

The Society for Army Historical Research

Registered Charity No. 247844



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

THE ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING: 25 April 2017



Michael LoCicero (L) with John Peaty (Chair of Templer Judges Panel) in background.

The 2017 Annual Meeting was held at the prestigious Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London Whitehall and attracted a record attendance. It was preceded by a viewing of the Changing of the Guard and a tour of the Household Cavalry Museum at Horse Guards conducted by our President, Lt Gen Sir Barney White Spunner. A lecture by Michael LoCicero on his recent book *'A Moonlight Massacre – Passchendaele Ridge 2 Dec 1917'* followed, and an enjoyable Reception rounded off a successful day. The highlight of the evening, as ever, was the prize-giving ceremony...

The 2016 Templer Medal was awarded to Stewart Stansfield for *'Early Modern Systems of Command: Queen Anne's Generals, Staff Officers & the Direction of Allied Warfare in the Low Countries and Germany, 1702-1711'*.

The runners-up were: *'The First Victory: The Second World War and the East Africa Campaign,'* by Andrew Stewart and *'Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870-1914,'* by J C Mitcham

Best First Book prize was awarded to Randall Nichol for, *'Till the Trumpet Sounds Again: The Scots Guards 1914-19 in their own words'*

The runners-up were: *'The Irish amateur military tradition in the British Army'* by William Butler and *'The Struggle for North America, 1754-1758,'* by George Yagi

Essay Competition:

Undergraduate Category:

1st Prize: Samuel Wallace (York) for *'Stirrups to Steering Wheels: The Issues of Cavalry Mechanisation in the Interwar Period.'*

2nd Prize: Miranda Harrison (Oxford) for *'Adult Education and Social Transformation in the British Army during the 2WW'*

School Category:

1st Prize: Freddie Hyde: *'Who was responsible for the Charge of the Light Brigade?'*

2nd Prize: Joshua Cole – *'Was Sir Redvers Buller right to be judged as a poor officer?'*

The 2016 University Research Grants:

Major Grant: Dave Brown (Cranfield) for his PhD research on *Tanks at the Battle of Bullecourt.*

Minor Grants: Klara Aizupitis (Western Cape) and Mike Halley (Edinburgh).

FUTURE EVENTS

(For contact details see page 4)

In addition to our increasingly popular SAHR events (Annual Meeting, Templer Lecture, and Visits) The Society is forging links with kindred organisations and initiatives - including with the National Army Museum (NAM), Cromwell Association, the British Commission for Military History (BCMh) and Changing Character of War (CCW) programme – thanks to the work of John Peaty, Ismini Pells, Adam Storing and others.



The Annual Meeting: Student prize-winners (L>R): Miranda Harrison, (Chairman), Freddie Hyde, Samuel Wallace, Joshua Cole

Lawrence, British Armed Forces & the Great War in the Middle East: (Mon 10 July 2017)

The Changing Character of War Programme (CCW) is a successful, policy-relevant research programme based in Pembroke College, University of Oxford, and enjoying global influence and international partnerships. CCW is unique in its delivery of high-quality, high-impact research, combined with practice, policy and advisory engagement.

This joint SAHR/CCW event will take place at Pembroke College, Oxford, OX1 1DW and begins at 1.00pm and is expected to finish at around 5.30pm. Contact details – page 4.

BCMh Summer Conference (Jul 2017). Ismini Pells has been helping to organise the BCMh summer conference, *'Russet-Coated Soldiers: A BCMh conference on the British Civil Wars'*, at the National Civil War Centre in Newark. Ismini will be taking the opportunity to promote the SAHR at this event and SAHR members are very welcome to attend. For more information, please visit <http://www.bcmh.org.uk/event/summer-conference-2017-english-civil-war/>.

Tour of the New National Army Museum (Tue 12 Sep 2017). Your President and Chairman were delighted to represent The Society at the official opening of the rebuilt National Army Museum in March. This was no mere update – more than a complete re-working of the ethos and presentation of the Museum in its new, completely re-built premises – the only thing that hasn't changed is the address! The result is striking and exciting – and therefore not a little controversial. Join us for a private tour of the new premises led our very own Peter Johnston – who was instrumental in the design of the new museum and can give a fascinating insight into the thinking behind it. The tour will take place late morning to early afternoon with a break for self-service lunch in the new NAM restaurant. Entrance will be

free for SAHR members and their guests – please book in with Peter by email and he will send you further details.

