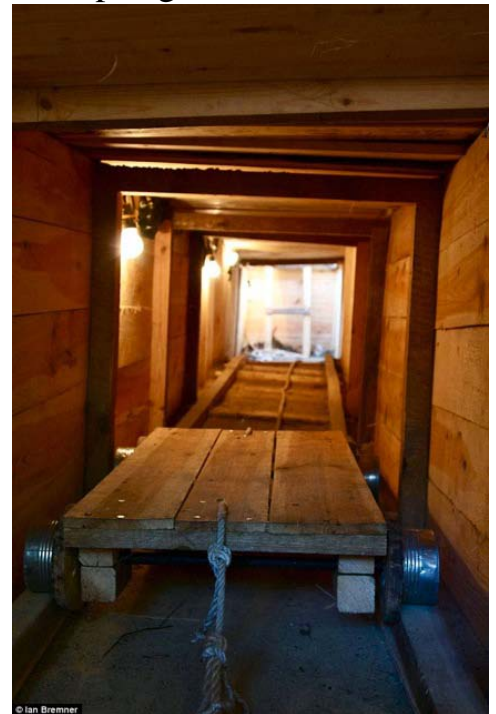
Scattered throughout the tunnel, which is 30ft below ground, were bits of old metal buckets, hammers and crowbars which were used to hollow out the route.

A total of 600 prisoners worked on three tunnels at the same time. They were nicknamed Tom, Dick and Harry and were just 2 ft square for most of their length.

It was on the night of March 24 and 25, 1944, that 76 Allied airmen escaped through Harry.

Barely a third of the 200 prisoners - many in fake German uniforms and civilian outfits and carrying false identity papers - who were meant to slip away managed to leave before the alarm was raised when escapee number 77 was spotted.

Tunnel vision: A tunnel reconstruction showing the trolley system.



Only three made it back to Britain . Another 50 were executed by firing squad on the orders of Adolf Hitler, who was furious after learning of the breach of security.

In all, 90 boards from bunk beds, 62 tables, 34 chairs and 76 benches, as well as thousands of items including knives, spoons, forks, towels and blankets, were squirreled away by the Allied prisoners to aid the escape plan under the noses of their captors.

Although the Hollywood movie suggested otherwise, **NO Americans were involved in the operation.** Most were British, and the others were from Canada , (**all the tunnellers were Canadian** personnel with backgrounds in mining) Poland , New Zealand , Australia , and South Africa .

The latest dig, over three weeks in August, located the entrance to Harry, which was originally concealed under a stove in Hut 104.

The team also found another tunnel, called George, whose exact position had not been charted. It was never used as the 2,000 prisoners were forced to march to other camps as the Red Army approached in January 1945.

Watching the excavation was Gordie King, 91, an RAF radio operator, who was 140th in line to use Harry and therefore missed out.

'This brings back such bitter-sweet memories,' he said as he wiped away tears. 'I'm amazed by what they've found.

' The site of the tunnel, recently excavated by British archaeologists

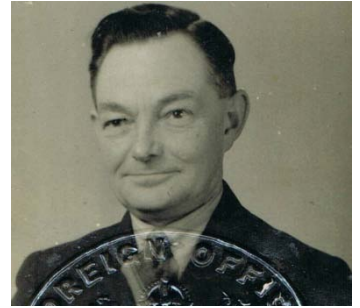


Bitter-sweet memories: Gordie King, 91, made an emotional return to Stalag Luft III.



Revealed: Double life of Welsh master spy Arthur Owens

A new book about a Welsh spy and double agent who played a major role in winning World War Two is published today by Cardiff author Madoc Roberts and the renowned espionage writer Nigel West. For the first time, the full story is told about how Pontardawe-born Arthur Owens – known as Snow – became Britain’s most significant spy. Martin Shipton reports



IN the autumn of 1935 a Welsh inventor named Arthur Graham Owens walked into the German Embassy in Belgium and offered his services.

He had put everything he owned into selling his new system for improving batteries but no-one in Britain was interested. Having spent every penny he had, he was now running up huge debts, so he turned to the Germans in the hope that they might be interested.

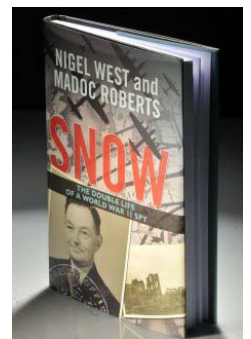
He walked into the German Embassy as an inventor but he came out as the German spy “Johnny O’Brien”.

As they secretly re-armed themselves in preparation for war, the Germans were keen to know how prepared Britain was against attack. With his contacts in the military in Britain and his cover as a battery inventor Arthur Owens was exactly what the German were looking for. Over the next few years Owens flourished in his exciting new life and grew rich in the process. Every spy that the Germans sent to infiltrate Britain was told to contact “Johnny”. He was their master spy in Britain.

Opposing the Germans in this game of wits was MI5. Under-manned and under- resourced they had been given the task of sorting through the thousands of refugees fleeing Hitler’s Nazi state. The worry was that among the genuine refugees there might be German agents. But the task of interviewing thousands of people was a mammoth one and finding a spy among them was not going to be easy. However they had one man who could help them cut through this task – an agent who had made contact with the upper echelons of the German secret service. His code name was Snow, a partial anagram of his real surname, which was Owens. He was the same Arthur Graham who walked into the German Embassy in 1935. But what the Germans did not know was that he was already working for British intelligence. Now he was a British double agent and MI5’s greatest asset in winning the espionage war against Germany.

