

10/21/02/1/65

**Subject: RE: queries**

**Date:** Wed, 18 Sep 2002 05:01:48 +0100

**From:** vigne@lineone.net

**To:** "Magnus Gunther" <magnus@intranet.ca>

SQUIB not SQUID ! Tom was an active Liberal - partner in Findlay & Tait, a very blue chip CT law firm. He came into his own during the Emergency in 1960 - involved in driving food supplies into the steel-cordoned African townships etc. Op DS was a dotty idea of his to wreck the Republican celebrations on 31 May 1961. He had, I think, been an ACF (Active Citizen Force) officer and drafted the scheme on strict military exercise lines, made a few copies for friends like Tim Holmes, as a basis for discussion. It was more of an intellectual, training exercise - how you would set about wrecking the celebrations if you decided to do it. It never got to the stage of being considered for actual implementation. Tim, crazily, had his copy of it in his car when he was stopped and searched on leaving Swaziland (or was it Lesotho? His arrest is in the Holmes obit), where ha had been on CONTACT business. I can't remember if others were questioned. The Special Branch got extremely excited about it.

Tom died a few years ago. I can't think who else would remnember Damp Squib. Not Neville, I think.

I nearly said, in reply to your askng me to do your obit 'It would be a pleasure!' It would not indeed. Absit omen.

Off to SA on Monday, back 9 Oct.

Randolph

>-- Original Message --

>Date: Tue, 17 Sep 2002 08:58:42 -0400

>From: Magnus Gunther <magnus@intranet.ca>

>To: Randolph Vigne <>vigne@lineone.net>

>Subject: queries

>

>

>Dear Randolph,

>Every note from you brings a new gem of information.

>

>The first time I heard about Tom Walters was in the Majija confession.

>What was Operation Damp Squid??

>Many thanks for the obituary to Tim Holmes--a fine piece of writing and

>a very loving one. Will you please write me Obit?/

>All the best

>Magnus

>

>