

***Women in Intelligence* covering WW1 and WW2, Helen Fry, Yale University Press, 2023**

This comprehensive account of espionage by women from 1914 on starts with Edith Cavell. Pages 11-18 draw on research in the National Archives in London and Brussels. Little reference is made to the extensive literature about Edith Cavell and inferences are drawn principally from three UK Foreign Office files on Cavell and Quien (mainly from after WW1) and from some Belgian documents. Ms Fry concludes (pp 11 and 18):

*She headed an escape organisation for British and French soldiers.... A combination of official secrecy and lack of evidence has obscured [Cavell's] true legacy not only as a spy but as a spy mistress - a woman who founded, established and ran the beginnings of an amateur intelligence network behind enemy's lines for SIS.*

A comprehensive analysis of Ms Fry's quoted sources and the inferences she has drawn from them is in hand. It is hoped that a dialogue will occur with her this autumn/winter to correct errors and to establish how far this conclusion can be justified from the available evidence. A full account of this will be available on this website in due course.

