

Lt Col F.R.G. Chew (1907-70) of the Seaforth Highlanders accepted the surrender of German land forces from General de Boer on the 10 May and remained in Norway until 1948. Robert ('Bobby') Chew was a keen alpine climber, educated at St Johns College, Cambridge, who before the war taught mathematics at Kurt Hahn's schools at Salem near Lake Constance in Germany and Gordonstoun near Elgin in Scotland. In Norway he "met and married in 1947 a charming widow who was a great help to him when he returned to Gordonstoun". He began a new section of the school at Altyre in the Findhorn valley 16 miles from Gordonstoun where "he was the unpompous father of his growing family of boys and adults". He became Headmaster when the two schools were combined two years after the retirement of Kurt Hahn in 1953. He retired to the Lake District in 1967 and was awarded the CVO (Commander of the Royal Victorian Order) for having been Prince Philip's mentor and Prince Charles' headmaster.

His wife, **Eva Mohr** (1917-95), was born at Bergen, the daughter of Odd Gundersen, a shipping agent and Consul for Peru. Her first husband, **Conrad Mohr** (1914-43) was born at Fana near Bergen and worked for Standard Oil in America and the Østlandske Petroleum-Compagni in Oslo. They married in 1939 and he joined the Air Force, crashed flying north and was captured but after being released escaped via Sweden to Moscow and from there to Baghdad and by ship round Africa to London. Conrad was a flight instructor at a training camp near Toronto known as "Little Norway" when he was killed in a flying accident in 1943. Eva escaped to Sweden with their two year old son, Wilhelm (Billy) Mohr, in 1943 and left Sweden for England on the day she learned of her husband's death. She stayed with his brother, Wilhelm Mohr and his wife and joined the Norwegian WAAF. She returned to Norway on the MS *Andes* and stayed with Conrad's parents in Bergen and it was in their home that she met Robert Chew.

References:

An Enduring Vision; edited by Jill Hollis (London: Third Millennium Publishing, 2011). A history of Gordonstoun.

Mine livserindringer; by Wilhelm Mohr. (Bergen: Eget forlag, 1969). Wilhelm Mohr (1886-1978) is the father of Conrad Mohr.

I have had a lot of help from a veteran who served on HMS WOOLSTON and from people at Bergen in describing events in May 1945 after the surrender of German forces.

And have been sent several photographs of Robert Chew taken in Bergen but was curious that a former school teacher should have been promoted to Lt Col and sent on this rather delicate mission.

See:

http://www.holywellhousepublishing.co.uk/V&W%20Destroyer%20Association/HMS_Woolston/Bergen.html

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