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On a Flying Visit to Bletchley Park

by Michael Negele

In the course of a business trip to Cambridge last week (calendar week 28) I could use the opportunity for an excursion to Bletchley Park. That was insofar an especially pleasing experience as my friend Tony Gillam was able to accompany me there.

From my numerous snapshots I present a small selection below. There is a (new) Hugh Alexander room in "Hut 8", however it is nearly empty. A suggestion: some posters which explain the role of the chess players at Bletchley Park during World War II would certainly be an appropriate addition.

Maybe a regional KWA meeting could be realized at Norfolk (Norwich/Cromer) as well?! As the "Alan Turing Year" is upcoming in 2012, several nice exhibitions will take place in this region, also at Cambridge.

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Sir Herbert Leon's Mansion (1883)

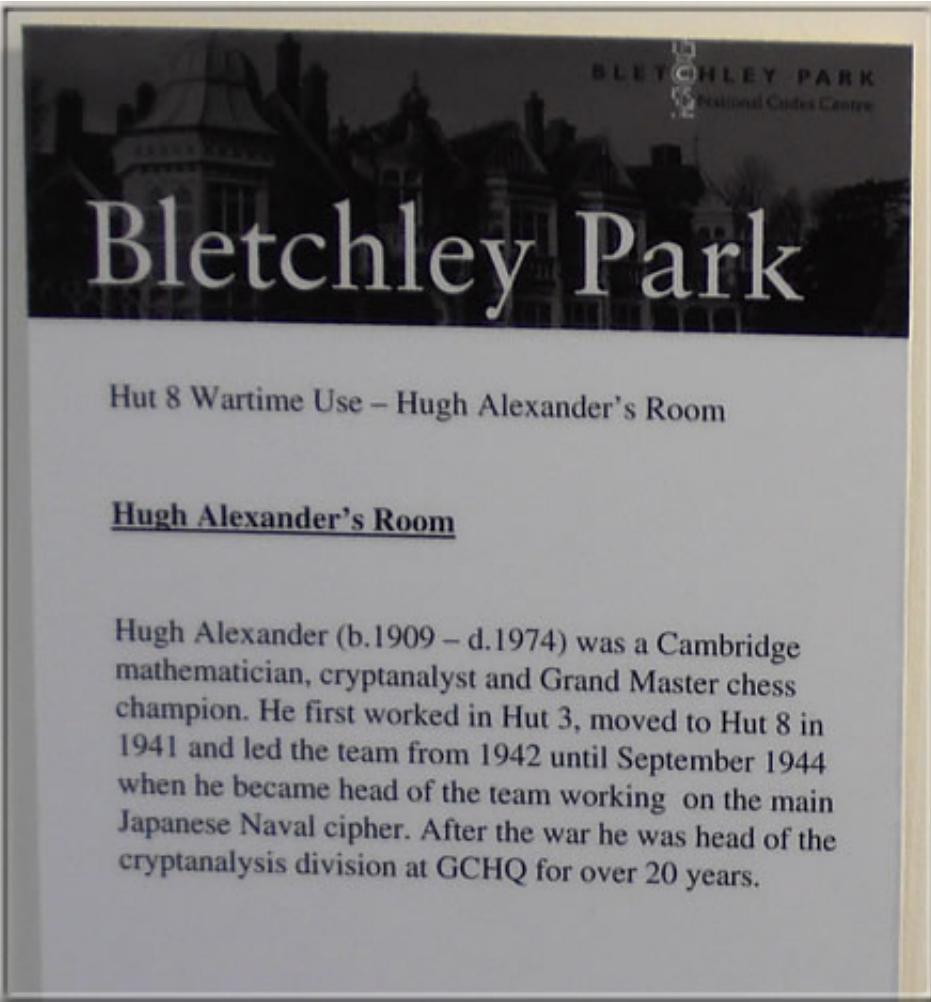


Tony Gillam

with Michael Negele



The entry of "Hut 8"



Hut 8 Wartime Use – Hugh Alexander's Room

Hugh Alexander's Room

Hugh Alexander (b.1909 – d.1974) was a Cambridge mathematician, cryptanalyst and Grand Master chess champion. He first worked in Hut 3, moved to Hut 8 in 1941 and led the team from 1942 until September 1944 when he became head of the team working on the main Japanese Naval cipher. After the war he was head of the cryptanalysis division at GCHQ for over 20 years.

