

It has been a busy and varied summer so far at The National Archives, with lots of changes. We are starting work on **Big Data** projects and seeing some successful funded projects wrap up, such as England's Immigrants 1330-1550. The project is led by Professor Mark Ormrod at York in partnership with the Humanities Research Institute (HRI) at Sheffield University and The National Archives. Read more on [page 2](#).

The theme of change continues as we welcome our new Chief Executive and Keeper. Jeff James took up the role in July, and you can read more about Jeff and his background [here](#). The Research team also welcomed a new member in July. Elizabeth Micakovic recently joined us and you can read more about her plans for her new role on [page 16](#).

Change is also coming to our catalogue, Discovery. Read more about the upgrade work currently underway on [page 3](#). Changes to the UK Government Web Archive now mean that Government tweets and videos are now being captured. You can read more on [page 4](#).

Maps feature a lot in this issue of the newsletter. A new book on historical maps is available this autumn and to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, we are launching a new interactive online map, which you can find out more about on [page 6](#).

The National Archives is involved in some exciting events. The 2015 Gerald Aylmer Seminar is in development, the programme is now available for an upcoming conference about Prize Papers, and registration is open for the *Discovering Collections, Discovering Communities* event.

There are still opportunities to work with us on Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships. You can read more about the priority areas, application process and deadline on [page 15](#).

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition.

Victoria Lain

Editor and Research and Academic Liaison
The Research Team
The National Archives



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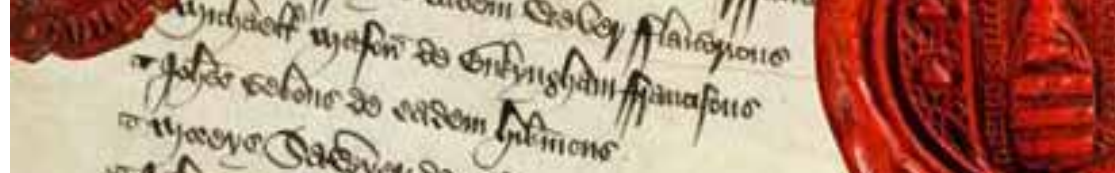
England's Immigrants 1330-1550

International workshop report and project update, Sean Cunningham

In April 2014, 22 scholars from around the UK, Europe and North America assembled (physically and virtually) at the University of York. The event was an international workshop to explore the data and research possibilities emerging from the AHRC-funded project England's Immigrants, 1330-1550. The project is led by Professor Mark Ormrod at York in partnership with the Humanities Research Institute (HRI) at Sheffield University and The National Archives.

This was the first time that scholars on the project's international advisory committee had been able to present some of the conclusions they had drawn from early access to the data. The project research officers and PhD students at York and at The National Archives had extracted key information on England's aliens from printed and manuscript sources (principally The National Archives' medieval and early modern tax assessments in series E 179). The data was uploaded to an editorial database at the HRI and the scholars were invited to analyse the content in the preparation of mini case studies to be presented at this event. These presentations were separated into broadly regional and cultural case studies drawn from English counties, and analysis of the experiences of immigrants from the Low Countries, Italian states, French domains, the Spanish kingdoms and the Empire.

After an introduction that revisited the fundamental aims and methodology of the project (alien origins, their social background, residence, length of stay, and quantitative comparison), the project's researchers Jonathan Mackman, Bart Lambert, Jen Bartlett and Chris Linsley gave updates on the strands of research for which they are responsible. These reports from two senior researchers and two PhD candidates demonstrated the depth of information within The National Archives' sources and the sophisticated way in which the HRI database can present this data to all researchers. Mike Pidd of HRI then went on to demonstrate the range of visual representations of the data that are possible using the tools within the project database.



The project officers also hosted two sessions at the Leeds International Medieval Congress in July, offering six presentations in total. In the first session the scope and aims of the project were explained, and studies were presented on aliens within the medieval English tax system and on animals as immigrants from the medieval Orient. A further session analysed immigrant artisans working in fifteenth-century Southwark, aliens present in the chronicles of Thomas Walsingham, and evidence of violent clashes between resident aliens and natives in late medieval England.

The England's Immigrants project was also represented at the Harlaxton Medieval Symposium, also in July, where the theme was the Plantagenet Empire - England's influence in its French possessions and within the British Isles before 1453. Expertise generated by the project contributed to lively discussion on the identities and cultures present in England's medieval empire; and on the contribution made by 'foreigners' to the changing nature of the English state and society.

A major public event and academic project conference will be held in York in February 2015. The range of research outputs and resources will be expanded further as the project reaches its final stages, and this event will showcase the full value of the database and the project website to scholars and all members of the public interested in the strangers, foreigners and aliens living as part of England's medieval communities.

Websites:

hridigital.shef.ac.uk/englands-immigrants
englandsimmigrants.com

- ▶ E 179/195/34, m. 2: Alien Scots in Westmorland 1440, from the alien subsidy of that year.



