



The Society for Army Historical Research

Serving scholars, enthusiasts and soldiers

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE

Your Council held an on-line Council meeting on 1st May. With the necessary quorum established, the main order of business was to recognize the retirement of our Chairman, MaJ-Gen Ashley Truluck CB CBE whose term has expired, and to co-opt Maj-Gen Ewan B. Carmichael CBE BDS MA FIHM FDS RCPS (Glasgow) onto Council as a Member, and then to elect him to be our new Chairman.

Ashley has seen the Society through a precarious period to the robust status it now enjoys. He has jumped out of the frying pan into the fire and is now the High Sherriff of Wiltshire.

An introduction to Ewan (right, during his service days) follows inside this Newsletter. He too has significant challenges to lead us through, including our Centenary which falls next year and, of course, the current pandemic.



Covid 19. While on the subject of pandemics, may I ask if those of you who still pay your annual subscription by cheque, to look at switching to either BACS or Standing Orders or PayPal, please ? Cheque handling requires repeated trips into town, queuing outside the bank and unwelcome direct physical contact with ATM machines there. Even before the pandemic, cheque deposits require 30 times more time to process than electronic payments.

Hon. Membership Secretary, Chris Palmer

BATTELFIELD TOURS

Ashley Truluck is to continue to be our point of contact with *The Cultural Experience* for their SAHR battlefield tours. Chris Palmer (Membership Secretary) will be the Council's battlefield tour co-ordinator.



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OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

Maj-Gen Ewan B. Carmichael CBE BDS MA FIHM FDS RCPS (Glasgow)

Ewan Carmichael retired as Director General Army Medical Services as the United Kingdom officially ceased combat operations in Afghanistan. He joined the Royal Army Dental Corps in 1982, but actually spent more of his career with the broader Army Medical Services (AMS). His first medical appointment was in 16 Field Ambulance as Dressing Station second-in-command.

After Junior Division of Staff College, he was posted as a Squadron Commander to 4 Armoured Field Ambulance in Minden. He successfully led that squadron in support of 1st (UK) Armoured Division during the first Gulf war (Operation GRANBY).

Ewan was posted to Northern Ireland in a dental role during Operation BANNER, which included forensic aspects and court evidence. He attended the Army Staff College in Camberley in 1994, after which he held several staff appointments as Staff Officer Grades Two then One, and as Colonel and Brigadier, usually in the Force Development and

Capability branches. During the Balkan conflicts, he was appointed as Officer Brother of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem for introducing a new surgical concept to the British Army.



He founded, and initially led, 16 Close Support Medical Regiment in support of the UK's 16 Air Assault Brigade on numerous operations.

As a Colonel, he was Commander Medical for 3rd (United Kingdom)



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Division during Operation TELIC 2 in Southern Iraq.

He viewed his appointment as Commander 2 Medical Brigade as the one which gave him the greatest satisfaction, being responsible for training and preparing field hospitals for deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan simultaneously. During the latter two conflicts, the British AMS managed to cut the death rate from battlefield injuries by 50%.

Born in Scotland and educated at the University of Glasgow and King's College London, his MA was in Strategy and Security. He has been a Commissioner (Board member) of

the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the home of the Chelsea pensioners. Appointed as Queen's Honorary Dental Surgeon in 2012, he is an Apothecary, Bowyer and Freeman of the City of London and also a badged guide of the International Guild of Battlefield Guides, with a particular interest in the 'horse and musket' era.

A self-confessed 'softie', he was surprised to be invited to be President of Combined Services Martial Arts and even more pleasantly surprised to win the first Worldwide Open Championship for sword and buckler at Hannover in 2010.

OUR CENTENARY

1921 to 2021

Our Centenary falls next year. Our new Chairman has assembled a team of Council Members to look at how, when and where this might be celebrated. It is hoped that we will be able to honour both the past 100 years and create a platform for launching the Society into the next 100 years.

Watch for news on our website and in the quarterly Newsletter as this unfolds.



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APPEAL FOR NEW EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

The SAHR is looking for a new Events Co-ordinator, *vice* Will Fletcher (below) who has retired from this position on Council.



This is an exciting opportunity for someone to take over the co-ordination of events and lectures for the membership. With a good degree of freedom to create your own programme with the backup of a very supportive team in the SAHR council, this a great chance for someone to be a valuable member of the military history community.

The role itself consist of contributing in three main areas. First, sitting on the SAHR Council and attending meetings to represent 'Events' matters as well as contributing to other Council decisions. Secondly, arranging a plan

for the programme of events for the year, coming up with new and interesting ideas for events, including speakers, topics and venues. Thirdly, once these plans are agreed by council, the actual co-ordination of events. This can either be done by the Events Co-ordinator, or by any assistant/s the co-ordinator recruits to help with the practical or administrative elements of the programme.

