In modern scholarship, the term “civil-military relations” often lies in the realm of discussions on policy-making, budgetary priorities, service branch roles, and public perceptions of martial conduct. For the Society for Military History (SMH), this crossroads of interests sits at the very heart of the organization’s membership ranks, activities, and institutional past. In the Second World War, records show this relationship to have a practical and, sometimes, extraordinary resonance amongst the civilian and military scholars of the American Military Institute (AMI). Some files even offer glimpses of how this civil-military confluence almost changed the shape of the organization, including an aborted attempt to create an AMI war council to directly support the Allied war effort.

During the Great Depression, military officers and their departments initially comprised the primary creative force and financial backers of the organization, but, in less than a decade, war needs, circumstance, and popularity generated a shift. The organization was transformed from an exclusively de facto military resource into a broad-based all-inclusive civil-military forum, which included military personnel, civilian academicians, veterans, librarians, and archivists. In time the organization’s many successes, however, also generated some concern amongst the original founders who feared this think tank might become more “think” and less “tank”. As Nazi and Japanese armies appeared poised to unleash another great war, in March 1939, a few members feared they might even be unable to render key assistance to the war effort as the founders had intended in light of the nation’s ill-preparedness in fighting the First World War. AMI was growing larger than expected and, with so many scholars becoming members from outside the military hierarchy, it was, indeed, becoming more amorphous than originally planned by the army and civilian archivist founders.

Others, such as Lieutenant Colonel Joseph M. Scammell, Field Supervisor for the Historical Records Survey, thought AMI could serve both the founder’s intent and recent AMI goals without compromising either membership demographics concerns. After proving his value as interim AMI Secretary upon the death of founder Colonel Charles T.E. Lull in 1934, many saw Scammell as an exemplar of the emergent civil-military dynamic embodied in new AMI. A member of the Reserve Corps who had also studied military history at Oxford and served the University of California, Scammell was, in fact, one of several AMI members to embody the New Deal era’s literal civil-military relationship. In response to the growing concerns, Scammell drafted a lengthy memorandum for the new AMI Provost, Dr. Dallas Irvine of the National Archives, outlining his answer to the problem:
the creation of a council to harness the organization’s resource base for wartime military advising. Moreover, Scammell advocated that this proposed council “coordinate research into fields relating directly or indirectly...to the defense of this country under the modern conditions of warfare.” To this end, he recommended its composition include service members, veterans, and members of “learned societies”, creating a clearly defined civil-military crossover structure within AMI. It was to include representatives from Membership/Personnel, Research/Intelligence, Policy/Plans, Ways and Means/Finance, Secretariat/Administration, Technical/ Facilities, and, possibly, current political leaders.

The proposal was, in essence, a war council, but, like most preliminary military plans drafted in 1939, it did not survive first contact with the Axis. With the onset of war in Europe, already scarce financial resources and military personnel were being swept away from Scammell’s plans by military leaders for use in more urgent national security needs. Although senior military officers would continue to play key roles in AMI’s wartime activities, Scammell’s structured civil-mili-

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The Journal of Military History
Virginia Military History
Lexington, VA 24450

Photo credit: Society for Military History Records, Morse Dept. of Special Collections, Hale Library, Kansas State University.

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tary design became just one more casualty of war. Still, in the surviving correspondence, publications, and even exhibit documentation in the SMH Records, ample evidence exists that AMI’s civil-military members spent the war years informing and educating the officer corps, policy makers, other scholars, and the general public in the context of the present war.

Another unexpected part of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Scammell’s aborted proposal, likewise, survived the war, the notion of a shepherding council for the organization. Unlike the one envisioned by Scammell to fight the Axis, the Council of the SMH era was designed to manage the affairs of the organization and aid the general community in the pursuit of the study of military history for the sake of scholarship. Today, it oversees an organization in civil-military symbiosis, a dream to which the founders and their AMI counterparts had both aspired.

Society for Military History Election Results

President: Jeffrey Grey, University of New South Wales Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy
Vice President: Jennifer D. Keene, Chapman University

Trustee (Terms Expiring in 2019)
Wayne E. Lee, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Peter R. Mansoor, The Ohio State University
Marc Milner, University of New Brunswick
Katherine K. Reist, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Jacqueline E. Whitt, Air University
Andrew A. Wiest, University of Southern Mississippi

629 members voted in the Society’s second online election. 621 voted in the first online election and 228 members voted mail-in ballots in the 2011 election. In 2015 approximately 25% of eligible members voted which is the average for American Council of Learned Society member societies using online voting.

2016 Annual Meeting

Get your passports ready for the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History! In 2016, the SMH will be hosted by the Canadian War Museum in Canada’s national capital, Ottawa. Located just 60 miles across the border from Ogdensburg, New York, Ottawa is a city that has undergone multiple transformations over its long history. From its origins as a small military settlement, to a logging town, to a national capital, Ottawa is now home to world-class cultural institutions and historical sites. The Rideau Canal runs through Ottawa and its still-operational lock system is a must-see for visitors to the capital. The Canal is a feat of military engineering, built after the War of 1812 to help protect Canada from American invasion. Though originally built for military purposes, the Canal is now known for summer
cruising and winter skating. Ottawa is an ideal location for the 2016 meeting, the theme of which is “Crossing Borders, Crossing Boundaries.”

The Canadian War Museum, host of the 2016 meeting, is Canada’s national museum of military history. Through its exhibitions, collections and programs, the Museum highlights how conflict has shaped the country in its international, national and personal dimensions. Powerful stories of ordinary people living through extraordinary times, intermingled with unique artifacts, help to connect visitors with their shared military past. The Museum’s exhibitions explore more than 5,000 years of military history: wars among Canada’s First Peoples; wars of empire following European settlement of North America; the First and Second World Wars; the Cold War; United Nations peacekeeping operations; and Canada’s involvement in Afghanistan and other missions.

