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Booksellers & Publishers, specialising in WW2 Intelligence & Codebreaking

24 High St, Cleobury Mortimer, KIDDERMINSTER DY14 8BY, England

Telephone: 01299 270110

email: enigma@mbaldwin.free-online.co.uk

• VAT Reg No: 547 6638 05 •

Dr Mark Baldwin and the ENIGMA machine

Dr Mark Baldwin, a publisher and bookseller in Cleobury Mortimer, was one day cataloguing a book entitled 'Very Special Intelligence'. Needing to know a little about its content, he was obliged to dip into its pages, and was amazed by what he found. The book told the story of the success of our WW2 codebreakers at Bletchley Park, who read several million German, Italian and Japanese secret messages, and thus hastened Allied victory. This chance encounter stimulated Dr Baldwin into further research, and eventually into acquiring a genuine Enigma machine. He is now recognised as one of the country's leading speakers on 'The Codebreakers' and frequently gives illustrated presentations in theatres, arts centres, and festivals all round the country, both to public meetings and to professional and educational audiences. In the last seven years he has travelled to nearly two hundred venues as far apart as Wigtown (Scotland), Alnwick, Folkestone, and Falmouth, and has even been to Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, Poland, and Germany, visits for which special permission was required to allow the Enigma machine to travel in the aircraft cabin as hand luggage. In 2004, he was invited to present a lecture at Bletchley Park itself. As a publisher, he has already produced five books on the subject, three of which have been reprinted.

When he bought his first Enigma machine ten years ago, it lacked a vital component, the *umkehrwalze* or reflector rotor. Having a replica made proved very difficult, but he persevered, and now not only is the machine in working order, but also he has been able to provide replica parts to other Enigma owners, both in Britain and the USA.