

Cambridge Alumni



Frank Adcock

Frank Adcock studied classics at King's College and held the chair of Ancient History at King's from 1925 to 1951. During WW1 he worked for the Intelligence Division of the Admiralty, known as Room 40. During WW2, he worked at Bletchley Park from 1939 to 1943, initially on Luftwaffe tactical air/ground codes before moving with the German Diplomatic Section to Berkeley Street, London. Before the war he was tasked with trawling through the staff and student lists at both Oxford and Cambridge looking for suitable recruits for GC&CS, the organisation based at Bletchley Park throughout the war.



Dennis Babbage

Dennis Babbage School studied at Magdalene College and became a fellow in 1936. He was approached by recruiters for the Foreign Office to, in the event of war, undertake secret work for them. After attending pre-war training session in London he eventually arrived at Bletchley Park in January, 1940. After a period working with Dilly Knox in 'The Cottage', he joined the fledging Hut 6 section under Gordon Welchman, a fellow algebraic geometer. He became a key member of Welchman's team and was one of the chief cryptographers in Hut 6 for the remainder of the war.



Keith Batey

Keith Batey won a scholarship to Trinity College and completed his Maths Tripos in June 1940. He was recruited to BP by Gordon Welchman and initially worked in Welchman's section in Hut 6 on German Army and Air Force Enigma encrypted communications. Batey was responsible for important breakthroughs in decrypting the Abwehr Enigma system. In August 1943, he solved the Enigma system used by the Nazi party's own intelligence service. Three months later he cracked the cipher used by the Spanish military attaché in Berlin and Rome to report back to Madrid.



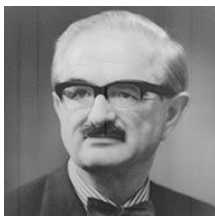
Patrick Beesley

Patrick Beesley read history at Trinity College and served in the Naval Intelligence Division of the Admiralty in its Operational Intelligence Centre. From 1941 until the end of the war he worked on submarine tracking and acted as an Intelligence Officer in Germany.



P.M.S. Blackett

Patrick Blackett studied mathematics and physics at Magdalene College. During WW2 he was a government advisor on military strategy and developing operational research. He was Director of Operational Research with the Admiralty from 1942 to 1945. He played an important role in the recruitment of Max Newman to Bletchley Park.



Bill Bonsall

Bill Bonsall studied modern languages at St Catharine's College and in January 1940 he was recruited to Bletchley Park where he served until the end of the war. He worked in the Air Section under Josh Cooper and became Head of the Fighter, later German, Sub-sections. He was the originator of daily reports known as BMP reports after Bonsall, Moyes (Philip) and Prior (Frederick).

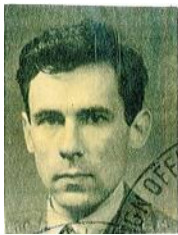
Douglas Craig (Jones)

Douglas Craig studied Languages at St Catharine's College. He joined Bletchley Park in 1940 and in the early days, Craig was Signals Officer in section 3S based in Hut 3. He personally despatched messages to commanders in the field and intelligence departments in London. In mid-December 1943, Craig became Head of the Central Signals Registry based in Hut 13 and served in that capacity until 1945.



Joan Clarke

Joan Clarke (née Murray) studied mathematic at Newnham College and was awarded a double First in 1940. She was recruited to Bletchley Park by Gordon Welchman who had supervised her in Geometry and arrived there in June 1940. She was assigned to work on naval Enigma in Hut 8 with Alan Turing and the team that was being developed there. She worked as a cryptanalyst and became Deputy Head of Hut 8 in 1944.



John Herivel

John Herivel won a Kitchener Scholarship to study mathematics at Sydney Sussex College in 1937. One of his tutors was Gordon Welchman who subsequently recruited Herivel to Bletchley Park. Herivel arrived there in late January 1940 and was assigned to work in Welchman's section, Hut 6 on German Army and Air Force Enigma system. Herivel came up with an idea that became known as the Herivel Tip. It helped break the German Enigma system before the arrival of the Bombe machines and was first used successfully around 10 May 1940. He joined another section known as the Newmanry and replaced its founder, Max Newman, in June 1945. He remained in that position until October 1945.