The opening reception of the 2016 meeting will be held in the War Museum’s LeBreton Gallery, where conference participants can take in an impressive display of military technology, including a wide array of allied and enemy armour, naval gunnery, artillery and a CF-101 Voodoo interceptor. The closing reception will take place in the stunning Grand Hall of the Canadian Museum of History, Canada’s national museum of history, affiliated with the War Museum, where SMH delegates will enjoy a commanding view of Ottawa’s nighttime skyline amidst amazing artworks and artifacts from Canada’s First Peoples. Together, these two Museums are Canada’s largest and most visited cultural institutions – and must-see destinations for anyone visiting Canada’s National Capital.

The 2016 meeting is conveniently located at Ottawa’s downtown Marriott Hotel, minutes away from national museums, galleries, dining and other attractions. Participants will have the opportunity to visit many of these, including the Canada Aviation and Space Museum, home to a world-class collection, the Diefenbunker Cold War Museum, a decommissioned nuclear blast bunker on Ottawa’s outskirts, and Parliament Hill, a historical site that houses Canada’s federal government.

We hope to see you in Ottawa in 2016. For more information, please see the links below:

- Canadian War Museum
- Canadian Museum of History
- Ottawa Tourism
- Ottawa Marriott Hotel
Fellowship Announcement

Baltic Defence College invites applications for a stipendiary Fellowship for research in Security, Defence or Strategic Studies from September-December 2015.

The Baltic Defence College is a military college, which was formed in 1998 by the three Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – to oversee their armed forces’ intermediate and higher level education. We seek a research fellow to conduct research in Security, Defence or Strategic Studies focused on the wider Baltic Region. The research fellow will be provided with accommodation, office space, a stipend, and a research budget.

Applications must include:

a. Cover letter outlining your suitability for the position;
b. Curriculum Vitae;
c. Proposed Research Topic;
d. An outline for an elective (1 ECTs Credit) that you would teach during your fellowship;

Please send completed applications to the Head of Administration, Ms. Kaja Arulepp, fellowship@baltdefcol.org. Details are available on the College website: Informal inquiries prior to application may be addressed to the Dean, Augustine Meaher, at augustine.meaher@baltdefcol.org. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 10 May 2015.

Grant Announcement

The Smith Richardson Foundation is pleased to announce its annual Strategy and Policy Fellows grant competition to support young scholars and policy thinkers on American foreign policy, international relations, international security, military policy, and diplomatic and military history. The Foundation will award at least three research grants of $60,000 each. The deadline is June 15, 2015. For further information, please visit: https://www.srf.org/programs/strategy-policy-fellows-program/. No phone inquiries, please.

Symposium Announcement

The US Army Center of Military History (CMH) announces the Army Historians Training Symposium (AHTS) from 27-31 July 2015 at the Crowne Plaza National Airport in Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia. The symposium is open to Army and DoD historians and professional historians from other government agencies, academia, and the public. The 2015 AHTS is a bi-annual event dedicated to the professional development of the military historians of the Army History Program and to the furtherance of the study of military history. The symposium will consist of training workshops focused on key aspects of the Army History Program, presentations of papers, and discussion panels. The theme of this year’s symposium is “Adapting to Peace; Preparing for War; Responding to Crisis: An Unworkable Triad?” with a focus on post war demobilization and restructuring, preparing for the next conflict, and the role of history in preparing forces during periods of relative peace. Papers presented at the panels will be published
by CMH. A call for papers has been posted separately.

The AHTS has no conference fees or associated costs. Rooms are currently available at the Crowne Plaza National Airport for those attending the symposium from outside the greater Washington, DC area at a discounted rate of $162 a night. Reservations can be made by calling the Crowne Plaza at (877) 227-6963. Army historians with at least three years of permanent Army civilian service are eligible for funding of travel, lodging and per diem from the CP61 Proponent office. For competitive application requirements contact the CP 61 POC, Ed Clarke, at (202) 685-2798.

Those wishing to attend should notify the CMH POC, Mr. Tom Crecca; Thomas.w.crecca.civ@mail.mil; at (202) 685-2627 and provide name, address, Army command or civilian institution, and historical specialization.

Further information on the conference may be found on the Center of Military History website at http://www.history.army.mil.

**Fellowships Announced**

The Naval History and Heritage Command, Department of the Navy, is offering the following competitive incentives to pursue original work in the history of the United States Navy for the academic year 2015-2016.

The Rear Admiral John D. Hayes Pre-doctoral Fellowship in U. S. Naval History. The fellowship includes a stipend of $10,000 for the fellowship year (September 2015-June 2016) plus a travel grant for travel twice to the command’s Washington, D.C., headquarters. Applicants must be citizens of the United States, not on active duty in the armed forces; be enrolled in a recognized graduate school; have completed requirements for the Ph.D. except the dissertation by June 30, 2015; and have an approved dissertation topic in the field of U.S. naval history.

The Rear Admiral Ernest M. Eller Graduate Research Grant. The grant of up to $2,500 is intended to assist a graduate student in the research and writing of U.S. naval history in fulfillment of the requirements of a master’s or doctoral degree by helping to defray the costs of travel, living expenses, and document duplication related to the research process for a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation. Applicants must be citizens of the United States enrolled in a master’s or doctoral degree program in history or a closely related field in a recognized graduate school.

