



CESSNOCK



SI VIS PACEM, PARA BELLUM,

RSL SUB-BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Issue 3 July to September 23

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Sub-Branch Executive

HANDY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Department of Honours and Awards	1800 11 321
ANZAC HOUSE	(02)9264 8188
RSL Defence Care	(02)80880388
Department of Veteran Affairs	1800 555 254
Home Care (Cessnock)	(02)40304706
Cessnock Council Community Services	49907247
DVA Home Care Services	1300 550 450
Royal District Nursing Service	1300 665 444
HACC Community Care Access Point	300 731 556
Hearing Services Australia	31 797
National Hearing Care Cessnock	{02}9091 8613
Cessnock Police	(02)49910199
Cessnock City Council	(02)49934100
VVCS- Counselling Service	1800 011 046
Cessnock Hospital	4991 0555
Cessnock Taxi Service	4990 1111
EMERGENCY SERVICES	000
RSL Hall	4991 4141

SUB-BRANCH NEWS

The Sub-Branch received a very generous donation of a complete solar system for the hall from HV Solar who are now one of a major supporters. See their Ad on our supporters page,

One of our new members, electronics whiz, Sam Sneath is busy installing a full video security system at the hall to hopefully stop a repeat of the low life stealing a part of Greg's display.

Another new member is Abby Szczerbanik who will be a very important asset to our Sub-Branch and local veterans as she is a trained advocate and is in the process of registering as our advocate attached to our Sub-Branch.

Sub-Branch members are reminded that voting for a new president and 7 directors of RSL NSW is now open and all active members are strongly encouraged to make themselves familiar with the candidates, their bio's are in the latest issue of **Reveille**, and make your vote count. You can't complain about the board if you don't vote in the election.

It is timely to remember that our Sub-Branch would quickly cease to exist without our volunteers, our supporters and our donors. Our major supporters, **Cessnock Leagues Club, Creightons Funeral Services** and now **HV Solar** join with **L J Hooker and Jabour Accountants** and **all the local people who donate anonymously at our events and BBQ's.** ensure that our Sub-Branch is able continue its charitable purpose of supporting local veterans and their families,



LEST WE FORGET

SUB-BRANCH EXECUTIVE

PATRON **CHIEF INSPECTOR NICHAEAL GORMAN**

President: Max Lewis – m:0412901619, E:Annegret.lewis@bigpond.com

Vice-President: Lindsay Davis-E:lindsay_davis@bigpond.com

Vice-President: Chris Lewis-0400921842

Treasurer: Lindsay Davis-m0417981529

Secretary David Owens-M0409915850,
E:daveowens1944@gmail.com

Welfare Vacant

TRUSTEES Vacant-David Owens-John Schroeder



Our fundraising efforts this year have been very successful after some lean years during the COVID pandemic. Many thanks to Annegret Lewis and all the volunteers who gave up their time, and Bunnings Cessnock who hosted us, which contributed so much to this success.

BUNNINGS BBQ's UNTIL YEARS END

7 Oct, 18 Nov. and 16 Dec volunteers for all or any part of each day are much appreciated.

Our Members Dinners for the year for the year are as follows:

Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 10am followed by our Christmas Lunch commencing at 11.30am for 12 noon

Don't forget every Thursday 9am to 1pm members social morning tea at the hall.

RSL NSW NEWS

An invitation has been issued to RSL Lifecare to submit a business case for the Veterans wellbeing Hub at Maitland. Hopefully a final decision and start work by the end of the year

Dear Honorary Secretary

The Department of Defence Regimental Sergeant Major Ceremonial has advised that requests for ceremonial support at 2024 ANZAC Day services must be submitted by **30 November 2023**. For sub-Branches that require ceremonial support at commemorations, please complete the new online [Request for Ceremonial Support form](#). The new online Request for Ceremonial Support form replaces all other forms in circulation. It is recommended that sub-Branches use Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox when accessing the online form. Requests generated on Microsoft Internet Explorer or Edge will not be supported by the Defence server. Once the request is successfully submitted, a confirmation email will be sent to the address provided in your application. Should you not receive an automatic response, it might indicate an issue with the submission process. For your convenience, you can access the letter from the Regimental Sergeant Major regarding RSL sub-Branch requests [here](#). For instructions on how to download Google Chrome, [follow this link](#).

