

Intelligence Service Europe

SCV Europe Camp #1612

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Intelligence Service Europe, Year 7, Issue 2, Aug. / Sep. 2014

Commander's Letter

Dear Members and Friends of the Europe Camp, some time has past since you got the latest issue of our newsletter. Despite of a not complete ISE team we succeeded once again a worth reading new edition. I hope that our editor Raphael will be as fast as possible again on board to collect interesting articles together.

The last months were fulfilled with plentiful activities in those members of our Camp participated.

A commemoration ceremony to honour Colonel Heros von Borcke in Poland brought a joyful reunion with the inhabitants of Gizyn. Our friends in England honoured the sailors of the CSS Alabama with a commemoration ceremony and a plaque.

Unfortunately we had to see what a wrong reporting press can do to give the readers a fail information of an situation (see in addition the report about the flag of the East Ukrainian rebels).

Have a nice time reading this brand new issue of the ISE newsletter.



In the service of the South,
Achim "Archy" Bänsch
Commander



Camp Adjutant's

Dispatch

July 2014

The Summer has been a good time for the Camp.

As reported elsewhere, we were represented at the ceremony in June in Cherbourg, France to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Sinking of the CSS Alabama. And I had the pleasure of representing the Camp at the Honor Ceremony for Colonel Heros von Borcke, JEB Stuart's Chief of Staff, at his burial site in Western Poland just last weekend. Unlike stateside Camps, we are spread out across a Continent, so it is difficult to arrange events together. Some of us are Re-enactors. Others of us do other things to remember our ancestors and uphold their flag. Most of these actions go unreported – and they should not be. I think anything you do which reflects your Confederate heritage, even if not directly connected to the SCV or our Camp, would be of interest to all of the members of the Camp. You may be doing something which others would also like to do, but they have never thought of it.

It is always interesting to hear of other ways to honor our people. That is why I always try to read about other Camps' activities in *Confederate Veteran*. If you have an idea how we can stay active as a Camp, please let us know.

And speaking of the Camp, it is time again to help keep the flag flying – and renew your Membership.

I will shortly be sending you by email a renewal notice with details of payment.

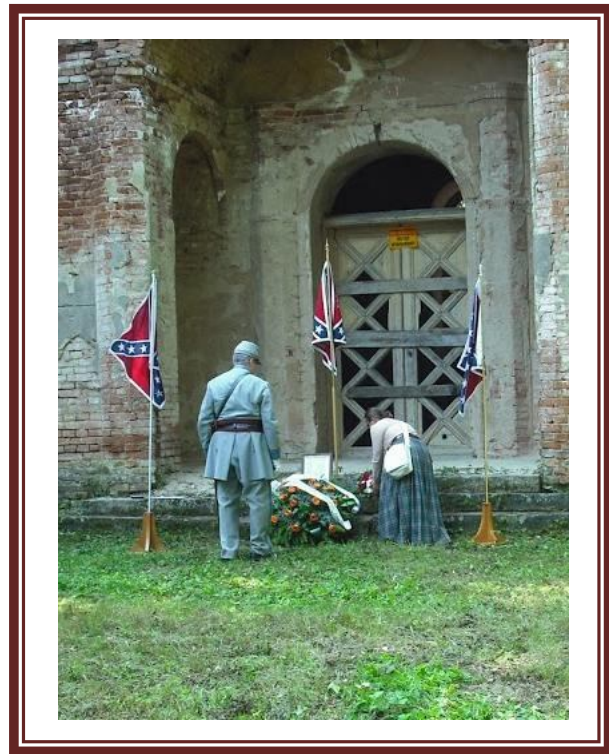
When it comes. please do not delay – go for it. Remember: Even if you can do nothing else, just by being a Member, you make a powerful statement in honor of your Confederate ancestors(s) and the principles for which our people fought.

Confederately yours

Chris McLarren, Adjutant

The Flag and Flowers Return to Gizyn

By Chris McLarren
Adjutant, Europe Camp 1612



For most of us, re-enacting the lives of our ancestors is not a part of our own lives. But if you have the chance to do so, I can heartily recommend it for getting your Confederate blood going.



Last weekend, the 14th Louisiana Infantry organized a Re-enactment and Camp. And I had the opportunity to march with them onto the field of 'battle' against the 58th New York Infantry. It was an exhilarating experience. (Only later did I realize I was soaked with sweat in the 30° Celsius heat.)

