



## The Society for Army Historical Research

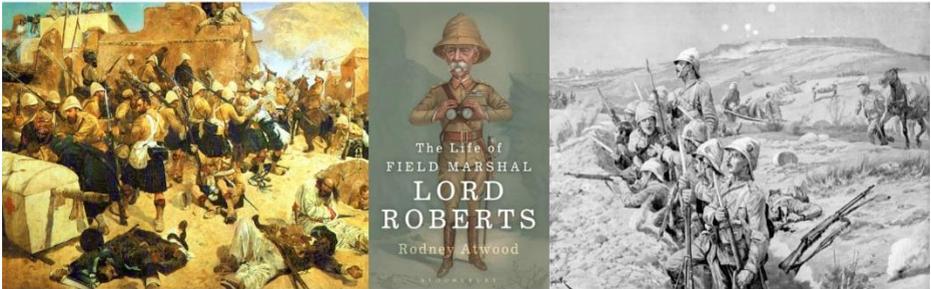
Registered Charity No. 247844

### SPRING NEWSLETTER March 2018

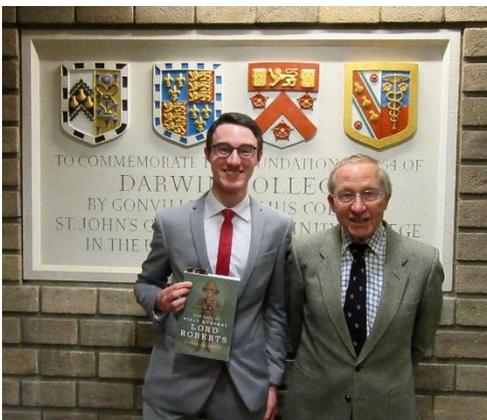
#### RECENT EVENTS

##### Lecture on Field Marshal Roberts - Darwin College, Cambridge

On 15 February the Society hosted a lecture by **Dr Rodney Atwood**, author of the acclaimed biography: *'The Life of Field Marshal Lord Roberts'* (2014) – which traced his subject's career from the 1857 Indian Mutiny to the First World War.



Dr Atwood discussed the many historiographical schools of thought on Roberts, which portray him alternately as a bold imperial hero or a flawed commander pre-disposed to self-promotion. The enlightening talk particularly highlighted Roberts' service in the Second Anglo-Afghan and Boer Wars, and was followed by a lively Q&A session.



The event was held at Darwin College, Cambridge University in front of an audience of students and Society members. Following the lecture, attendees retired to a nearby hostelry for further discussion over dinner.

The Society would like to thank Dr Atwood for agreeing to speak for us and Council member **Eamonn O'Keeffe** for organising the event.

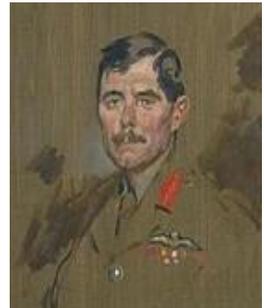
< Eamonn O'Keeffe and Dr Rodney Atwood

## THE 2018 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

2018 marks the centenary of the final year of the First World War - when static trench warfare gave way to manoeuvre warfare, - enabled by improvements in technology: not least in terms of logistics, communications, armoured vehicles and aircraft.



2018 was thus the year when the **Royal Flying Corps** came of age and although it then metamorphosed into the Royal Air Force, its contribution to final victory was essentially an Army one – as was that of its founders, led by Hugh Trenchard (right), a temporary Lt Col in the Royal Scots Fusiliers, who had to enter the Army via the Militia as he had insufficient academic qualifications to pass the Regular Army Commission Board – the ultimate late developer!



This is too important a contribution to pass unnoticed. So, this year's Annual Members Meeting will take place at the **Royal Air Force Museum Hendon** (Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL) on **Tue 24 Apr 2018**. There will be a one hour tour of the First World War RFC and RAF displays from 14.30, kindly provided by Society member and volunteer guide Mike Meech. After that, guests will be able to retire for tea and coffee.