Harry Hinsley

Harry Hinsley studied at St John's College but before he could complete his degree, he was recruited to Bletchley Park in November 1939. He worked in Hut 4 on German naval wireless communications and was in regular contact with the Admiralty's intelligence section. In 1943 he went with Edward Travis, the Director (Services) GC&CS to Washington to negotiate an exchange of intelligence with the U.S., known as the 'Brusa' agreement. He chaired the Target Intelligence Committee (TICOM) in 1945 which was a secret UK/U.S. project to recover German intelligence materials. He also served as Private Secretary to Travis in May 1945.



Dilly Knox

Dilly Knox studied classics at King's College in 1903 and became a Fellow, researching into classics and ancient documents. He joined the Admiralty's Intelligence Division, Room 40, in 1915 and decided to stay on as a cryptanalyst in the newly formed GC&CS at the end of WW1. Between the wars Knox developed his own techniques, one of which was called 'rodding', to break the Enigma machine used by Italy in the Spanish Civil War and another success was achieved against the Enigma machine used by the Spanish naval attaché. When GC&CS moved to Bletchley Park in late August 1939, Knox was put in charge of the research section.

Herbert Marchant

Herbert Marchant studied modern languages at St John's College. He joined Bletchley Park in 1940 and worked in Hut 3. He was a Duty Officer and Watch Head and in August 1943, became Deputy Head of Hut 3.



George C. McVittie

George McVittie studied mathematics and natural philosophy (physics) at the University of Edinburgh. After graduating he studied for a doctorate, initially in Edinburgh and then at Christ's College. He held various academic positions from 1930 until 1939 when he joined the Air Section at Bletchley Park. He subsequently became head of its Meteorological Sub-section.



Stuart Milner-Barry

Stuart Milner-Barry won a scholarship to Trinity College where he studied classics and moral sciences. He graduated in 1927 and at the outbreak of war was recruited by Gordon Welchman to work at Bletchley Park. He subsequently worked in Hut 6 from 1940 until the end of the war and replaced Welchman as Head of Hut 6 in March 1944.



Max Newman

Max Newman gained a scholarship to St John's College, which he took up in 1915. His education was interrupted by WW1 during which he undertook war work. He returned to Cambridge after the war and graduated in 1921. He became a Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge in 1923.

He was recruited to Bletchley Park in 1942 and soon devised a way of carrying forward the work of John Tiltman and Bill Tutte in breaking the German High Command's Lorenz cipher system. Machines were designed and built to help with the codebreaking work, the best known being called *Robinson* and *Colossus*. Newman was given charge of a section to progress this work and it soon became known as the Newmanry.



David Rees

David Rees studied mathematics at Sidney Sussex College. He obtained a first-class degree under the supervision of Gordon Welchman and was just beginning postgraduate work when Welchman recruited him to Bletchley Park early in the war. Rees worked under Welchman in Hut 6 and in May 1940 he is generally credited with making the first break of the German Air Force Enigma system, using a technique developed by his colleague, John Herivel. In 1944 he moved to a section called the Newmanry to work on the Lorenz system being used by the German High Command.



Gordon Welchman

Gordon Welchman studied mathematics at Trinity College. He returned to Cambridge in 1929 as a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College. He became a supervisor in mathematics and was soon elected to the office of Dean. In 1938 he accepted an offer to undertake secret work for

the Foreign Office in the event of war. After attending training courses in London in March 1939, he reported for work at Bletchley Park on September 4. Before the end of the year he put forward an organisational plan which recognised the need for a rapid expansion of Bletchley Park's infrastructure for the decryption and analysis of intercepted Enigma traffic. Welchman's plan was approved by his superiors and at the end of 1939 he was asked to head the group which would ultimately decrypt close to one million German Air Force and Army signals. In 1940 he invented a device which would transform Turing's design for the Bombe into a workable machine. In 1943 he was given responsibility for all 'machine' developments at Bletchley Park as well as technical liaison with American cryptographic agencies.