Discovery

'As a single search box in the centre of a blank page has come to replace the card catalogue, how we find what we need has simply changed. Discovery makes the collections of the National Archives accessible to generations of scholars more familiar with the online than the physical... Discovery represents an important milestone in the process of turning the archive inside out - flattening its hierarchies and allowing it to be read in new ways.'

*Tim Hitchcock, Professor of Digital History,
University of Sussex*

In the **spring edition**, Jonathan Cates told you about the work we have been doing to upgrade our catalogue, Discovery. This innovative upgraded version of **Discovery** now enables archive users to search, browse, and tag 32 million descriptions of records.

Discovery now incorporates data from:

- National Register of Archives (NRA)
- Directory of archives (ARCHON)
- Access to Archives (AZA)
- Manorial Documents Register (MDR)

Along with adding this data to Discovery, we have also upgraded the platform to make it even easier for researchers around the world to find the information they need.

A new search engine, enhanced filters, and improved advanced search features mean that everyone can explore archive collections more easily. We have redesigned the user interface to reflect these changes and to offer a better experience across different devices.

'The Discovery team have succeeded in building an attractive new search engine that will enable users, for the first time, to fully explore descriptions of the nation's archival heritage, alongside records held by The National Archives. The project has integrated diverse data and databases from hundreds of archives to create a beautiful and intuitive new resource that provides a greatly enhanced platform for catalogue information. Discovery will enable archivists to promote their collections more effectively and is certain to attract new users to archives.' - Geoff Browell, Senior Archives Services Manager, King's College London

We will continue to improve Discovery, and welcome feedback from all our users to help us do this. If you know a group of students or an interest group who would be interested in finding out more, please **get in touch**.



Preserving the social media presence of government

The National Archives has been routinely capturing government websites and making them available in the UK Government Web Archive (UKGWA) for over a decade in order to ensure that the digital presence of government is captured and remains accessible over time. Government tweets and videos are also now being permanently preserved alongside more than three billion items or over 100 TB of digital data.

The majority of government organisations now have at least one Twitter profile that they use for official purposes. YouTube has been used by government for several years to create and host video content that is embedded for streaming on the websites belonging to those government organisations. These two social media services are by no means the only ones used by government, but they are by far the most heavily and consistently used. These services are also used to publish information not consistently duplicated elsewhere within the organisation's web presence.

The public record is created in many formats, from physical artefacts such as a straw bonnet and lace shawl, to digital games and now these social media services. Collecting, preserving and providing discovery aids for such a wide range of records requires considerable investment and experimentation. There is a clear commitment for government to improve the digital services it provides, and documenting the evolution of those services will continue to be a challenge for web archiving technology.



▲ INF 3/755: Ditty Box Bird on rigging Artist Stanley Herbert

The completion of a two year project to define the scope of this part of the archive and put the technical solutions that enable its capture in place has led to the recent publication of a beta version of a government social media archive. It is comprised of over 7,000 videos that date from 2006 to early 2014, and over 65,000 tweets from 2008 to September 2013. The archived social media covers some major events in our recent history, including:

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the London 2012 Olympic Games, Budget announcements and the formation of the Coalition government.

The National Archives will continue to capture and archive tweets and video feeds from UK central government departments on a regular basis, keeping them available and enabling their re-use. The interface for the social media archive will be developed to integrate fully with the wider UKGWA with search and finding aids being the first priority.

To find out more about the development of the social media archive you can read about the technical challenges encountered, and the solutions developed, on The National Archives' blog. To understand the collecting decisions that shape the social media and web archive you can access the relevant operational selection policy at OSP 27 UK Central Government Web Estate. The forthcoming edition of 'Alexandria: The Journal of National and International Library and Information Issues', which has a focus on web archives, will also include an article discussing the project in depth.

New historical maps book out this autumn

Maps have played an important role in many aspects of the British government's work for centuries, and The National Archives is now home to one of the world's richest holdings of historical mapping. In their new book ***Maps: their untold stories***, archivists **Rose Mitchell** and **Andrew Jones** offer a fascinating and unusual journey through some of the most intriguing examples of **maps from within the archives**, dating from the 14th century to the mid-20th century, showing places around the globe. They examine who made these maps, why they were made, and their significance as historical documents. This theme is illustrated by the inclusion of images of related archival material such as seals, photographs, a 17th century inventory, and official correspondence.

Chapters highlight how cities and the countryside were mapped differently, the development of sea charts, British exploration and settlement overseas, maps used in military campaigns, and even maps which capture the imaginative element of cartography. The book is therefore of interest to a wide range of researchers. It contains material relevant to the study of world and colonial history; landscape history across the globe; history of cartography, geography and exploration; anthropology (there is an account of maps made by indigenous peoples); and social, political and military studies. The book will appeal to anyone

interested in maps and what they can tell us about the way people in the past saw themselves, their surroundings, and their place in the world.

