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'SCU and RSS' – an addition to SCU-Newsletter No. 1/10.

Spread over a number of weeks Bob King has been sending out copies of the Minutes of 'SCU3 Senior Officers Conferences' recently unearthed at the National Archives. These documents show that RSS had become a component part of MI6 back in May 1941. Its first Controller was Ted Maltby at SCU3 based partially at Hanslope. He in turn, was Deputy Head of MI6 (Section VIII) – SCU1 – under Richard Gambier-Parry at Whaddon Hall.

I have selected passages from just two of the Minutes and highlighted those persons who were in MI6 (Section VIII) and usually at Whaddon Hall. In these two examples, you will find the names of Richard Gambier-Parry, Ted Maltby, Bob Hornby Col. Russell and Don Lee, in addition to mention of Hanslope.

More references to Whaddon, SCU1, and associated names appear in other Minutes.

**SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS UNIT NO. 3.
SENIOR OFFICERS' CONFERENCE.**

Meeting No. 31 - Wednesday 16th December, 1942.

3. WOMEN POOL OPERATORS.

Major Cole-Adams stated that **Col. Russell** had informed him that he had minuted M.I.1.(a) again on the matter asking them to expedite a reply.

4. V.P. POLICE.

Major Cole-Adams reported that **Col. Russell** had stated that the question of V.P. Police **[Note: it was a military matter and therefore the duty of 'Jack' Russell at SCU1]**

7. CHRISTMAS. ARRANGEMENTS AT BARNET.

The Controller reported that **Colonel Gambier Parry** proposed visiting Barnet at 11 o'clock and it was decided that as many of the staff as possible should be given time off between 11.0 and 11.30 for the purpose of 'drinking health' in the Canteen.

Meeting No 32 Friday January 7th, 1943

2. COMMUNICATIONS Telephone Lines

.....The visit to Thurso had been arranged earlier this week with **Capt. Lee**.

The Controller asked that **Capt. Lee** should contact **Major Hornby, S.C.U.No.1**, so that all the work being done to improve lines conditions should be co-ordinated.

4. WOMEN POOL OPERATORS

Colonel Maltby reported that the matter was proceeding as fast as conditions allowed.

9. SENIOR OFFICERS' CONFERENCE VENUE

Major Morton Evans suggested that it would be a good thing if the Senior Officers' Conference were sometimes held at **Hanslope**. It was agreed the next Conference should assemble there and from then onward

every third meeting, the intervening two being held at Barnet.

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Captain Lee. The 'Captain Lee' mentioned in the Minutes was Don Lee based at Whaddon Hall and seemingly acting as a 'liaison' between SCU3 and SCU1. He was a most interesting man.

He was probably the longest serving member of SIS in the newly formed MI6 (Section VIII). He was in Addis Ababa with Adrian Trapman in 1937 when Trapman was British Consul General during the Italian invasion of Abyssinia. Don Lee was listed at the British Embassy as the 'Archivist' but was fairly obviously working for SIS. One can reasonably assume that Adrian was the SIS 'Head of Station' for that region and Don Lee his deputy.

Don Lee later went to Spain as an SIS Agent during the Spanish Civil War before returning and being based at Broadway, Bletchley Park and finally to Whaddon Hall.

Adrian Trapman married Ann Hill (elder sister of Joyce Lilburn neé Hill) before the war, but was killed in a motor accident on their honeymoon. Ann Trapman then worked at Whaddon Hall and later married Don Lee.

Captain Robin Addie. In other Minutes, mention is made several times of Captain Robin Addie overseeing construction of the new aerial farm at Hanslope. He had come from Vickers and was a specialist in aerial design. I worked for him at our new transmitter station at Dum Dum in Calcutta in 1945 helping to build, amongst others, the one mile 'London' rhombic aerial.

I also wired and soldered the 900 + relay terminals coming in to Dum Dum from the wireless station at Dhakuria across the other side of Calcutta where we lived. You will have read that Ray Small was one of the operators in the station there.

We carried out other wireless engineering projects at Dum Dum until the sudden decision was made to scrap the newly opened station. That was due to the rapidly worsening Indian political position in early 1946. Robin Addie went home at that time and later wrote to my father – see Appendix 7 of 'The Secret Wireless War.'

Ted Maltby lived in Stony Stratford High Street about ten buildings south from the Conservative Club where the DWS/SCU meetings are held quarterly. It is also some twenty buildings south from where I lived with my family between 1940 and 1945. We saw Lt. Col. Ted Maltby quite frequently as father and I headed for the Whaddon coach waiting near 'The Plough' at 8 am in the morning and he entered his Packard limousine.

These latter details are probably of no great interest to most readers of SCU Newsletters – but they may be useful to those concerned with establishing the accuracy of the history of our important unit – MI6 (Section VIII). I am grateful to Bob King for continuing to send out this information that adds to our knowledge of the various parts making up this – **Most Secret of organisations.**

Geoffrey Pidgeon
Thursday, March 18, 2010

