



The Society for Army Historical Research

Registered Charity No. 247844

www.sahr.org.uk

NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2024

Newsletter Editor: Ashley Truluck chair@sahr.org.uk

EVENTS



TEMPLER LECTURE EVENING - Wed 20 Nov 2024

Freddie Hyde, Events Member

This year's Templer Lecture Evening will be held on Wednesday 20 November in the prestigious **East India Club**, 16 St James Square (just along from the Army & Navy Club), London SW1Y 4LH - between Pall Mall and Piccadilly).

Dress code for the East India Club is Lounge Suit/Jacket & Tie, or equivalent.

Members can choose to attend one or more of the following events on offer:

5.15 pm: Historic Tour

Please assemble by 5.15 pm ready for an informal talk & tour of the historic clubhouse where, in 1815, Major Percy hotfoot from the Battle of Waterloo, presented an incredulous Prince Regent with captured French eagles by way of announcing the Duke of Wellington's victory over Napoleon (*above*).

6.00 pm: The Templer Lecture

We are delighted that the winner of the 2023 Templer Medal, Dr Adam Marks, will be present to deliver this year's Lecture (see previous Newsletter for interview with him). His winning publication, *England and the Thirty Years War* (Brill), was considered an original and ground-breaking study of the contribution of English soldiers to the conflicts in Europe between 1618 and 1648. It was particularly significant for showing the importance of continental military experience prior to 1642 as a basis for soldiering in the British Civil Wars.



It has been considered 'a vital, foundational overview of a crucial, and hitherto ignored, moment in Britain's military history' (*British Journal for Military History*). Dr Marks was awarded his PhD by the University of St Andrews and is a Policy Executive for the Law Society of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Entrance to the Tour and the Lecture is FREE for SAHR members plus one guest each - but please register (details below) so that we can arrange smooth entry into the Club for you.

7.00 pm The Templer Dinner

For those who wish to stay for the Templer Dinner, this will take place after the lecture at 7 for 7.15 pm. This increasingly popular and friendly 'optional extra' will cost £69 per head (including a subsidy from SAHR funds) for a 3-course meal (menu to follow with wine & coffee - served in the Club's elegant Dining Room. We expect dinner to finish by 9.30 pm to allow people reliant on public transport to get away in good time.

Registration - Important:

This is always a very enjoyable, sociable evening and we encourage as many people as possible to attend. However, space in the lecture room and dining room is rather limited, so we need to advise the Club of numbers in advance and to allocate places on a first-come, first-served, basis if numbers exceed capacity. So please get in touch as soon as possible and by 30 Oct at the latest, to notify us of attendance - and (if staying) to book & pay for your place at dinner - by:

- *Registering via Ticket Tailor by going to the following link:
<https://buytickets.at/societyforarmyhistoricalresearch/1368696>*
- *or simply visiting the Upcoming Events page on our website.*

NB: Dietary Requirements. *If you are staying for dinner and have special dietary restrictions, please advise events@sahr.org.uk at the time of booking-in.*



MILITARY HISTORY WALK Sat 12 Oct 2024

Rohan Saravanamuttu, Hon. Treasurer

Rohan has offered to lead a tour with a military history theme around central London. During the course of a well-chosen route, we will: hear the history behind monuments & statues of celebrated soldiers, e.g. the story of the man who waded through blood to the treasures of Hyderabad; pass buildings with varied military connections (e.g. Wellington's office, Charles de Gaulle's wartime HQ); discover little known curiosities (e.g. what did Wellington do '*for the benefit of small men*'?); and we will end at an historic pub which was once an officers' mess.

Start – Trafalgar Square (SW corner, by Charles Napier Statue) 10.30 am, Sat 12 Oct.

Finish – near Hyde Park Corner (Piccadilly line).

Duration – approximately 2 hours – and we will walk whatever the weather!

Registration - There will be no charge but donations to SAHR would be welcome.

Please book via the website so we can keep track of numbers.

Further Info: Call Rohan on 07986 995246 or rohan.saravanamuttu@btinternet.com

NEW RESEARCH CONFERENCE - 22/23 Feb 2025

Rory Butcher, Research & Student Member



Following the success of our centenary events, especially the 2021 conference, SAHR is pleased to confirm its next research conference will be held at the University of Leeds, on Sat/Sun 22/23 Feb 2025 - and will provide an avenue for those conducting new research into a variety of themes focussed on British, Imperial, or Commonwealth armies and land forces. The final programme should be confirmed by the end of October, and will be shared on the Society website, via email, and on social media. Tickets will be available after this point, and it is hoped that there will be at least some hybrid capacity for audience attendance.