Reproductions of more than 100 maps are accompanied by substantial text (500 words each) to set them in their historical context. The book includes material which could be significant to further scholarship: a map, for example, which reveals an apparently hitherto-unknown deserted hamlet under Tunbridge Wells; a 19th century British vice-consul's map which suggested Africa might be divided among European powers, although to Britain's advantage and which, if followed, would have yielded a rather different landscape from the eventual pattern of colonisation.

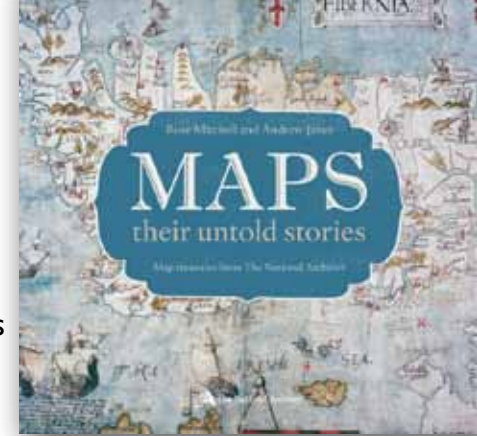
While many of the maps are attractive, this is not just a pretty picture book. As one might expect with maps drawn from one of the largest and oldest archives in the world, some of the themes are sombre and thought-provoking. The layout of a slave fort on the west coast of Africa shows separate areas for slaves who worked on the fort and for those in transit; another shows racial segregation in Nairobi in 1914. A map that Hitler gave to Chamberlain in 1938 warned of his intended invasion of Czechoslovakia, while a map of Nagasaki illustrates the effect of the plutonium bomb dropped in August 1945.

Some maps shine fascinating sidelights on history. A 16th century chart by explorer William Borough was made

to secure his release after Francis Drake locked him in his cabin. George Washington drew a map early in his career whilst serving as a British colonial militiaman. Other maps raise intriguing questions. How did a very rare 1602 world broadsheet map come to the archives? Why do we have the only copy of an engraved map of a 17th century Fenland drainage scheme, bearing Puritan coats of arms, known to survive the Restoration?

A major theme across the book is change over time. Some maps record the global scale of how empires rose and fell and changed the pattern of political alliances; others show the fine detail of change and continuity in localities and on shorelines. If maps allow us to imaginatively step into the landscapes of times past, they can also record events in history as seen through contemporary eyes, and even change history – where people in the present and future look at and learn from the past.

Maps: their untold stories will be published on 11 September 2014. Copies can be pre-ordered from The National Archives' [online bookshop](#).



Launch of online global map of the First World War



To mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, we are launching a new interactive online map, **First World War: A global view**. Using official records of the First World War from our collection, the map shows the global impact of the conflict.

You can see countries, territories and empires as they were during wartime alongside a map of the present day for comparison. This first release focuses on the involvement of countries and territories from across the British Empire during wartime. For each of these, you can read about key events, historical figures and lesser known stories from the war. There are also images and links to our records held here at The National Archives.

Over the next four years, the map will be expanded to include Europe, the Middle East, the Americas, Africa and Asia. When complete it will offer a truly global view of the First World War.

'First World War: A global view' is part of The National Archives' centenary programme - **First World War 100** - which spans a five-year period from June 2014 to June 2019.

To find out more about the map, please read our **blog post**. The **podcasts** of our recent conference *War and peace - diplomacy, espionage and the First World War* are also available.



In a Spin: new guidance for archives

The National Archives recently launched new guidance designed to help the archive sector make informed decisions about the future of their archive services and collections. In recent years, the trend for heritage, library and archive services to convert to charitable trusts, social enterprises, a mutual local authority trading company, or a transfer to community management has increased. This conversion is commonly known as 'spinning out'.

In a spin: Guidance on spinning out local authority archive services outlines different models for service spin-outs and their implications for archive services. It also highlights key regulatory considerations and alternative options. The guidance stresses the importance of considering what is best for individual archives, and includes case studies of spin-outs currently in the process of being launched.

The guidance will be updated regularly and will draw on the experiences of authorities setting up new spin-outs and of the spin-outs themselves. In addition, The National Archives will deliver 'Spin Out' master classes for archive services this autumn.

Save the date: Gerald Aylmer Seminar 2015

The Gerald Aylmer Seminar was a huge success this year and we have started working on assembling the programme for next year.

The next edition of this event will take place on Friday 27 February 2015 at the Institute of Historical Research at Senate House in London. The day will bring together a mixed audience of archivists, historians and scholars and will focus on 'Secret Histories'.

You can read more about past seminars on [Material Culture](#) and the [Global Archive](#).

Further information and a programme will be available over the next few months.