What was unusual about this Union/Confederate 'battle' was, it was taking place in Poland – and almost all of the participants were Polish! For this was the 2nd Re-enactment and Camp to be held in Gizyn, Poland, the home of Heros von Borcke, JEB Stuart's Chief of Staff.

Von Borcke was a Prussian cavalry officer who, at 26, struck out to find adventure and combat experience in the Confederate States. This was the 'big Prussian with the big sword' who was famous in both the Army of Northern Virginia – and in the Army of the Potomac. V. Borcke was not only his Chief of Staff; he was also a close friend of General Stuart and was near the General's bedside when he died in 1864.

Heros was himself wounded twice, the second wound incapacitating him for field duty. So President Davis sent him to England on a diplomatic mission. He was there when the war ended. He returned to his home some 90 miles east of Berlin. He flew a Confederate flag from the house for the rest of his life. He was buried on his estate. Because of border shifts after WWII, his mausoleum now lies in Poland.

There are some graves of Confederate veterans scattered through Europe. Europe Camp has taken a special interest in v. Borcke's grave. In 2008, Commander Bansch and I participated in a memorial ceremony along with members of the v. Borcke family. We returned in 2010. Since our Camp possibilities are limited, we were very pleased when the 14th Louisiana Infantry decided to share our interest in the grave. Both last year and this year, within the framework of the Weekend, we held memorial ceremonies again before the v. Borcke mausoleum. Both times both Union and Confederate units took part in the event.



The Salute

Both times our special guest was Richard Cicero of Virginia, who portrays Colonel v. Borcke at re-enactments and living history presentations throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region. For him, these events are so special that he flies across the Atlantic Ocean to be with us, to walk the fields that v. Borcke walked and stand before the physical resting place of the very man he portrays.



Me and the Colonel

I gave the main address at the ceremony (see page 7 in this month's issue). The 14th laid a wreath and I laid flowers in our Camp's name. As you will see, our Camp Flag was in the center of the display (again, thanks to our Newsletter Editor, Raphael Waldburg-Zell, who donated the flag.)

We are already planning the next weekend: July 24-26 , 2015. If you have not visited Berlin, this would be an excellent reason to do so – a couple of days before (or after) the weekend and Giżyn as the historical high-point. I would be very pleased to welcome you to 'my' city and we would together represent our Camp. If you are a Re-enactor and want to camp with the troops, they will be pleased to have you. If you are not, there are some nice hotels in the area. Please consider it.

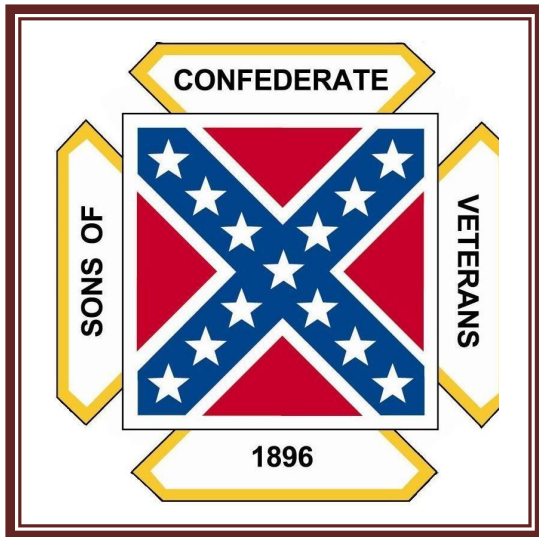
We are a long way from the States. No matter: Europe Camp flies the flag and honors our soldiers – *wherever they may lie*.

Photos above courtesy of Agnieszka Papiernik.



Colonel Heros von Borcke





July 26th, 2014

Address on the Occasion of
the Honor Ceremony for
Colonel Heros v. Borcke in
Giżyn Poland,

Town Mayor Glibowska,
Citizens of Giżyn
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning and welcome to our ceremony.

First of all, we want to thank Mayor Glibowska and the people of Giżyn for their warm Polish hospitality.

It is through their wonderful enthusiasm and support that we can be here today.

I am Christopher McLarren, a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, an American organization of the descendents of the Southern men who fought in the American Civil War 1861-1865.