Conel Hugh O'Donel Alexander

In remembrance of



Technical exhibits in Hugh Alexander's room (Middle: CREED & CO TELEPRINTER TYPE 3 USED FOR SENDING & RECEIVING MESSAGES WITH PAGE COPY LIKE AN AUTOMATIC TYPEWRITER)

Technical



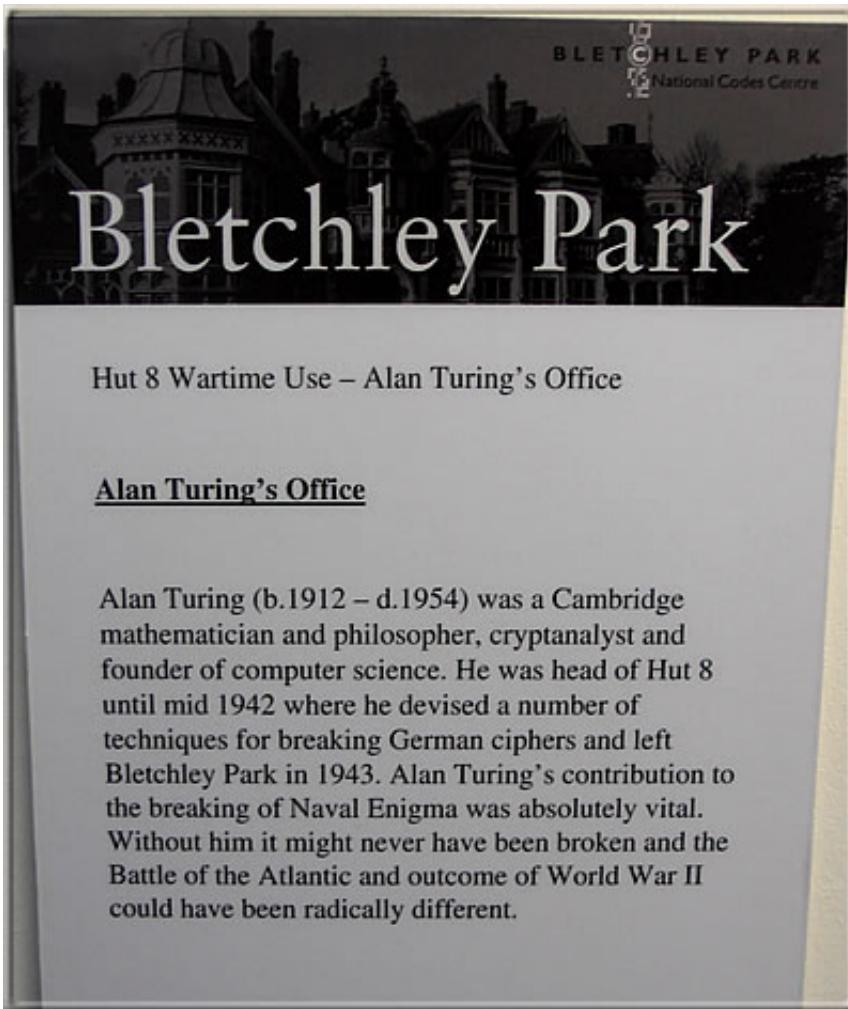
Glass cabinet

with chess exhibits on Hugh Alexander



Alan Turing's

room

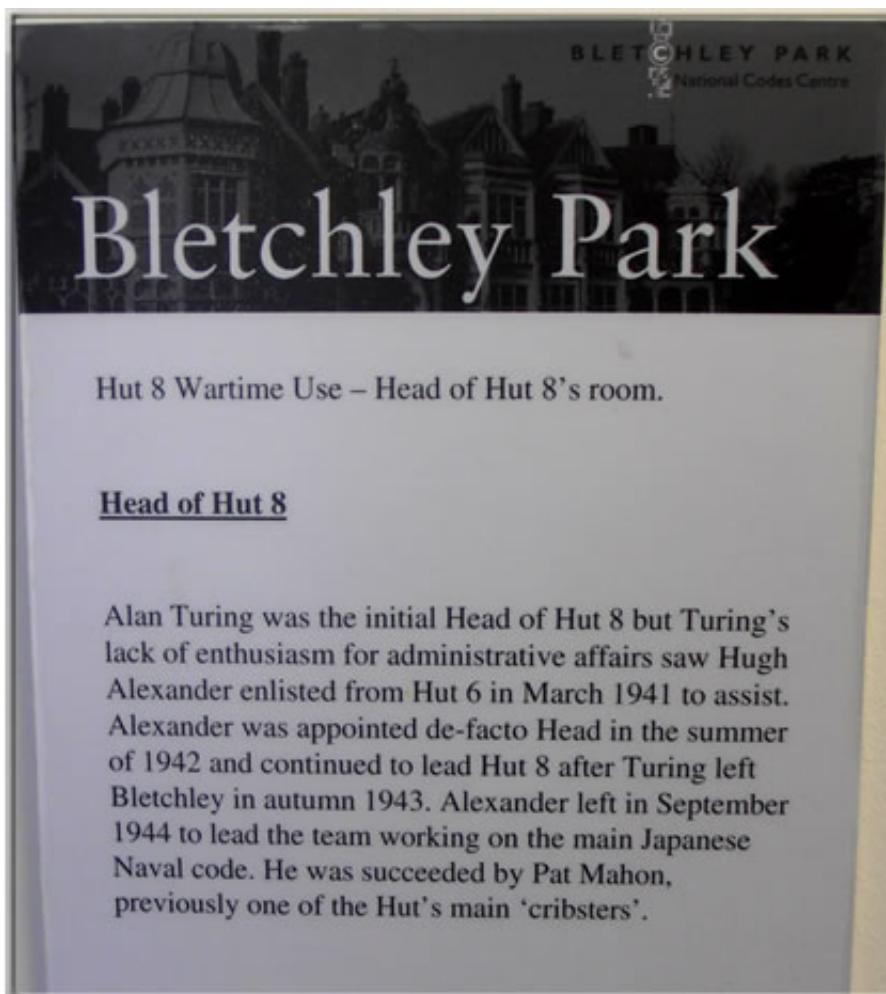


Hut 8 Wartime Use – Alan Turing's Office

Alan Turing's Office

Alan Turing (b.1912 – d.1954) was a Cambridge mathematician and philosopher, cryptanalyst and founder of computer science. He was head of Hut 8 until mid 1942 where he devised a number of techniques for breaking German ciphers and left Bletchley Park in 1943. Alan Turing's contribution to the breaking of Naval Enigma was absolutely vital. Without him it might never have been broken and the Battle of the Atlantic and outcome of World War II could have been radically different.

[About Alan Turing](#)



Hut 8 Wartime Use – Head of Hut 8's room.

Head of Hut 8

Alan Turing was the initial Head of Hut 8 but Turing's lack of enthusiasm for administrative affairs saw Hugh Alexander enlisted from Hut 6 in March 1941 to assist. Alexander was appointed de-facto Head in the summer of 1942 and continued to lead Hut 8 after Turing left Bletchley in autumn 1943. Alexander left in September 1944 to lead the team working on the main Japanese Naval code. He was succeeded by Pat Mahon, previously one of the Hut's main 'cribsters'.

[Successor Hugh Alexander](#)

Finally still a link: [The Queen visits Bletchley Park](#)

Michael Negele, in July, 2011