# REMEMBRANCE 2023



# The Second World War
With Reference to Churchill,
Bletchley Park
and Associated People

Written and Researched

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**On 10th May 1940 Winston Churchill became Prime Minister.**

**In 1940 Churchill gave 4 famous speeches:**

13th May – "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat"

4th June (Dunkirk) "We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the fields, and in the streets. We shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender"

18th June – "If the British Empire and Commonwealth lasts for 1000 years, men will say: This was their finest hour"

20th August – (Battle of Britain) "Never in the field of human conflict, was so much owed to so few."

# BLETCHLEY PARK

The first personnel of the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS) moved to Bletchley Park on 15th August 1939. The Naval, Military, and Air Sections were on the ground floor of the mansion, together with a telephone exchange, teleprinter room, kitchen, and dining room; the top floor was allocated to MI6.



In the summer of 1941, Winston Churchill visited Bletchley Park and was appalled by the conditions of those serving there. Although there was leisure time available, no provision had been made for any sort of physical recreation and, following complaints from many of the workers, he arranged for a court order to be issued. It is the only time that a tennis court has been built at the direct request of the PM.
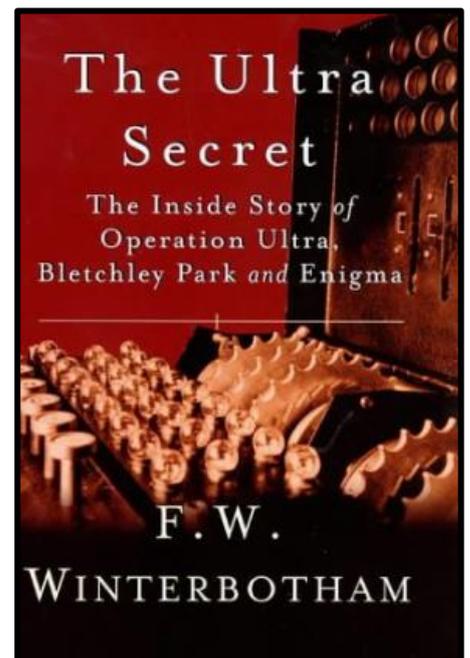


His liaison officer at Bletchley was the Head of Section X who is the first person we remember today.

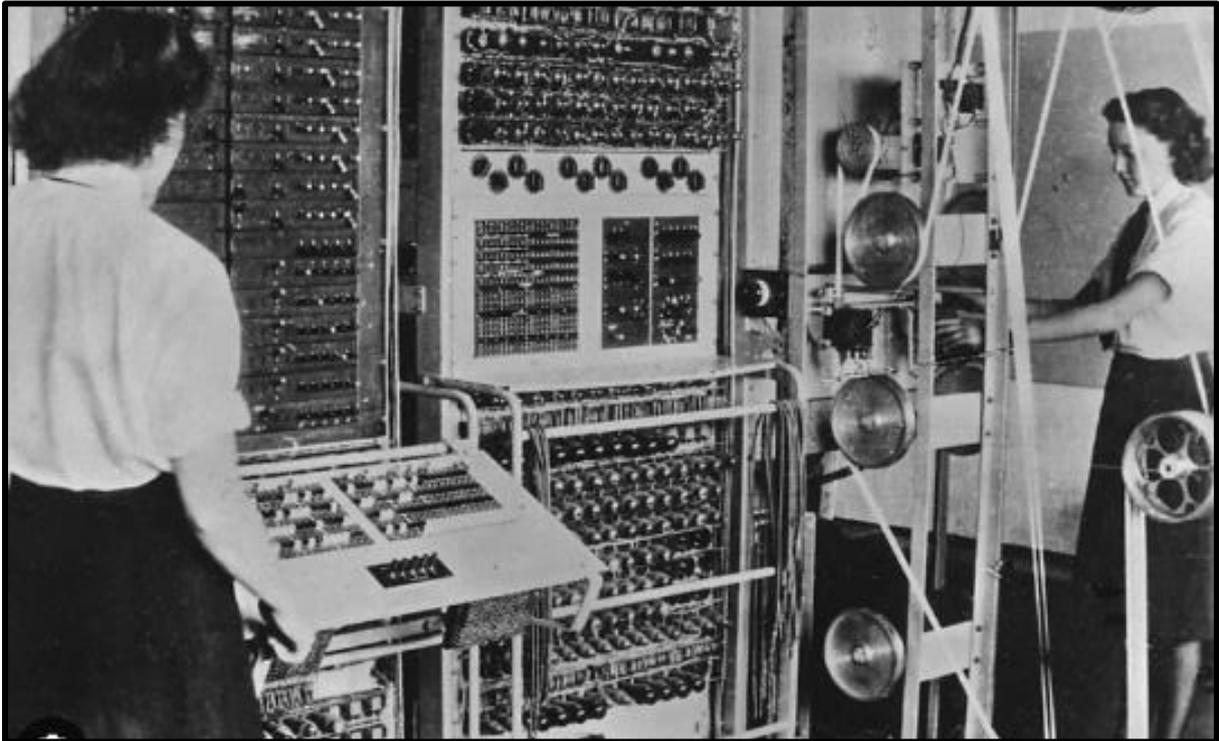# GROUP CAPTAIN FREDERICK WINTERBOTHAM, C.B.E.
## (1897-1990)