The conference will feature two keynote speakers.

- **Prof Jessica Meyer** from the University of Leeds, will talk on '*From Civilian to Soldier and Back Again: Demobilisation after the First World War*'; and

- **Dr Zack White**, from the University of Portsmouth, will speak on '*Forgetting the Fallen? Remembrance and (Dis)respect of British Veterans, c. 1775-1815*'.

For further updates and information, please visit the event webpage here: <https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/history/events/event/3159/conference-land-forces-of-the-crown-c-1660-c-2000>.

Any questions can be directed to Rory Butcher, the conference organiser and the organisation team: landforcesconference25@gmail.com.

ONLINE TALKS 2024/5

The programme for these popular talks for the remainder of 2024 is as follows:

24 September: **Outfoxing the Fox: The Battle of Alam Halfa 1942** - John Peaty



25 pdr battery
in action at
Alam Halfa
(the Chair's late
father – Maj
GW Truluck RA
– was in the
battery and in
the action
depicted in this
painting – and
kept a vivid
diary of the
battle).

October, date tbc - **Armed Forces in Restoration Scotland** - Warwick Louth,
November, date tbc - **Logistics in York's Flanders Campaign** - Robin Thomas,
December, date tbc - **The Army on the Stage in the 19th Century** - Luke Reynolds.

COUNCIL NOTICES



TEMPLER MEDAL/CHAPPLE COMPETITION

Prof Ian Beckett, Chair Templer Medal Competition

Judging is now under way for the 2024 competitions with publishers being contacted. Thus far, 45 titles have been identified as of interest with many already submitted. Privately published titles do not always come to our attention and we would be happy to consider those put forward by their authors in accordance with the rules laid down for the competition on the society's website – or recommended by SAHR members.

This year's competition will differ slightly in that an engraved Dartington Crystal glass will only be awarded to the winner of the Chapple Prize. Runners-up in the Templer Medal and Chapple Prize competitions will receive cheques.

The judging panel has been joined this year by Professor Jennine Hurl-Eamon of Trent University, Canada, whose publications include *Marriage and the British Army in the Long Eighteenth Century* (Oxford, 2014), and the three-volume co-edited *Women, Families, and the British Army, 1700-1880* (Routledge, 2020).



UK SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE 1st JAN 2025

Charles Street, Membership Secretary

In accordance with a vote taken at the Annual General Meeting on 22nd April 2024, the subscription rate for UK full members (not overseas) will rise from the present sum of £37.50 to £45.00 per annum. This increase will take effect as from 1st January 2025.

As explained in the papers circulated before the AGM, this rise takes account of rising prices and the fact that the Society has delayed this fee increase for many years – thus the increase taken overall, is below inflation.

This notice is therefore to remind members of this alteration, which is the first such increase since 2011, and to urge all of those affected by it to alter their Standing Orders before the end of 2024 so that the correct sums are paid as from the beginning of 2025.

For those who pay at various times during the year by PayPal, please would you bear in mind that any alteration to a regular payment on your PP account needs to be notified to PayPal at least 30 days before the payment is scheduled to be made. Please would you therefore remember this, so that you advise PP of the alteration with sufficient advanced notice for the increased subscription to be paid accurately on the due date.

Members who pay their subscriptions by cheque need merely to take note of the increase to £45.00 and to send their cheque made out to the Society to the Membership Secretary in the usual way during January. The address details are:

Charles Street, The Society for Army Historical Research, Vincent's Yard, 23 Alphabet Mews, London, SW9 0FN

The UK Student rate of subscription will remain as it is presently at £20, but those subscribing under that concession will henceforth receive the digital version of the Journal.

***Please amend your Standing Order / Paypal / Cheque payments
in good time to reflect the new rates***



RESEARCH GRANTS

Dr Nicola Martin, Grants Officer

The minor and major university research grants were awarded by Council in June. The Society gratefully acknowledges the kind support of the National Army Museum in sharing the costs of the grants with the Society. The winners were:

Elisabeth Rivard, University of Virginia, Major Award. Elisabeth's PhD thesis is titled "Let him learn the Art of Design: The Promise of Professional Drawing in mid-Eighteenth Century Britain". The grant will support research at the Royal Engineers Museum, Kent, and Sandhurst Collection Camberley to allow Elisabeth to conduct a comprehensive survey of army draftsmanship in the eighteenth century.