1. [Download the installation file](#).
2. If prompted, click **Run** or **Save**. If you choose Save, to start installation, either double-click the download or click Open file.
3. Click **Yes** if you are asked, "Do you want to allow this app to make changes to your device."
4. Start Chrome.

For additional information, please contact joss.nsw@defence.gov.au.



[Flak](#) pointing system captured at Bruneval and now on display at the [Musée de l'Armée](#) in Paris

An unexpected bonus of the Bruneval raid was the Germans' efforts to improve defences at Würzburg stations and prevent similar attacks. The radars were surrounded by rings of barbed wire which increased their visibility from the air, making them easier to attack prior to [Operation Overlord](#).^[48] The [Telecommunications Research Establishment](#), where much of the Bruneval equipment was analysed and where British radar systems were designed and tested, was moved further inland from [Swanage](#) on the southern coast of England to [Malvern](#), to ensure that it would not become the target of a reprisal raid by German airborne forces.^[49] The original model of the area around the radar station, used to brief troops taking part in the assault, is preserved in the [Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Museum](#), at the [Imperial War Museum Duxford](#).^[50]

distinguish between the radar signature of a real bomber and several pieces of Window giving off a similar signature.^{[46][47]}

Aftermath



Pickard examines a German helmet taken after the raid



Biting memorial at Bruneval

2023 Election of RSL NSW President and seven elected Directors

Get ready for the 2023 Election of President and Elected Directors
Make your vote count – update your contact details
Dear members,
The RSL NSW Board has appointed Link Market Services as the independent Returning Officer to officiate and conduct the 2023 Election of President and Elected Directors. Link Market Services is one of Australia’s leading voting and meeting service providers, conducting over 700 meetings and ballots annually to many of Australia’s largest organisations, associations, and business councils. All RSL NSW Service members who are marked as ‘Active’ (formerly ‘Financial’) in the sub Branch Portal are eligible to nominate for President and/or an Elected Director position and to vote for their State President and Elected Directors who will sit on the RSL NSW Board

Voting is open until 9th October 2023

HVDC NEWS

Dungog long serving RSL stalwart Tom Bannister passed away unexpectedly during September, he will be greatly missed. Shortly after and just as unexpectedly his wife Shirley also passed away. May they both rest in peace.

the [Military Medal](#) (MM); there were two other DSCs, two [Distinguished Service Medals](#) (DSM), one other MC, two further MMs and nine [Mentions in Despatches](#) (MiD).^[39] Wing Commander Pickard was also subsequently awarded a [bar](#) to his [Distinguished Service Order](#), on 26 May.^{[40][41]} The success of the raid also prompted the [War Office](#) to expand the existing British airborne forces, setting up the Airborne Forces Depot and Battle School in [Derbyshire](#) in April 1942, and creating the [Parachute Regiment](#) as well as converting a number of infantry battalions to airborne battalions in August 1942.^[42]

The second and most important result of the raid was the technical knowledge that British scientists gained. Examination of the components of the radar array showed that it was of a [modular design](#) that aided maintenance and made fixing faults far simpler than on similar British radar models. This was confirmed during the interrogation of the captured German technician, who proved to be less well trained than his British counterparts.^{[43][44]}

Examination of the radar array also allowed British scientists to conclude that they would have to deploy a countermeasure that had recently been developed, code-named [Window](#). Examination of the Würzburg array showed that it was impervious to being jammed by conventional means used by the British during the early years of the conflict; thus Window would have to be deployed against German radars.^[45] The effectiveness of Window against Würzburg radar arrays was confirmed by a raid conducted by RAF Bomber Command on 24 July 1943 against [Hamburg \(Operation Gomorrah\)](#); the bombers used Window, all of the radar arrays in Hamburg were blinded and their operators confused, unable to

journey back to Britain was uneventful, with the force being escorted by four [destroyers](#) and a flight of [Spitfires](#).^[34]