Various speakers and venues are already lined up but have had to be postponed owing to Covid-19, so whoever takes over will have to arrange new dates for these events. He or she will then have to develop a new programme for the latter part of the year, if circumstances permit, and on into 2021.

This is a great opportunity for someone keen to contribute to the work of the SAHR and to become generally more involved in the world of military history.

Those interested should contact the Chairman, Ewan Carmichael, at chair@sahr.org.uk.



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SAHR BOOK PRIZE AWARDS 2019

Although the 2020 SAHR Annual Members' Meeting scheduled for 22 April was cancelled due to the ongoing public health crisis, the Society is pleased to announce the results of the 2019 Templer Medal and Best First Book Prize.

SAHR Templer Medal

Winner

Jonathan Fennell

Fighting the People's War:

The British & Commonwealth Armies and the Second World War (CUP)

Runner-up (Second Place)

James Holland

Normandy '44: D-Day and the Battle for France (Bantam)

Commended (Third Place)

Matthew Hughes

Britain's Pacification of Palestine:

The British Army, the Colonial State and the Arab Revolt 1936-9 (CUP)

SAHR Templer Best First Book

Winner

Frances Houghton

The Veterans' Tale: British Military Memoirs of the Second World War (CUP)

Runner-up (Second Place)

William Heap

Elizabeth's French Wars 1562-98 (Unicorn)

Commended (Third Place)

Tom Greenshields

Those Bloody Kilts: The Highland Soldier in the Great War (Helion)

Templer Medal Sub-Committee Chair, Dr John Peaty

Registered Charity No. 247844

See our website: www.sahr.org.uk



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MILITARY FICTION PRIZE 2019-2020

We are still accepting entries for the 2019-2020 round of our **SAHR Prize for Military Fiction** competition, awarded in conjunction with the Malvern Festival of Military History. The Festival is planned to be held at Malvern College from 16th to 18th October, if at all possible. Check in the Autumn Newsletter.

To be eligible for this year's prize, books need to have been published between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020. Closing date for entries is 31 July.

Social Media Co-ordinator, Dr Andrew Bamford

SAHR ESSAY COMPETITION 2020

Undergraduate Category

In the undergraduate competition, there was only a single entry. The judging panel agreed not to award a prize in this category this year.

Schools Category

In the Schools' Competition, the judges were unanimous in their selections. The judges also remarked that whilst from a mature perspective the essays might require further work, allowing for the youth of the authors, the quality of the scripts showed great promise both as writers and diligent researchers.

Winner

Walter Jeremy Kingsley-Filshie (City of London School)

Trial by Fire: British Army Centurion Tanks on the Korean Peninsula.

Runner Up

Rosie Knighton (The Leys School)

To what extent was Sir Douglas Haig the most successful British theatre commander in the integration of technology into operational planning in the period from the Crimean War to the defeat of Imperial Japan (1853-1945)?

Essay Co-ordinator, Phil McCarty



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BONUS ESSAY COMPETITION 2020

Are you a student currently at home due to the coronavirus closing schools and colleges? Or do you have a son or daughter, nephew or niece who is?

Every year, the Society runs an Essay Prize Competition to encourage and reward research undertaken by students. Although this year's formal competition has already concluded, it has been decided to hold an additional round for school and 6th Form entrants during the current Covid-19 shutdown. There are two prizes; a **First Prize of £300** and a **Runner-up Prize of £100**. Prize winners will receive a complimentary subscription to the Society's Journal for the current year.

The primary requirement is that the essay be about some aspect of the British and Commonwealth Armies, within the period 1640-1990. Full rules for submissions can be found on our website:, but note that the deadline for entries for this additional competition is 30 June 2020.

Previous winners have told us that winning their prize has helped

towards applications for college or university; for example in their personal statement or as a useful addition to a CV.



Image courtesy of New York Metropolitan Museum of Art

Enquires should be sent to:

*The Essay Co-ordinator,
Phil McCarty, at
essayprize@sahr.org.uk*



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RESEARCH GRANTS

The following SAHR grants were made in 2019

University Research Grants of £1,000 each

Jordan Beavis to assist his PhD on the exchange of information through formal and informal channels between officers of the Australian Military Forces and the British Army and other Imperial/Commonwealth armies in the inter-war period.

Glenn Price to assist his PhD on the logistics and supply systems of all the armies operating in Great Britain and Ireland during the British Civil Wars of the mid-C17th.

Independent Research Grants of £1,000 each

Patrick Watt for a project on how military museums in the UK developed their presentation and interpretation policies in the second half of the 20th century.

Alan Jeffreys to assist in the examination of privately held papers relating to British-trained officers of the Indian Army who subsequently attained senior ranks in the Pakistan Army.

An exceptional grant of £600 was awarded to:

Sarah Ashbridge who is working on the procedures followed by British and Commonwealth armies in relation to the burial and recording of fatal casualties from about 1880 to 1918.

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

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