Mick McTiernan, Royal Holloway, University of London, Minor Award. Mick has been awarded a grant to support archival research and research assistance at several Cretan archives. Mick's PhD seeks to explore British military involvement in the European intervention in Crete between 1897 and 1913 and to consider the implications of this peacekeeping role on the British army.

Ellie Grigsby, Reading University, Minor Award. Ellie's PhD considers 'the face of war': facial disfigurement of soldiers in World War One. The grant will assist Ellie to undertake research at several UK archives to investigate what life was like for facially-disfigured men - and the nursing support they received.

Note for Members: Although there were no Independent Grants awarded this year, applications for these and University Research Grants are welcome at any time. Questions and applications should be addressed to grants@sahr.org.uk. Full eligibility criteria and details of the application process can be found on the [website](#). The next deadline for all research grants is 1 May 2025.



NEWS FROM NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

Glyn Pryor, NAM Representative

Regular visitors to the Museum will be aware that the current exhibition on the British Army in post-war Germany – *Foe to Friend* – was extended due to popular demand. It will close this

autumn, to be replaced next year by a major new exhibition on military art in the Victorian period. Featuring well-known paintings and hidden gems, this will include several loans from the Royal Collection which are rarely on public display.

Late September sees the return of the annual **Chelsea History Festival**, run in partnership with the Royal Hospital and the Chelsea Physic Garden. This year saw the launch of the 'Chelsea Heritage Quarter', bringing together our three institutions to showcase and promote this historic area of London, with its rich military and cultural heritage. There is a range of military history talks on offer this year, among a host of other subjects, alongside family activities, workshops and living history. Full details and ticketing can be found at chelseaheritagequarter.co.uk.

Working in partnership with the Royal Armouries, the Museum will also host the **Annual Conference of the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Arms and Military History**. The UK hosted the third congress of this international group in 1963, when the Museum was housed at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Papers will be presented by museum professionals and researchers from across Europe and further afield, and there is a post-conference study trip to several military heritage collections around the country. Full details can be found at icomam.mini.icom.museum.



The Museum's archivists are currently in the final stages of cataloguing the papers of the **Navy, Army & Air Force Institutes** (NAAFI: NAM.2000-09-77). This extensive collection covers the history of NAAFI between 1914 and 1997. It includes club, personnel and shop photographs, marketing and service publications, administrative papers, and videos and publications relating to the history of NAAFI.

The Archive of the Staveley family (NAM.2020-01-30 to 33) is now fully catalogued and available both on the NAM catalogue and on the TNA Discovery platform. A remarkable collection, it covers the military careers of three generations of the Staveley family through the Peninsular and Napoleonic Wars, Crimean War, Second China War, Indian campaigns, the Boer War, and the First World War.

Readers and researchers are welcome to book a seat in the **Templer Study Centre**, which is open Tuesday to Friday each week, by emailing tsc@nam.ac.uk

The Museum's varied **programme of research lectures** continues every Friday lunchtime, with online viewing available. Full details of upcoming events can be found at nam.ac.uk.

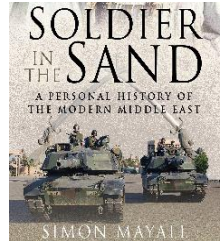
We are always happy to welcome members of the Society to the Museum, and look forward to seeing you soon.

BOOKS

THE HOUSE OF WAR



Following the success of his previous book *"Soldier in the Sand"*, **Simon Mayall** (left), Chairman of the National Army Museum and recently appointed SAHR Fellow, will see his latest title published on 12th Sept 2024 entitled: *"The House of War: The Struggle between Christendom and the Caliphate"*.



From the taking of the Holy City of Jerusalem by Caliph Umar in the 7th century, to the collapse of the Ottoman Empire following World War 1, Muslim caliphs and sultans have been locked in a 1,300-year battle for military and ideological supremacy with Christian popes, emperors and kings.

This highly readable and well-researched book provides a sweeping narrative that could not have come at a more appropriate time to inform the current debate about Islam, its origins and objectives.

Lieutenant General Sir Simon Mayall brings a wealth of expertise and insight to the subject having spent much of his 40-year professional career focussed on the Middle East, including as the then Prime Minister's Security Envoy to Iraq, and he retains strong family, military and academic interests in the region.