The paratroopers lost two killed, eight wounded and six men who did not return to the boats. They were later taken prisoner by the Germans.^[35] German reports were found after the war, which made the German loss as follows: the army: two killed, one seriously wounded, two missing. *Luftwaffe*: three killed, one wounded, three missing.^[36] A member of the French resistance movement who had participated in the previous reconnaissance in Bruneval was subsequently captured and executed by the Germans. A Frenchman and his fiancée were deported to concentration camps in Germany for providing help to surviving British paratroopers in their attempt to return to the UK.^[37]

Aftermath^[edit]

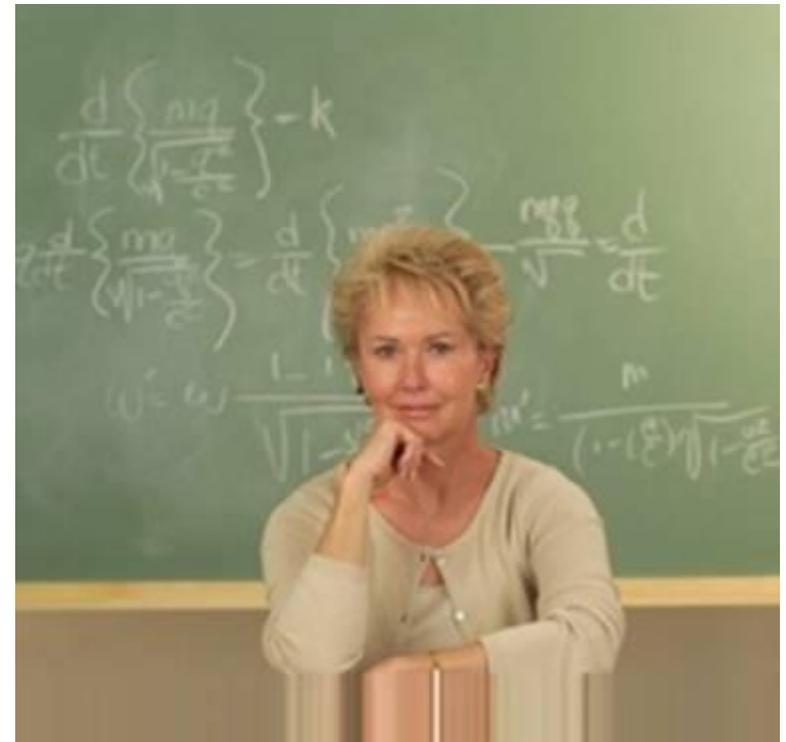
The success of the raid against the Bruneval installation had two important effects. First, a successful raid against German-occupied territory was a welcome morale boost for the British public, and featured prominently in the British media for several weeks afterwards.^[38] The British [Prime Minister, Winston Churchill](#), took a personal interest in the operation, and on 3 March assembled the [War Cabinet](#) to hear from Major Frost and several other officers who had participated in it. Several medals were awarded as a result.

On 15 May 1942 a special supplement to the [London Gazette](#) carried the announcement of 19 decorations; Frost was awarded the [Military Cross](#) (MC), Cook the [Distinguished Service Cross](#) (DSC) and Cox

THOUGHT FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Nov 11 is Remembrance Day

Let us always remember the men and women of our military and the rights they have won for us.



In September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a History teacher at Joe T. Robinson High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks in her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks. 'Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?' She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.' They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades.' 'No,' she said. 'Maybe it's our behaviour.' She told them, 'No, it's not even your behaviour.' And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. Kids called their parents to tell them what was happening and by early afternoon television news crews had started gathering at the school to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room. The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom. Martha Cothren said, 'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he or she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.' At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven (27) Veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets

by Martin Sugarman on the role of German Jewish refugee Commando and Paratrooper Peter Nagel aka Newman, on the raid, and reference to the Yorks TV 1977 documentary film on the raid which includes interviews with Frost, Cox, Nagel and other survivors, and another film held by the [IWM](#), London made in 1982)

The villa was soon cleared of enemy troops once more, and when Frost returned to the beach, he found that the machine-gun nest had been destroyed by the mis-dropped troops of 'Nelson'; avoiding other enemy positions, they had reached the beach and attacked the machine-gun post from the flank.^[33] By this time it was 02:15 but there was no sign of the naval force that was to evacuate the airborne troops. Frost ordered 'Nelson' to guard the inland approaches to the beach and then fired off an emergency [signal flare](#); soon after that, the naval force was seen approaching. The original plan for the operation had called for two landing craft at a time to land on the beach, but this had never been satisfactorily achieved during training; instead, all six landing craft landed at the same time, with the covering troops in the landing craft opening fire on German soldiers gathering at the top of the cliff.^[34]

