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# DAILY ENTERPRISE



## (U) HISTORY TODAY - April 8, 2016

FROM: CCH

Run Date(s): 04/08/2016

### (U) Christine Brooke-Rose: A WAAF Cryptologic Linguist



(U) When we read about women who worked at Bletchley Park during World War II, we generally find inspiring stories about those in uniform who operated the bombes that provided cryptanalytic support in solving the German ENIGMA machine or a few civilians like Joan Clarke who did cryptanalysis.

(U) Some women also served as linguists. One such was Christine Brooke-Rose.

(U) She was born in Switzerland and raised in Brussels. Her education was in Belgium and also at Oxford and University College, London.

(U) Ms. Brooke-Rose became a WAAF\* officer. Her task at Bletchley Park was to translate decrypts of messages that were enciphered on the ENIGMA.

(U) Brooke-Rose was unhappy in her marriage and had an affair with a senior U.S. COMINT officer in Europe. Recalling that she informed her husband of the situation, she remembered "... he and [the officer] talked together. [The officer] was terribly amused afterward because he thought my husband was so British, shaking hands and saying that everything was all right..." Despite the surface amity, both the affair and the marriage ended shortly after.



(U) WAAF personnel at Bletchley Park during WW II. Christine Brooke-Rose is on the far right.

(U) After the war she completed her undergraduate degree, and earned a doctorate in medieval literature from University College, London. She worked as a literary journalist and translated from the French. She wrote *avant garde* novels, including one without the verb "to be."

(U) She accepted a position at a regional branch of the University of Paris and lived in the south of France from 1988 until her death in 2012.

\* (U) WAAF = Women's Auxiliary Air Force

(U) To discuss historical topics with interesting folks, visit the Center for Cryptologic History's blog, [History Rocks](#) ("go history rocks").

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Information Owner   
 Page Publisher   
 Last Modified: April 7, 2016  
 Last Reviewed: April 7, 2016

~~DERIVED FROM: NSA/CSSM 1-52, DATED: 20160110, DECLASSIFY ON: 20430110~~  
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Approved for Release by NSA on 04-12-2019, FOIA Case # 84783

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36