



Photo added by a_baron

CDR Albert Sidney "The Old Grey Fox" Wickstead

BIRTH	26 Apr 1923
DEATH	19 Mar 2001 (aged 77)
BURIAL	Parndon Wood Crematorium and Cemetery Harlow, Harlow District, Essex, England
MEMORIAL ID	196621054

Bert Wickstead was born at Plaistow, East London, the son of Sidney Arthur and Winifred Alexandra Wickstead née Port. After serving as an intelligence officer during the Second World War, he was demobilised on December 13, 1947. He joined the Metropolitan Police on March 15 the following year, and began his service as PC233 'S' becoming a detective and rising to the rank of Commander. On his retirement he became a security adviser to News Group Newspapers.

Wickstead's memoirs were published as "GANGBUSTER: Tales Of The Old Grey Fox" in 1985; a more substantial and obviously more critical biography was published by former police officer Dick Kirby in 2018.

People who knew Wickstead, including professional criminals, tend to agree that he was bent for the job but not bent for self, something alluded to erroneously as noble cause corruption. His cases included the notorious 1960s synagogue arsons which saw an attempt - though not by him - to frame the British Nazi leader Colin Jordan (Memorial ID 98560153) as the mastermind of the campaign. Wickstead was taken in by the smooth talking liar Gerry Gable on that case, but other cases were far more controversial, including one that saw no fewer than 13 members of the Obscene Publications Squad given hard time for corruption, a result of Britain's prudish obscenity laws.

Bert Wickstead married twice. His first wife was Ella White; they married in 1943 during his war service. Their son Graham was born in 1957. He met his second wife while a detective

inspector; Jean Simonette was a CID typist. The resulting maintenance strained his finances, and Ella refused to divorce him. His two sons with Jean were therefore illegitimate - Andrew was born in 1967; Neil in 1970. By this time, illegitimacy was no great stigma in England. His decree absolute was granted March 1, 1972; he and Jean married later the same month. She survived him by ten years.

Created by: a_baron

Added: 5 Feb 2019

Find A Grave Memorial **196621054**

Find A Grave, database and images

(<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 27 February 2020),
memorial page for CDR Albert Sidney “The Old Grey Fox”
Wickstead (26 Apr 1923–19 Mar 2001), Find A Grave Memorial
no. 196621054, citing Parndon Wood Crematorium and
Cemetery, Harlow, Harlow District, Essex, England ;
Maintained by a_baron (contributor 47191016)