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Editorial

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EDITORIAL*

This is our second issue since we took over as Interim Co-editors. Unfortunately, the process of replacing us is taking longer than was hoped for back in the spring. Shortly after a university based team been identified by the BCMH the academics there found themselves facing the threat of redundancy – a second search is now underway. As the editors of a military history journal we are very aware of the range and depth of individual scholarship across UK academia but we are also equally aware of the difficulties faced by those departments and groups having a focus on war studies and military history. We can only hope that in this electronically interconnected world today's threats to dedicated departments and groups does not become an existential threat to the study of military history in academia.

As though to demonstrate the vitality of the field and the ongoing scholarship both inside and outside the academy, not just in the UK but across the world, this is a bumper issue of the BJMH with no less than eleven articles and three research notes with the articles and notes covering an enormous range of topics and periods. In fact, the journal has had so many submissions recently we have had to place a stop on accepting new material until such time as we can clear the backlog. Sadly, we should also note that the journal remains without a Book Reviews Editor so we only have a single review this time.

Nigel Stanley's article gives makes a compelling case supporting the argument that Mancetter in Warwickshire was the location of the final battle between Boudicca's forces and the Romans and gives a plausible reconstruction of the course of the battle. At the other end of the time range Crispin Agnew explores – frequently as an active participant – Army Adventurous Training from 1960 to 2008. In counterpoint to his study of recent arrangements for non-soldiering activities, we have Louis Venter's article on the informal sports and pastimes of British forces in South Africa in 1899-1902. Also related to the pastoral care of soldiers – albeit in a very different sense – is James Haggerty's study of the Catholic Chaplains with the troops in the Second Afghan War.

We also have two articles and a research note on the darker side of war. Roxanne Vaillancourt looks at a single incident right at the end of the Allied advance into Germany in 1945 where the conduct of Canadian soldiers did not align with the accepted post-war Canadian Military historiography. In the same timeframe but on a much larger scale, Gregor Kranjc looks at the motives behind the British authorities' forcible repatriation of thousands of Yugoslav POWs to Tito's communist Yugoslavia

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in the knowledge of their likely fate. Also from the Second World War, Chris Murphy's research note looks in detail at the official investigation into the behaviour of a single senior officer who was a POW of the Japanese, an investigation that undermines the narrative that all Japanese POWs suffered equally, regardless of status and rank.

We have two articles looking at books. David Leeson uses Alan Clark's The Donkeys – a book many of our readers have strong views on! – as a case study in identifying 'pseudohistory'. In an important study of the genesis of Clausewitz's *On War*, Adrien Schu challenges the thesis put forward by Paul Donker (partly in this journal more than ten years ago – BJMH Vol. 3, Iss. 2) around the identification of the what may be the first draft of Clausewitz's seminal work. Also related to an author we have S P MacKenzie's article on the rise and fall of the submariner, and later author, Alistair Mars, who was court martialled in 1952 after refusing to take up an appointment he disliked. The research note by Tony Pratt looks at another, much earlier, naval controversy, the behaviour of James Montagu the captain of HMS Medea during and after a 1778 clash with the French ship-of-the-line Triton, his work is based on the correspondence of his uncle, Edward Montagu that is held by the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre.

Finally, we have three pieces looking at very different aspects of supply and logistics. At first sight the French perfume industry is not an obvious topic for a military history journal but, as Gilles Pache ably demonstrates in his research note, the industry's response to the 1940 armistice and the subsequent German occupation was a fine example of logistic resilience. A more conventional question of military logistics is covered in Keith Lawrence and Ivor Carr's article on Sir Thomas Fairfax's march to the relief of Nantwich in the winter of 1643-1644. Last, but by no means least, the major article by Jamie Pringle, Jon Sneddon, Peter Doyle and Joe Brown reveals the health costs of the logistics of gas warfare in the First World War. Using a wide range of sources they make a convincing case that H M Cylinder Depot, Stoke on Trent, fully deserves the title of the 'Most Dangerous Factory in Britan'.

Despite our concerns for the study of military history in UK academia we hope you enjoy this issue!

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