These men, standing in their hot, heavy, authentic wool uniforms, come from many nations, but they all have a very special interest in that war. So they have joined organizations that authentically portray military units of that war.

As an American and a descendent of the men who fought in that struggle, I am grateful to them for their great interest in our history.

So, what about this war?

Let us look for a moment how this all happened.

Every day when President Obama looks out the north side of the White House in Washington, he can see a statue to your Tadeusz Kościuszko

Before he led the Poles in the Kościuszko Uprising in 1794, he went to America to help the Americans win their independence from Britain.

Why did the Americans “rebel” against British rule? London ignored their political and economic interests and they did not want to be economic slaves to the English merchants.

Just as the Poles rose in rebellion in 1794, so too the Americans rose in 1776. With French, Spanish and Dutch help, they defended their new nation and won their independence – and we remember Kościuszko.

The parts of the new nation were different, in economy, in social customs, even in ways of thinking. To live together in one nation, they agreed that they would decide together about those things which affected them all.

But over the years, the North grew faster. They began to dominate politically and they pushed through laws which helped the North, but harmed the South - tax and tariff laws which sucked millions of dollars out of the South and put them in the North.

Also, at the beginning, all the states had black slaves, like in most of the Americas. As the North became more industrial, they didn't need slaves, so they ended their slavery, often by selling their slaves to the South.

And a very loud minority of people in the North wanted to end black slavery in the South, too– an idea which threatened

the very basis of the social and economic structure in the agrarian South.

Finally, Southerners felt they had no way to stop that domination and exploitation except to do what their fathers did – they peacefully withdrew from the larger political unit and formed their own separate republic – the Confederate States of America.

Many Northerners would have accepted this peaceful separation and the two countries could have lived peacefully side-by-side like the US and Canada.

But powerful economic interests – especially the New York bankers and Northern industrial interests – did not want to let the South escape their economic and political control. And their good friend in the White House, Abraham Lincoln, believed that separation would mean the end of American power., the end of the United States.

And so it came to war.

My great-great grandfather in the North was told that his country – the United States was threatened by a rebellion – and he joined the United States Army.

My Great-Great Grandfather in the South could see the United States soldiers invading his country – and he joined the Confederate States Army.

Hundreds of thousands left their homes and risked their lives – and died to defend their country. A war that did not have to be. The cost of this war would today have been six million dead and wounded.

But no-one wants to think their son or father died defending banking interests, and so after the war,

Northern Republicans said instead it had actually been a crusade against slavery. Most Americans today believe this pleasant myth. But it is a myth.

This all happened 150 years ago. But we will never forget the bravery of the men on both sides who did their duty.

That is why these men are standing there, sweating.

Nor will we in the South forget those like Heros v. Borcke, who came to help us, just as Kościuszko came to help the Americans.

Heros v. Borcke was born into an old noble Prussian family. He became a young cavalry officer. But, at 26, he had heard of the South's fight and so he set out for adventure. He slipped through the United States naval blockade of the South. He arrived in the South, with no papers and basically no English.

But he was a trained cavalry officer and was soon a staff officer with the cavalry in Virginia. He fought alongside some of our most famous Confederate heroes – Jeb Stuart, John Mosby, General Robert E. Lee.

v. Borcke was popular with his comrades. He was charming, modest and playful. He was also famous. Both armies spoke of the 'big Prussian with the big sword.' (For he was larger than normal – and his sword was especially made for him.)

He had many close-calls. Once, when he was riding across a field under fire, he felt the wind of a cannonball which had just passed over the back of his horse.

v. Borcke was wounded twice. The second time was through a bullet he would carry the rest of his life. He could no longer serve in the field, so our President, Jefferson Davis, sent him to England on a diplomatic mission. He was there when the War ended.

After the war v. Borcke came home – and proudly flew our Confederate Flag from his house.

v. Borcke once wrote "I shall ever rejoice that I drew my sword for the gallant people of the late Confederacy."

Today, we honor him and all those who risked their lives in that terrible war.

And we thank you, the people of Gizyn for the opportunity to honor them here, today.

Long Live Poland! Long Live America ! Long may both of our countries have peace!

Thank you.

Christopher McLaren



Ah! Yes! The Press!

By Chris McLarren, Adjutant, Europe Camp 1612, SCV

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is an international organization – and our Heritage Defense challenge is world-wide.

