



The Richard Holmes Library

Robertson House

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst



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John Pearce: john.pearce433@mod.gov.uk

Rules and Regulations

1. Opening times

- a) Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00-16:00.
- b) Closed on Bank Holidays.

2. Admission

- a) Access to the library is by appointment only with the Centre for Army Leadership.
- b) All visitors must register upon arrival at the Centre for Army Leadership, Robertson House.
- c) Admission is free of charge.
- d) Admission is open to all members of the Ministry of Defence's military and civilian personnel.
- e) Admission is open to persons aged 18 and over who are engaged in private study or research, if supported by appropriate evidence of academic standing and fitness for admission.
- f) The library reserves the right to withdraw this privilege at any time or to impose restrictions during certain periods.

3. Borrowing

The Richard Holmes Library is a reference Library only. No item can be borrowed or removed from the library without authorisation from the Centre for Army Leadership.

4. Use of Library Material

- a) The marking of any library materials is forbidden. Readers must not use anything other than pencils.
- b) Users should return all the items they have consulted to the trolley by the door. They should not put them back on the shelves.
- c) Use of the library's Wi-Fi network and IT facilities is governed by JSP 440 and MoD CyOps Agreement.
- d) Access to online material and electronic content is governed by the legal rules of copyright and the terms of The Central Library of The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst's site licencing agreements with electronic publishers.
- e) Copying of material is governed by MoD's Copyright Licencing Agency (CLA) licence.

5. Behaviour in the Library

- a) Silence shall be maintained as far as possible in the library.
- b) The use of portable computers and mobile devices is permitted provided that they are quiet in operation. Users of such equipment may be required to work in specified areas or to stop using it if the equipment constitutes a distraction to other readers.
- c) The use of any equipment likely to disturb or distract other readers or to damage Library materials is not permitted.
- d) Photography of all library material is permitted unless otherwise stated.
- e) Photography of the Reading Room and of Robertson House more generally is permitted, provided this excludes people (staff and readers).

- f) Overcoats, raincoats, and other kinds of outdoor clothing, umbrellas, large bags and similar personal belongings shall normally be stored in the lobby at the main entrance.
- g) The Library and CAL Staff reserve the right to inspect any bag or luggage brought into the building.
- h) Bags, files and folders may be subject to examination upon exit.
- i) Only drinks in containers with a lid may be consumed in the library. No food is allowed.
- j) Library users can use the kitchen to prepare tea and coffee and to consume light snacks. Hot meals can be purchased in the Officers Mess.
- k) Smoking is not permitted anywhere in Robertson House or near the entrances. This includes the use of e-cigarettes.
- l) Library staff can stop any activity which they consider prejudicial to the safety, well-being, or security of readers or Library staff or to the preservation of the collections.
- m) Library staff, readers and visitors are requested to demonstrate values of mutual respect and courtesy in all interactions.

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Centre for Army Leadership:
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Brigadier and Professor Richard Holmes, CBE, TD, JP (1946-2011)

Richard Holmes was an eminent military historian and a Brigadier in the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. He authored numerous books and presented several BBC historical documentaries. In most of his writings and media work, Holmes's focus was the ordinary soldier, whom he wanted to put "centre stage".

Richard Holmes was born on 29 March 1946. He was educated at Forest School, north-east London, and went on to study at Emmanuel College, Cambridge University. Holmes then pursued further studies at Northern Illinois University and Reading University.

In 1969, Richard Holmes moved to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, where he was Lecturer in the Department of War Studies and subsequently became Deputy Head of Department (1984-86). Holmes was later appointed Professor of Military and Security Studies at Cranfield University, Shrivenham, where he became Co-Director of the Security Studies Institute (1989-2009).

In parallel to his academic career, Holmes enlisted in the Territorial Army in 1964. He was appointed Lieutenant Colonel (non-Regular Permanent Staff), and Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion, Wessex Regiment (Volunteers, 1986-1988). He rose to become Brigadier TA in the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, which made him the highest-ranking Reserve Officer in the country.

In the Army he was particularly well-known for his successful BBC War Walks' series, which was based on his passion for battlefield studies.

