



The Society for Army Historical Research

Explanatory note

Hon. Membership Secretary's request for approval to increase annual subscription rates for members with mailing addresses in Europe

Your Membership Secretary is responsible for ensuring that all members of the Society subscribing to the printed Journal receive those Journals in a timely and cost-effective manner. Delivery of our Journals to members with addresses in the EU have suffered from the deleterious effects of the UK exiting the EU and the subsequent imposition by the EU authorities in July 2021 of rules requiring compliance with each EU country's VAT and Customs Duties regulations. Following that date, your MemSec received numerous adverse comments from members in the EU regarding arbitrary and inconsistent charges and delays being applied by their national authorities to the delivery of their Journals, frequently including additional 'handling charges' (Denmark, for example, applying an €45.00 charge for each package irrespective as whether any tax or customs fees are in fact applicable).

With the approval of your Council, your MemSec engaged the services of an EU mail consolidation service to assume responsibility for the all the taxes, customs duties and handling charges applicable to the various EU countries on the despatch of Journals to our EU members with effect from 1st January 2022. That process has been proved to be robust and reliable for the delivery of our 2022 Spring, Summer and Autumn Journals, but of course incurs a surcharge for each package, paid to the EU mail consolidator. Your Society has absorbed those additional costs for the whole of 2022 while the process has been under test, and will continue to do so throughout 2023.

Analysis of our mailing costs to Europe, including this surcharge, for the three quarterly Journals delivered to members in the EU so far this year, shows that the Full Europe subscription of £45.00 p.a. exceeds our individual Journal printing and despatch costs by only a very small amount. We are advised that with Euro-zone inflation running at 10.7% (1st Nov 2022), this surcharge will be



The Society for Army Historical Research

Explanatory note

sharply increased in 2023 and possibly again in 2024. Under those conditions, we would expect to make a loss on the printing and delivery of our printed Journals to addresses in the EU from 2023 onwards. Your MemSec has therefore recommended to Council that our annual subscription rates for members with mailing addresses in Europe be increased from 1st January 2024. This would make the Full Europe rate (now £45.00) equal to the current Full USA and Rest of the World subscription rate of £55.00. MemSec has proposed to Council that the subscription rates for Europe be merged with those current for the Rest of the World as a new International class (i.e. everywhere outside of UK) with the rate for Full members being £55.00 p.a. and that for Student members remaining at £30.00.

MemSec has also learned that the EU-wide regulations on digital products and services have been deferred again, although some individual EU countries have put national digital taxes in place. In the cases that your MemSec has been able to review, our business activity in any individual EU country and in all EU countries combined would not trigger their threshold annual amounts. The Society will therefore make available to private members in Europe the option to switch to Digital Subscriptions (i.e. without receiving any printed Journals), the same as USA and Rest of the World private members are able to currently. The rate for Digital Subscriptions is £30.00 p.a.

--- 000 ---