



The General Service Corps & The SRO Experience

Specialist Group Military Intelligence

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CoS - RTIS

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- The role of a SRO / Specialist AR (Group B) Officer
- The SRO recruitment and selection process within SGMI
- Positives and Frustrations
- The difference between Type A and Type B commissions and what this means practically to SGMI
- A personal view on the different skills that SRO's bring to SGMI and to the wider Army Reserve
- A short briefing on the GSC.
- Q&A



What is a SRO / Specialist Officer AR Group B?

- A Specialist is an individual who can **demonstrate** a specific capability and/or civilian experience, competency and qualifications in the field of a **relevant** science or area of knowledge that is brought in to the Army to **supplement** core military capabilities.

(DIN 2016DIN01-127. Army Reserve - Specialist Reserve Officers And Other Ranks: Entry Process And Career Management).

(DIN 2017DIN01- 175 TACOS for Specialist Officers in the Army Reserve Group B, General Service Corps).

SROs are those who are selected for their specialist technical ability falling outside PQO status.

SRORs are those who are selected for their specialist technical ability falling outside PQS status.



Examples of SRO (Group A) deployment

Unit	Cap badge	Roles	
SGMI	 	FININT / CT / Regional HDIS TISO	
Joint Cyber Unit 254 (SGIS) Signals Sqn		Cyber / Information Systems & Assurance	
SIB		Specialist Criminal Investigators	
77X			Various specialisations



Recruitment and Selection Process (Direct entry SRO – Type A Commission)

Process

Technical Interview

NRC Application

Medical

AOSB

Attestation

RMAS ResPQO CC

Personal experience

September 2015

October 2015

November 2015

February 2016

February 2016

May 2016 (MOD A)

March 2017 (MOD B)



Type A (SRO) vs Type B (Neith Pillar)

Type A

- RMAS (PQO) CC
- MATTs
- Fitness to MATT + RMAS
- Able to deploy/mobilise
- Paid at AR rank
- Min 19 days
- Generally DV Clearance
- SME
- SO3 (Capt) appointments
- Promotion from OF2 to OF4 possible (subject to SRO TACOS)

Type B

- Not Applicable
- Not Applicable
- Not required
- Non Deployable
- Unpaid
- Limited commitment
- Clearance as required.
- SME
- Substantive Lt.
- Local OF4.



So what is so special? – a personal view.

- Access to skills not normally found within the Army
- SRO's often have significant leadership experience, gained within their civilian jobs, that substantially exceeds that required of their AR rank.
- SRO's demonstrate throughout selection and training that they are willing and able to extend out of their 'comfort zone'
- SRO's are often to establish relationships with others (Army, Defence, UKIC and Industry), significantly above their AR rank
- *“A specialist, passionately curious, challenges orthodox thinking, a volunteer, willing to serve, a desire to make a difference”.*

The GSC – A guide for Specialist Reserve Officers 2016.



A brief guide to the General Service Corps





What is the General Service Corps?

- Two disparate roles.
 - Primary role is an administrative holding corps for Army personnel who have not been assigned to other units or corps (e.g. Officer Cadets at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and phase one recruits at Army Training Regiments).
 - Secondary role - the GSC contains personnel that are on the General List or Special List and are usually part of the Army Reserve.
- Part of Combat Service Support (CSS) arm.
- Parade far left within British Army Order of Precedence, in-between Royal Army Physical Training Corps (RAPTC) and QARANC.



Brief History – WW1

- Set up in 1914 to meet the throughput of personnel during World War I the GSC was meant for “officers who have been gazetted to the General List for service with Service Battalions, but whose allocation is not included in this issue.”
- In February 1915, the list was extended to include the names of officers “who are holding other employments.”





WW2

- The GSC often recruited individuals on a case-by-case basis, for vague and speculative reasons, with many of them not knowing exactly which unit they were working with or for.
- Specialist personnel under the GSC cap badge served in special duties branches, intelligence units, and resistance organisations (such as the SOE).
- All of this alludes to “classified duties which required military status but a degree of anonymity.”
- For cover purposes personnel in SOE were normally given a rank and number in one of the three more regular services if they had none already; usually in the Army, and on the General List. Most staff officers held army ranks, most agents were given commissions as Lieutenants or Captains.





Notable GSC Officers

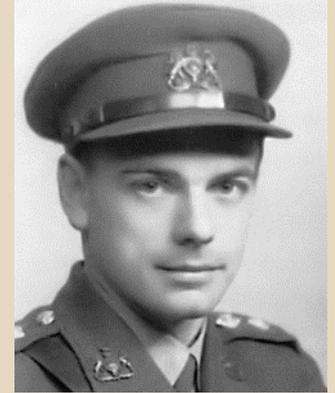
- **Anton Walter Freud** (1921 - 2004). Grandson of the renowned Jewish founder of psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud. Joined the British Army and recruited by Austria Country Section of the SOE. Served in Italy, Austria and Germany. In 1945, having been separated from his colleagues he entered the town of Zeltweg. Dressed in uniform and claiming to be the advance guard of the advancing British 8th Army he demanded to take control of the nearby airfield before the Russians arrived.
- **Bob Maloubier DSO MBE** (1923 - 2015). French national recruited into SOE in 1943. Founder of the French Special Forces diving unit. Dropped into Normandy in August 1943 where he became part of the SALESMAN network. Shot in the back in December 1943 after trying to escape from German arrest. Parachuted back into France June 1944, 24 hours after D-Day, to assist the Maquis in blowing up roads and bridges to prevent German reinforcements moving into the region. After the war Maloubier served within France's counter-intelligence service in both Africa and Indo-China.





Notable GSC Officers

- **Peter Lake MC** (1915 – 2009) was originally commissioned into the intelligence Corps (Field Security Police) before being recruited into SOE. His first operation in 1942 (POSTMASTER) was in West Africa, where he worked in the British Consulate. In 1943 he joined the DIGGER network in France and worked with the Macquis in the Dordogne region. Lake was made Chevalier of the Legion d'honneur, awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Military Cross. In his post-war career he worked in the Foreign Office.
- **John Pendlebury** (1904 - 1941) was a leading archaeologist. In 1940 he joined the SOE. After training in the UK he returned to Heraklion with the cover of British Consul. He spent considerable time building the resistance in Crete. When the Germans invaded Crete in 1941 he was involved in an attack on a German patrol and was shot in the chest. German medical staff treated him. However, Pendlebury had lost his dog tags and was not wearing British uniform. The following day German paratroopers shot him following a short interrogation. He now lies in Souda Bay Cemetery.





Crete 1941

Kronis BARKADIS

'Old Krone'

Wearing GSC cap badge

Trusted assistant to
Capt PENDLEBURY GSC.

Pictured in 1941 in
HERAKLION just before
the German Invasion of
Crete.

Pictured with him is
SGT D BOWE of Field
Security.





Crete 1944 – Kidnap of General KREIPE



"Man Friday" – Manoli



Rounds Complete

Any Questions?