



The Society for Army Historical Research

Serving scholars, enthusiasts and soldiers

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2021

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Wednesday 2nd June 2021: On-line

The 93rd Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on-line using the Zoom application on Wednesday 2nd June 2021 at 7.00 p.m. The process included the ability for Members to vote on each issue tabled in the published Agenda, which was made available on the website on 30th April 2021, and for the results of each vote to be tabulated and recorded in real time.

In addition to the customary reports from Council, the following decisions and requests were presented to the AGM for approval,

- a. Does the Meeting accept that an electronic meeting with electronic voting is an acceptable way of holding the Society's AGM ?
- b. Are members willing to suspend the 5 year rule for membership of Council ?
- c. Are members willing to continue the present Council and Officers until the next AGM ?
- d. Are members content to alter the grace period for subscriptions as outlined in the Agenda ?
- e. Are members willing to amend the Overseas Subscription rate as outlined in the Agenda ?
- f. Does the meeting endorse John Peaty as Chair of the Templer Committee ?
- g. Do members accept the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting as a true record ?
- h. Do members accept the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 ?
- i. Are members willing to appoint Haydn Wood (Partner), SRG LLP, of 10 Bolt Court, London, EC4A 3DA as Independent Examiner ?

At press time, this event was still in the future, so no outcomes can be reported in this Newsletter. They are, however, posted to the AGM Report on the AMM page on our website.

Hon. Secretary, Peter Howson

Registered Charity No. 247844

See our website: www.sahr.org.uk



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LA SABRETACHE - *Société d'Etudes d'Histoire militaire*

Your Chairman is gratified to report receipt of the following greeting from the President of La Sabretache, Général de Brigade Jean-Philippe Ganascia.

Paris 1st April 2021

Mister Chairman, Sir,

On behalf of the French Military History Studies Society, La Sabretache, please allow me to express your Honourable members our high consideration accompanied with our congratulations and very best wishes to mark the British Society for Army Historical Research's Centenary.

Although the particular circumstances, and the difficulty to bypass the language obstacle have prevented us to develop narrower links until now, I still sincerely wish we found a good occasion at least once to share a common historical research and study and a joint publication of the conclusions.

I ask you, Sir, to accept the expression of our most cordial greetings.

BG (ret) Jean-Philippe Ganascia

www.lasabretache.fr

president@lasabretache.fr

I have, of course, sent an appropriate reply.

Chairman, Maj-Gen Ewan Carmichael

THE TEMPLER MEDAL for 2020

On 21st April the Society was pleased to announce the results of the Templer Medal book competition for 2020. 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.

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Templer Medal

- WINNER ***Britain's War: A New World 1942-1947***
by Prof Daniel Todman (Penguin)
- 1st RUNNER-UP ***Blood, Metal and Dust:***
How Victory turned into Defeat in Afghanistan and Iraq
by Brig Ben Barry (Osprey)
- 2nd RUNNER-UP ***Sicily '43: The First Assault on Fortress Europe***
by James Holland (Bantam)
- 3rd RUNNER-UP ***The English Civil War:***
An Atlas and Concise History of the Wars of the Three
Kingdoms 1639-51 by Col Nick Lipscombe (Osprey)

Best First Book

- WINNER ***Major-General Oliver Nugent:***
The Irishman who led the Ulster Division in the Great War
by Nicholas Perry (Ulster Historical Foundation)
- 1st RUNNER-UP ***Charles E Callwell and the British Way in Warfare***
by Dr Daniel Whittingham (Cambridge University Press)
- 2nd RUNNER-UP ***Civilian Specialists at War:***
Britain's Transport Experts and the First World War
by Dr Christopher Phillips
(Institute for Historical Research, University of London)
- 3rd RUNNER-UP ***Phillip Skippon and the British Civil Wars:***
The "Christian Centurion"
by Dr Ismini Pells (Routledge)

The Society congratulates the winners and runners-up. It is hoped that it will be possible to bestow the awards at a ceremony at the National Army Museum on 22nd September.

Templer Medal Sub-Committee Chair, Dr John Peaty



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RECENT EVENTS REPORT

The Centenary Lecture Program 21st April to 26th May

Between April 21st and May 26th, we started our Centenary celebrations with a series of events online with six keynote speakers and 16 panel members.

Sir Hew Strachan, Rev Dr Peter Howson, Prof. Juliette Pattinson, Dr Yolande Hodson, Prof Richard Grayson, and Prof Ian Beckett gave talks on the evolution of British military history, the difficulties facing Padres in post-war Germany, attitudes of those in WW2 reserved occupations, military mapping between 1683 and 1815, Ireland and the conflicted histories of WW1, and the historiography of the British Army and the Society's contribution to it.

The panel discussions were fascinating and informative. Amelia Clegg (Emissaries of Empire), Jake Gasson (Salonika Campaign 1915), and Fabio Simonetti (Invasion of Sicily) discussed 'Relations with Civilians, Allies, and Enemies'.

In 'Battles of the Second World War', WO2 (SSM) Philip Brazier explained how British and Canadian engineers cleared the Scheldt Estuary in 1944, while Gareth Davies discussed the validity of the British Infantry Tank in WW2.

'Rank and File' was diverse and informative. Joshua Bilton talked on Britain, WW1 and the memory of conscription, Dr Nina Baker revealed the experimental and complex gunnery work of ATS and WRAC, while Lt Col Sean Scullion highlighted the little-known subject of Spaniards who served in the British Army between 1939 and 1946.

