

**50 YEAR COMMEMORATION OF CARVE HER NAME WITH PRIDE**

**Violette Szabo and the Special Operations Executive**

**November 18<sup>th</sup> 1030-1300. NFT 3.**

1000 - 1030 registration

1030 - 1040 Good mornings / introductions

1040 - 1120 Dr Juliette Pattinson: 'Turning a pretty girl into a killer: Violette Szabo and the Special Operations Executive'

1120 - 1200 Sarah Helm: Telling the story of the SOE.

1200 -1215 tea coffee

1215-1245 Q&A debate

1215 - 1300 Final Presentation / Roundup

14:00 – 17:00 approx screening of Carve Her Name With Pride, Dir. Lewis Gilbert 1958 with special guest director, Lewis Gilbert and star, Virginia Mckenna.

Refreshments will be served in the Delegate Centre where there will also be book-sellers and displays of materials.

**'Turning a pretty girl into a killer: Violette Szabo and the Special Operations Executive'**

Dr Juliette Pattinson is a social and cultural historian of Twentieth Century Britain and Europe, with particular interests in gender, personal testimonies and war. Publications include: Behind Enemy Lines: Gender, Passing and the SOE in the Second World War (Manchester University Press, 2007) and

"Turning a pretty girl into a killer': Women, violence and clandestine operations during the Second World War", in F. Alexander & K. Throsby, *Gender and Interpersonal Violence: Language, Action and Representation*, (Palgrave, 2008)

Dr Juliette Pattinson will discuss the establishment of the Special Operations Executive, the decision to include female agents, the recruitment process and the 'type' of female agents sought, their motivations, their training, the work they were allocated to undertake in France and their experiences of captivity. At each stage of the talk Dr Pattinson will refer to Violette Szabo to illustrate how representative she was of the women recruited for the organisation.

**Sarah Helm: Telling the story of the SOE.**

Sarah Helm was a reporter on the SUNDAY TIMES and Diplomatic Editor for the INDEPENDENT before becoming Jerusalem and then Brussels correspondent for the same paper. Publications include: *A Life in Secrets: Vera Atkins and the Lost Agents of SOE*. Ravensbruck is due out in 2010.

Sarah Helm will look at the controversies surrounding the SOE when it was closed down after the war and the various attempts made to tell acceptable versions of SOE's wartime work. The official history of the SOE came to be written against much opposition and there were various films, books and newspaper articles after the war attempting to "sell" its story. Sarah will look at the background to the film *Carve Her Name With Pride* and the instigation of Vera Atkins, the former F Section officer and Maurice Buckmaster, the F Section head. She will also discuss the claims that the film misrepresents and sanitises the life of Violette Szabo. The talk will include some aspects of Szabo's SOE work and why her captivity and her death have remained hidden. The talk will refer to contemporary documents and photographs.

**Co-chair: Martyn Cox**

Martyn Cox is a freelance writer, producer, director and also a passionate WW2 oral historian who has built up an archive of more than eighty filmed interviews with WW2 veterans, most of whom were involved with SOE and other clandestine work during WW2. He is also the Associate Producer of, the Channel 4 documentary *Behind Enemy Lines: The Real Charlotte Grays* and **co-produced a five part series about the FANYs** for BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*.