



## **Margaret Reid MBE 1912-1974**

### **Cipher Clerk Intelligence officer**

Margaret was born in Nottingham, the daughter of Dr Alexander Christie Reid, she went to NGHS and then studied at Girton college before joining the Civil Service. In December 1938, she was posted to the British Embassy in Berlin and worked for Captain Frank Foley, Director of the Passport Control Office but in fact he was a senior figure in MI6. She was a cipher expert and worked as Foley's assistant.

She arrived just after Kristallnacht after which many Jewish people wanted to leave Germany and flocked to the British Embassy desperate to gain admission to UK. Foley's team saved the lives of thousands of German Jews: for which Jewish gratitude is shown in a memorial in Israel.

On 25th August, 1939, Foley and his team, including Margaret, were ordered home but after a few days rest Margaret and Frank Foley were sent to Oslo, Norway to establish a MI6 station and helped Foley to run MI6 agents in Nazi Germany. On 7th April 1940, Foley received information that the German army was about to invade Norway and so Foley and Reid went to the port of Andalsnes. The couple now joined up with Major-General Otto Ruge who commanded the Norwegian forces who were opposing the Germans. Foley, through Margaret handled all communications between the British government and General Ruge, sparing no effort to assist the Norwegian forces in the fight against the Germans. Reid and Foley were evacuated from the port of Molde by the Royal Navy on 1st May, 1940.

Margaret was awarded an MBE and the Norwegian Krigsmedalie for her "extreme devotion to duty". She continued to work with Foley through WW2. In August 1942 she married the 59 year-old Lieutenant Colonel Cuthbert de Renzy Martin, the MI6 head of station in Madrid.

She retired from MI6 in 1943 and had two children. After the war, she and her family moved to the Lake District. Margaret Reid died aged 61 on 20th April 1974. Her husband died eight months later. See 'The Spy who saved 10,000 Jews' by Michael Smith.