



# The Society for Army Historical Research

*Serving scholars, enthusiasts and soldiers*

## NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2020

### ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that retiring Chairman, Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck, has accepted Council's unanimous invitation to serve as a Vice President of the Society. See appreciation overleaf.

*SAHR Council*

### TEMPLER AWARDS

Following the regrettable but inevitable cancellation of the Templer awards ceremony and reception in April, we have been trying to organize our usual Templer lecture and dinner in November, to incorporate the outstanding awards ceremony. However, as members will readily appreciate, it is proving very challenging given present uncertainty and the possibility that things might get a lot worse before they get better. So, sadly, it might not be possible to hold a Templer event this year and we might therefore have to play catch up and hold a Templer event early in 2021.

The Templer Medal winner, Dr Jonathan Fennell of King's College London, has just been awarded the Duke of Wellington Medal by RUSI.

*Templer Medal Sub-Committee Chair, Dr John Peaty*

In its short existence this Medal has been given jointly to John Hussey and Helen Parr and now to Jonathan Fennell. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!

It goes without saying that this year is proving a very challenging one for both authors and publishers alike. However, entries promised to date (though yet to be received) are already in double figures. If previous years are a guide, the absence of entries in the first half of the year will turn into a trickle of entries which will turn into a flood in the closing months. We are very unlikely to reach the 63 entries of last year (to the relief of the judging panel) but we are very likely to have a significant number of entries and a viable competition.



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### FAREWELL TO OUR RETIRING CHAIRMAN

#### Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck CB CBE BA

One among many of the unfortunate consequences of the current pandemic is that the membership was unable to say farewell to Ashley Truluck when he retired as Chairman at the time of the cancelled Annual Members' Meeting in the Spring. Council, after consideration, has unanimously decided to ask General Truluck to become a Vice-President of the Society, and we are happy to report that he has accepted.

Ashley became Chairman of the Society in 2013 when it needed steadying after a period of administrative disruption. He established and compiled the Newsletter in its current form as a means of communicating more effectively with the membership and this has been very well received. He encouraged the revival of the programme of lectures after it had fallen into abeyance when the Society drifted away from the National Army Museum - our natural meeting place. He has been keen to re-establish that relationship and has put much effort into formulating

an agreement with NAM, which has itself undergone much change in the past decade. The fruits of that labour will be manifest soon. Members will be aware that the Society has a new website, which Ashley was keen to up-date and to make more useful, particularly with regard to the administration of membership and subscriptions. The new site has also offered us the opportunity to provide members with access, via JSTOR, to all of our old Journals and many other periodicals besides. Ashley promoted this reform and was enthusiastic that this extra advantage should be made available to members. In order to encourage new young members to discover the Society, he instituted the Fiction Prize, arguing that many young people first encounter military history through fiction rather than 'proper' history. By his association with The Cultural Experience, he has introduced members to the pleasures of battlefield tours and

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### Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck (*cont*)

the added understanding of the conduct of battles that can be acquired by 'walking the ground'.

His period as chairman has been one of steady progress and carefully-considered innovation. In consequence the Society is in much better heart than when he took over and members will doubtless be pleased that his acceptance of a Vice-Presidency will ensure that he continues to keep in touch with our future development.

In the meanwhile, we wish him great success in his year as High Sheriff of Wiltshire.



*Maj-Gen Ashley & Mrs Jenny Truluck*

*Hon. Editor, Dr Andrew Cormack*

### INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP

Each year we are required to report to the Charities Commission on subscription revenues from outside UK, by country. This data shows that:

Our total membership now stands at 701. Of these, 206 are resident overseas. In addition to those listed in the adjacent table we have two each from Cyprus, Gibraltar, Israel, & New Zealand; and one each in Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa & Turkey.

USA	106
Canada	31
Australia	15
France	11
Ireland	9
Netherlands	7
Germany	6
Spain	4

International membership is increasing each year.

*Hon. Membership Secretary, Chris Palmer*  
Registered Charity No. 247844

See our website: [www.sahr.org.uk](http://www.sahr.org.uk)



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### OUR CENTENARY 1921 to 2021

Next year will see the Society reach its 100th year, which will be marked by a two-day conference combined with the Annual Members' Meeting and the Templer Medal Reception. The celebration will be on 21st and 22nd April.

**Day 1** will take place at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge commencing with the AGM at 10.30 (Registration from 10.00) and followed by five lectures to take us up to 1800 hours. We will then walk a few hundred yards along Piccadilly to the Cavalry and Guards Club for a celebratory dinner.

The theme of the conference will, in general terms, be how the telling of the story of the British Army has changed in the last hundred years. This will be demonstrated through the variety of the subjects of the talks rather than through any chronological account of changes in historical methodology.

#### Speakers on Day 1 will be:

- Dr Yolande Hodson on 'From the Board of Ordnance to the Quarter Master General's Department: an introduction to the development of British military mapping 1683-1815'.
- Dr Juliette Pattinson on 'Feeling peeved and a little guilty': attitudes towards army service among reserved occupation workers during the Second World War.
- Dr Gavin Rand will speak on his research into the operations of British and Imperial military forces in India/South-East Asia.
- Professor Richard Grayson on 'Belfast and Dublin and the First World War'
- Sir Hew Strachan on 'From William Napier to Michael Howard: the contribution of Britain to military history'.

