



THE PIGEON TUNNEL

PRODUCTION DESIGNERS
PETER FRANCIS
MARK SCRUTON

In the summer of 2019 Mark Scruton was invited by Errol Morris and the team at Ink Factory, to provide environments for an interview with David Cornwell better known as John leCarre. Such interviews were rare in themselves but this was to take place over several intense weeks, with multiple settings and a strong desire to experiment and explore with a view to creating a larger creative piece on the back of what came from the interview.

Many avenues were explored and locations scouted. We eventually settled on several period properties around London along with areas of woodland at Wrotham Park. With a small team, locations were extensively redressed, and a lot of time was spent preparing potential elements and visual motifs. As the shoot was unscheduled everything was to happen live as themes and ideas were explored in the interview. Hundreds of eggs were hand blown to be dressed and broken filling whole rooms of the locations. Over 30 special mirrors were made of different sizes and mountings to refract shots and split images. Animal handlers were on hand with live pigeons, along with an array of items from the archives of David's life that were carefully curated and dressed in to vignettes. Initially the idea was to move quickly in to the next phase of production with elaborate sets and scripted narrative based on the interview. Sadly David Cornwell died not long after the interview was completed and the nature of the project changed dramatically.

3 years later, with Mark on another production the project was reignited and Peter Francis given the new task from Errol Morris and Simon and Stephen Cornwell to design the many vignettes that litter the documentary...

It was decided to shoot these in Budapest. The list of set ups endless but included building a Messerschmitt cockpit, Monte Carlo shooting range, Neverwozzers (AKA Ronnie's study, Newmarket Racecourse, the attic where David Cornwell born, 54 Broadway (home of The Secret Service), Kim Philby's escape to Moscow and A Viennese Hotel. Prep was extremely short, there was alot of thinking on your feet and trying to pull everything together in just 4 weeks. But we did it, with a tiny but fantastic Art Department and very long days.

We scouted then dressed endless locations, had special hero props made and shipped, build sets and produced endless amounts of graphics... it was a frantic and crazy job but what a great experience. Throw us as many challenges as you like ... the more the better!



