



The Society for Army Historical Research

Serving scholars, enthusiasts and soldiers

NEWSLETTER – Winter 2021

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Wednesday 27th April 2022

Council intends that the 94th Annual General Meeting of the Society be held on Wednesday 27th April 2022 at the National Army Museum, subject to the now usual caveats regarding public health at that time. The AGM program outline is as follows:

- 3.00 pm Meeting of Council
- 4.00 pm Refreshments and Registration
- 5.00 pm AGM
- 6.00 pm Lecture.
Nicholas Perry (2020 Templer Best First Book prize-winner) will be speaking about his book, *Major-General Oliver Nugent: The Irishman who led the Ulster Division in the Great War*
- 7.30 pm Templer Prize and other awards ceremony
- 8.00 pm Reception
- 9.00 pm Close

The AGM will include consideration of Constitutional Amendments proposed by Council for approval by the AGM, regarding the method of electing the Society's Council. It was intended that these amendments be brought to the 2020 Annual General Meeting but Council felt the issue to be unsuitable for consideration in an electronic-format AGM forced on us by the Covid-19 public health restrictions at that time, and so deferred it until a meeting that could be attended by members in person. The detailed amendments are tabled in a separate document accompanying this Newsletter.

It should be noted that if these amendments are not passed, the following will cease to be members of Council: Dr Andrew Bamford, Dr John Peaty, Dr Phil McCarty, and Mr Eamonn O'Keeffe. This would represent an immediately damaging loss of talent and would compromise the continuity of Council's functioning at a moment when the Hon. Secretary is standing down.

Further details of the AGM program will be posted to the website on the AGM page and included in the Spring 2022 newsletter.

Hon. Secretary, The Rev'd Dr. Peter Howson

Registered Charity No. 247844

See our website: www.sahr.org.uk



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COUNCIL CHANGES

Hon. Secretary

Our current Secretary, The Reverend Dr Peter Howson, is stepping down with effect from the 2022 AGM. He has served in this role since 2014, having been on Council since 2012. He had previously served on Council from 1995 to 2001. The Society and all of us on Council, especially newer Council Members such as myself, owe him a significant debt of gratitude.

Social Media Co-Ordinator

Mr Rupert Hague-Holmes has stood down as our new Social Media Co-ordinator. Andrew Bamford has temporarily resumed this role, assisted by Mr Rowan Wise.

Battlefield Tour Co-Ordinator

When Ashley Truluck stood down as our Chair, I took over the role of Battlefield Tour Co-Ordinator. The Covid-19 pandemic negated any possibility of mounting any SAHR tours since then, while the scope of my MemSec role and Newsletter Editorship have both increased substantially. Council has therefore accepted my surrender of this role, and invites a volunteer from the membership to take it over. Interested members should contact the Chairman.

Hon. Membership Secretary, Chris Palmer

CENTENARY CONFERENCE

Wednesday 22nd September 2021 – *The National Army Museum*

The second part of our Centenary research conference was held in person at the National Army Museum on 22 September 2021. Members were able to greatly enjoy the chance to meet face-to-face for the first time since February 2020.

Proceedings were opened by Dr Sarah Ashbridge of RUSI, whose paper used the evolution of identity disks from the nineteenth century to present day to track changing attitudes to the fallen and missing in battle. Dr Ashbridge's paper drew on material from her recent PhD, which was supported in part by an SAHR University Research Grant.

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CENTENARY CONFERENCE *continued*

Following the opening keynote, participants attended one of two parallel panels. The first looked at aspects of health and welfare, with topics ranging from medical care during Wellesley's Indian campaigns to the development of facial reconstructive surgery during and after the Great War and the evolution of the role of the Army Chaplains' Department during the twentieth century. The second panel looked at war and religion in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It considered English involvement in the French Wars of Religion, English and Irish Catholic soldiers sent into the Hapsburg service after the 1688 Revolution, and the role of continental military doctrine in shaping the course of the 1685 Sedgemoor campaign.

The afternoon program was of two sequential panels. The first of these addressed aspects of soldiering in the 18th century, with papers on the 1793 Battle of Lincelles, the recruitment of the Fencible regiments during the French Revolutionary War, and the Irish Military Establishment during the eighteenth century.