This deviation from the original evacuation plan and the enemy fire caused considerable confusion on the beach; some of the landing craft left the beach overcrowded, whilst others left half-empty. However, the radar equipment, German prisoners and all but six of the raiding force were embarked and transferred to motor gunboats for transport back to Britain. On the return journey, Frost learned that the naval force had received no signals apart from the signal flare, and had spent much of the time hiding from a German naval patrol that had nearly discovered them. The

they moved towards the villa housing the radar installation, and after surrounding the villa Frost gave the order to open fire with grenades and automatic fire. One German guard was killed as he returned fire from an upstairs window, and two more were taken prisoner by the airborne troops; upon interrogation, the prisoners revealed that the majority of the garrison were stationed further inland.^[31] There still remained a substantial enemy force in the buildings in the small enclosure near the villa, and this now opened fire on the raiding force after being alerted by the initial firefight, killing one of the airborne troops.^[31]

The volume of fire rapidly increased, when enemy vehicles could be seen moving towards the villa from the nearby woods; this, in particular, worried Frost, as the radio sets the force had been issued failed to work, giving him no means of communication with his other detachments, including 'Nelson' who were tasked with clearing the evacuation beach. Flight Sergeant Cox and several [sappers](#) arrived at this time and proceeded to dismantle the radar equipment, placing the pieces on specially designed trolleys.^[32]

Having secured the radar equipment and under heavy enemy fire, Major Frost gave the order for the three detachments to withdraw to the evacuation beach; it became apparent, however, that the beach had not been secured by the under-strength 'Nelson' detachment when a German machine gun opened fire on the airborne troops, severely wounding the [company sergeant major](#). Frost ordered 'Rodney' and the available men of 'Nelson' to clear the defences, whilst he led the other three detachments back to the villa, which had been reoccupied by enemy troops.^[31] (see also chapter in 'Fighting Back'

began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned. Martha said, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.' By the way, this is a true story. And this teacher was awarded Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year in 2006. She is the daughter of a WWII POW. Do you think this is worth passing along so others won't forget either, that the freedoms we have in this great country were earned by our Veterans?

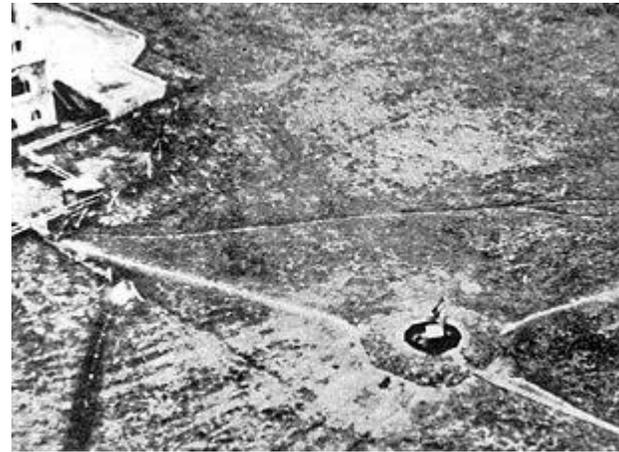
I did.

SOMETHING TO LIGHTEN YOUR DAY



which proved to be a failure; despite ideal weather conditions, the evacuation landing craft grounded 60 yards (180 ft) offshore and could not be shifted despite the efforts of the crews and troops.^[21]

The raid^[edit]



The Würzburg

radar array from another angle, showing the equipment in profile

The raid was postponed for several days after the 23 February rehearsal due to weather conditions, but on 27 February the weather proved to be ideal, with clear skies and good visibility for the aircraft of 51 Squadron, and a full moon which would provide illumination for the evacuation of the raiding force. The naval force under Commander Cook departed from Britain during the afternoon and the [Whitley](#) transport aircraft carrying C Company took off from [RAF Thruxton](#) in the evening.^[24]