Case in point: On June the 9th, 2014 the English-language *Moscow News* reported on a press conference of an East Ukrainian rebel leader presenting their new 'official banner' – which indeed looks something like a Confederate Flag.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/ukrainian-rebels-channel-us-confederates/501789.html>

But its 'creator', Mikhail Pavliv told Moscow Times he had simply stumbled upon the flag online somewhere.

At the press conference, the flag was presented by rebel leader Pavel Gubarev. Apparently asked about a Confederate connection – a connection he, himself, did not make, Gubarev said the comparison to US Confederates, did not bother him because "the flag dates back to much earlier times.. "Learn your history," he said .."

(Information and quotes , Moscow Times.)

So, despite the wrong red, the wrong blue and no stars, some press have ' decided' that the Confederate flag was the basis, even though the designer claims no such thing.

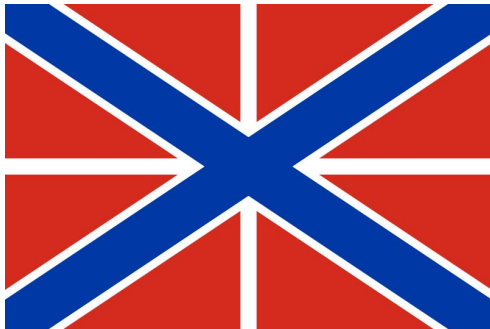
However, I believe this flag:



is not based on this flag:



But on this flag:



The Russian Naval Ensign, flown, except in Soviet times, from 1701 to the present.

Why would an ethnic Russian who hates America want to use an American symbol largely unknown in his home country when a traditional Russian one is so near at hand? No-one seems to have asked that question. Instead, they jumped to a news-worthy conclusion.

But then the German TV network, n-tv, picked up the item and reported it in a very negative way.

<file:///I:/Verwirrende%20Symbolik%20%20Ukrainische%20Rebellen%20hissen%20S%C3%BCdstaatenfahne%20-%20n-tv.de.htm>

In an article entitled “*Confusing Symbolism : Rebels hoist Confederate Flag*” the author said: *It stands for civil war, defeat and slavery. Still, the rebels in East Ukraine have chosen, of all flags, the Confederate Flag from the American War of Secession as their banner. Why, they don’t seem to know themselves.*

(Well, we know why they don’t know – because they did not choose it.)

Our Camp Newsletter editor, Raphal Waldburg-Zell, got wind of this and passed it on to me. After doing a bit of research, which the press in Moscow and Germany apparently were happy not to do, I immediately wrote to n-tv, :

English translation of German text sent to n-tv television:

Ladies and Gentlemen

Your reporter could not understand why Ukrainian rebels would want to take the Confederate Flag as their own. No wonder. It is not the Confederate Flag. The ‘rebel flag’ is a variation of the Russian Naval Ensign, which you showed the same day in your piece on Russian naval maneuvers in front of the Crimea. The flag has been known in Eastern Europe since 1701.

This is n-tv research?

Actually, shouldn’t n-tv correct its report somehow?

By the way, unlike eastern Ukraine, the Southern States left the Union through orderly procedures, confirmed by orderly referenda. If Lincoln had acknowledged the Human Right to self-government, no blood would have flowed. Also, Lincoln did not attack the slave states that remained in the Union, nor did he free their slaves, but the slave states that no longer wanted to pay him taxes, he destroyed. Apparently, it wasn’t about slavery.

But, news today is like a flash-in-the pan- and you can never catch up on such stories. Still, n-tv is aware that someone caught them making bad journalism and that some people still honor our flag.



Cruiser *Aurora* (1900)