THE PIGEON TUNNEL



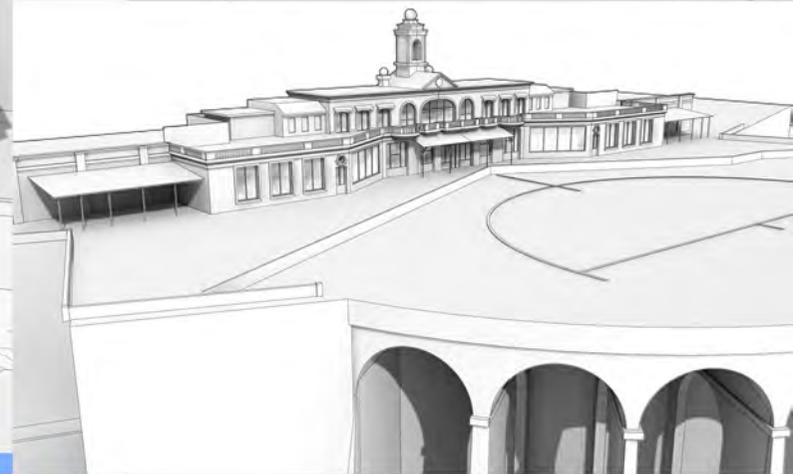
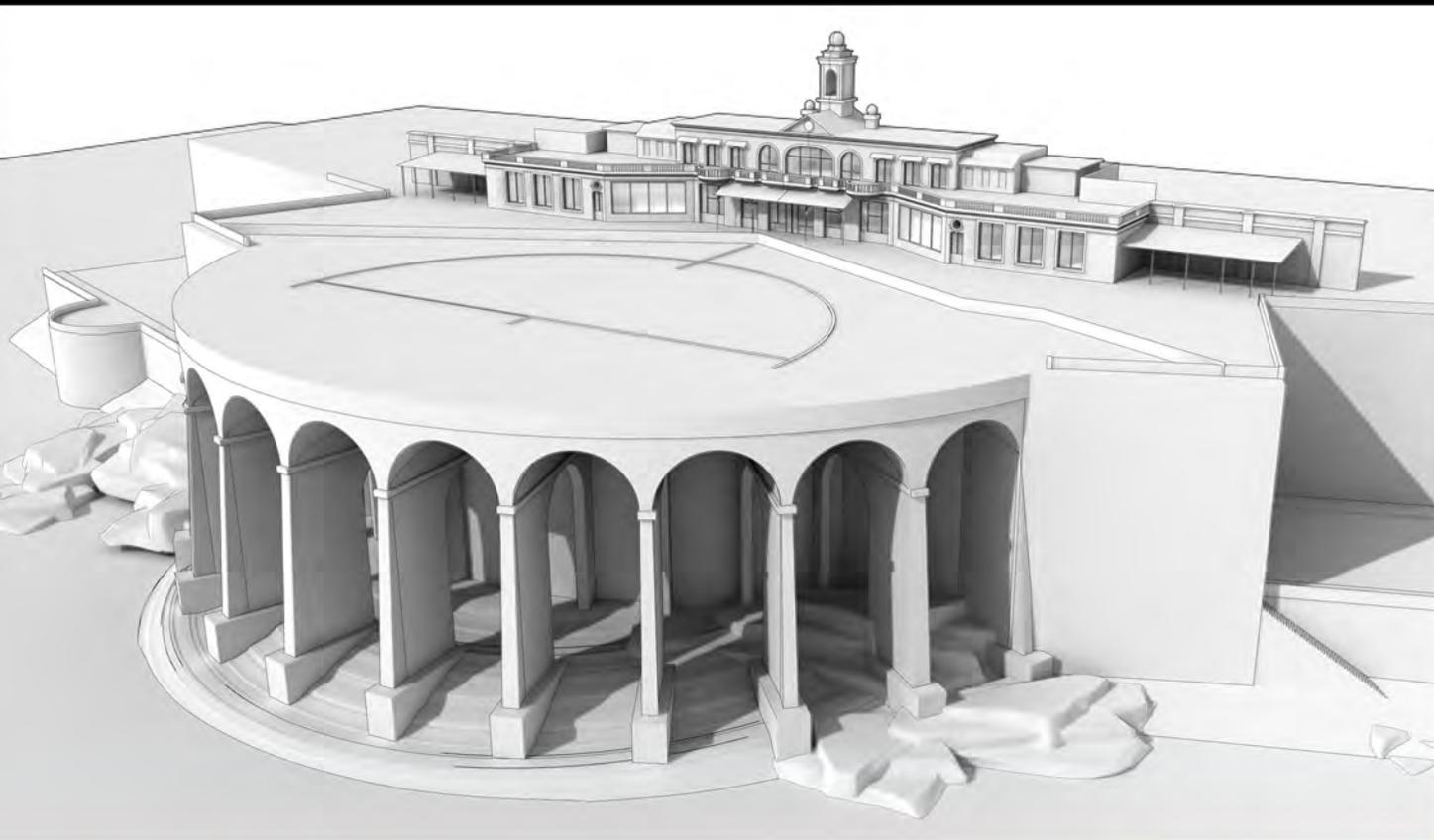
CONCEPT ART & STILLS FOR DAVID CORNWELL'S STUDY

THE PIGEON TUNNEL



OVER 30 MIRRORS WERE SPECIALY MADE, OF VARIOUS SIZES AND SPICALIST MOUNTS. EVERY INTERVIEW SHOT WAS REFLECTED, TO REINFORCE THE IDEA OF WHAT IS REAL AND WHAT IS A VERSION OF REALITY