The Vice Admiral Edwin B. Hooper Research Grant. The grant of up to $2,500 is intended to assist a scholar in the research or writing of a book or article by helping to defray the costs of travel, living expenses, and document duplication, related to the research process. Proposals that have high promise of filling gaps in the literature of U.S. naval history that the Naval History and Heritage Command has identified as of higher interest are eligible for consideration. The command’s list of priority subjects in U.S. naval history is posted on the command’s website, www.history.navy.mil, and is regularly updated. Applicants must be citizens of the United States and hold a Ph.D. degree from an accredited university, awarded no later than March 31, 2015, or equivalent attainment as a published author.

The Samuel Eliot Morison Naval History Scholarship. The scholarship provides a $5,000 cash award to one active duty commissioned officer of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps with demonstrated leadership potential and high academic qualifications who is already pursuing graduate study in history, international relations, or a related field. The award is to help pay for expenses related to research,
travel, and the purchase of books or other educational materials.

Closing Date for Applications: April 30, 2015 Announcement of Awards: in May 2015


Send application materials either in hard copy to Naval History & Heritage Command, Senior Historian, 805 Kidder Breese St., SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060, or as pdf by email to michael.crawford@navy.mil.

Call for Submissions

The British Journal for Military History launched on Trafalgar Day 2014 (21st October). Representing a unique vehicle for distributing high-quality military history to an audience beyond academia, the BJMH is open access, applies peer review policies to all the articles we receive and is published three times a year.

Endorsed by Professor Sir Michael Howard and with an editorial advisory board that includes some of Britain’s finest military historians, the first issue showcases some of the journal’s ambitions. Articles consider a number of topics, from the use and abuse of military history, to military promotion, shooting power, memory and war, the evolution of strategy and changing identities.

Future issues include papers by Professors Bruce Collins, David French, Andrew Roberts and Charles Esdaile and consider issues that range from French, British, Dutch and Italian approaches to counterinsurgency to Waterloo, Napoleon and the British Army in the Peninsular Campaign.

Apart from offering a platform for well-established historians the editors are keen to encourage new and upcoming authors - including ABD PhD Candidates - to submit their work. The Editors would be especially pleased to receive papers from authors keen to reach audiences beyond academia.

The Journal’s website is http://bjmh.org.uk/index.php/bjmh, Information about submitting articles can be found at http://bjmh.org.uk/index.php/bjmh/about/submissions

Marshall Foundation Begins Legacy Series

The George C. Marshall Foundation will launch its new George C. Marshall Legacy Series in April to interpret General Marshall’s legacy through a multi-year series of events, programs and information centered on key themes, events or episodes from General Marshall’s career and the extensive holdings in the Foundation’s archives.

To kick off the Legacy Series, the Foundation and the National Security Agency (NSA), and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will hold an afternoon program on April 23 to discuss William Friedman, who is considered to be the leading codebreaking pioneer in the United States in the 20th century.

As head codebreaker for the U.S. War Department, Friedman led a team that broke the Japanese diplomatic code known as PURPLE in 1940 during World War II. General Marshall later described the intelligence provided by Friedman and his cryptologists as “contributing greatly to the victory and tremendously to the saving of American lives…and…the early termination of the war.” Col. Friedman continued his work after the war in government signals intelligence and became the head cryptologist of the NSA. Upon his retirement from NSA in 1955, he donated his personal papers to the Marshall Foundation where they have resided since 1969.

With the declassification and release of Friedman’s professional papers on April 23 and their availability through the Marshall Foundation, the Foundation will have the most complete and comprehensive set of Friedman materials as part of one of the most
important private collections of cryptologic material worldwide.

“The significance of this additional material, about 50,000 pages, cannot be overstated in terms of the vast amount of information that will be available to researchers and scholars on William Friedman, his wife Elizebeth, who was a stalwart codebreaker in her own right, and the early days of codebreaking beginning in World War I and continuing through World War II,” said Marshall Foundation President Rob Havers. “Our Friedman collections put us at the epicenter of cryptology research,” he added.

During the evening of April 23, Bill Sherman, who is head of research at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the curator of the Folger Shakespeare Library exhibition on “Decoding the Renaissance,” will talk about codes, codebreaking and ciphers. His talk, which will be free to members of the Foundation, titled “From the Cipher Disk to the Enigma Machine: 500 Years of Cryptography,” will be followed by a reception. Current members must show their membership cards on arrival. Non-members will be admitted on a space-available basis after paying an admission fee. Call Leigh McFaddin at 463-7103, ext. 138 to reserve a seat.

A new exhibition on the Friedmans and Codebreaking, “Partners in Code: William and Elizebeth Friedman,” will be open as well.

Foundation members will be invited back on May 20 for a display of and short lecture about the German Enigma machine by Archivist Jeffrey Kozak and a showing of the acclaimed and Oscar-winning movie “The Imitation Game.”

The Marshall Legacy Series promises substantial benefits to many constituencies the Foundation serves including members, children and families, scholars and researchers, historians and history buffs, and museum visitors of all ages.

Because General Marshall’s career touched on nearly every major event of the first half of the 20th Century, the landscape for the Legacy Series is rich and vast. The Foundation staff will access its own resources and collections to create unique activities and events to share with the public. Beginning projects, each lasting about three months, will include Codebreaking, Weapons of War, and Taking Care of the Troops.

The Legacy Series provides an exposition of the key moments in General Marshall’s life through selected documents and artifacts from the Foundation archives, associated articles, audiovisual presentations, unique museum exhibitions and speaker events. The Series will flesh out who he was, what he did, how he did it and why he is still so relevant today. The aim is to make Marshall’s career and achievements more popularly accessible and to move on from the completion of the Marshall Papers that will conclude later this year.