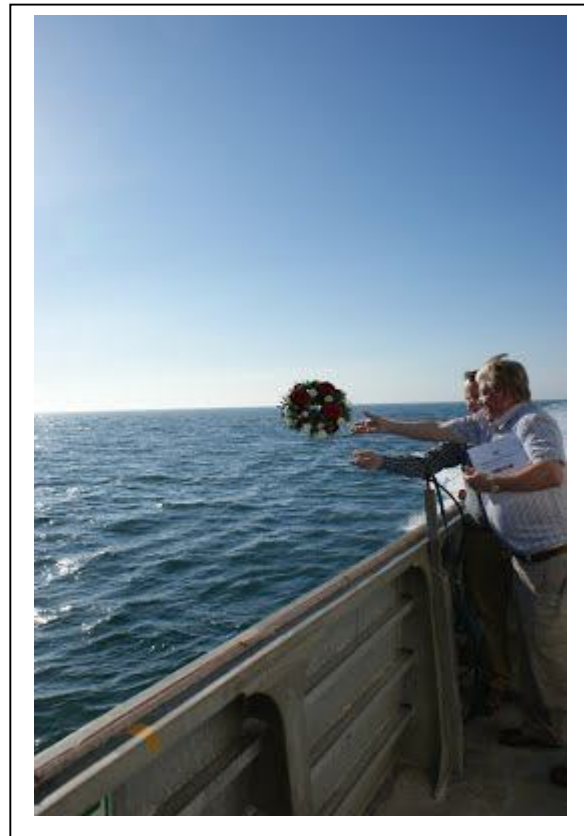
290 CSS Alabama Commemorations - June 2014

**The 150th Anniversary & Commemorations:
Visit to the wreck site of the CSS Alabama & Commemoration at Cherbourg:**

Brittany Ferries:

Our visit began with the short voyage to Cherbourg on Brittany Ferries. Some months before the trip on June 19th 2014, Len Ellison, the 290 Foundation's ambassador applied to this ferry company, seeking permission to lay a wreath at sea, close to the site where the CSS Alabama wreck lay. Once on board it was confirmed by Lt Guihenneuc that Captain Roignan had given permission for that wreath service and laying as requested. All members of the 290 Foundation and ACWRT(UK) gathered at the stern of the boat for a short service of commemoration to the sailors from both vessels who lost their lives during the Battle of Cherbourg. Due to operational reasons however, it was not possible to present the wreath into the sea from the stern; but

Lt Guihenneuc advised he could give permission for two members to be escorted by him to a lower deck where the wreath could be laid on the water's surface. By everyone's agreement Len Ellison and Col Erick Bush, US Air force should lay the wreath (See photo) at sea seven miles out from Cherbourg Harbour in the vicinity where the CSS Alabama sank.



Basilique Sainte Trinité:

The next day Friday 20th members of both organisations toured various sites in Cherbourg which had attachment to the 1864 event, accompanied by a full commentary courtesy of Charles Priestley, a 290 Foundation and ACWRT(UK) member. Charles has spent many years with numerous visits to Cherbourg to research the sites and is an acknowledged authority on each.



On that Sunday morning, 19th June 1864, as the CSS Alabama sailed out of the West Passage by Cherbourg breakwater to engage the waiting USS Kearsarge, the bell on the Ste-trinité Church, the oldest and largest in Cherbourg, struck ten o'clock! During the visit to the church the group was there at 10.00 when the bells struck the hour 150 years later.

Vigie de l' Onglet:

A visit was also made to the Vigie de l' Onglet which, in 1864 was on the quay wall where Semmes was able to land some prisoners from the last two captures, the Rockingham and Tycoon. Today Vigie de l' Onglet is some five hundred yards from the sea, with reclaimed land in front. The Vigie de l' Onglet was a signal station in 1864 regulating traffic in the harbour.

Préfecture Maritime:



Members moved on to the Préfecture Maritime, the office of the Prefet Maritime (Port Admiral). After being allowed to anchor the CSS Alabama between Cherbourg Harbour and the long breakwater on Saturday 11th June 1864, Semmes went ashore on Monday June 13th to visit the Prefet Maritime Vice - Admiral Augustin Dupouy. Through the communication system on the door of the Prefecture Maritime, Len Ellison requested and gained kind permission from the officer in charge to take a photo of the rooms Semmes would have visited.

Cité de la Mer:

The next visit was to the Cité de la Mer . Although it is aquarium and underwater Museum, it is also the site of the CWPT designation on the Discovery Trail and with Wirral UK, is one of only two sites outside of America so designated.

7" Blakely Rifle Canon:



The most important exhibit for the 290 Foundation is the 7" Blakely Rifle which was recovered from the CSS Alabama in 1994 by a number of divers, one, Michel Chapron is the husband of Pascale Chapron who is the present events manager of the museum. (A number of photos showing the recovery team raising the cannon in 1994 can be found elsewhere on this site).