The aircraft crossed the English Channel without incident, but as they reached the French coast they came under heavy anti-aircraft fire; however, none of them were hit, and they successfully delivered C Company to the designated [drop zone](#) near the installation.^[3] The drop was an almost total success, with the majority of the raiding force landing on the edge of the drop zone; however, half of the 'Nelson' detachment landed two miles short of the DZ. Once the other detachments had gathered their equipment and oriented themselves, they moved off to undertake their arranged tasks.^[29]

'Jellicoe'. 'Hardy' and 'Drake' encountered no enemy opposition as

[Würzburg](#) radar of the type installed at Bruneval, folded for transport

Information about the Bruneval radar installation was also gathered during this period, often with the help of the [French Resistance](#), without whom detailed knowledge of the disposition of the German forces guarding the installation would have been impossible. This information was gathered by [Gilbert Renault](#), known to the British by the code-name 'Rémy', and several members of his resistance network.^[28]

The installation was composed of two distinct areas; a villa approximately 100 yards (91 m) from the edge of a cliff which contained the radar station itself, and an enclosure containing a number of smaller buildings which contained a small garrison. The Würzburg antenna was erected between the villa and the cliff.^[29] The radar station was permanently manned by *Luftwaffe* radar technicians and was surrounded by guard posts and approximately 30 guards; the buildings in the small enclosure housed about 100 German troops, including another detachment of technicians.^[3] A [platoon](#) of German infantry was stationed to the south in Bruneval, and was responsible for manning the defences guarding the evacuation beach; these included a [strongpoint](#) near the beach as well as [pillboxes](#) and [machine gun nests](#) on the top of the cliff overlooking the beach. The beach was not land mined and had only sporadic barbed-wire defences, but it was patrolled regularly; a mobile reserve of infantry was believed to be available at one hour's notice and stationed some distance inland.^[29]

Based on this information, Frost decided to divide the company into five groups of forty men for the raid, each named after a famous Royal Navy admiral: '[Nelson](#)', '[Jellicoe](#)', '[Hardy](#)', '[Drake](#)' and '[Rodney](#)'.^[21] 'Nelson' would clear and secure German positions defending the evacuation beach, whilst 'Jellicoe', 'Hardy' and 'Drake' would capture the radar site, villa and the enclosure. 'Rodney' was the reserve formation, placed between the radar site and the main likely enemy approach to block any counterattack.^[30]

It was considered that the combination of a full moon for visibility, and a rising tide to allow the landing craft to manoeuvre in shallow water, was vital for the success of the raid, which narrowed the possible dates to a four-day period between 24 and 27 February.^[21] On 23 February, a final rehearsal exercise took place,





**PAYDAY CANDY BAR IS
CHANGING IT'S NAME BECAUSE
IT'S OFFENSIVE TO THOSE WHO
DON'T WORK.**

installation. After this, the unit returned to Wiltshire and began carrying out practice parachute drops with the aircraft and aircrews of 51 Squadron.

Despite the aircrews having no previous experience in dropping parachutists, these exercises proved to be successful.^[21] The company's working-up was aided by the creation of a scale-model of the radar installation and the surrounding buildings being built by the [Photographic Interpretation Unit](#).^[22] During this period, Major Frost was introduced to [Commander F. N. Cook](#) of the [Royal Australian Navy](#) who would be commanding the naval force intended to evacuate the company at the completion of the raid, as well as to the detachment of thirty-two officers and men from [No. 12 Commando](#) who would arrive in the landing craft and cover the company as it withdrew from the beach.^{[23][24]}

Frost also met RAF [Flight Sergeant](#) C.W.H. Cox, who had volunteered to accompany C Company for the operation; as an expert radio mechanic, it would be his job to locate the Würzburg radar set, photograph it, and dismantle part of it for transportation back to Britain.^[25] Derek Garrard of Jones' team asked Jones to obtain an Army uniform and identification number for Cox, as he would be the object of special attention from the Germans if he was captured in Air Force uniform, but the War Office were obdurate.^[26]

Accompanying the strike force was a 10 man section of [Royal Engineers](#) of the 1st Air Troop led by Lt. Dennis Vernon.^[27] Six of the sappers would dismantle the radar device whilst four sappers would plant [anti-tank mines](#) to protect the force from counter attack.



covering force and [paratroopers](#) practise their withdrawal to the landing craft during training in Britain

The two commanders believed that training by airborne troops and aircrews could be completed by the end of February when there would be suitable meteorological conditions for the operation. Training for the raid was begun immediately but encountered several problems. 38 Wing was a new unit still in the process of formation, so [No. 51 Squadron RAF](#) under [Wing Commander Percy Charles Pickard](#) was selected to provide the aircraft and aircrew needed for the operation, although [Group Captain Nigel Norman](#) of 38 Wing would remain in overall command.^[19] Another problem encountered was the state of training of the unit of airborne troops chosen to raid the installation.