He received coded messages from MI6 and passed these direct to the PM. He supervised the distribution of ULTRA intelligence during WW2 and published "The Ultra Account"



The work carried out by the scientists, "boffins" and "eggheads" at Bletchley Park, is believed to have shortened the war by 2 years and at its peak, there were nearly 9,000 people working there. 6,000 of these were women.

The first computer (known as Colossus) was used by the people at Bletchley and there were 10 machines working every hour of the day and night, breaking the enemy's code.



Each machine was five metres long, three and a half metres wide and two and a half metres high with up to 2,500 valves each. It was certainly well-named!

The Bletchley Park site was chosen as it was near a station that had direct train links to Oxford and Cambridge (where most of the operatives were based). It was also not very far from London and you could call it a little-known place and therefore inconspicuous.
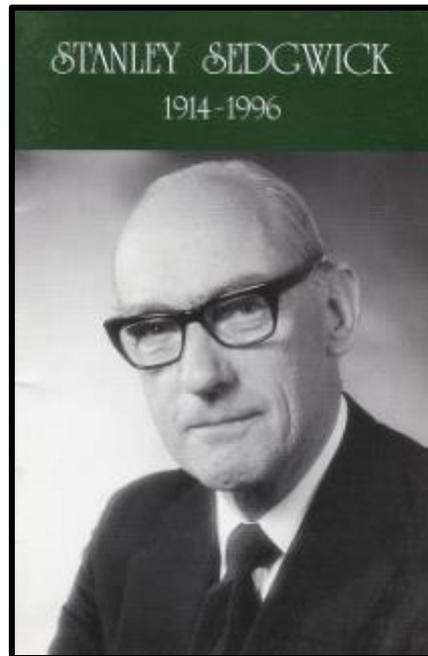


Local area map

However, not all personnel at Bletchley were scientists. Some of them came from "the general public."

As most of the recruiting was secret, unusual methods had to be used in the recruiting process. One-such method was used to recruit our second person of interest, Stanley Sedgwick towards the end of 1941.

# STANLEY SEDGWICK - 1914 -1996



In late 1941, Mr. W. A. J. Gavin wrote to the Daily Telegraph to offer a prize of £100 (to be donated to the Minesweeper's fund), to anyone who could solve the paper's crossword in less than 12 minutes (following complaints that the crosswords were too easy!)

Mr Gavin was a president of the "Eccentrics Club" which was renowned for having a membership of eccentric people.

The competition was held at the office of the Daily Telegraph in Fleet Street. Stanley, as an Accountancy Manager applied to the paper as he was partial to solving crosswords and usually completed the Daily Telegraph crossword on his train journey to work.