THE PIGEON TUNNEL

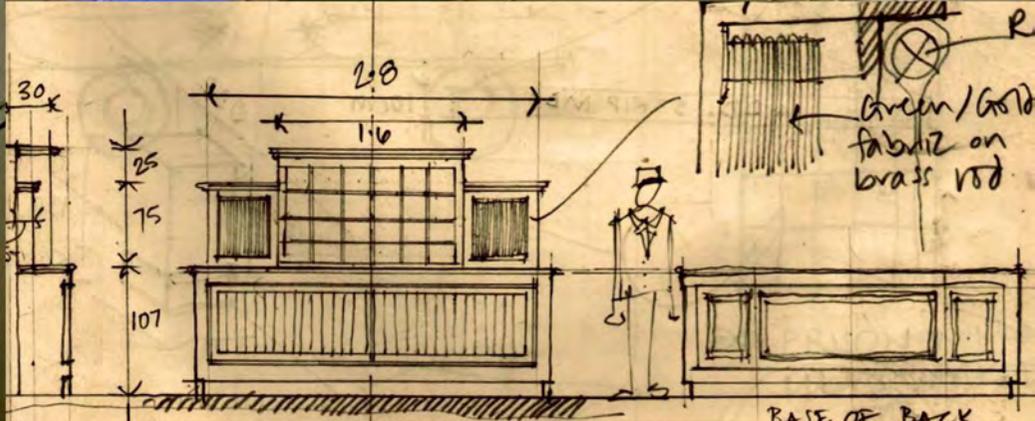