During this period, the 1st Airborne Division was composed of only two parachute battalions, of which only one ([1st Parachute Battalion](#)), was fully trained. Browning, wishing to keep 1st Parachute Battalion intact for any larger operation the division might be selected for, ordered the [2nd Parachute Battalion](#) to provide a company for the operation. 'C' Company commanded by Frost was selected but the company had been so recently formed that Frost and many of his men had not yet completed their parachute jumping course.^[16]

The level of security imposed on the planning for the raid was so high that when Major Frost was first briefed by a liaison officer from the headquarters of the 1st Airborne Division, he was informed that his company was to take part in an airborne warfare demonstration for the War Cabinet. He was also informed that C Company would be divided into four sections for the exercise, which was contrary to a plan Frost had devised for the exercise and confused him. It was only after Frost raised several objections with a more senior officer at headquarters that he was informed of the intended raid, after which the Major dropped his objections and turned his attention to training the company.^[20]

Training[\[edit\]](#)

The company spent time on [Salisbury Plain](#) in [Wiltshire](#), and then travelled to [Inveraray](#) in Scotland where they underwent specialised training on [Loch Fyne](#), practising night embarkations on landing craft to prepare the company for evacuation by sea after raiding the radar



sCiEnCe gets better
everyday



You can sweat on each other for 48 minutes, breathe in each others face, and all handle the same ball, but you better wear a mask on the bench, and can't meet the opposing team at half court after the game to shake hands. Science.

The site was found on a clifftop immediately north of the village of Bruneval, 12 mi (19 km) north of Le Havre, and was the most accessible German radar site that had been found so far by the British; several other installations were further inland and others were as far away as Romania and Bulgaria.^{[14][15]} A request for a raid on the Bruneval site to capture a Würzburg system was passed on to Admiral Lord [Louis Mountbatten](#), the commander of Combined Operations.^[17] Mountbatten, in turn, took the proposal to the [Chiefs of Staff Committee](#), who approved the raid after a brief debate.^[17]

Having received permission to conduct the raid, Mountbatten and his staff studied the Bruneval installation and its defences, rapidly coming to the conclusion that due to the extensive coastal defences in the area around the installation it was too well-guarded to permit a seaborne commando raid. They considered that such a raid would result in high casualties among the attacking troops and would not be fast enough to capture the Würzburg radar before it was destroyed by the Germans.^[18] Believing that surprise and speed were to be the essential requirements of any raid against the installation to ensure the radar was captured, Mountbatten saw an airborne assault as the only viable method. On 8 January 1942, he therefore contacted the headquarters of [1st Airborne Division](#) and [38 Wing RAF](#), asking if they were able to conduct the raid. The division's commander, Major-General [Frederick Browning](#), was particularly enthusiastic, as a successful operation would be an excellent morale boost to the airborne troops under his command, as well as a good demonstration of their value.^[19]



November 1941 that he learned the nature of Würzburg. The Würzburg radar device consisted of a [parabolic antenna](#) about 10 ft (3 m) in diameter, which worked in conjunction with Freya to locate British bombers and then direct *Luftwaffe* [night fighters](#) to attack them.^[14] The two systems complemented each other: Freya was a long-range [early-warning radar](#) system but lacked precision, Würzburg had a much shorter range but was far more precise. Würzburg FuSE 62 D, also had the advantage of being much smaller than the Freya system and easier to manufacture in the quantities needed by the *Luftwaffe* to defend German territory.^{[14][15]}

Prelude^[edit]