At the competition, in January 1942, 24 people applied, but only 4 completed the puzzle within the (12 minute) time limit.
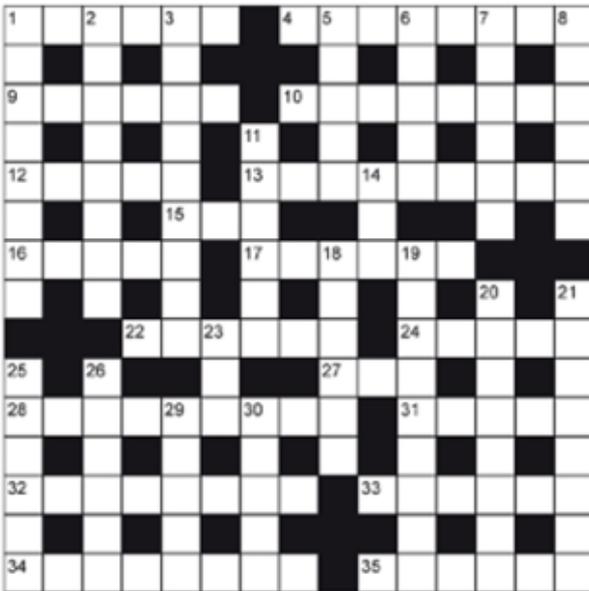
After the 12-minute bell, Stanley kicked himself as he was just one word short of finishing! Afterwards, he went home and thought little more about it (but was annoyed with himself).

## Across

1 A stage company (6)
4 The direct route preferred by the Roundheads (5,3)
9 One of the ever-greens (6)
10 Scented (8)
12 Course with an apt finish (5)
13 Much that could be got from a timber merchant (5,4)
15 We have nothing and are in debt (3)
16 Pretend (5)
17 Is this town ready for a flood? (6)
22 The little fellow has some beer; it makes me lose colour, I say (6)
24 Fashion of a famous French family (5)
27 Tree (3)
28 One might of course use this tool to core an apple (6,3)
31 Once used for unofficial currency (5)
32 Those well brought up help these over stiles (4,4)
33 A sport in a hurry (6)
34 Is the workshop that turns out this part of a motor a hush-hush affair? (8)
35 An illumination functioning (6)

## Down

1 Official instruction not to forget the servants (8)
2 Said to be a remedy for a burn (5,3)
3 Kind of alias (9)
5 A disagreeable company (5)
6 Debtors may have to this money for their debts unless of course their creditors do it to the debts (5)
7 Boat that should be able to suit anyone (6)
8 Gear (6)
11 Business with the end in sight (6)
14 The right sort of woman to start a dame school (3)
18 "The war" (anag.) (6)
19 When hammering take care not to hit this (5,4)
20 Making sound as a bell (8)
21 Half a fortnight of old (8)
23 Bird, dish or coin (3)
25 This sign of the Zodiac has no connection with the Fishes (6)
26 A preservative of teeth (6)
29 Famous sculptor (5)
30 This part of the locomotive engine would sound familiar to the golfer (5)

This is the crossword (which was the 5000<sup>th</sup> in the paper).

What may surprise you is how different a 1940s cryptic crossword is to that commonly published today. Cryptic crosswords today almost all follow rigid rules, known as "Ximenean", after the great Observer crossword setter Ximenes.
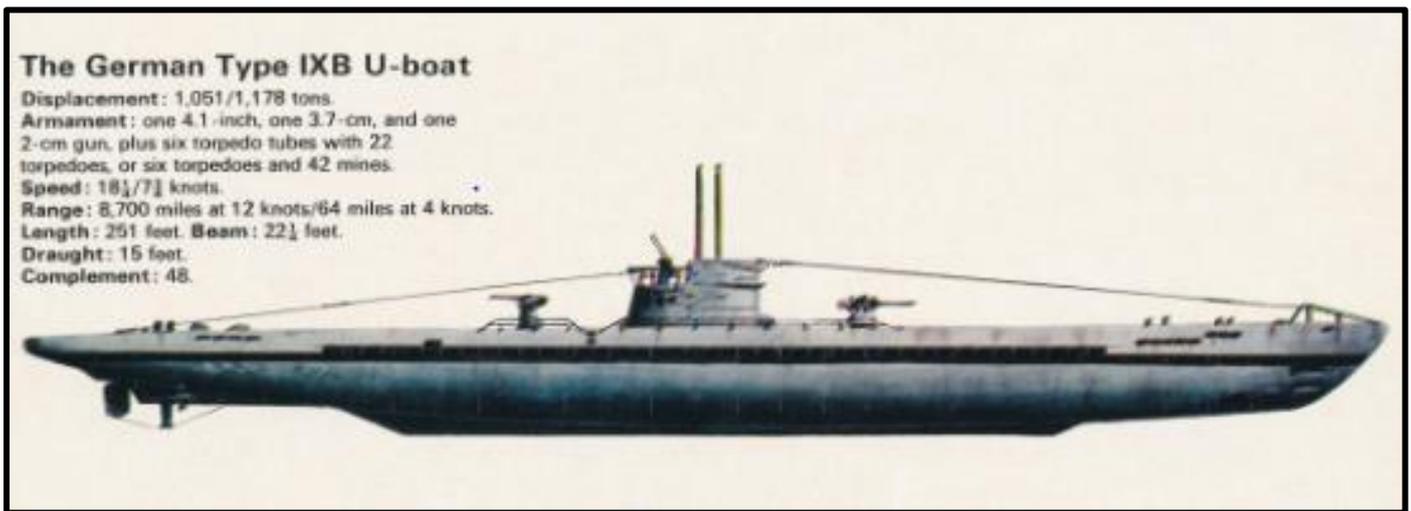
Tom Chivers, writing in The Daily Telegraph in October 2014, commented on the cryptic crossword's enduring appeal: 'What people who don't do them don't realise about cryptic crosswords is that they're a battle. They are mental combat between the setter and the solver: there are strict rules of warfare, but within those rules the setter will do anything to mislead and confuse the solver. That's why a crossword is superior to a sudoku: a computer can set a sudoku, and a computer can solve it, but a crossword is human ingenuity versus human ingenuity, 'wit versus wit.' One can see why those sharp enough to crack the crossword of 13th January 1942 were admirably suited to work at Bletchley.