Templer Lecture & Dinner (Wed 1 Nov 2017). Members and their guests are cordially invited to join us for the annual Templer Lecture at the Army & Navy Club, 36 Pall Mall, London. Our speaker will be Templer 2017 finalist Dr Andrew Stewart who will talk about his fascinating book on the East African campaign 1940-41. Admission is free and there will, as usual, be a cash bar. Those members and their guests wishing to stay on for Dinner afterwards are welcome to do so – last year’s Dinner rounded off an enjoyable evening very successfully. To register an interest and/or book in for either the lecture or dinner please contact Peter Johnston and watch out for further details on the SAHR website.

Next Year’s Annual Members’ Meeting (Tue 24 Apr 2018)

In keeping with our policy of finding interesting new venues for our Annual Members’ Meeting, Council are keen to investigate ideas for the 2018 meeting. We are willing to meet outside London, but the majority of those attending this year’s meeting indicated a preference to stay in London. But then, the majority of those attending were naturally *from* London – so our Hon Sec would be delighted to hear the views of members who were unable to attend, and from anyone who may have suggestions of new locations for future meetings.

TIE A KNOT IN IT...



Don’t forget that we now have a new Society tie produced in silk with a design that includes motifs from our badge vis: crossed swords and grenades framed by diagonal castellations. They come in three colour options: gold on red (as worn by Hon Editor Andrew Cormack selling them at the Annual Meeting - left), gold on dark blue and red on blue. Ties are available from Andrew at a cost of £18 plus £1.30 for UK postage and packing (a little more for Overseas members). Members will be invoiced by e-mail and payment can be made by PayPal.

*PTO/...
The SAHR Battlefield Tour*

THE SAHR PENINSULAR WAR TOUR – 9-16 MAY 2018

In response to popular demand, our Chairman Ashley Truluck has offered to arrange and lead a bespoke tour for SAHR members & partners/guests to the Peninsular War Battlefields in 2018 and to Malta in 2019, at a specially discounted all-inclusive price, through his company *The Cultural Experience* (www.theculturalexperience.com).



Magnificent Salamanca Battlefield: Re-enactors & tour group walk up the French position on the Greater Arapile; Wellington's position and Salamanca City in the background

The 8-day itinerary starts from the beautiful city of Toledo and Wellington's first battle in Spain at Talavera. It then progresses chronologically from operations on the Spanish/Portuguese border around Almeida, the dramatic bridge at Barba del Puerco and the hilltop Fort Concepcion; the story of 'The Action on the Coa'; a day trip into Portugal to view Wellington's near-perfect defensive position at Bussaco ridge; then follow his triumphant advance into Spain via Fuentes d'Onoro, the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, the wonderful city and battlefield of Salamanca, and finally the culminating battle of Vittoria. This itinerary takes us via some of the best-preserved battlefields, picturesque countryside, and historic cities in the Iberian Peninsula.

The cost will be in the region of £1500 per head assuming at least 10 people can confirm they would like to go by, say, Oct 2017 – first come, first served. *This is almost £1000 less than the normal brochure price. This saving has been achieved by making the trip an advance-booking tour exclusive to SAHR, TCE granting us preferential rates, and Ashley waiving his normal guiding fee.* The price includes return flights from London; luxury coach within Spain; 4-star hotel accommodation with breakfast, and 3-course evening meals with wine; and all entrance fees. Several people have already booked in for the tour and it promises to be great fun for both experts and novices – so if you have not already done so, please send any expression of interest to Ashley Truluck who can provide further details.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR EVENTS & SALES:

Lawrence, the British Armed Forces & the 1WW in the Middle East: (Mon 10 July 2017)

Programme Administrator: Mrs Ruth Murray ruth.murray@pmb.ox.ac.uk

Templer Lecture and/or Dinner (Wed 1 Nov 2017)

SAHR Events Member: Dr Peter Johnston: Email: pjohnston@nam.ac.uk / Tel: 020 7881 2463

Tour of New National Army Museum (Tue 12 Sep)

SAHR Events Member: Dr Peter Johnston (as above)

Peninsular War Battlefield Tour (9–16 May 2018)

SAHR Chairman: Maj Gen Ashley Truluck. Email: atruluck@broadchalke.net / Tel: 01722-780852

Society Ties & Broaches

SAHR Hon Editor: Andrew Cormack Email: andrew.e.cormack@btconnect.com