In order to neutralise the Würzburg system by developing countermeasures against it, Jones and his team needed to study one of the systems, or at least the more vital pieces of technology of which the system was composed. One site had recently been sighted by an RAF [reconnaissance Spitfire](#) from the [Photographic Reconnaissance Unit](#) during a flight over part of the French [English Channel](#) coast near [Le Havre](#).^[16]

The site was found on a cliff top immediately north of the village of Bruneval, 12 mi (19 km) north of Le Havre, and was the most accessible German radar site that had been found so far by the British; several other installations were further inland and others were as far away as Romania and Bulgaria.^{[14][15]} A request for a raid on the Bruneval site to capture a Würzburg system was passed on to Admiral Lord [Louis Mountbatten](#), the commander of Combined Operations.^[17] Mountbatten, in turn, took the proposal to the [Chiefs of Staff Committee](#), who approved the raid after a brief debate.^[17]

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OUR SUB-BRANCH SPONSORS

The Businesses/Individuals on these pages are the sponsor supporters of our Sub-Branch. Their continued support is very important to the continued successful operation of our Sub-Branch. Please support them as they support us.



Bryce Gibson

Selling Principal
0422 227 668

Since starting in Real estate at the tender age of 16, Bryce has dedicated his whole real estate career to helping his many clients and customers achieve their real estate dreams.

Bryce is the Selling Principal of LJ Hooker Cessnock and leads an experienced, skilled and dedicated team to ensure your level of service is second to none.

Bryce has many qualifications including being a Licensed Real Estate Agent, a Licensed Stock & Station Agent, a Licensed Business Agent, a Licensed Strata Managing Agent and Licensed Auctioneer, Certified Practising Valuer.



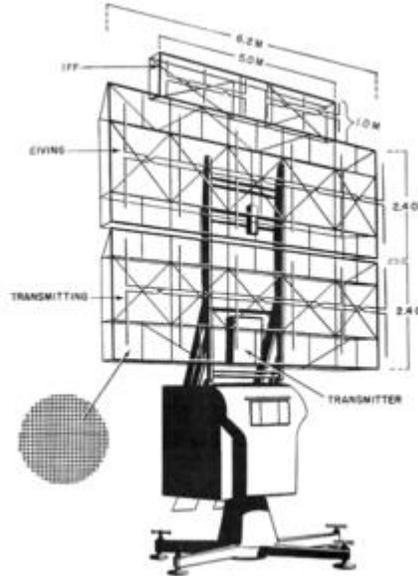


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Jabour Accountants
53 KING STREE NEWCASTLE



A Limber *Freya* radar

By examining leaked German documents, crashed [Luftwaffe](#) bombers and [Enigma decryptions](#), and through German [prisoner of war](#) interrogations, Jones discovered that high-frequency radio signals were being transmitted across Britain from somewhere on the Continent, and he believed they came from a directional radar system.^[12] Within a few months of this discovery, Jones had identified several such radar systems, one of which was being used to detect British bombers; this was known as the "[Freya-Meldung-Freya](#)" array, named after the [ancient Norse goddess](#).^[13] Jones was finally able to see concrete proof of the presence of the Freya system after being shown several mysterious objects visible in reconnaissance pictures taken by the RAF near [Cap d'Antifer](#) in [Normandy](#) – two circular emplacements in each of which was a rotating "mattress" antenna approximately 20 ft (6 m) wide. Having found proof of these Freya installations, Jones and the other scientists under his command could begin devising countermeasures against the system, and the RAF could begin to locate and destroy the installations themselves. Jones also found evidence of a second part of the Freya set-up, referred to in Enigma decrypts as "[Würzburg](#)", but it was not until he was shown another set of RAF reconnaissance photographs in of a [parabolic antenna](#) about 10 ft (3 m) in diameter, which worked in conjunction

had initially failed to do so, but the German force guarding it was soon eliminated with the help of the main force. The raiding troops were picked up by [landing craft](#), and transferred to several [motor gunboats](#), which returned them to Britain.