Buffalo Bill Center of the West 2015-2016 Resident Fellowships

The Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, seeks applications for its 2015-2016 Resident Fellowship Program. The Center’s Resident Fellowships, which carry a maximum $5,000 award, support research on topics relating to the past, present and future of the American West. Applications are due May 13, 2015, for projects beginning in June 2015; research must be completed by May 31, 2016. For more information and application guidelines, please visit http://centerofthewest.org/research/fellowship-program/.

Announcing the IBMH Early-Career Paper Prize

The International Bibliography of Military History invites submissions for its IBMH Early-Career Paper Prize. The Prize will be awarded to an academic article of outstanding quality in the field of international military history written by a graduate student or an early-career scholar. The author of the winning article will receive a €1000 cash prize,
and the article will be published in an issue of the *International Bibliography of Military History* within one year.

In line with the *IBMH*’s general guidelines, submissions should be an original contribution to the field of military history that is of interest to an international readership, e.g., a topic involving more than one nation and, preferably, based on multi-archival research. There is no chronological limitation. The *IBMH* publishes articles ranging from antiquity to the contemporary period, as long as the subject is historical and the methodology is according to academic standards.

Articles should be based extensively on primary research, should not have been previously published in another form or outlet, and should not be currently under consideration by another journal or book series. The submitted work should comply with the journal’s style sheet, be between 8,000 and 10,000 words (including footnotes), and be thoroughly referenced. For further information on style and referencing, please visit the journal’s website.

The prize is open to graduate students who are currently registered at a higher education institute, or to those who have obtained their doctoral degree after January 1, 2010.

The deadline for submissions for this year’s award is 30 August 2015. Articles should be submitted in PDF and Word Format, together with a short CV to the Scientific Editor, Dr Marco Wyss (m.wyss@chi.ac.uk).

**Call for Papers**

The Society of Civil War Historians will host its biennial conference at The Chattanooga Hotel, Chattanooga, Tennessee, from June 2 through 4, 2016. The SCWH welcomes panel proposals or individual papers on the Civil War era, broadly defined. The goal of the conference is to promote the integration of social, military, political, and other forms of history on the Civil War era among historians, graduate students, and professionals who interpret history in museums, national parks, archives, and other public facilities.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is September 11, 2015. Please complete a submission form (panel proposal: http://richardscenter.psu.edu/conference-papers/panel-submission-form; single paper proposal: http://richardscenter.psu.edu/conference-papers/single-paper-submission) and upload a single PDF file. Proposals should include a title and abstract for the papers (approximately 250-300 words) and a short curriculum vitae from each participant. Panel submissions should have an overall title and statement about the thrust of the session.

For more information, see the Society’s website at http://scwh.la.psu.edu/, or contact the Richards Center at (814) 863-0151. Final decisions on submissions will be made at the Southern Historical Association meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, on November 11-14, 2015.

**Call for Papers**

*Military Education and Empire, 1854-1948*

Royal Military College of Canada

Kingston, Ontario

5-6 November 2015

More than a century ago, at the 1909 Imperial Conference, the Imperial General Staff put forward a proposal for organizing the military forces of the British Empire such that they would be better able to work together in time of war. “It will be noted that education is the keynote … not only the higher education at a Staff College which is essential if the Imperial General Staff is to be composed of a body of officers trained to
think alike on all matters of principle, but the preliminary education, by which officers can be so grounded and prepared as to be able to profit from Staff College training …. The necessity for preparatory and higher education is so apparent that its importance need not be further insisted upon.” Curiously, the notion that military education is central to effective military forces, particularly in a coalition context, is frequently at odds with what scholars of the military have seen as an anti-intellectualism within the services despite the fact that the most senior military leaders have from time to time spoken strongly for the need for higher education and intellectual capacity.

This symposium will bring together experts in military education and professionalism from around the world to establish a dialogue on the global and imperial interconnections that helped to shape the shared educational experience of the British Empire. We have invited a diverse and exciting group of top-tier keynote scholars from across the Commonwealth: Professor John Ferris (University of Calgary), Alan Jeffreys, (Imperial War Museum), Dr. Ian van der Waag (University of Stellenbosch), Professor Jane Errington (Queen’s University at Kingston), Dr. John Connor (University of New South Wales), Dr. Randall Wakelam (RMC), Dr. Yves Tremblay (Directorate of History and Heritage), Dr. Andrew Lambert (King’s College London), and Dr. Andrew Stewart (Royal College of Defence Studies, King’s College London.

In addition the conference organizing committee solicits proposals for papers on all aspects of military learning in the time period examined by the symposium. Topics may include such themes as: civilian control of military education, the introduction of or reforms to military education policies and programmes, the conduct of military education courses, and the impact of conflict and technology on military education. Proposals should include a 200-300 word abstract accompanied by a one-page CV.

Proposals should be emailed to rmc-cmrsymposium@rmc.ca no later than 30 May 2015. The proceedings of the conference will be published in an edited volume by the University of British Columbia Press.

State Historical Society of Iowa 2015/2016 Research Grants

The State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) announces a grant program for the 2015/2016 academic year. SHSI will award up to ten stipends of $1,000 each to support original research and interpretive writing related to the history of Iowa or Iowa and the Midwest. Preference will be given to applicants proposing to pursue previously neglected topics or new approaches to or interpretations of previously treated topics. SHSI invites applicants from a variety of backgrounds, including academic and public historians, graduate students, and independent researchers and writers. Applications will be judged on the basis of their potential for producing work appropriate for publication in The Annals of Iowa. Grant recipients will be expected to produce an annotated manuscript targeted for The Annals of Iowa, SHSI’s scholarly journal.

