

Listening in on Hitler's Plans

Speaker: Dr. Helen Fry, Historian

This talk will reveal the content and significance of some of the bugging undertaken by British intelligence during World War 2.

The conversations of thousands of German prisoners-of-war at three stately houses: Latimer House and Wilton Park in Buckinghamshire, and Trent Park in North London were being transmitted to British intelligence. Hitler's Generals, captured on the battlefields, were housed in luxurious conditions and lulled into a false sense of security. They relaxed and became unguarded in their conversations, little realising the house was 'wired for sound'. They inadvertently gave away some of Hitler's most closely guarded secrets. For over 60 years the secret listeners never spoke about their work, not even to their families. They died, little knowing that they, alongside Bletchley Park, not only shortened the war but helped toward the victory on VE Day.

The Speaker, Dr Helen Fry, has written numerous books on the Second World War. Her latest book, *Women in Intelligence: The Hidden History of Two World Wars*, was released in 2023. Her bestselling books include: *Spymaster: The Man who Saved MI6* and *The Walls have Ears* and *MI9: a history of the Secret Service for escape and evasion in WW2*. Helen appears frequently in TV documentaries. In 2022 she was recognized as a woman of achievement at the Women of the Year Lunch Awards. In 2023 she received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Jewish Military History and Education. She is an ambassador for the Military Intelligence Museum.