Rue du Val de Saire:



Visitors moved on to rue du Val de Saire, one of the most important street in Cherbourg during Semmes' visit. No.1 (See photo left) was the house of the US Consul ,Edouard Liais, whereas just down the street, No.40 housed the offices of Confederate Consular Agent, Adolphe Bonfils. These two houses where a mere 300 yards apart and most probably led to some 'interesting' chance encounters during their relevant occupancies?

Cherbourg- Old Cemetery and Wreath laying:

After visits to other historical parts of the town associated with the brief visit of the CSS Alabama one hundred and fifty years before, our party moved on to the final and most important visit, the Cherbourg "Old Cemetery" which houses the graves of two Confederate crew from the CSS Alabama and one from the USS Kearsarge. Also laid to rest here is J.J. Allingham who died on board USS Frolic (of natural causes) on 13th October 1865.

From the CSS Alabama George Appleby and James King both died on 19th June 1864. From the USS Kearsarge William L Gowen died 27th June 1864 and (as previously stated) from the USS Frolic, JJ Allingham died 13th October 1865.



Lt. Col Jean-Claude Hamel, President, Le souvenir Français organised a flag bearer and trumpeter to play the 'Last Post' when the wreaths were laid on these graves on behalf of the 290 Foundation and the ACWRT(UK) by Charles Priestley and Len Ellison. The Commemoration of this great event and the sacrifices made, naturally drew much attention from the local media (See Photo) On our behalf, Len Ellison managed the visit and associated wreath laying with extreme efficiency and dignity and we are grateful to him and those members of the ACWRT(UK) who also attended. Thank you all.

(The above is a heavily edited version of Len Ellison's account of the visit. The full version will appear in our next newsletter accompanied by many more of Len's original photographs and recollections. Any errors in the above condensation are my responsibility - Ian Dewar)

The 150th Anniversary & Commemorations: Plaque unveiling and wreath laying ceremonies at Angra dos Heroismo, Terceira, Azores:

Terceira Bay:

Accompanied by several visiting members of the 290 Foundation, our 'ambassador' Michael Walce laid a wreath of locally selected flowers on the waters of Terceira Bay on behalf of the 290 Foundation and SCV (Europe) Camp 1612, close to the area where it is believed the 'Enrica', freshly equipped with her armaments, was finally accepted and then commissioned into the Confederate Navy by Captain Raphael Semmes, as the



C.S.S. Alabama. A short prayer was said by Padre Glen Appleton (RAN) Ret'd for all those lost at sea during the Civil War - then it fell to Michael Walce to read our joint 'dedication' to the assembled guests. A minute's silence was observed before the party headed back to harbour.


Angra do Heroismo:



After lunch hosted by Michael and his wife Elrunda, everyone made their way back to the harbour to view the 290 Foundation plaque which had been finally re-located overlooking the harbour on a newly constructed wall opposite the marina. A short blessing was performed by a priest from the Misericórdia Church in Angra do Heroismo where, it is believed Captain Semmes attended during his time on the island. Unfortunately, the local authorities had not been advised by their government office that this was a pre-arranged event, so the party was prohibited from displaying appropriate flags and the ceremony cut short. Michael has however sent a photograph of the plaque and will be arranging others displaying flags in due course.

Our thanks for all the arrangements must go to Michael Walce, 'Skipper' Hugo and the crew of 'Gigante', Padre Appleton, SCV (Europe) Camp 1612, Members of the 290 Foundation who attended and/or contributed - and special thanks to Nancy Hitt who kindly provided a selection of Confederate flags from the United States - and these will be used!

**The 150th Anniversary & Commemorations:
Unveiling of Interpretation Marker for John McIntosh Kell, Griffin GA.
(This final article covering three commemorative events is in preparation and not yet included)**



**On behalf of the Members and Friends of the
290 Foundation and SCV Camp 1612,
Commemorating the loss of life on the CSS Alabama
During the 'Battle of Cherbourg' 19th June 1864.**

Michael Walce

Ambassador, 290 Foundation (BVI) Inc.

Intelligence

Service Europe

Bi-monthly electronic newsletter.

E-mail: partisanranger@swissmail.com

Website: www.scveuropecamp.jimdo.com

Editor: Raphael Waldburg Zeil



Editor: Raphael Waldburg Zeil

Submissions must be in Microsoft Word or text file and e-mailed to partisanranger@swissmail.com

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