The final panel of the day dealt with remembering and commemorating the Great War, with Dr Eleanor O'Keeffe describing the evolution of the regimental club in interwar Glasgow and Lt Col Rob Page mixing history with sociology to address the thinking behind the Centenary commemorations of 2014-2018 and the lessons that might be drawn for future Centenary commemorations.

Our closing keynote paper was delivered by Dr Patrick Watt from his home in Istanbul. Dr Watt was the recipient of our Centenary Research Grant to support his study of the evolution of military museums and his paper took as its case study the Scottish National Naval & Military Museum, whose history and collection policy he traced from the time of its conception during the Great War through to the aftermath of World War II.

Following the conclusion of the Research Conference, many of those attending remained at NAM for the evening's drinks reception to recognise the prize-winners of the Templer Medal and its associated Best First Book Prize – see following article.

Centenary Subcommittee, Eamonn O'Keeffe.



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TEMPLER PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

Wednesday 22nd September 2021 – *The National Army Museum*

The Templer Medal awards ceremony was held at the NAM on the evening of 22nd September. Introducing the awards, the Chair of Judges said that, as a great many high quality entries were received from both established and new authors despite the many challenges facing everyone in 2020, the Society was pleased to recognise and reward, exceptionally in its centenary year, a winner and three runners-up in both categories. After a gap of many years, the NAM had resumed its sponsorship of the Medal and, thanks to the NAM's generosity, the Society was able to double the prize fund this year.

Prof. Daniel Todman, Medal winner (left below), Brig Ben Barry (Medal runner-up), Col Nicholas Lipscombe (Medal runner-up), Mr Nicholas Perry, 1st Book winner (right below) and Dr Ismini Pells (1st Book runner-up) were presented with their awards by the President of the Society, Lieutenant General Sir Barney White-Spunner. Apologies were received from the other three runners-up.



After the ceremony, a reception was held.

Templer Medal Sub-Committee Chair, Dr John Peaty



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SAHR CENTENARY DINNER

Friday 12th November 2021 – *The Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall*

The Society's centenary celebrations culminated in a dinner at the Army & Navy Club on Friday 12 Nov. 2021, attended by more than thirty members and friends of the SAHR.

The evening began with a talk from the 2020 winner of the Templer Medal, Prof. Daniel Todman, about his award-winning book *Britain's War: A New World 1942-1947*. Prof. Todman outlined key developments in Second World War studies, described the genesis of his own two-volume history, and highlighted key themes he hoped will be explored in the future.

The talk was followed by a Q&A session and a lively drinks reception, followed by a three-course dinner. The Society's President, Lieutenant General Sir Barney White-Spunner, read out a message from our Patron, HRH The Duke of Kent. A toast was offered to the Society's second century, which has got off to a very promising start.



*Photo courtesy of Vice-President, Ashley Truluck
Centenary Subcommittee, Eamonn O'Keeffe.*



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FUTURE EVENTS

The Society will introduce a new programme of regular events starting in January 2022. In the third week of each month there will be an on-line talk given by a variety of speakers, which throughout the year will encompass the Society's interests from the late Middle Ages to our more recent past. The schedule will be uploaded onto the Events page of our website, where members will be able to book their tickets. Once each quarter's events have been held, they will be uploaded, individually, onto the Society's You-Tube channel.

Events Co-ordinator, Carol Dixon-Smith

THE SOCIETY'S RESEARCH GRANTS

The Society offers three batches of research grants at various points in the year. Two of these are for University students and are intended to provide funding to aid the research they are required to do in pursuit of the degree qualifications they are currently engaged in.

- Applications for Minor University Research Grants of £500, of which two are awarded each year, must be submitted by 31st May.
- Applications for Major Research Grants - £1,000 - of which one is awarded each year, must be submitted by 31st August.

Successful applicants will be informed during the month following the deadlines. Applicants do not have to be members of the Society.

One Independent Research Grant of £1,000 is awarded each year to a member of the Society who is working on a subject privately (not in a university context) with the intention of publication. Applications must be submitted by 1st November each year.

In both cases, full details of the application procedure and the information required can be found on our website <http://www.sahr.org.uk/>.

