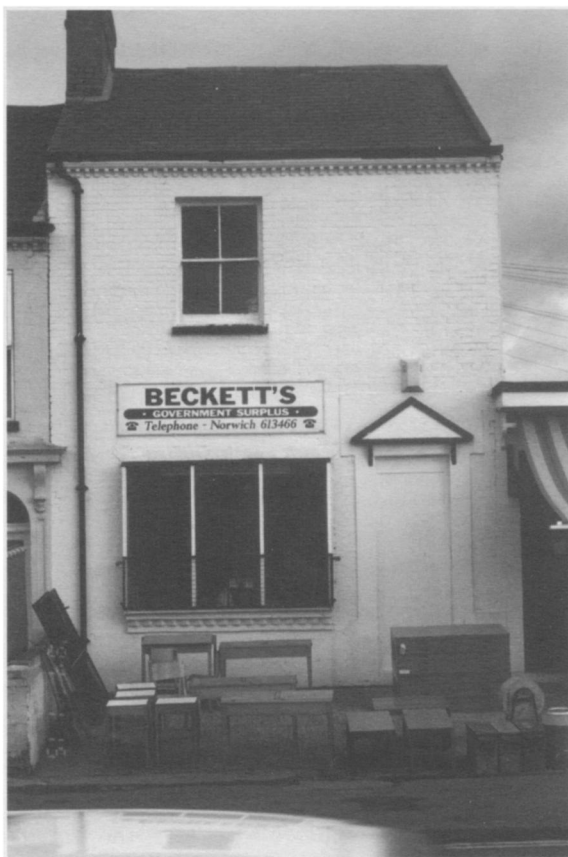


Mark Axelrod

BECKETT'S GOVERNMENT SURPLUS



Beckett had joined the Resistance in 1941. That is to say, in 1941 Beckett became a part of the Resistance, a part of the Resistance which he had joined in 1941, 1941 being the year he involved himself in the Resistance the cell of which was labelled Gloria SMH. HMS backwards. Gloria SMH not to be confused with HMS Gloria, letters of a different order indeed, indeed a different order.

Enamored of the typewriter and of the store from which his grandfather bought it, he bought it. The store. So that others could, perhaps, find typewriters to type on which, in some sundry, way might assist them in the typing of their own reports of information or manuscripts.

Beckett worked as a secretary, a liaison, a secretary. A description: Of Beckett. Beckett was well built. Built well. Of virtue. Considerable. But stooped. Had he not stooped he would have appeared straight. Had he appeared straight he would have appeared more well-built than he was. But not standing straight, that is, stooping, his well-builtness was not easily discerned. Dark hair. Hair dark. But did the darkness precede the hair or did the hair precede the darkness. And did the hair, dark hair, dark as it was to those who noticed it, recede? In other words, if the hair preceded the darkness, was there any evidence of recession? None was spoken of so all that could be surmised was that the hair, dark as it was, was dark first. His fresh complexion was complex indeed, but held no notice beyond the realm of freshness. Beckett was very silent. A Paris agent he. More precisely, Beckett's work entailed typing and translation of information reports, reports of information about troop progress, military maneuvers, and others, others and et cetera. While typing these reports, Beckett wore a greatcoat, still green here and there, while typing these reports on a typewriter that had black ribbon. The ribbon worked itself in clockwise fashion as Beckett typed the reports. It was a clean ribbon, not to be confused with unclean ribbon the latter of which did not type well. Well enough for the ribbon to type cleanly. In clockwise fashion the ribbon worked, blackening the paper on which Beckett typed the reports. Beckett typed, on the table, on a manual typewriter, of greenish color. This excellent typewriter had belonged to his grandfather,¹ who had picked it up, at a government surplus store, from where it was used, by other typists, and took it home. Then gray, now it was greenish, in colour.

But Beckett had always remembered that store, the store from which his grandfather had bought the typewriter for it became the typewriter that he typed the reports of information about troop progress, military maneuvers, and others et cetera and others that became the basis of his manuscripts.

¹ The typewriter was purchased by William Frank Beckett, Beckett's grandfather, who, on a trip to Norwich happened to visit the store and was impressed by the array of goods on sale.