All At Sea: Prize Papers Conference

When: 6-8 October 2014

Where: The National Archives, Kew

During the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries, the navies of maritime powers and privately owned fighting ships competed in the race for the spoils of war. Ships that became prizes often carried, besides passengers and cargo, mail that was to be delivered at the ship's destination. All ships' papers, including this private mail, were seized and made part of the dossier kept by the British High Court of Admiralty.

Intercepted mail and legal documents of the British High Court of Admiralty were kept in the court's archives stores. There they were forgotten for many years. They finally ended up as the 'Prize Papers', part of the High Court of Admiralty archives as record series HCA 30 and 32 in The National Archives.

Rediscovery of the letters

After the rediscovery of the value of these letters by Dutch researchers in the 1980s, the Prize Papers have given new perspectives on the early modern global world. The Prize Papers Consortium is a network of researchers who work on the Prize Papers, and the Prize Papers European Network has organised this conference.

This international conference aims to bring together scholars who have worked on the Prize Papers (or related materials) to discuss their research and to think about ways of using the source material for future research. This one of several steps towards establishing a European research network on the Prize Papers.

The conference is organised around the following themes:

- politics and economy
- seafaring
- language and literacy
- family and friends
- colonial cross-overs and confrontations
- practices, artefacts, spaces and body

Registration starts at 11:00 on Monday 6 October, and the conference will finish on Wednesday 8 October at 14:00.

See the [full programme](#) and [book your place now](#).

Discovering Collections, Discovering Communities: Forging collection-based collaboration between archives, museums and academia

When: 29-30 October 2014

Where: Library of Birmingham

A collaborative conference between The National Archives, Research Libraries UK, and Arts Council England, in partnership with the University of Birmingham Cadbury Research Library and the Library of Birmingham

The last decade has witnessed an unprecedented development of partnerships and collaborative working across the heritage and cultural sectors. It has also seen universities and researchers refocus on the social, political and economic 'impact' of research. This has enabled greater opportunities for more extensive collaborative scholarship between universities, academics and the wider heritage sector. Whilst teaching and research partnerships are relatively well charted, less is known of how these collaborative efforts can transform our knowledge of collections and their ultimate presentation to wider society. This conference will explore inter-disciplinary, cross-sector approaches to developing and widening access to collections (their 'discoverability') through partnership working. In many ways this year's conference has grown out of the success and popularity of 'Enhancing Impact, Inspiring Excellence: collaborative approaches

between archives and universities' held at The University of Birmingham in September 2013. It became clear at the end of last year's conference that considerable experience had accumulated across the archive and academic sectors regarding cross-sector collaboration, whilst we had only just scratched the surface in showcasing the important work being undertaken to bridge gaps, reinterpret collections, and capture the impact of our combined activities.

During this year's conference we hope to continue this discussion and debate, whilst widening its discourse by welcoming colleagues from across the heritage and cultural sectors. We are delighted to welcome Arts Council England as a conference partner. This year's conference is unprecedented in its size and scale. It brings together over 40 speakers from 35 different cultural, heritage and academic

Academic Open Day

The National Archives will be holding an Academic Open Day on Wednesday 15 October 2014. This event is designed to illuminate our research activities and encourage discussion with the wider academic community.

Join us to hear about the Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships and Doctoral Training Programmes in place at The National Archives, and our plans for collaborative MA Programmes and the development of a Research Fellow scheme. We are eager to hear from our HE colleagues about potential research networks and collaborations, and how The National Archives could work to develop research across the disciplines.

Attendance at the Academic Open Day is free, but space is limited. Please email the [research team](#) to request a booking form.

institutions, both from home and abroad. The conference has the spirit of inclusivity at its heart and includes speakers from every stage of their career, from every size of institution.

This is a free conference (there is no conference fee) but registration is required. Registration is now open and a full programme has now been published, both can be seen at rluk.ac.uk/events/discovering-collections-discovering-communities/

The Special Operations Executive and the HS 9 Project

By Jonathan Cole, FOI Researcher
The National Archives

The Special Operations Executive (SOE) was Britain's clandestine warfare organisation during the Second World War. SOE Personnel Files, stored at The National Archives under the document class 'HS 9', remain mostly closed to the public because they contain sensitive personal information. The HS 9 Project, functioning within The National Archives' Freedom of Information Centre, aims to proactively assess, open and stimulate interest in these files and their stories.

One such story is that of Operation Remorse. Some information on Remorse has already been published, but several Personnel Files remain closed. Releasing eligible files and connecting them to open files and published materials is this project's method for telling the fullest story possible.