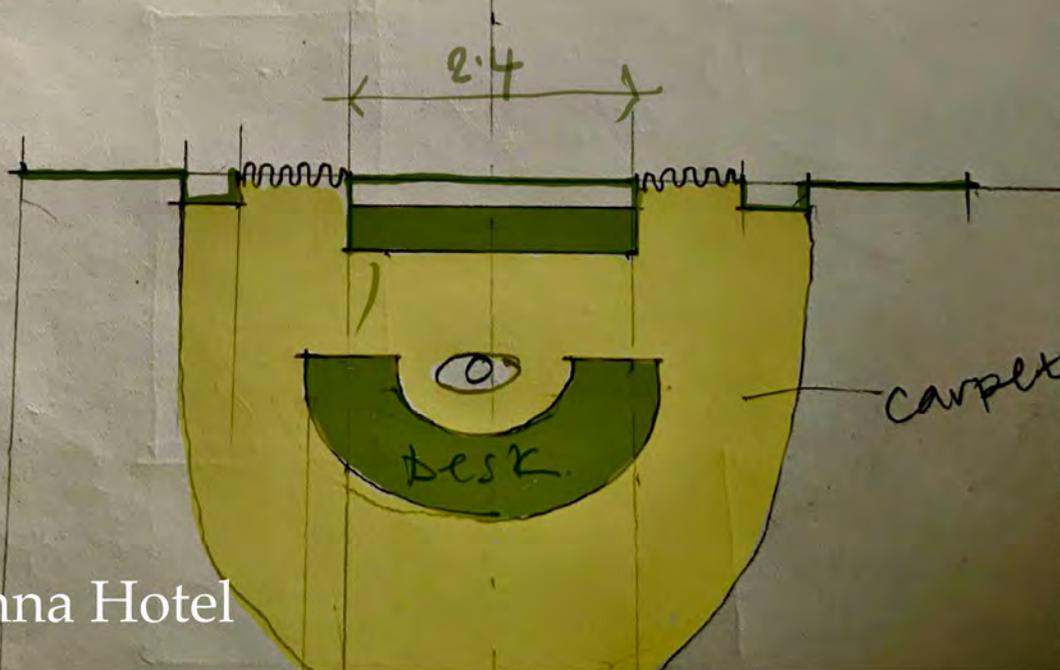
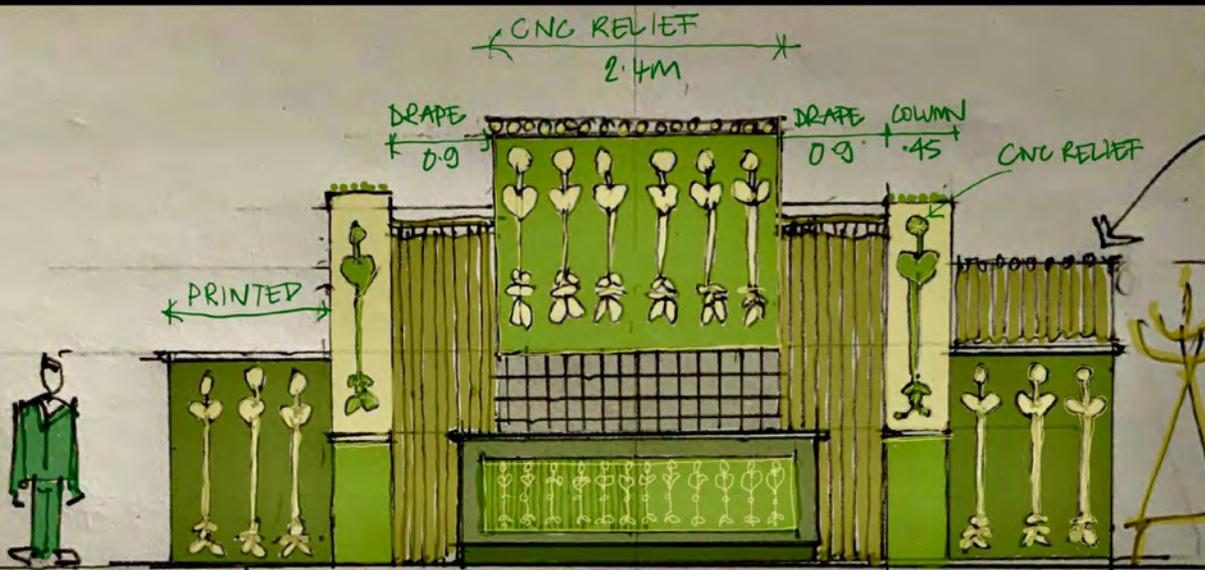