Applications for the 2015/2016 awards must be postmarked by April 15, 2015. Download application guidelines from our web site (iowahistory.org/publications/the-annals-of-iowa/research-grants-for-authors.html) or request guidelines or further information from:

Research Grants
State Historical Society of Iowa
402 Iowa Avenue
Iowa City IA 52240-1806

Phone: 319-335-3931
e-mail: marvin-bergman@uiowa.edu
David Hein Joins Marshall Foundation Board of Trustees

David Hein, Ph.D., of Frederick, Maryland, has been named to the Board of Trustees of the George C. Marshall Foundation. Dr. Hein is a member of the faculty of Hood College where he has taught since 1983 in the Religion and Philosophy Department. During his more than 30 years at Hood he has taught a wide range of courses in religion, philosophy, literature and history. He has published ten books and more than 40 articles in professional journals, including “Vulnerable: HMS Prince of Wales in 1941” in the Journal of Military History and “In War for Peace: General George C. Marshall’s Core Convictions and Ethical Leadership” that appeared in Touchstone in 2013. He gave a talk at the Marshall Foundation in 2013 about the short, but significant, life of the British warship, HMS Prince of Wales.

He received a B.A. in religious studies and English from Univ. of Virginia, an M.A. in religious studies from Univ. of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Univ. of Virginia. The recipient of numerous honors and awards, Dr. Hein is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He has recently become an affiliated scholar of the John Jay Institute in Philadelphia.

Norwich University names Alvin York biographer winner of 2015 William E. Colby Award


A veteran of the first Gulf War and Afghanistan, Colonel Mastriano was commissioned in the United States Army in 1986 and began his career with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment serving along the German Iron Curtain. With the end of the Cold War, he deployed to Iraq for Operation Desert Storm, where his regiment led the main attack against Saddam Hussein’s Republican Guard. Colonel Mastriano subsequently served in tactical, operational and strategic assignments during his ongoing career in the army. He also served four years in NATO Land Headquarters in Germany, and deployed three times to Afghanistan, where he was director of the ISAF Joint Intelligence Center.

In the book, published in 2014 by the University Press of Kentucky, Mastriano uses archival research, military terrain analysis and forensic study to reconstruct the events of October 1918 and sort fact from fiction in the account of the act of heroism that earned Sergeant York the Medal of Honor in the First World War. Mastriano details York’s early life in Tennessee, his service in the war up to and including the famous October 8, 1918, engagement, and his return to a civilian life dedicated to charity. As the centennial of American involvement in World War I approaches, this book shares the story of one of the war’s most notable heroes.

A $5,000 author honorarium is provided through a grant from the Chicago-based Tawani Foundation. The award and honorarium will be presented at Norwich University during the 2015 Colby Military Writers’ Symposium at the “Meet the Authors” Dinner on April 9, 2015. The 2015 Symposium will take place April 8-9, and is open to the public.

Named for the late ambassador and former CIA director William E. Colby, the Colby Award recognizes a first work of fiction or non-fiction that has made a significant contribution to the public’s understanding of intelligence operations, military history or international affairs. The William E. Colby Award began at Norwich University in 1999.
By John M. Carland*

It is all to the good that Society for Military History President Gregory Urwin has reached out to the Organization of American Historians (OAH) and other history organizations to ally with them to the benefit of all. His work with the OAH--because it is one of the two premier, general history organizations in the United States, the other being the American Historical Association (AHA)--is especially important. This relationship, and others as well, will bring military history to a larger audience while also broadening the perspective of its practitioners and integrating them more fully into the larger profession.

But such reaching out should not extend to the AHA until it changes its policy and attitude toward official history, including official military history. Right now, the association’s journal, the *American Historical Review (AHR)*, will not review official military history because it is not “vetted” for publication via peer-reviews. This is intellectual segregation at its worst. Such segregation effectively deprives professors, students, and laypersons perusing the *AHR* the opportunity to become aware of ground-breaking, exhaustively researched, engagingly written, award-winning books by well-educated and highly skilled professional historians.


I became aware of this unhappy situation in late 2011/early 2012 through email exchanges with the editor of the *AHR*, Dr. Robert A. Schneider, a professor in the History Department at Indiana University.

Here’s the story: On 6 December 2011 I emailed Professor Schneider. At the time I was a contract historian in the Historical Office of the Secretary of Defense. My purpose in writing Schneider was to recommend to the *AHR* for review a recent publication of the Historical Office. Before sending the book--Drea’s *McNamara, Clifford, and the Burdens of Vietnam, 1965-1969*--I wanted to find out if it would be considered for a review on its merits. I pointed out to Schneider that “I don’t write this to be provocative but simply to know if it’s worth doing. And beyond this specific question, there is a larger one that you might well want brought to your attention.” What was that larger question?

The conventional wisdom we in the official history world live with regarding the possibility of our books being reviewed in the American Historical Review is that it is not possible. That is, we have heard over the years that your journal, and other mainstream ones, makes certain assumptions about official histories--that they are “court” histories, biased in favor of the agency for which the official historian writes, and fail to meet the standards of professional history. Without thinking much about it we in official history have pretty much accepted, if not the criticism in this analysis because we don’t--we believe our publications meet all the standards of professional history and more, then the results. Consequently, we tend not to submit our wares to your journal.
But is this so? Is it true that the *AHR* doesn’t consider reviewing official history? If this is so, it certainly doesn’t say much about the sheltered souls in the academy. Or have we in the official history community been simply wrong over the years.

In his 13 December reply, Schneider confirmed that this was indeed the case. The *AHR* “categorically” rejected official history publications for review. His defense/justification of the *AHR* position deserves careful reading. “I can well understand,” he allowed, “your concern and frustration.”

