Studying Prisoners of War: A beginner’s guide

Start date 8 April 2018       End date 8 April 2018

Venue Madingley Hall
       Madingley
       Cambridge

Tutor Dr Gilly Carr
       Midge Gillies
       Derek Niemann
       Dr Clare Makepeace

Course code 1718NDX046

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
       clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Dr Gilly Carr is the Academic Director and Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Cambridge’s Institute of Continuing Education. She is also a Fellow and Director of Studies in Archaeology of St Catharine’s College, and a Member of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. Her areas of research include Conflict Archaeology, POW Studies, and Post-Conflict Heritage Studies and she is the author of over 50 publications. Recent works include Legacies of Occupation: Heritage, Memory and Archaeology in the Channel Islands (Springer 2012); Cultural heritage and prisoners of war: creativity behind barbed wire (with Harold Mytum; Routledge 2012) and Prisoners of war: archaeology, memory, and heritage of 19th-and 20th-century mass internment (with Harold Mytum; Springer 2013).

Midge Gillies

Midge Gillies is the author of eight non-fiction books, including biographies of Amy Johnson and Marie Lloyd. In The Barbed-Wire University (Aurum Press, 2011) she explores what it was really like to be an Allied Prisoner of War in the Second World War and draws on her father’s experience of captivity in Europe. She is the author of Writing Lives (CUP, 2009) and co-author, with Sally Cline, of Literary
Non-Fiction: A Writers’ & Artists’ Companion (Bloomsbury Academic, 2015). She studied history at Girton College and for three years was Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge. She is the Institute of Continuing Education’s Academic Director, Creative Writing.

Derek Niemann
Derek Niemann is a freelance writer and editor specialising in natural history. His books include Birds in a Cage, the true story of POW birdwatchers, and A Nazi in the Family, an account of his grandfather’s life as an SS officer involved in the Holocaust. Both are published by Short Books. Derek is a tutor in creative writing at ICE.

Dr Clare Makepeace is a historian, lecturer and consultant on the British serviceman’s experiences in the First and Second World Wars. She has written for numerous academic publications, as well as History Today, BBC History Magazine, the Daily Mail and BBC news online. She is the author of Captives of War. British Prisoners of War in Europe in the Second World War (Cambridge University Press, 2017). Clare’s work on masculinity and prostitution in the First World War inspired an Arts Council funded theatre production ‘The House Behind the Lines’, which recently completed a regional tour in Yorkshire. Clare has previously taught at undergraduate and postgraduate level at Birkbeck, University of London, and UCL.
## Course programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:15</td>
<td><strong>Narrating captivity: diaries, memoirs, letters and logbooks (Clare Makepeace)</strong></td>
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<td>11:15</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 – 13:00</td>
<td><strong>Self-improvement and entertainment behind barbed wire: sports, exams and theatre (Midge Gillies)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 15:15</td>
<td><strong>Understanding internment through POW arts and crafts (Gilly Carr)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15:15</td>
<td>Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30 – 16:45</td>
<td><strong>Studying nature and regaining self-esteem (Derek Niemann)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16:45</td>
<td>Day-school ends</td>
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Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To show students how to use different kinds of sources to study POWs;
2. To introduce students to the daily lives of prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Second World War.

Content:

This course aims to teach students how to study POWs through a number of the sources which they have left behind. Drawing on the different strengths of the tutors, all of whom have researched and published works on POWs, this course will expose students to different kinds of sources. In the first session students will be shown how to analyse diaries, memoirs, letters and logbooks, possibly the most ubiquitous kind of POW memorabilia in archives. From here, the second session will look at how POWs tried to pass the time by improving themselves through studying new skills, taking exams, keeping themselves fit, and joining in theatrical events. All of these left behind an array of certificates, sporting event posters and theatre programmes. What sense can we make of these, and why were they so popular behind barbed wire?

In the third session, we examine the objects and artwork made by POWs and civilian internees, asking what insights we can gain into everyday life in the camps through the objects made to aid survival. In the final session, we move out of the barracks and onto the Appelplatz for the interminable roll-calls, gazing around the camp at the birds which flew and nested nearby. How did the study of nature help POWs to endure life in captivity?

Presentation of the course:

The course will be taught through interactive seminar-style PowerPoint-illustrated lectures; class discussion and questions will be encouraged.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a preliminary understanding of the kinds of ephemera and memorabilia that POWs left behind;
- Understand how researchers can use these sources to learn about daily life behind barbed wire;
- Feel confident in beginning their own research into POWs.
Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Non-fiction / academic accounts


POW memoirs and autobiographies

- [http://wlajournal.com/webcontent/moab/](http://wlajournal.com/webcontent/moab/) - This website lists many POW memoirs!
Film and television

- The Great Escape (1963)
- Stalag 17 (1953)
- The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957)
- The Colditz Story (1954)
- The Wooden Horse (1950)
- King Rat (1965)
- The Captive Heart (1946)
- Albert R.N. (1953)
- Colditz (series 1 and 2, 1972-1974)
- Unbroken (2014)
- The Railway Man (2013)

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 12 October 2017