In late 1940, a wealthy rubber trader, Walter Fletcher, had pestered an indecisive SOE with plans for trading and smuggling with the West African French Colonies. Fletcher was eventually rebuffed by Hugh Dalton, Minister of Economic Warfare (responsible for SOE): British policy was to blockade, not trade with, Vichy colonies. In 1941 and 1942, Fletcher looked to the Far East to prove the usefulness of his ideas, and even used

his company to buy rubber from this area for the Allies – at considerable losses. SOE ridiculed this 'tragicomedy'.¹

However, the Japanese offensive had seized important rubber-producing areas, and the Allies were suffering a critical shortage by mid-1942. A joint American-British scheme to smuggle rubber from Japanese-occupied territories was established, and Fletcher was to lead the British side as 'Operation Mickleham'. Fletcher almost immediately determined that Mickleham should trade additional resources, not only rubber. His assistant and former employee, John Newhouse, was tasked with sourcing these materials.² Mickleham constantly encountered logistical problems, but the promise of rubber stocks (and other goods) prompted a move into China, with Lionel Ormandy Davis as the senior officer in the field.³



◀ HS 9/519/5: Walter Fletcher, the leader of Operation Remorse.



▲ HS 1/293: section of a map of China showing resources and key areas.

Unfortunately, inflation in China was so high and the official exchange rate was so poor that buying rubber proved impossible. However, black market Chinese National Dollars (CND) cost only one-fifth as much, and the Mickleham team made a persuasive argument for pursuing black market financial dealings.⁴ Mickleham was discontinued, having produced no rubber, and the team was set to work on such currency dealings: 'Operation Remorse'. The objective was to buy CND on the black market at favourable rates and channel the money to British organisations in China, including SOE, the British Military Mission – and the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS, or MI6).

Continue overleaf ▶

After winning a serious quarrel with SIS (who wanted to manipulate currency themselves, using Remorse only when convenient)⁵, Remorse became practically the only British avenue for manipulating currency in China. The cheap purchase and inflated resale of Rupees stuck in 'frozen' accounts yielded further profits. A rich anglicised Chinese businessman, Frank Shu, handled 'vast sums' while working for Remorse in Kunming.⁶ Remorse expanded to handle a diverse range of goods, from cigarette paper to silkworm eggs. Remorse also used inflation-resistant quality goods, such as designer watches and cut diamonds, to buy CND – and influence.

By 1945, Remorse's many clients included military organisations, embassies, commercial firms and relief organisations.⁷ Occasionally, Remorse worked as a relief organisation itself. Remorse funded and staffed 'Operation Waldorf' (or 'Loaves and Fishes', as Fletcher dubbed it),⁸ which supplied 1100 retreating French troops for six weeks. American forces and the Chinese government were unwilling to help these troops in distress, but 'Waldorf', under Lionel Davis, ensured that 263 tons of stores reached them through operatives such as William Harber and Antony Harman.⁹ For his contribution, Davis received an MBE.¹⁰

In late 1945, Fletcher was elected as MP for Bury and had to depart, but Davis took Remorse to Hong Kong, repeated its methods of currency manipulation, and within 12 days the amount of

CND purchasable for 1 Hong Kong Dollar jumped from 80 to 140, 'returning confidence in...British banking'.¹¹ Remorse had, by its conclusion, earned £77 million for the Allies – about £2.5 billion in today's terms.¹²

Remorse is just one interesting story that the HS 9 Project is working on. To date, the project has opened over 600 'HS 9' files. The knowledge that accumulates from assessing these files and linking them to their broader contexts allows for deeper and more thoroughgoing research that can help to illuminate the Special Operations Executive.



◀ HS 9/403/6: Lionel Ormandy Davis, Commander of Operation Remorse in the field.

Notes:

1. HS 1/192, 'Tragi-Comedy. Walter Fletcher', 5 Jun. 1942.
2. HS 9/1095/4, Newhouse's Personnel File, has been opened by the HS 9 Project.

3. HS 9/403/6, Lionel Davis's Personnel File, has been opened by the HS 9 Project.
4. At official military and business rates, £1 bought 80 CND, but at black market rates, £1 could buy 400 CND. See Cruickshank, C., *SOE in the Far East* (Oxford University Press, 1983), p. 216.
5. HS 7/260, pp. 606-608.
6. HS 9/1356/4, Frank Shu's Personnel File, has been opened by the HS 9 Project.
7. See HS 1/135 for regular reports on deliveries of money to clients throughout 1944 and 1945.
8. HS 1/292, 11 May 1945.
9. HS 9/660/2, William Harber's Personnel File, has been opened by the HS 9 Project, as has HS 9/665/1, Anthony Harman's Personnel File.
10. See HS 9/403/6. Further details, including a note of fulsome congratulations from the British Ambassador, can be found in HS 1/135, 'Kunming Periodical Report No. 14', p. 7.
11. HS 1/292, 9 Nov. 1945.
12. HS 1/292, 'History of Mickleham and Remorse', 2 Jan 1946. The conversion comes from Ogden, A. *Tigers Burning Bright: SOE Heroes in the Far East* (London: Bene Factum Publishing Ltd., 2013), p. 249.