CONCEPTS FOR UNREALISED SET THAT WAS TO RECREATE THE ORIGINAL PIGEON TUNNEL IN MONTE CARLO

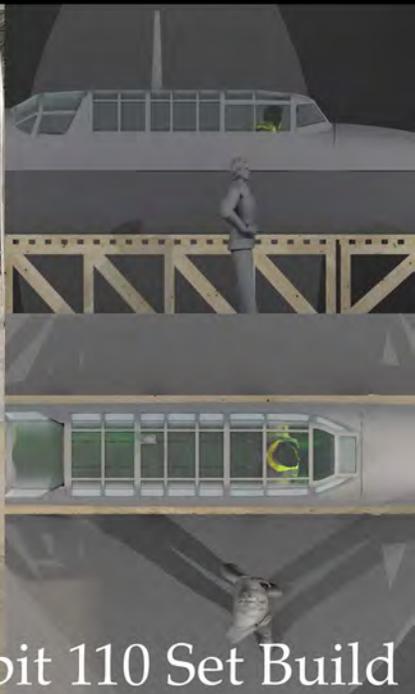
THE PIGEON TUNNEL



Neverwozzers . Ronnie's Study



Vienna Hotel



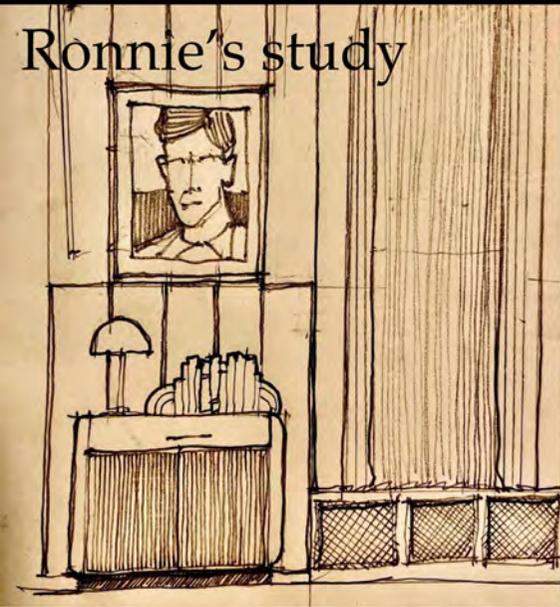
Messerschmitt cockpit 110 Set Build



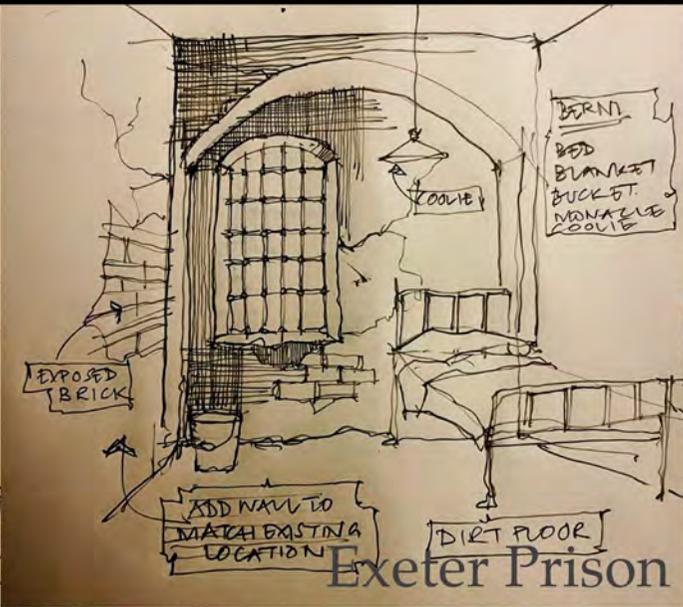


54 Broadway Secret Service

THE PIGEON TUNNEL



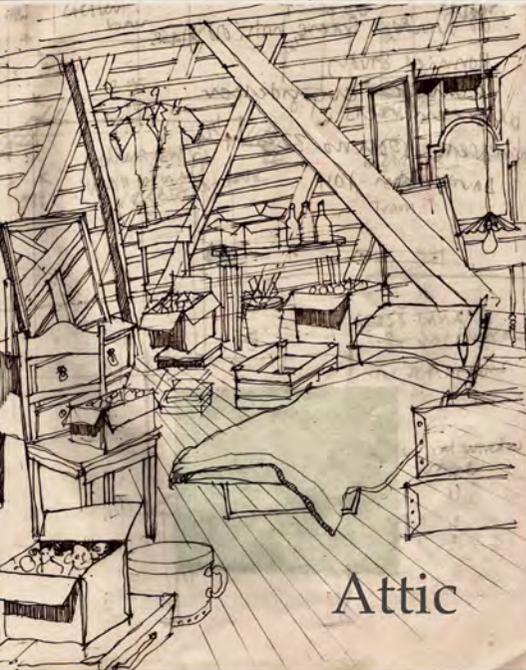
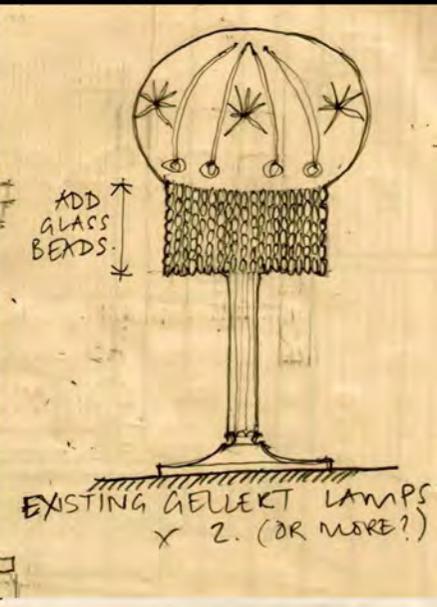
Ronnie's study



