

## EDITORIAL\*

We are very pleased to have taken over as co-editors of the *British Journal for Military History* at an exciting time for the journal and the field of military history, broadly defined. We are delighted to be basing the new team at Goldsmiths, University of London, an institution which has a reputation for taking a new and creative angle on established subjects. The support of Goldsmiths involves not just our time, but also sees the institution hosting the journal on its website.

At a time when pressure is (rightly) on academics to ensure that they engage the wider public with their research, the *BJMH* has pioneered making research available completely free of charge and online. In addition, military history is a field in which many non-academics are among the leaders in the field, especially those with a relevant professional background of one kind or another. That means that the online open access approach, where one does not need an institutional subscription to access content is highly pertinent.

The journal was founded through the initiative of Dr Matthew Ford working with the British Commission for Military History. Matthew's efforts in this were enormous, and the quality of his work was extremely high. We are very pleased that he has joined our Editorial Advisory Board and we are also pleased to recognise him in this publication as 'Founding Editor'. We welcome the continued support of the Commission and look forward to working with it and its members in the years to come. We would like to thank two people specifically: Andy Grainger, the Secretary-General of the BCMH, who has worked tirelessly to manage the transition between editorial teams, and Prof Gary Sheffield, who has played a similarly valuable role in the transition.

While building on past work, we are also taking new initiatives and pushing in new directions. We have already announced a massively expanded Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) which points to the way we want to the journal to develop. The previous EAB consisted of twenty-six members, all based in the UK and predominantly (though far from exclusively) specialists in nineteenth and twentieth century history. Those involved were all very significant figures, carrying out exciting work in the field and we are delighted that so many of them have agreed to continue on the new EAB.

However, we wanted to broaden the chronological scope of the Board and the types of subjects covered, and we wanted to internationalise the Board. We also noted that only five of the twenty-six EAB members (19%) were women. We were concerned about that as we felt it did not reflect the balance of those involved in military history

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research today, especially in newer and/or more broadly defined aspects of the discipline. There is a risk that the *BJMH* would miss an opportunity to create new networks in the discipline. At worst, such an imbalance risks perpetuating views of military history among non-specialists which are inaccurate and do not serve the discipline well in wider academia.

Consequently, we have massively expanded our Board so that it now includes 78 people, all significant figures in a broad definition of military history and the subject areas with which it should interact. We now have experts based beyond the UK in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, and the USA. Our chronological scope now has much broader coverage of medieval and early modern history, and the geographic spread of expertise is broader, especially as regards non-European countries. The subjects covered are much wider, with the addition of experts working on, for example, cultural aspects of military history and areas such as commemoration, gender, colonialism and race. We are pleased to have made further direct connections with those who work directly with militaries on studying military history. This was already strongly established for the UK, but we have now made links with the US Army War College, US Air Force School for Advanced Air and Space Studies, the Bundeswehr's Centre for Military History and Social Sciences, and the United Service Institution of India. Many new EAB members would not define themselves primarily (or in some cases at all) as military historians, but work in adjacent fields often on themes of conflict, politics and society with which military history can and should engage closely. Note also that slightly more than half of the EAB members now are women.

In time, we hope that this new EAB will have a significant influence on the work of the *BJMH* and the wider Commission, and we look forward to seeing a range of exciting new subjects come before us for peer review. For now, we are pleased to have a wide range of subjects covered in our first issue which we commend to our readers, established and new.

RICHARD S. GRAYSON & ERICA WALD  
Goldsmiths, University of London, UK