

# The Society for Army Historical Research

Registered Charity No. 247844



## NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN 2017

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### THE NEW SAHR WEBSITE IS ON LINE!

Please visit our new website [www.sahr.co.uk](http://www.sahr.co.uk). As we get more familiar with it, we will be adding more pictures & graphics, more topical information and making it more interactive with you, the membership. Even in its present embryonic format the website is producing positive feedback from current members; attracting new members; and eliciting enquiries about our competitions and research programme - particularly our new independent research grants (see below). This is *your* website and we welcome any feedback on how you see it developing.

### RECENT EVENTS

#### The Changing Character of War Seminar 10 July

In partnership with Oxford University's Changing Character of War (CCW) programme, the Society organised a seminar on 10 July at Pembroke College, Oxford on '*Lawrence, the British Armed Forces and the First World War in the Middle East*'.



Held close to the centenary of the capture of Aqaba and in a city closely associated with Lawrence, the seminar was chaired by Dr Rob Johnson, Director of the CCW programme, and the speakers were Dr John Peaty, Dr Neil Faulkner, Gp Capt John Alexander and Maj Dr Paul Knight.

Attended by both members and non-members of all ages, the seminar served both to raise the Society's profile in Oxford and to forge a relationship between the CCW and the Society which we

hope will grow with time. As members well know, while the character of war changes, the nature of war endures.

### **British Civil War Conference 7-9 July 2017**

Council Member Ismini Pells helped to organise the BCMH / SAHR summer conference on the British Civil Wars entitled '*Russet-Coated Soldiers*' at the National Civil War Centre in Newark. The event was attended by postgraduate and early career researchers, as well as established Civil War academics, including a number of well-known names. The panels covered a wide variety of topics and the keynote speeches were delivered by Professor John Morrill (University of Cambridge) and Dr Andrew Hopper (University of Leicester). A demonstration was staged by Colonel Robert Overton's Regiment of the English Civil War Society, at Newark Castle including firing of artillery pieces. The SAHR hosted a drinks reception on the Friday night, which was used to promote the Society to a newer (and younger!) audience - and encourage new members. It is hoped that extended versions of the papers will be published in due course and will be freely accessible - further details to follow!



Delegates at the SAHR/BCMh Conference at Newark

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **Templer Lecture (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)**

The hunt for another interesting venue is on and we will reveal all in the next Newsletter – and on the website – once the details are firmed up. In the meantime - make a note of the date in your diaries!

## **BATTLEFIELD TOUR PROGRAMME**

### **Peninsular War Tour (9-16 May 2018)**

Twenty members and their spouses have already registered for this tour. We will be visiting the battlefields of Talavera, The Coa, Bussaco, Fuentes de Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Salamanca and Vittoria - to name but a few. Our sponsors for this event are *The Cultural Experience* ([www.theculturalexperience.com](http://www.theculturalexperience.com)), who are offering a special inclusive price of c. £1500 which is almost £1000 less than



*Re-enactors in front of the Greater Arapile on the Salamanca battlefield*

the normal brochure price. Places are being allocated on a strictly first-come, first-served, basis and at the time of writing there are still a few places left – so don't delay applying if you are interested. Please contact SAHR Chairman Gen Ashley Truluck (details at end of Newsletter) if you need further details.

### **Malta Tour (May 2019)**

As there has been so much interest in this new programme, we can confirm that we are planning a follow-on tour to Malta in 2019. This will follow the fascinating story of the Knights of St John, the Great Siege of 1565, the Victorian fortifications and the Second World War Siege. Malta probably has the finest concentration of military fortifications in Europe, it has all the attractions of a beautiful Mediterranean island and its historical capital Valetta has been restored beautifully to become this year's European City of Culture – where better



to stage a historical tour? Again, expressions of interest to the Chairman please.

*Tour group on boat trip of Grand Harbour, Valetta, earlier this year*

## **RESEARCH NEWS**

### **SAHR at the Institute of Historic Research (IHR) Event 31 October**

The SAHR is hoping to have a table at the Research Event being organised in Senate House, London University by IHR, taking place on 31 October between 10 am and 4 pm. Offers to assist with being the SAHR presence would be warmly welcomed. Please let the Hon Sec know if you can help.

### **Thoughts on the future of research.**

Recent press correspondence about archives and research has indicated that army museums are not immune to pressures on budgets. The position regarding archival research in army museums is very varied and lacks both consistency and visibility. The Secretary has begun investigations into this area and would like to hear from anyone else who is interested in ensuring that researchers are not forgotten in the current museum development policies.

### **SAHR Independent Research Grants**

Don't forget that Independent Research Grants are now available to SAHR members not currently enrolled at a university or similar institution - to provide assistance with expenses associated with research towards publication. Further details are available at the back of the Journal and will appear on the website.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE**

Following on from feedback received from members at the AGM, we have developed our social media presence. A training workshop provided by PR consultant Michelle Ewan has allowed us to add new features to the existing Facebook and Linked-In platforms, and to link these to the resurrected SAHR Twitter account available at @societyarmy. Please follow all three platforms if possible, as they each lend themselves to different material – lengthy articles on Linked-In, picture albums on Facebook, and so forth – and, as ever, we welcome content and news from Society members.

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## **CONTACT DETAILS**

*(Full list can be found in the Journal / Website)*

### **Templer Lecture and National Army Museum Tour**

SAHR Events Member: Dr Peter Johnston: Email: [pjohnston@nam.ac.uk](mailto:pjohnston@nam.ac.uk) / Tel: 020 7881 2463

### **Battlefield Tours**

SAHR Chairman: Maj Gen Ashley Truluck. Email: [atruluck@broadchalke.net](mailto:atruluck@broadchalke.net) / Tel: 01722-780852

### **Research Event & General Enquiries**

SAHR Society Secretary: The Rev Peter Howson. Email: [secretary@sahr.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sahr.co.uk)

**Social Media Contact**

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