As part of our Agreement of Association with the National Army Museum, that institution has generously offered £1,000 of additional grant funding to be administered by the Society. The precise terms and conditions governing the outlay of this sum will be announced in due course.

Grants Officer, Dr Andrew Cormack

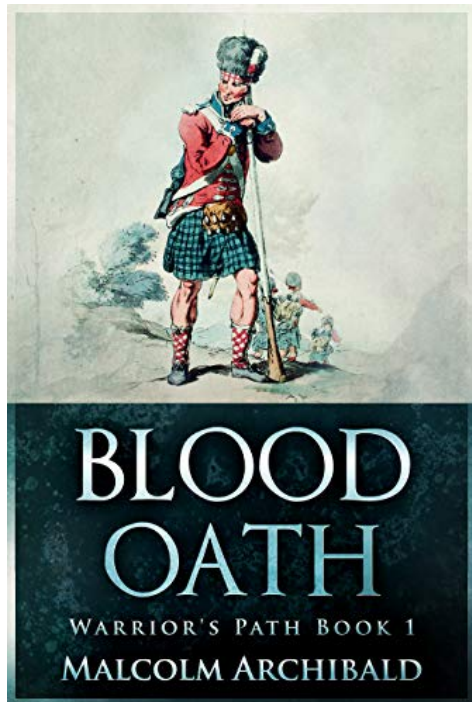


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2020-2021 SAHR PRIZE FOR MILITARY FICTION



The Society is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2020-2021 SAHR Prize for Military Fiction is *Blood Oath* by Malcolm Archibald (published by Next Chapter).

The judges were impressed with the attention to detail in this tale of Culloden and the French and Indian War, as well as the way in which the author captured both the tedium and the excitement of campaigning life.

Although no runner-up prize was awarded this year due to the limited number of entries received, the judges wish to take this opportunity to commend *Over the Hills to Talavera*, written by Stephen Petty, illustrated by Christa Hook (published by Chosen Man Media) for an impressively-researched and beautifully illustrated piece of fiction for younger readers.

Fiction Prize Sub-Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Bamford

SAHR DISCOUNT FOR NEW OSPREY TITLE

The military history publishing company Osprey is offering SAHR members a 20 % discount on their new title *A War of Empire: Japan, India, Burma, and Britain 1941-1945* by Robert Lyman.

In order to claim the discount, purchase the book from the Osprey website <https://ospreypublishing.com/a-war-of-empires> and apply the code *Empires20* at the checkout. The offer is valid from the book's launch on 11 November and will run until 31 December.

Dr Andrew Bamford
Registered Charity No. 247844

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EXTENSION OF SUBSCRIPTION DISCOUNT FOR BRITISH ARMY

At the Council Meeting held on 6th September 2021, it was agreed that the Centenary discounted annual subscription for currently-serving, full-time and part-time British Army and Army Reserve (TA) personnel be extended for a further two years up to 31 Dec 2023.

See the Membership page on the website for details.

Membership Secretary, Chris Palmer

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR OVERSEAS PRIVATE MEMBERS

Following representations made from the floor of the 93rd AGM last July, Council determined that a digital subscription for overseas private members should be set up. The technical process has now been completed, and we are able to report on how it is to operate.

Eligibility

Overseas private members of the Society will be able to choose either the traditional paper Journal at the newly published rates on the website, or a Digital Subscription with access only to a digital version of the Journal, starting 1st Jan 2022.

Digital Journal

The electronic Journal is formatted as a digital flipbook and is viewed in a web browser on a Mac or Windows desktop/laptop computer, or an iOS/Android phone or tablet. It looks exactly like the printed publication with pages that can be turned backwards and forwards, much as on a Kindle or in Apple Books.

Cost: £30.00 or US\$ 42.00 p.a.

Try before you Buy

The Winter 2021 Journal will be issued as a paper copy to all subscribers as usual but has also been set up as a flipbook. All eligible overseas members will be sent an invitation to try this digital version, so that they may change their 2022 subscription to receive only the electronic copy if they wish.

Full details of the Digital Journal and how to use it are available on our website on the Publications tab in the main menu bar.

Membership Secretary, Chris Palmer