As a result of the trust the Germans placed in Owens, he delivered every German spy sent to Britain into the hands of MI5. MI5 established the Twenty Committee in order to coordinate the activities of these men. It was called the Twenty Committee because the Roman numerals for 20 are XX or a double cross.

Having parachuted into Britain, the German spies were captured and given the choice of either becoming British double agents or facing the death penalty. By the end of the war the Twenty Committee controlled 120 agents who were used to gather information and to send false information back to Germany.



Read More

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2011/06/09/revealed-double-life-of-welsh-master-spy-91466-28847091/#ixzz28HTcN1Cz>

CAPTURE OF MUSSOLINI

After his rescue from the mountain top hotel, Mussolini took up residence in the Villa Feltrinelli on the western shore of Lake Garda. Here he ruled over the newly formed Fascist Republic of Salò. Guarded by thirty SS men his every movement and decision he made was scrutinised by the Germans. He considered himself not so much a resident but more a prisoner. However he found solace with his mistress, Claretta Petacci, who had been moved into the Villa Fiordaliso nearby. On April 18, 1945, he and Claretta left the villa for the last time but on April 28 they were captured by local partisans near Lake Como. Both were executed. Two days later, men of the US 10th Mountain Division took possession of the Villa Feltrinelli without a shot being fired. Most of Mussolini's possessions were 'souvenired' including his precious Stradivarius violin and eventually made their way back to the USA. (The Villa Feltrinelli is now the Grand Hotel Villa Feltrinelli.)



The abused bodies of Mussolini and barefooted Claretta, strung upside down, on gruesome display after their murder by partisans. These ghastly images shocked Hitler. He concluded that to avoid such a fate for himself and Eva Braun—should the war ultimately be lost—that neither of them, nor their dead bodies, could ever be allowed to fall into the hands of their enemies.

Retired Drinkers

Four old retired guys are walking down a street in London . They turn a corner and see a sign that says, "Old Timers Bar - ALL drinks 10p."

They look at each other and then go in, thinking, this is too good to be true. The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room,

"Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen?"

There's a fully stocked bar, so each of the men orders a martini. In no time the bartender serves up four iced martinis—shaken, not stirred—and says, "That'll be 10p each, please."

The four guys stare at the bartender for a moment, then at each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40p, finish their martinis, and order another round.

Again, four excellent martinis are produced, with the bartender again saying, "That's 40p, please." They pay the 40p, but their curiosity gets the better of them. They've each had two martinis and haven't even spent a £1 yet.

Finally one of them says, "How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a 10p a piece?"

"I'm a retired tailor," the bartender says, "and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery Jackpot for £25 million and decided to open this place.

Every drink costs 10p. wine, liquor, beer, it's all the same - but it's only open to retired people."

"Wow! That's some story!" one of the men says.

As the four of them sip at their martinis, they can't help noticing seven other people at the end of the bar who don't have any drinks in front of them and haven't ordered anything the whole time they've been there. Nodding at the seven at the end of the bar, one of the men asks the bartender, "What's with them?"

The bartender says, "They're retired people from Scotland . They're waiting for Happy Hour when drinks are half price!"

You really have to Watch this... This will blow your mind!

I'll guarantee you'll love this, especially him walking through the glass window. Illusions fascinate me. I think this qualifies as magic.

This is really cool! I gotta wonder how he does this stuff! Amazing! Watch the whole thing as there are **3 Tricks**

Click on the link below

<http://www.safeshare.tv/w/gdhRWNSrls>

Stalin's son

Stalin's son, Yakov Djugashvili, from his first wife Ekaterina, now a 2nd Lieutenant in the artillery corps, was captured on May 16, 1942 and interned in the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp where he was later shot while trying to escape. (Some sources say he committed suicide by throwing himself at the perimeter fence to force the guards to shoot him.)

In 1943, an attempt was made by the Germans to exchange Yakov for Field Marshal Paulus who was captured after the fall of Stalingrad.

The request was refused by Stalin. Although he grieved for his 36 year old son he is quoted as saying "I will not exchange a private for a Field Marshal".

Over two million Soviet prisoners of war were liberated by the Red Army.

All were to suffer at the hands of Stalin who always maintained that Russia had no P.O.W.s in German hands. All were considered traitors to the Motherland for allowing themselves to be captured.

A Newfoundland police detective was interviewing 3 blondes for a position with the dept.

"The most important thing, is being able to notice details" and the detective pulled out a photo of a man and showed to the first blond.

"What did you notice" asked the detective.

"He had one eye" said the first blond.

"Of course he had one eye..its a profile shot" said the detective, and dismissed the 1st blond.

Showing the photo to the 2nd blond, the detective asked " What do you notice?"

"He has only one ear"

"Of course he has one ear, its a profile shot" said the detective, and dismissed the 2nd blond.

Coming to the third blond, he asked "what do you notice"

"He wears contact lenses" said the 3rd blond.

"what" asked the detective, "How could you know that"

"HELLLOOOOOOOOO" said the blond, "how could he wear glasses with one eye, and one ear"