The Czar's British Squadron

By Michael Mahoney, Education and Outreach Officer
Education and Outreach, The National Archives

In 1912, the Admiralty had founded its own air arm, the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), the main function of which was to scout for the fleet. At the outbreak of World War I, the Belgian army began using private cars to take pot shots at the enemy but soon realised that more damage could be done if Maxim machine guns were mounted on cars. The next step was to add armour plate for the crews' protection. Such cars were used to rescue pilots forced down between the armies in France and were so successful that Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, decided to form an additional wing of the RNAS, known as the Royal Naval Armoured Car Division (RNACD).¹

Through Oliver Locker Lampson, a Conservative and Unionist MP, an organisation was established in October 1914, including a headquarters at 48 Dover Street, Piccadilly, and a depot at Wormwood Scrubs. Vehicles including Lanchesters, Seabrook and Rolls Royces were commandeered, fitted with strengthened rear axles, and provided with an armoured body and turret which gave circular vision for its machine gun.

Within ADM 1/8403/428 is correspondence in which Locker Lampson guaranteed a sum of £20,000 to equip a squadron of Armoured Cars for use on the continent under the control of the RNAS.² However, soon after, a

Heavy armoured car, based on the Seabrook (and later the Pierce-Arrow) lorry chassis was designed, mounting a 3-pounder gun which could destroy enemy vehicles and artillery positions. Locker Lampson supplied his own Rolls Royce to fight at the front. An agreement was made with the leadership of the Ulster Volunteer Force to provide additional funding, men and rifles for the Armoured Car Squadron and several of the armoured cars were named after Ulster place names. Soon the squadron was sent to Flanders but were unable to carry out their primary role of support for the RNAS aircraft because of conditions on the western front.³



▲ MUN 5/394: Standard Lanchester Armoured Car.

ADM 1/8433/267 shows the squadron at its typical, heroic best with a letter of thanks from the Belgian Cavalry Division for Number 15 Squadron's support during the occupation of Knocks – Labiettehoek in Belgium during August 1915. The squadron used their machine guns to inflict a bombardment on the German trenches as well as using their three pounder Hotchkiss Gun to take out a German blockhouse. The file also contains a map of the encounter.⁴

Because of the changing nature of warfare in the western theatre the RNACD was threatened with disbandment, but Locker Lampson was able to exploit changing circumstances. The allies, to



◀ MUN 5/165/1124/45:
Rolls Royce Armoured
Car.

demonstrate solidarity, had sent various contingents to fight with each other's armies, and a

Russian brigade was serving in France. In late 1915 Locker Lampson was made aware of a Belgian armoured car squadron which had been sent to Russia and quickly volunteered his own squadron for service with the Czar's armies. Soon an exchange of views with the Russian Imperial General Headquarters, STAVKA, resulted in an agreement whereby the Admiralty provided the men and equipment while the Russians were responsible for all expenses, including pay at existing rates. Locker Lampson's unit now became the Russian Armoured Car Division RNAS; and in Russia the British Armoured Car Division.^{1 and 5}

Included in their establishment was a Rolls Royce armoured car, while the Commander possessed a Rolls Royce for his own use. The records of the force are insufficiently detailed to enable us to follow the two Rolls Royce through all the vicissitudes of the campaigns extending from the White Sea to the Persian frontier, but there is enough information available to indicate that these cars upheld the reputation they had gained in other theatres of war. The bare record of Commander Locker Lampson's car is well worth reciting. Delivered in January 1915, it was in constant use during training in England. In March it was sent to France and worked until the end of October, when it came in for another spell of service at home. The following June of 1916 saw it in Russia, where it was disembarked at Archangel and sent by train to Vladikavkas, being driven over

the Caucasus to Erzeroum, over country without roads, and then took part in operations against the Kurds.⁶

On one occasion the car was ambushed and had to run the gauntlet for over five miles, but with the exception of a few bullet holes through the body, no harm was sustained. Next, the car was in Odessa and Romania and worked in appalling conditions. The Parson's chains were never off the rear wheels. It was used daily during the Dobrudja retreat and seems to have been used for towing other cars and lorries out of trouble. After the Romanian defeat the force wintered at Tiraspol (now Moldova), where the Rolls Royce was in use in snow. Later, it accompanied the Commander to Galicia (Western Ukraine), where it took part in the operations connected with General Brussiloff's great offensive and retreat. A record of the car's travels had been kept, and at the end of the campaigns it had covered over 53,000 miles – yet all the repairs necessary during the prolonged period it was in use amounted to a new ball-race in one of the front wheels and a pair of new front springs!⁷

During the summer months of 1917, Locker Lampson and his squadron had ample opportunity to observe the melt down of the Russian armed forces at first hand. Within ADM 116/1626 are eloquent descriptions of the battle for Brzezany (modern day Ukraine). Communicating the chaos of war he noted in his reports a Russian General "receiving contradictory orders from the Staff and conflicting reports from the front, and did not know where either he, his infantry or the enemy were". The squadron witnessed the looting of stores at Podgaitse (on the Polish-Ukraine border), the mass retreat of soldiers and civilians and "the officer class becoming the obedient puppets of their men". Summary executions of Russian Army deserters were inflicted by Cossack Regiments consisting of "Mohammedans" from the Caucasus. His squadron also encountered the colourful General Lavr Kornilof, the new Commander in Chief of the Russian army who would lead a failed coup against the Provisional Government in August 1917.⁸