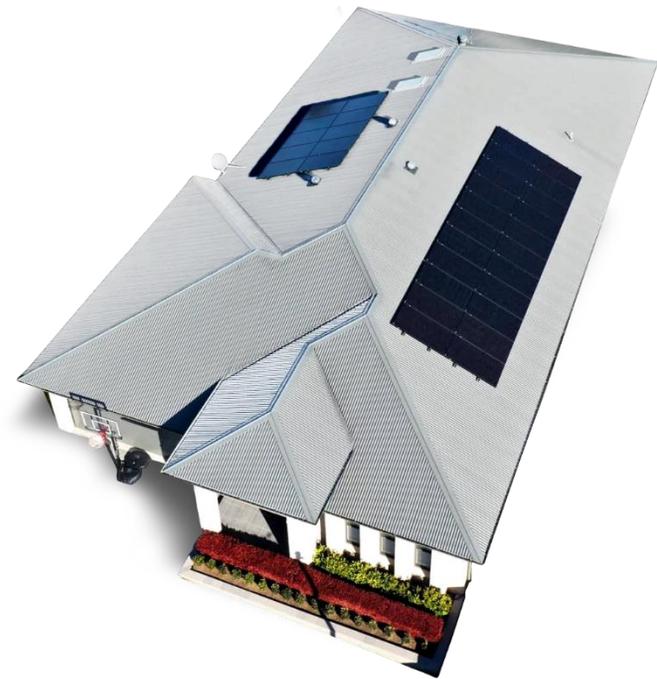
The raid was entirely successful. The airborne troops suffered relatively few casualties, and the pieces of the radar they brought back, along with a captured German radar technician, allowed British scientists to understand enemy advances in radar and to create countermeasures to neutralize them.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

Background^{[[edit](#)]}

After the end of the [Battle of France](#) and the evacuation of British troops from [Dunkirk](#) during [Operation Dynamo](#), much of Britain's war production and effort was channelled into [RAF Bomber Command](#) and the [strategic bombing offensive against Germany](#). However, bomber losses on each raid began to increase during 1941, which British intelligence concluded was due to German use of advanced radar equipment.^{[[?](#)]}

The British and Germans had been competing in radar technology for nearly a decade at this point, with the German technology often at the same level as the British or surpassing them due to heavy investment in the fledgling technology.^{[[?](#)]} By the beginning of the Second World War, Britain had devised effective radar systems, primarily through the work of [Robert Watson-Watt](#), although much of the technology was still rudimentary in nature and Watson-Watt and other scientists had failed to devise an effective night-defence system in time for the German [night-time bombing of Britain](#) during 1940.^{[[?](#)]}

Another British scientist working on radar systems and techniques was [R. V. Jones](#), who had been appointed in 1939 as Britain's first scientific intelligence officer, and had spent the first years of the conflict researching how advanced German radar was in comparison to Britain,^{[[?](#)]} convincing doubters that the Germans actually had radar.^{[[?](#)]}



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HISTORICAL FEATURE

LEST WE FORGET

Operation Biting, also known as the **Bruneval Raid**, was a British [Combined Operations raid](#) on a German coastal radar installation at [Bruneval](#) in northern France, during the [Second World War](#), on the night of 27–28 February 1942.

Several of these installations were identified from [Royal Air Force](#) (RAF) [aerial reconnaissance](#) photographs during 1941, but the purpose and the nature of the equipment was not known. Some British scientists believed that these stations were connected with successful German attacks on RAF bombers conducting bombing raids against targets in [Occupied Europe](#), resulting in severe losses of pilots and bombers. The scientists requested that one of these installations be raided and the technology it possessed be studied and, if possible, extracted and brought back to Britain for further examination.

Due to the extensive [coastal defences](#) erected by the Germans to protect the installation from a seaborne raid, the British believed that a [commando](#) raid from the sea would suffer heavy losses and give sufficient time for the enemy to destroy the installation. Officials decided that an [airborne](#) assault followed by seaborne evacuation would be the most practicable way to surprise the garrison of the installation, seize the technology intact, and minimise casualties to the raiding force.

On the night of 27 February, after a period of intense training and several delays due to poor weather, a [company](#) of airborne troops under the command of Major [John Frost](#) parachuted into France a few miles from the installation. The main force assaulted the villa in which the radar equipment was kept, killing several members of the German garrison and capturing the installation after a brief firefight.

An RAF technician with the force dismantled a [Würzburg radar](#) array and removed several key pieces, after which the force withdrew to the evacuation beach. The detachment assigned to clear the beach