Indeed, on the face of it, [he continued] there certainly shouldn’t be any distinction between scholarly books based upon their provenance—it’s the scholarship that should count. That is, if the book is scholarly-- and if it meets our other criteria, then it should be reviewed by the *AHR* as well as other journals. The fact is, however, that these “other criteria,” not the origins or publisher of the book, are often what disqualifies it. As we receive 3000 books a year and only have space to review 1000, we obviously have had to set categorical standards that perforce exclude many interesting and worthy books. For example (and as a rule; there are always exceptions), we don’t review biographies, nor collections of documents, nor edited volumes of essays, nor textbooks, nor second editions, nor works of synthesis or those pitched to a general readership. And we also tend not to review books that, in our (possibly flawed!) estimation are simply too narrow or seem to offer nothing new in the way of scholarship. I’m not saying that “official histories” tend to fall into one of these excluded categories, but I’m fairly certain that some of them do-- hence the unlikelihood of these being reviewed by us.

But your letter really inquires about how we view official histories as a category of publication. Do we, in other words, reject them categorically? I have asked our Book Review Editor, who has been at the journal much longer than I and who manages the book review process, to give her view. She suggests that it isn’t the nature of the book in question but rather how it has come to be published. Normally the books we review have been published by university presses or other presses that are known to have a pre-publication vetting process that involves outside, peer review. It’s not, then, that we don’t consider official historians less scholarly in what they do; it’s the nature and degree of the vetting process that gets them published in the first place. She also notes, “It is the commission that is problematic: what are its terms and limitations? How much of the source material is publically available, and how much requires access only granted to scholars who agree to certain conditions?” It’s these kinds of questions, then, that are in play when we consider a book for review that qualifies as an official history.

I don’t know if you find this satisfactory, but I hope that it at least suggests that we make a good faith effort to remain open to the wide breadth of scholarship produced by the diverse community of historians.

I responded on the 21st, strongly disagreeing with Schneider. My rejoinder went as follows:

By arguing that only books that have been “vetted” in a certain way through a certain process can make it to the *AHR* book review section seems particularly rigid and narrow-minded. It reinforces all the stereotypes we in the scholarly, non-academic world have about the medieval guild-like infrastructure that protects those in your world from non-guild intellectual stimulation and competition. From my side of the
aisle, and after reading official history and academic works for decades, I am firmly convinced that books written by official historians are as vetted albeit in different ways as those in your world.

Given the above, I find it astonishing when you write that you “make a good faith effort to remain open to the wide breadth of scholarship produced by the diverse community of historians” yet at the same time exclude official history books from being reviewed in your journal. You further say that you don’t believe official historians less scholarly than academic ones but the simple fact that you keep the former out of the sacred precincts while allowing only the latter in sends its own unmistakably unambiguous message.

A more sensible and more honest approach to this problem (if you were to recognize it as a problem) would be for you to direct your book review editor, presumably someone of experience in the scholarly world, to apply his or her knowledge, expertise, and judgment to a book and decide that it’s worth reviewing or not on the basis of the book’s apparent quality rather than its origin—be it Harvard University Press or the Government Printing Office. Why not take this approach, if only as an experiment? Trust your judgment! You might be surprised to find how much your readers appreciate being led to books of high quality, narrative strength, and interpretive significance heretofore off-limits to them. Surely, the marketplace of ideas should trump the marketplace of peer-reviewed privilege.

I also decided that the practical takeaway from our message exchange was to not submit Drea’s book for review. Still, I appreciated Schneider’s taking the time to give a serious, if not satisfactory, answer to my question.

In late January 2012, I messaged Professor Schneider again, not to go over the same old argument but to inject a new element into it. When discussing the Schneider-Carland exchange with colleagues one of them asked what I should have asked long before: Has the AHR reviewed official history in the past? I responded that I did not know but would find out. After all, if the AHR had previously reviewed official histories, it would be, for me at least, a game-changer. After a morning’s research I found that the AHR had indeed for many years reviewed official military history. I sent Schneider a list of 22 official histories reviewed in AHR, which made clear that as early as 1956 and as late as 1993 the AHR regularly reviewed American, British, and Canadian official histories. I might add that I also found several reviews of French, German, and Russian official histories. Perhaps with better access to AHR than I had, one would find even more reviews of official histories, American and foreign. I concluded with these words:

Having these reviews in hand and realizing their meaning will, I hope, persuade the AHR to quickly change its position on not reviewing official histories and indeed begin to review them. Doing so would demonstrate continuity with the past and the restoration of a previously sound practice. If this simple process is too radical, or, if you will, too conservative, a step, I would next propose that you consider publishing our exchange in either the AHR or, perhaps, Perspectives, and ask for comments from the larger historical community about the issue I have raised. If you were to do this I am absolutely confident that members of our profession would overwhelmingly endorse the argument for change, for empowering the AHR to choose books to review on the basis of a book’s potential significance for our better understanding the past rather than the fact that it was vetted (i.e., peer reviewed) in a certain way.

Taking either of these steps I have proposed, and explaining why to the public,
would add luster to the AHR’s reputation for being responsible, accountable, democratic, and, transparent, all qualities we admire and expect in intellectual institutions in civil society.

On February 13 Professor Schneider replied, beginning on an encouraging note but quickly rejecting any change and reaffirming the AHR’s position.

[T]hank for compiling this list; it’s very interesting, and will, as you no doubt expect, prompt us to continue to consider our policy on official histories. I do note, however, that you do not answer the main objection I raised against these sorts of studies (see below): that they often rely upon sources that cannot be verified or often even consulted by outside historians. I think it’s reasonable at least to assert this as a potential obstacle. Furthermore, there is the question of the disinterestedness, independence, and autonomy of a historian who is employed by or belongs to the institution or enterprise which he’s investigating. Isn’t this why when great universities commission a work of history, they almost always choose scholars who are not members of their faculties?