In late summer 1917, Locker Lampson was recalled home ready for the RNACD to be deployed to Persia. However, the War Cabinet decided in December 1917 that the unit should be recalled and re-constituted under Army control and under the overall control of the War Office.¹ By this point, the Bolsheviks had taken control of the Soviet Government and were eagerly negotiating Russia's withdrawal from the war. Many of the armoured cars were now in a very poor condition and had to be left behind at Murmansk in January 1918.

In January 1918 the majority of naval and warrant officers received recall papers, advising them that the unit had passed from Admiralty to Army control forming a brigade of the Motor Machine Gun Corps. Under Commander Walter Smiles, the brigade sailed from Southampton to Cherbourg and then forward by rail to Taranto in Italy where they boarded the Malwa, reaching Alexandra on 15 February and then onto the Red Sea and Indian Ocean to the Persian Gulf. Eventually the men disembarked at Basra.

By 1918, the collapse of the Russo-Turkish front was viewed with alarm by the British Government. The Turks could if they wished march into Persia - placing the Empire's oil supply at risk. Already Russia had ceded three Trans-Caucasian provinces to Turkey. The overall mission was led by a new Commander, Major-General L Dunsterville, his force to be known as Dunsterforce. The cars coped with precipitous gradients, negotiated countless fords, never intended for mechanical transport, and traversed narrow mountain ledges with sheer drops of several thousand feet. But the squadron succeeded in opening the road to Baku and stopping the Turks.⁹

Evidence of the heroic deeds of the Czar's Armoured Car Squadron runs through all of the documents mentioned. Collectively, they were war heroes who had fought against Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Kurds, Turks and Persians. In their primitive cars they had overcome near impossible terrain by their sheer skill and determination.

Notes:

1. The Czar's British Squadron by Bryan Perrett & Anthony Lord (William Kimber 1981), Chapter 2 and also pages 162-170.
2. ADM 1/8403/428: letter to the secretary of the Admiralty dated 3 November 1914.
3. MUN 5/165/1124/42-50: file containing booklet on the role of Rolls Royce Cars, pages 7-17; General Brussilov was Russia's commander who used new offensive tactics against the Central Powers during 1916; and pages 62-66 of Perrett & Lord.
4. ADM 1/8433/267: report 1 and map.
5. ADM 1/8492/158: Memorandum and correspondence dated October 1915.
6. MUN 5/165/1124/42-50: file containing publicity booklet on the role of Rolls Royce Cars, pages 12-15.
7. See Perrett & Lord, Chapter 5 and MUN 5/165/1124/42-50 as in note 6.
8. ADM 116/1626, pages 16 and 17.
9. ADM 137/3943 B folio 84.

Research Spotlight

Katie Griffiths is about to start a PhD at the University of Nottingham. She tells Victoria more about her current research and how she is using records at The National Archives.

Why are you at The National Archives?

I am currently undertaking a 6 week placement at The National Archives before I begin my AHRC funded PhD in History at the University of Nottingham. At the beginning of summer, a representative from The National Archives came to the **Midlands3cities** Welcome event for PhD students that I attended. Midlands3cities is a Doctoral Training Partnership, funded by AHRC to support arts and humanities doctoral research training. It was explained how work placements at the archives were possible, and the associated benefits, as part of the PhD programme.

It was a possibility that I had not really considered before, despite a curiosity in the daily work of The National Archives. This interest had stemmed from the time spent there as part of my Masters dissertation and acting as a research assistant. I realised that such a placement would provide an insight into the work and roles within an archive, and would help me to improve my research skills in the process. I seized the opportunity, and am now working with the Foreign and Contemporary team, in the Advice & Records Knowledge Department.

What records are you using?

My main project underlying the placement is to construct a case study which will highlight archival skills and techniques essential for effective research at The National Archives. This will then be presented and used for research training programmes which aim to provide students with knowledge of the research potential offered by The National Archives.

The theme will be based broadly on my PhD topic around Britain and the Korean War. In using a variety of sources from this historical period I will illuminate the different types of records available, the relationship between them and how to track across sources.

I am writing a blog based on historical evidence as well as helping to produce a glossary, locating and explaining relevant acronyms for the DEFE 4, 5 and 6 series. These tasks will allow me to make a tangible contribution to The National Archives, whilst sourcing information relevant to my own PhD and developing practical skills that will include creative management and audience engagement. I am really enjoying it so far, and the knowledge and skills I gain will be extremely transferrable to my future studies and career path.

