

Xchange MK

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Secret Places – Better kept than Bletchley Park?



Hanslope Park, 1968



Winston Churchill



Wireless Operator



Bletchley Park is justifiably famous worldwide for its role in solving the Enigma code, however its success depended upon others:

- Intercepting messages for decoding
- distributing the decoded information to those managing operations.

This like Bletchley Park, required secrecy and was just part of the work undertaken by MI6 (Section VIII) with its headquarters locally at Whaddon Hall.

Whaddon Hall

Supporting Bletchley Park was only a part of Whaddon's responsibilities. In his book "The Secret Wireless War" Geoffrey Pidgeon lists another 22 examples, including:

- Providing secure communications for Winston Churchill when travelling;
- Training MI6 agents and other operators;

- Designing and constructing covert wireless stations for overseas and "Black Propaganda";
- Designing and maintaining radio sets for Embassies and Agents;
- Silent Minute: Work to use high powered transmitters at Crowborough to jam the guidance systems of V2 rockets.
- Installing specialised radio equipment in aircraft, fishing vessels and motor torpedo boats

Obviously there were stations outside our area but:

Hanslope Park completed a triangle of local country houses involved in the work of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) and there were also stations at **Calverton** and **Nash**.

So, this area played a vital, secret role during WWII.