In any case, clearly we there are questions to pursue; meaning--and I hope you accept this in the spirit in which it is proffered and not an attempt simply to put you off--that we shall further consider your request. Even if we were to change our policy, however, I should note that we still examine books on a case-by-case basis, and I thus fear that some or even many official histories might still be turned down for review because they do meet other of our standards.

Worth emphasizing here are two points: (1) the first paragraph not so subtly but implicitly raises the old charge that official history is court history and therefore unworthy of review; and (2) the second paragraph raises what can only be called a straw-man objection (of course, books should be chosen for review on a case-by-case basis; no one I know has ever thought otherwise and in fact, as can be seen above, that was precisely my recommendation).

I decided to return to the charge one more time with material from another historian. Professor Schneider had also asked what others in the official history world might think about this issue. To this end I asked Dr. Edward J. Drea, author of the book serving as the vehicle for our exchanges, to provide a response, which he did and which I forwarded to Schneider on 28 February:

The more substantive issues of sources and vetting [Drea wrote] merit serious comment. First, for the purposes of inter-agency review of the draft manuscript, each document must be fully identified according to strict footnoting methodology. Most of the documentation, perhaps 85 to 90 percent of the primary source material, in official histories has already been declassified and is readily available to other historians and to the general public at archival centers, including the National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland, and the various presidential libraries. Because each cited document must be identified, citations also include still classified material. (As an aside, it may interest you to learn that federal archivists review classified documents identified by government historians for possible declassification.) Regardless of whether a document is declassified at that point, the citation precisely identifies the source and its location allowing interested historians to FOIA the relevant document. It is, of course, an imperfect system, but isn’t the point of scholarship to broaden the inquiry by bringing to light otherwise unavailable or unknown source materials?
As for vetting, I can only speak to the official military history program. Internal review boards, comprised of government civilian and military historians with Ph.D.s., evaluate the manuscript for accuracy and substance. Outside academic advisory boards may also assist it the vetting as may participants in the events being described. In some cases, the review board may seek the expertise of other academics who are recognized as preeminent in the field. As a generalization, if the author’s primary source evidence supports his or her conclusions, the manuscript will go forward to editorial. Revisions occur throughout the process. As with history books published by university presses, not all are prize-winners, not all are worth reading, and not all should have even been published. But that’s the reason we have book reviewers to provide an impartial evaluation of a work, not a prejudgment.

In the last instance, we are talking about mutual trust, i.e., that a government historian will accurately convey the substance of his or her sources.

In the message with Drea’s above comments, I admitted that we were at an impasse. Rather than continue the argument I reiterated previous recommendations: that Schneider direct his book review editor to decide whether to review a book based on its merits rather than its origin; and that he consider publishing our correspondence in Perspectives and ask for comments on it from our colleagues in the academic, public, and official history professions. Of course, were he to do the first, the second would be unnecessary.

To this date, 19 March 2015, I have received no reply from Professor Schneider and official military history remains excluded from the American Historical Review.

(In passing, I might add that in parallel correspondence during this time with the editor of the Journal of American History on the same subject, he immediately agreed to review Drea’s book. The review, a favorable one, appeared in the November 2012 issue of the journal. The editor, Edward T. Linenthal, is also a professor of history at Indiana University. One wonders if the two editors have discussed this issue around the water cooler.)

If readers think the AHR’s decision to continue refusing to review official history is wrong-headed and should be changed, I strongly recommend that they make their feelings known to the editor of the AHR and as well to the president of the AHA via these email addresses:

President, American Historical Association
Professor Vicki Cruiz
University of California, Irvine
vruiz@uci.edu

Editor, American Historical Review
Professor Robert A. Schneider
Indiana University
raschnei@indiana.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS

83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History
“Crossing Borders, Crossing Boundaries”
April 14-17, 2016, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

The Society for Military History is pleased to call for papers for its 83rd Annual Meeting, hosted by the Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of History.

“Geography as history” is one of the Canadian War Museum’s overarching themes, reflected throughout its permanent galleries in discussions of topography and its influence on battle, and the gradual conquest of distance by technology, population movement, and communications. Wars are now fought on and over the surface of the earth; on and under its adjacent oceans; in space; in the electromagnetic spectrum; and across the Internet. Traditional boundaries are regularly transgressed, imperfectly administered, and unevenly acknowledged. Moreover, fighting forces can blend with civilians in asymmetric warfare, blurring the lines between combatants and non-combatants. Borders and boundaries - geographic, political, or conceptual - remain important to the study of military history. For the 2016 SMH meeting, the program committee will consider paper and panel proposals on all aspects of military history, while especially encouraging submissions that reflect on this theme.

Panel proposals must include a panel title (along with the full names and institutional affiliations of each participant and the full title of each paper), a one-page abstract summarizing the theme of the panel, a one-page abstract for each paper proposed, and a one-page curriculum vitae for each panelist (including the chair and commentator), with email addresses and other contact information provided for all participants. Submissions of pre-organized panels are strongly encouraged and will be given preference in the selection process. Individual paper proposals are also welcome and must include a one-page abstract of the paper, one-page vita, and contact information, including email. If accepted, individual papers will be assigned by the program committee to an appropriate panel with a chair and commentator.

All submissions should be sent in a single PDF document which includes all elements (abstracts, CVs, and contact information). Submissions sent in different formats will not be accepted.

Participants may present one paper, serve on a roundtable, or provide panel comments. They may not fill more than one of these roles during the conference, nor should they propose to do so to the Program Committee. Members who act as panel chairs for only one session may deliver a paper, serve on a roundtable, or offer comments in a different session. Members who serve as both the chair and commentator of a single session may not present in another session.