Big Ideas: podcasts available

Tune into a new series of podcasts from The National Archives' Big Ideas programme. Big Ideas covers themes of innovation, creativity and excellence in pioneering research.

Each talk has highlighted the potential to transfer knowledge and ideas into practice. We have hosted a wide range of internal and external speakers, covering topics from across the humanities.

Themes have included Big Data for law, understanding user behaviour, data visualisations, digital sensitivity review, searching the unsearchable in the BT Design Registers and digital tools in palaeography.

You can find out more by visiting our [website](#).

Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships

The Thames Consortium, comprised of The National Maritime Museum, The National Portrait Gallery and The National Archives has been awarded six **Collaborative Doctoral Partnership studentships (CDPs)** per year for three years to support doctoral students. The CDP studentships are distributed by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to sustain and promote high-quality research and skills in the sector. Maintaining the skills base in the arts and humanities is vital, and The National Archives will now be able to extend more opportunities for interdisciplinary research, knowledge exchange and training. We are pleased to be involved and thrilled that students will have access to a museum, an art gallery and an archive through which to explore their themes.

CDP research priorities for 2015-2016

Historical

- the mechanics of the central government machine (13th-17th centuries)
- land ownership, transfer and inheritance in the medieval and early modern periods
- common law, politics and power in medieval and early modern England and Wales
- early modern letter writing, literature and record keeping
- developments in early modern science, technology, art and material culture
- legacies of Empire
- British foreign policy in the Middle East in the 19th and 20th centuries
- transatlantic relations during the Cold War
- popular radicalism in the 18th and 19th centuries
- attitudes to vagrancy and poverty in the 19th century
- surgeons at sea: Royal Navy medical officers' journals
- the social impact of the First World War

Heritage science

- sustainable stewardship: targeting wider collection management issues in order to provide solutions for sustainable stewardship of The National Archive's collections and exploring the potential of modeling and technology to provide evidence for decision-making
- managing material change: for example, understanding materials, degradation processes and the relationship of materials to their environments, to enable The National Archives to predict the long-term stability of its holdings

Digital

- challenges in identifying and managing sensitive historical digital records
- challenges in identifying and linking individuals across multiple series of digital records
- archival digital collections as historical big data: challenges in understanding, exploring and visualising large digital collections
- challenges in documenting and managing the context, provenance and integrity of the historical digital record during digital transfer from creating bodies to archives

How to apply

Please contact the research team to discuss a potential topic for collaboration by emailing research@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. If the proposal is supported, we will ask university partners to complete a **CDP Application Form** using our **Application guidance**.

The deadline for applications is 28 November 2014. Click here for other **CDP studentships**.

Interview with Elizabeth Micakovic



At the end of July 2014 the Research Team at The National Archives grew exponentially from two people to three! Elizabeth Micakovic has joined us as the new Research and Grants and Academic Liaison Advisor. Elizabeth shares her thoughts on her new role.

What were you doing before you joined the research team?

Before joining the Team I was undertaking an AHRC-funded PhD, entitled *T. S. Eliot's Voice: A Cultural History*, at the University of Exeter. My research focussed on the development of the professional speaking voice of the poet T. S. Eliot, in particular paying attention to discourses of cultural and political authority disseminated through his recordings, radio broadcasts, dramatic works, and his British Council lectures during wartime. I was fortunate in that my research took me to a number of fascinating archives across the UK and the US, including the BBC archives in Reading, and Harvard, Columbia, and the New York Public Library. The results of some of this research, including contributions to the first comprehensive index of Eliot's recordings of individual poems, will find its way into the *Collected Poems*, edited by Christopher Ricks and Jim McCue, to be published later this year. Prior to my PhD, I had been living in Austria for three years, during which I was tenured as a lecturer at the University of Salzburg.

What attracted you to your new role?

During my PhD, I had used the National Archives for my own research on the British Council, and I was astonished at the variety and depth of the materials held here. The National Archives contains so many cultural and historical narratives waiting to be told, and I was excited by the prospect of being a part of a team, and an organization, dedicated to aiding and producing outstanding research out of these narratives. I very much look forward to working with people across departments and institutions, learning from those who make The National Archives such a remarkable and unique research institution.

What do you want to achieve in your role?

There are some fantastic Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships already in place at The National Archives, which demonstrate how integral the resources here are to current scholarship particularly in history and the social sciences, and in which disciplines the profile of The National Archives is already high. During my time here, however, I would like to work on extending the Archive's profile across the disciplines, especially in the fields of literary and cultural studies, which frequently draw on similar historical resources for interpretative ends. Similarly, the existing CDPs mean that there is some very original post-doctoral research going on in the Archives, and I would love to both raise the profile of this research and to cultivate a community of post-doctoral researchers, where they can promote their work themselves to a variety of different audiences.

If you would like to get in touch with us, or if you have ideas for inclusion in future issues of this newsletter, email us at [**research@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk**](mailto:research@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk). Please note that we reserve the right to edit articles.

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