The Society will offer drinks to members attending the dinner, but a charge will be levied for the dinner itself. Dress code - jacket and tie and equivalent for ladies.

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### OUR CENTENARY *continued*

**Day 2** will be held at the National Army Museum in Chelsea from 10.30 hours (Registration from 10.00). In order to encourage contributions from active researchers, the day will mostly be occupied by a series of conference panels of brief 20-minute papers covering a wide range of topics.

The response to the call for papers has been extremely positive, with submissions from current and former soldiers, a range of scholars from undergraduates to professors, and military history enthusiasts of all ages including many from overseas.

Topics proposed range from Tudor times to the present day, from great generals to the ordinary man and woman in uniform, and from bombs and bullets to social and cultural history.



*Image: by Puttnam (Lt), War Office official photographer - from the IWM collections, Public Domain*

Making a selection from so many excellent proposals will be a challenging task, but we hope that when the final choice is announced in the Winter Newsletter there will be something to suit all interests.

The afternoon's proceedings will be brought to a close by Professor Ian Beckett reflecting on developments over the last century in "Articles of War": British Army Historiography since 1921.

After a short break, during which we hope to be joined by our Patron, HRH the Duke of Kent, the day will conclude with the Templer Medal Book Prize Awards and Reception.

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### OUR CENTENARY *continued*

The Society recognizes that adjustments may be required in the light of COVID-19 guidance. However, we remain committed to marking our centenary in a way that allows the greatest number of our members to enjoy aspects of the celebrations, and to be safe. Consequently, we aim to record and distribute the lectures via the Internet over the remainder of the centenary year. For those who are able to attend in person, which we would clearly encourage, we will work with our hosting venues to meet sensible standards.

**We very much hope that members will wish to attend to enjoy the proceedings and to celebrate *100 years of serving scholars, enthusiasts and soldiers.***

*Centenary Sub-Committee*

### RESEARCH GRANTS

The following SAHR Minor Research Grant was made in 2020:

#### University Research Grant of £500

**Michael Barnes** who is studying for his MA at the University of Gloucestershire has received a grant to analyse papers in the Hampshire County Archives relating to the management of the county's Militia during the pre-Civil War period of the reign of Charles I. In particular the aim is to identify the extent of defaulting on the citizens' obligations to provide men, money, arms, armour or other equipment, whether this was linked specifically to the wars against Spain (1625), France (1627) and Scotland (1639-40) and why these failures of provision happened.

*Acting Grants Co-ordinator, Dr Andrew Cormack  
(also the Editor of our Journal)*



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### MILITARY FICTION PRIZE 2019-2020

It is with much regret that present circumstances mean that the Malvern Festival of Military History, which was going to take place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October, has had to be cancelled. Mr Ian Blance, the event's organiser, looks forward to holding it next year.

The Society is most grateful to Mr Blance for the continuation of his sponsorship for our Fiction Prize, which will be judged during the early Autumn.

*Social Media Co-ordinator, Dr Andrew Bamford*

### SAHR BONUS ESSAY COMPETITION 2020

Your Council decided to hold an additional Essay Prize Competition for school and 6th Form entrants during the current Covid-19 shutdown. There were two prizes; a **First Prize of £300** and a **Runner-up Prize of £100**. Prize winners also received a complimentary subscription to the Society's Journal for the current year, as did their schools.



*Image courtesy of New York  
Metropolitan Museum of Art*

#### *First prize*

**James Mair** (Marple Sixth Form College)

An exploration of limited war strategies:

British Army operations on the North American Continent 1812-1815.

#### *Second prize*

**Ines L. Mubgar-Spencer** (St Paul's Girls' School)

To what extent did the New Model Army change the course of the English Civil Wars ?

*Essay Co-ordinator, Phil McCarty*



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### GOVERNANCE

1. As members will know the Annual Members' Meeting scheduled for 22 April 2020 was cancelled. The Society's Annual Report and Accounts were placed on the Society's website. Members were invited to offer comments on them or to ask questions of either the Secretary or the Treasurer. It was reported to a meeting of Council, held by Zoom on 6 July 2020, that no comments or questions had been received. The Council then minuted that it deemed the Annual Report and Accounts to have been accepted. They are now to be filed with the appropriate regulatory bodies.
2. Council had circulated with the Spring edition of the Journal a series of Constitutional amendments relating to the election of Officers and members of Council. It is now hoped that a Special General Meeting can be held early in 2021 to consider these amendments. It is intended that the meeting will be held on the same day as a lecture to members. Detailed planning can only start when the current restrictions on travel and meetings make such an event feasible. It is hoped to avoid postponing the discussion to the 2021 Annual Members' Meeting which is due to be held as part of the Centenary Event.

More information will be published in the Winter newsletter.

*Hon. Secretary, The Revd Dr Peter Howson*

### COMMUNICATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

If you have a question regarding the functioning of the Society, the Journal, JSTOR, Events, Competitions, Grants and so on, Council Members and their specific areas of responsibility are identified in detail in the back of each Journal on pages v & vi. Please send your query to the appropriate Council member. If you are not sure which Member of Council to send your question to, then please address it to the Hon. Secretary.

If your question is a research query that cannot be resolved using the usual sources such as museums, libraries, or the National Archives, then send your query to the Hon. Editor for insertion in the '**Journal Intelligence: Notes**' section so that members or readers of the Journal may have the opportunity to provide a response.