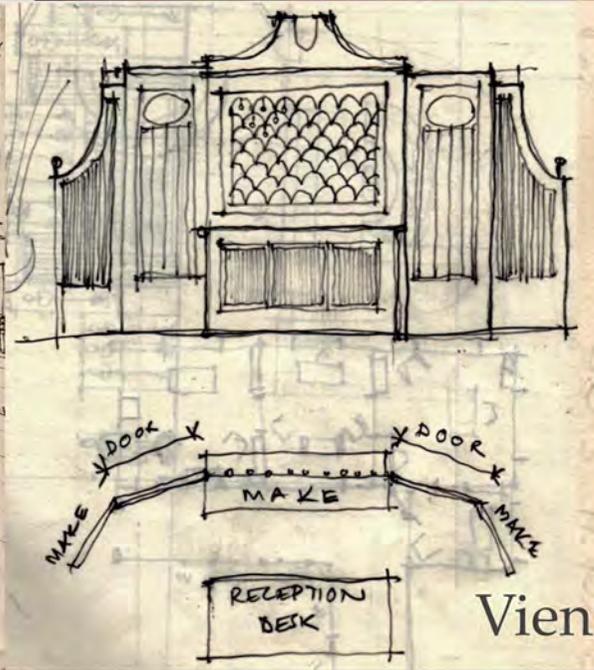
Exeter Prison



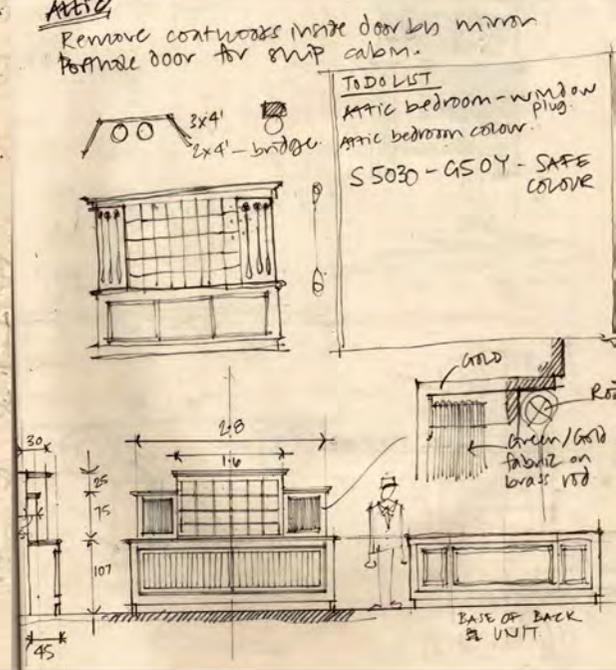
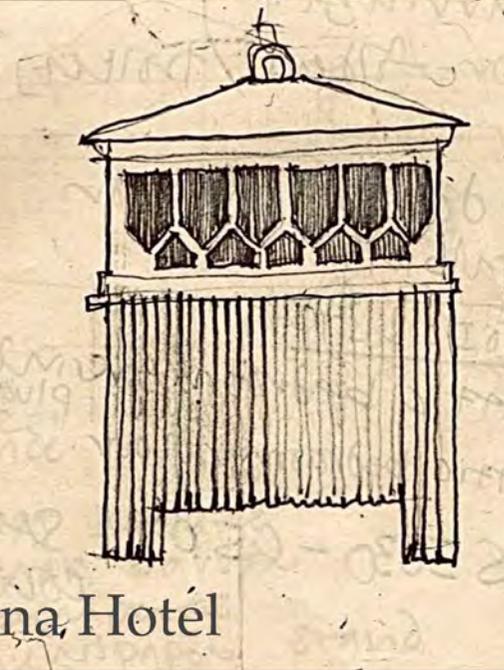
Pigeons Pigeons...



Attic



Vienna Hotel





Monte Carlo



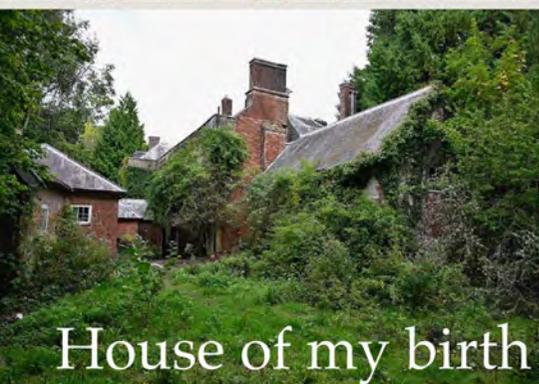
Newmarket

-562-
CHARLTON BROS.
 MAYFAIR LONDON W1
 PHONE MAG. 2149
 GRANLTON BROS LONDON
 M.K.A. N9 29161
 ESTD 20 YEARS
-562-

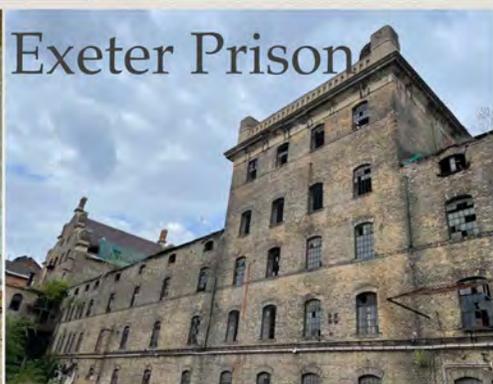
479
 M.K.A. **MICKEY DICKSON** M.K.A.
 REPRESENTED BY JOHN SMITH
 O.K. HOUSE CAMBRIDGE
 DUTY REF: 22011653
479

321
 M.K.A. **DAN MILLER** M.K.A.
 NOTTINGHAM
 DUTY REF: 22011653
321

321
 M.K.A. **FRANK NEWTON** M.K.A.
 REPRESENTED BY JAMES NEWTON
 ESTD 40 YEARS
 M.K.A. N9 13362
 TEL. GRA. 1322 VAL. 3285
 DUTY REF: 22011651
321



House of my birth



Exeter Prison