**The AGM** will take place at 17.00 after which **Air Vice Marshal Peter Dye** will give this year's **keynote lecture** entitled, "*Flying Corps Headquarters, 1914-1918*" covering the conduct of air operations on the Western Front; the contributions of the key personalities; and the tensions involved. AVM Dye is the former Director of the



Museum and author of ‘*The Bridge to Air Power - Logistics Support for RFC Operations on the Western Front*’ (2015) and is about to bring out a biography entitled ‘*The Two Imposters: Sir Robert Brooke-Popham and the Fall of Singapore*’ (seen left with Wavell) – so this promises to be a fascinating lecture.

From 18.30-21.00 there will be a **drinks and buffet reception** during which the 2017 prizes and grants will be presented and the winner of the coveted **Templer Medal** announced.

**Attendance is free** for members (plus one partner or prospective member). Further details will be published on the website – but please pencil in the date and if you haven’t already done so, **let Peter**

**Johnston know you are coming** – by email or fill in the proforma below – so we can make the necessary arrangements for admission, food & drinks.

All the papers for the Annual General Meeting will be placed on the Society's website prior to the meeting. A limited number of agendas will be available on the day. Any member of the Society wishing a hard copy should contact the Hon. Secretary at 12 Laurence Court, Ludgershall, Andover, SP11 9QN.

=====

### ATTENDANCE PROFORMA – SAHR ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

**To: Dr Peter Johnston**, Collections and Review Manager, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road. Chelsea, London SW3 4HT.  
 Tel: 020 7881 2463 / Email: [pjohnston@nam.ac.uk](mailto:pjohnston@nam.ac.uk)

Please reserve a place for me and my partner/guest (one per Member) at the SAHR Annual Members’ Meeting, Lecture and Reception at the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon on Tue 24 April 2018. (Please advise if not attending all events)

**From:** (Member’s Name): .....

**Guest’s Name** (if accompanying): .....

**Address & Post Code:** .....

**Email Address:** .....

**Telephone No.** .....

## COUNCIL / MEMBERSHIP NOTICES



### **Council Meeting 9 January – Wellington Room, Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall**

**L to R:** James Kitchen (RMA Sandhurst); John Peaty (Templer); Phil McCarty (Essay Competition); Ashley Truluck (Chair); Eamonn O’Keeffe (Students); Ismini Pells (Grants); Andrew Cormack (Editor). **Absent / out of picture:** Peter Howson (Hon. Sec.); Charles Street (Treasurer); Phil Jobson (Membership); Andrew Bamford (Media); Adam Storrington (Universities)

### **Important – Please read this and make a note of these Membership changes:**

Sadly, Phil Jobson has had to stand down as Membership Secretary for medical reasons. Andrew Cormack has gallantly taken over until we find a replacement (volunteers?). **So please address all membership correspondence and subscriptions to Dr Andrew Cormack, 36 Ebbisham Road, Worcester Park, Surrey T4 8NE. Email: [membership@sahr.org.uk](mailto:membership@sahr.org.uk) until further notice**

**Strangely, whilst member numbers went up in 2017, membership subs went down** - due to a combination of: losing some subs when members converted to Pay Pal; cheques going astray; and members simply forgetting to pay. Without the full whack of membership subs we cannot provide a full range of membership services – and chasing up outstanding subscriptions (which we are of course doing) takes up an inordinate amount of the Society’s time and the money. Please contact Andrew if your 2017 cheque has not yet been debited from your bank account and/or if you wish to pay your 2018 cheque (now due); or if you have any unanswered membership queries.

**The basic problem here is subscriptions still being paid by cheque. So, if you have a UK bank account, PLEASE could you save us both much time & effort by arranging to pay your annual subscriptions by Standing Order.** To do so, simply write/ring your bank and arrange to pay £37.50 annually - preferably in the early part of the year – into ‘The Society for Army Historical Research’ account at NatWest Bank, New Milton Branch, 59 Station Road, New Milton, Hants, BH25 6JA. (Account No. 01241710, Sort Code 60-15-04). **Do it now!** - then you can forget all about it.