Those who managed to complete the crossword were deemed to have the right sort of mind to break the German codes. A few weeks after the competition, Stanley received a letter asking him to report to Military Intelligence, as they had been monitoring the candidates, and in 1942, he was sent to Bletchley Park to work on the German weather codes (in the so-called Section X) He was listed as "working for the Foreign Office" from 1942-5, but was a member of Alan Turing's team. Nothing appears to be known on the four candidates who completed the crossword. Only after the end of WW2 did Stanely get advised that his work on the German and Japanese weather codes had been of great assistance to Bomber Command. Following the war, Stanley became a successful business man and also became President of the Bentley Driver's Club.

It was not all work at Bletchley Park as Stanley was also secretary of the Ballroom Dance Club.

We will never know what would have happened if he had not replied to the advert.

# U-110



**The German Type IXB U-boat**
Displacement: 1,051/1,178 tons.
Armament: one 4.1-inch, one 3.7-cm, and one
2-cm gun, plus six torpedo tubes with 22
torpedoes, or six torpedoes and 42 mines.
Speed: 18½/7½ knots.
Range: 8,700 miles at 12 knots/64 miles at 4 knots.
Length: 251 feet. Beam: 22½ feet.
Draught: 15 feet.
Complement: 48.

The "U" stood for Unterseeboot – which means undersea boat. Each German submarine was called U followed by its number.

Churchill was very clear that enemy submarines should always be called U-boats.

He said, "The term 'submarine' is to be reserved for Allied underwater vessels. U-boats are those dastardly villains who sink our ships, while submarines are those gallant and noble craft who sink theirs."

In 1941 the Royal Navy made a hugely important breakthrough when they sighted a U-boat off Greenland. The vessel was attacked by Royal Naval destroyers and forced to surface. The U-boat crew had to abandon ship. The captain, who had set explosives, returned to U-boat (as the explosives did not detonate) and was spotted and shot. A boarding party from H.M.S. Bulldog was sent aboard the U-boat and, to their surprise, they found an Enigma machine (together with secret cypher documents and codebooks). These were taken back to Bletchley Park and helped with the war effort in solving the German secret coded messages.

The Captain of H.M.S. Bulldog was awarded the D.S.O. for his part in this mission. He was our third person,

## Addison Joe Baker-Cresswell.



**After completing his service on** H.M.S. Bulldog, Cresswell was appointed an A.D.C. and finished his Naval Service as Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence. He later retired to Northumberland to manage his estate, where the Cresswell family had lived since the 12th Century. He is a direct descendent of Oswald Joseph Cresswell, who was the Rector of St George's, Hanworth (1846-1871).



**Hanworth Memorial**

# 1945 – The end of the War.

4th May – The first prisoners of war arrive back in the UK after being repatriated; 75,000 are returned by air.

8th May - Germany surrenders - V.E. Day (Victory in Europe).



15th August – Japan surrenders – V.J. Day (Victory in Japan)

**Remembrance Service Sunday 12th November 2023 - 3pm.**