



The War Archive is delighted and proud to invite you to a presentation by Lieutenant General **Sir John Foley** KCB OBE MC DL entitled

**“An Experience of Intelligence”
6 May 2017 at 19.30**

The presentation will be in English

The War Archive considers itself lucky and privileged that Sir John accepted our invitation to share the experiences of his long and fascinating career with the friends of the Archive.

Anabella and myself met Sir John and Lady Ann Foley while he was the commander of the British Forces in Hong Kong during 1992-4, just three years before the, then, colony of Hong Kong was returned to China.

His (very !) brief CV attached to this invitation hides a great deal more than it reveals. Sir John’s career could be seen by an outsider as consisting of two major parts, that of active duty in, and finally leading the SAS, and then reaching the top posts of military and defence intelligence in the UK.

The SAS (Special Air Service) had its roots during the WWII when special army commando units were set up in 1941 to harass Rommel’s troops in North Africa. After the war, the SAS was involved in numerous operations both in British

ex-colonies as well as in more extensive campaigns including the two Iraqi wars and, more recently, in operations against the ISIS.

As Sir John's CV points out, he had participated in operations not just as a commander, but as an officer in the field and in actual combat duty. Sir John had never been an "armchair" general but fought with his men in the field.

However as any "armchair" strategist will tell you, half the battle is won or lost on how much you know about your enemy. Hence Sir John's subsequent career was, not surprisingly, involved with the collection and evaluation of intelligence, reaching the top post of Chief of Defence Intelligence.

It is, therefore, a unique privilege for the War Archive and for its friends to have a veteran of active combat duty as well as the person who was ultimately responsible for the use of information in the defence of the UK, to come to Athens and share his experiences with us, and most significantly, in the context of current events where intelligence plays such an important and controversial role.

The offices he held after his full retirement are all honorary posts on the level of counties or geographical regions in the UK and are indicative of the value of his public services.

We look forward to welcome you personally.

Andrew and Anabella Freris

CV

Sir John Paul Foley KCB OBE MC DL

Sir John was commissioned into the Rifle Brigade in 1958 and served in the UK, Germany and Cyprus between 1958 and 1964.

He subsequently joined the Special Air Service (SAS) and served on operations in Aden, Oman and Borneo. Appointed Director Special Air Service in 1983, he directed the Special Forces during the Libyan Embassy siege in London in 1984. From 1987 to 1989, he was Chief of the British Commanders in Chief Mission to the Soviet Forces in East Germany. During the first Gulf War during 1990-1991, he was Deputy Chief of Defense Intelligence and a member of the National Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC). In 1992, he became Commander British Forces Hong Kong.

In 1994, he was appointed Chief of Defense Intelligence. Retiring in 1997, he was a member of The Security Commission for 9 years, Chairman of the British Greyhound Racing Board and a member of the International Advisory Board of Group 4 before being appointed Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey in 2000.

On return to his native Herefordshire, he was High Sheriff of Herefordshire and Worcestershire and then Vice Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire from 2010 to 2015.

OUTLINE OF TALK

I hope this outline may help you answer any questions from the potential audience. In the first half I will use operational stories from my experiences in the SAS and as a battalion and brigade Commander in Borneo, Oman, Ulster, the Libyan Embassy siege and the Commanders in Chief Mission to the Soviets.

In the second half, I will cover our national organization of Intelligence, some experiences as Deputy Chief of Intelligence in the first Gulf War and then drawing on my time as Chief of Defense Intelligence cover today's threats and the challenges that face national intelligence agencies and their political masters. Not just Trump!

The Arheion is looking very much forward to your presence in this event. We ask you however to let us know whether you will be coming either by replying to this email at afreris@wararchivegr.org and/or by contacting Maka Dokhnadze at the phone of the Arheion, 210-8676390 ,or mobile phone 69-98088220 by latest 3/5/2017. Please do note that space is limited.
