

## **Commander Allon Bacon**

*A varied career in wartime Naval Intelligence*

Norma Allon Bacon, known as Allon, joined Government Code and Cypher School as a civilian in June 1939 and was seconded to the Admiralty's Naval Intelligence Division, section 8G (NID 8G) in August, working under Lt Cdr [Malcolm Saunders](#).

In March 1941 he returned to Bletchley Park, as a newly commissioned naval officer, to become a senior member of the Naval Section's 'Z' Reporting Watch. As the section's 'traveller' he went to Scapa Flow to collect an Enigma machine and cipher documents seized on May 9 1941 by HMS Bulldog from the abandoned German submarine, U 110. The papers included the settings and procedures for the 'Offizier' Enigma messages, which until then had defied decryption at Bletchley Park.

In December 1941 Bacon played a key role in Operation Archer, seizing Enigma documents from the German armed trawler *Lauenberg* off the coast of Norway. A recent account of his involvement, by Emily Turner, can be found [here](#).

As part of his duties as the Naval Section's external co-ordinator, he visited Russia from May to July 1942 for a productive discussion on the exchange of traffic analysis information. By late 1943 Bacon was Head of both Naval Section III(J), providing intelligence on the Japanese Navy to HMS Anderson in Colombo and also of Naval Section III(P), responsible for the 'British Plot' of Allied shipping.

In late 1944 he was made executive officer of the new Target Intelligence Committee (TICOM) organisation, with additional responsibility for training. TICOM was a joint British-American organisation set up to collect and study

captured enemy communications and signals intelligence material. He reported to [Harry Hinsley](#), chairman of TICOM.

By the end of the war Bacon was deputy chairman of TICOM, transferring to Naval Intelligence Division 9 at the Admiralty in October 1945.