'Managing Misbehaviour' was a fascinating look at 'bad behaviour' and how it was handled. Zack White revealed the uneven allotment of punishment in Wellington's army. Tara Finn covered the controversial Contagious Diseases Act, while Bethany Moore asked why the Military Police in WW1 operated in varying ways in different theatres of war.

'Men, Machines, and the Great War Era' was an intriguing mix of guns, motorbikes, and aeroplanes.

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RECENT EVENTS REPORT *(continued)*

Andrew Lock spoke about the BEF's progress toward the Hindenburg Line in 1917; David Spruce on the recruiting and training the men of the Royal Flying Corps, and Lt Col Paul Macro held our attention with 'Men, Motorcycles, and Machine Guns on the North West Frontier'.



The series ended on a high note with the panel 'Writing about History'. Dr William Fletcher talked about the re-assessment of Napier's History of the Peninsular War, while Dr Ismini Pells discussed John Woodward, the English Civil War, and the history of the British Army.

The Society is most grateful to all the speakers who have contributed to this series.

Image Courtesy Getty Images/UniversallimagesGroup

Events Co-ordinator, Carol Dixon-Smith

FUTURE EVENTS

The Centenary Follow-on Program 22nd September 2021

We will be continuing our Centenary celebrations on September 22nd at the National Army Museum in London. Keynote speakers are Dr Sarah Ashbridge talking about the identification of casualties, and Dr Patrick Watt on the foundation of the Scottish Naval & Military Museum. Supporting panels will be covering the health and welfare of soldiers, 18th century soldiering, war and religion, military fashion, and the Great War.

Be sure to book early.

Events Co-ordinator, Carol Dixon-Smith



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SOCIETY MERCHANDISE - Ties and Lapel Badges

The Society's tie is available in three different colour combinations with the design taken from elements of our badge that appears on the cover of every Journal. The ties are made of silk.

The lapel badge - 30mm diameter with a pinch-pin fixing - reproduces the Society's badge introduced in 1931.

Members wishing to purchase ties or lapel badges should contact the Hon. Editor at editor@sahr.org.uk as he holds the stock. Items will be despatched with an invoice to follow by e-mail when the postage cost is ascertained. Please remember to provide your postal address.



Payment may be made by cheque or PayPal, preferably the latter, and must be made in Sterling. Please specify in your order the colour combination of tie/s you require.

The costs are £18.00 each for the ties and £5.00 for the lapel badge, excluding postage.

Hon. Editor SAHR Journal, Dr Andrew Cormack



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MEMBERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES

In May, 50 members provided us with their email addresses, which we did not have in our records. Other members have updated incorrect email addresses. I would like to express Council's appreciation to members in both groups.

I would also like to thank those members who graciously found time to write to me to say that they do not have, or need, email addresses and are quite content to remain so.

*Hon. Membership Secretary,
Chris Palmer*

MEMBERS' MAILING ADDRESSES FOR THE JOURNAL

The Society derives great benefit from using the Royal Mail's bulk postage rates, but in order to do so the address labels need to be machine-readable.

These "reading machines" require that addresses are presented according to strict rules governing the number of characters for each name and address line, post- and zip-code protocols, and the representation of States, Provinces, Territories and countries by two and three letter ISO codes.

Members therefore may notice quite

different, and some frankly quite odd, address labels on the packaging for the current (Summer 2021) Journal compared to previous quarters. If these new labels have caused problems with the delivery of your Journals, or have outraged your sensibility in regards to the form of address, then please let me know. We do have some tiny flexibility in how the Royal Mail rules can be interpreted in the name and address fields but not for postcodes and zipcodes, or the ISO codes for States, Provinces, Territories and countries.

Hon. Membership Secretary, Chris Palmer



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JSTOR, our digital archive of Journals back to 1921

Most members of the Society will by now be familiar with the free access that is available via our website to all of the back issues of the Journal from the very beginning in 1921. However, like many such organisations and publishers who make their material accessible in this way, the SAHR has opted to impose a delay on the release of its Journal so that the most recent material is not, in fact, immediately available to any institution or private individual except in the form of the paper copy that you receive every quarter. This lag-time was decided upon by Council in order that there should be a positive advantage to joining the Society and thereby to sustain recruitment through which the Society can guarantee its future. After all, if the principal advantage of becoming a member - receipt of the Journal - was made freely available electronically immediately after the publication of each issue, why would anyone join the Society?

Hon. Editor, Dr Andrew Cormack
Registered Charity No. 247844

Nevertheless, queries are sometimes addressed to the Society by new members and non-members asking why recent material is not yet available on JSTOR, and the reason is as above: you, the members, as is only right and proper, have priority in receiving the principal benefit of your subscriptions - the Journal. The delay in the issue of content to JSTOR has been set at three years and the release date of retained material is the first week of January in every year. For instance, the issues of the Journal that were published in 2019 will be made available via JSTOR at the very beginning of 2022 and these issues are not staggered throughout the year, so all numbers of each year are released at the same time.

Whilst the Society is delighted that the content of its Journal should be accessible electronically to all who wish to take advantage of it, your priority access to it is assured by this built-in delay to its release through JSTOR.

See our website: www.sahr.org.uk