Holmes married Katharine Elizabeth Saxton in 1975. They had two daughters.

Richard Holmes passed away on 30 April 2011.

Awards and Titles

OBE (Military), 1988
CBE (Military), 1998
Territorial Decoration, 1979
Bar 1985
2nd Bar 1996.

President of the Corps of Drums Society and the Battlefields Trust
Patron of the Guild of Battlefields Guides
JP for Hampshire
Commander 1st Class of the Order of the Dannebrog (Denmark)
President of the British Commission for Military History.
Trustee of the Royal Armouries.

Selected Publications:

Bir Hacheim: Desert Citadel (1971)
The Little Field Marshal: A Life of Sir John French (1981)
Firing Line (1985)
Acts of War: The Behaviour of Men in Battle (1986)
Civil War Battles in Cornwall, 1642 to 1646 (Mercia, 1989)
Riding the Retreat: Mons to Marne: 1914 Revisited (1995)
Battle (1997)
The Western Front (1999)
World War II in Photographs (2000)
Battlefields of the Second World War (2001)
The First World War in Photographs (2001)
Redcoat: The British Soldier in the Age of Horse and Musket (2001)
Wellington: The Iron Duke (2002)
The D-Day Experience: From the Invasion to the Liberation of Paris (2004)
Tommy: The British Soldier on the Western Front (2004)
In the Footsteps of Churchill (2005)
The Napoleonic Wars Experience (2006)
Sahib: The British Soldier in India, 1750-1914 (2005)
Dusty Warriors: Modern Soldiers at War (2006)
Battlefield. Decisive Conflicts in History (2006)
The World at War: The Landmark Oral History from the Previously Unpublished Archives (2007)
Marlborough: England's Fragile Genius (2008)
Shots from the Front (2008)
Soldiers: Army Lives and Loyalties from Redcoats to Dusty Warriors (2011)

Television Series and Documentaries

War Walks, BBC

Series One

Agincourt, 1415 (26 July 1996)
Waterloo, 1815 (2 August 1996)
Mons and Le Chateau, 1914 (9 August 1996)
The Somme, 1916 (16 August 1996)
Arras, 1940 (23 August 1996)
Operation Goodwood, 1944 (30 August 1996)

Series Two

Hastings, 1066 (14 November 1997)
Bosworth Field, 1485 (21 November 1997)

Naseby, 1645 (28 November 1997)
The Boyne, 1690 (5 December 1997)
Dunkirk, 1940 (12 December 1997)
The Blitz, 1940-41 (19 December 1997)

The Western Front, BBC

Making the Front (29 July 1999)
Feeding the Front (5 August 1999)
Holding the Front (12 August 1999)
Commanding the Front (19 August 1999)
Enduring the Front (29 August 1999)
Breaking the Front (2 September 1999)

Battlefields, BBC

El Alamein (25 September 2001)
Cassino (2 October 2001)
Bomber (9 October 2001)
Arnhem (16 October 2001)

Wellington: The Iron Duke, BBC (2002)

Rebels and Redcoats, BBC

The Shot Heard Around The World (8 July 2003)
American Crisis, 1776 (15 July 2003)
The War Goes South (22 July 2003)
The World Turned Upside Down (29 July 2003)



The Centre for Army Leadership is the guardian of the British Army's Leadership Doctrine.

We are a small but dedicated team of theorists and practitioners, supported by advocates across the Army who share our passion for leader and leadership development. Through our research and the work of the CAL Research Institute, we ensure conceptual rigour. Our engagement with academia, business leaders, and practitioners helps us stimulate debate, awareness, and critical thinking across the Army.

As part of our mission to improve leadership in the Army, our events and publications stimulate debate and discussion about leadership amongst all ranks of the Army.

OUR ACTIVITIES

- Act as guardian to the British Army's Leadership Doctrine.
- Act as a library for all British Army's leadership papers and documents.
- Provide leadership presentations and speakers to military and civilian audiences.
- Organise Army leadership conferences and events.
- Produce the Leader Development packs.
- Publish the CAL Leadership Insights.
- Produce the CAL Leadership Podcast.

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