All proposals must be submitted electronically to the program committee by October 1, 2015. The address is: SMH2016@warmuseum.ca. All presenters, chairs, and commentators must be members of the Society for Military History by December 31, 2015.

The meeting will be held at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel in Ontario, Canada. It is located near the Canadian War Museum and Canada’s Parliament Hill.

Nominations (including self-nominations) and all supporting materials for the 2014 prize should be submitted electronically by November 15, 2013 to smh.digital.prize.committee@gmail.com. A cover letter, not to exceed one page, addressing the two selection criteria is necessary.
MEETINGS CALENDAR 2015

April 24-25 – The Society for History in the Federal Government will hold its annual meeting at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. This year’s theme is “Across the Great Divide: Historical Research in a Digital World.” For meeting particulars, see the Society’s website at http://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/.

May 6-10 – The Council for America’s Military Past will hold its annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. For more details as they become available, check the Council’s website at http://www.campjamp.org/Annual%20Conferences.htm.

May 21 – The Institute for the Arts and Humanities, King’s College, London, England and its same-named counterpart at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will jointly host a conference entitled “Aftermath: The Cultural Legacies of WWI,” at King’s College. The intent is to address multiple aspects of how the First World War changed the world, including what people thought about future wars and the war’s impact on science and technology. For more details, see the Institute’s website at http://global.unc.edu/events/aftermath-the-cultural-legacies-of-wwi/#sthash.Fz57cBwv.dpuf.

June 4-6 – Cultures of violence from the colonial wars to the present. Humboldt University of Berlin. Contact: lehnstaedt@dhi.waw.pl; s.neitzel@lse.ac.uk.

June 25-26 – The Group for War and Culture Studies will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its founding with a conference to be held at the University of Westminster in London, England. The conference theme is “the past, the present and the future of war and culture studies.” For more information on the Group and its activities, see its website at http://www.westminster.ac.uk/war-and-culture-studies.

August 13-16 – The Mars Society will host its 18th annual convention in the Edward J. Pryzbyla Center on the campus of the Catholic University of American in Washington, DC. For registration and other information, visit the Society’s website at http://www.marssociety.org/home.

August 16-21 – The International Committee for the History of Technology will host its 42nd annual Symposium in Tel Aviv, Israel. The theme of this year’s gathering is “The History of High-Technologies and Their Socio-Cultural Contexts.” For further details, see the Committee’s website at http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting-2015.html.


September 3-5 – University of the Philippines Department of History, in cooperation with the University of the Philippines Third World Studies Center, will host “Occupation and Liberation” at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. Direct queries to occupationandliberation@gmail.com.

September 17-18 – McMullen Naval History Symposium in Annapolis, Maryland. Contact: Commander (Ph.D) Chris Rentfrow at navalhistorysymposium@gmail.com or 410-293-6257.

September 18-19 – The Prince Tamakado Japan Centre at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada will host a conference to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan. For more detailed information, see the Centre’s website at http://www.ptjc.ualberta.ca/en/Events.aspx.

September 25-26 – The History Department at Mississippi State University will host the ninth regional EPIC (Empire, Power, Identity and Conflict, formerly IS/IS) Conference. The theme of the conference will be “From War to
Peace.” Contact: Dr. Andrew Lang at alang@history.msstate.edu.

October 8-11 – The Society for the History of Technology will hold its annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more details as they become available, check the Society’s website at http://www.historyoftechnology.org/.

October 14-18 – The Oral History Association will host its annual meeting in Tampa, Florida. The theme of this year’s gathering is “Stories of Social Change and Social Justice.” For more information, see the Association’s website at http://www.oralhistory.org/.

October 15-16 – Arbeitskreis für Historische Friedens- und Konfliktforschung; Norwegian Air Force Academy; Norwegian University of Science and Technology host a conference on “‘The good soldier’. Ideal, instrument of manipulation or contradiction in itself?” at the Norwegian Air Force Academy. Contact: maria.fritsche@ntnu.no.

October 22-23 – The Center for Cryptologic History will host its biennial Symposium on Cryptologic History at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory’s Kossiakoff Center in Laurel, Maryland. Following the Symposium, on Saturday, October 24, participants will be given an opportunity to tour the National Cryptologic Museum and to participate in a workshop on sources for research in cryptologic history. For more information, visit the Center’s website at http://www.afio.com/05_events.htm.

November 5-6 – The Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario will host a symposium on Military Education and Empire, 1854-1948. Contact: rmc-cmrsymposium@rmc.ca.

November 19-21 – The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana will be the site for the 2015 International Conference on WWII. Presented by the Tawani Foundation in association with the Pritzker Military Museum and Library, this year’s theme will be “1945: To The Bitter End.” For more information, visit the conference website at www.ww2conference.com.

December 2-4 – U.S. Army War College conference on “American Use of Strategic Landpower since 9/11” to be held at Carlisle Barracks, PA. Contact Major Jason Warren at jason.w.warren.mil@mail.mil.

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MEETINGS CALENDAR 2016

January 14-17 – The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, in conjunction with Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island will host a conference on “Comparative Home Fronts: World War II,” to be held at the Hotel Duval in Tallahassee, Florida. Contact G. Kurt Piehler at kpiehler@fsu.edu.

April 14-17 – The 2016 SMH Annual Meeting will be in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada at the Ottowa Marriott Hotel. Hosted by the Canadian War Museum.

June 2-4 – The Society of Civil War Historians will host its biennial conference at The Chattanoogan Hotel, Chattanooga, Tennessee. For more information, see the Society’s website at http://scwh.la.psu.edu/.

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MEETINGS CALENDAR 2017

March 30-April 2 – The 2017 SMH Annual Meeting will be in Jacksonville, FL at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront. Hosted by the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, Department of History, Florida State University.
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