



Cambridge Society for the Application of Research

## THE SECRET SCIENCE OF WWII

Professor Brian J Ford,  
President of Cambridge Society for the Application of Research

### WOLFSON LECTURE THEATRE, CHURCHILL COLLEGE

7.30 p.m., Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

During the 1939-45 war, scientific research accelerated as never before. Many earlier discoveries whose potential had yet to come to fruition, were suddenly applied in wartime reality. Public announcements were made to entice research workers from academia to become involved in innovation. The results were sometimes bizarre (including a suggestion to bomb Nazi troops with venomous snakes) and sometimes awe-inspiring (including the development of nuclear weapons). This wide-ranging illustrated presentation will show the effect that the exigencies of wartime can have on progress, arguing that we now face similar wars; against pollution and poverty, water shortage, climate change and famine. A similar sense of urgency could similarly act as a stimulus to progress.

Brian J Ford's first book was entitled GERMAN SECRET WEAPONS and his lifelong interest has taken him to many countries in his studies of wartime science. His investigations have now given rise to his latest book, SECRET WEAPONS (Oxford: Osprey Publications 2011) and copies will be available after the lecture. Prof Ford is based at Caius College, is a Fellow and Member of the University Court at Cardiff University, and former Fellow of the Open University and Visiting Professor at the University of Leicester. This is Prof Ford's final Presidential lecture to CSAR.

#### About the speaker:

**Professor Ford** is a prolific research scientist who launched major science programmes for the BBC. His books pioneer new approaches in bringing science to the public. Over 100 editions of his books have been published around the world, and he appears in TV programmes produced in studios ranging from Hollywood to Delhi, and from Germany to Japan. He is a prominent scientist, broadcaster and lecturer, who was writing a weekly newspaper column on science before he was a student.

His current roles include: President of Cambridge Society for the Application of Research; visiting Professor at Leicester University; Fellow of the Society of Biology; Fellow of Cardiff University, and Member of the Court of Governors; Fellow of the Linnean Society of London and Honorary Surveyor of Scientific Instruments; Honorary Member of Keynes College, University of Kent, Canterbury; Associate of Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge; Life Member and Member of Council, Friends of Cambridge University Library; Life Member and Fellow of the Philosophical Society, Cambridge University; Member of the Combination Room, Regent House, Cambridge University; Life Member, Cambridge University Society for Cognitive Research; Chairman, The Storers' Trust; Advisory Board member of the National Science Foundation; Panel member of the Internet Science Fair, University of Central Florida and Emeritus Member of the New York Academy of Sciences.

In addition, he was awarded a NESTA Fellowship 2004-2007, he has contributed to numerous BBC and ITV programmes and written articles The Times, Telegraph and Guardian, Nature, New Scientist, the British Medical Journal; Encyclopaedia Britannica, and many others. His previous

roles and responsibilities are many, varied and reflect his expansive knowledge and experience.

### The Acting Organising Secretary adds....

**What you might not know about this Speaker** is that Professor Ford showed Carol Vorderman how to use a microscope on BBC TV. He plays rhythm and blues keyboards and appeared in a TV documentary about his life with his good friend Joe Brown, the celebrated rock guitarist and singer.

### Additional note

The CSAR Lectures are open to all; CSAR members are admitted free. Non-members are asked to make a nominal donation of £3.00.

Coffee and biscuits will be available in the Wolfson Foyer from around 7pm until the start of the lecture. Location information: <http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/visitors/directions.php>

A drinks reception will be held in the theatre foyer after the lecture with the opportunity to meet Prof Ford and have a copy of his new book signed.

The talk will be held in the lecture theatre in Wolfson Hall (4):

