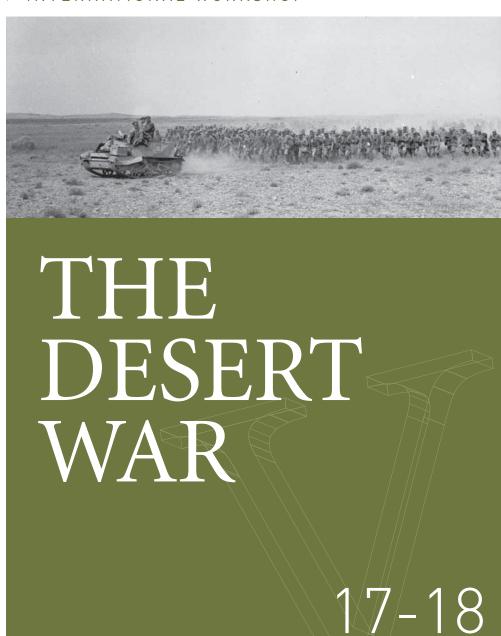
THE DESERT WAR

From 1940 to 1943, decisive operations took place in North Africa. In this harsh campaign Allied armies confronted German and Italian forces, engaging in decisive battles at Tobruk, at El Alamein, in the waters off Cape Bon or during the Allied landings of November 1942. This conflict left an enduring mark on national memories: Rommel and Montgomery became heroes, even myths. The Free French constructed legends around the exploits of Leclerc and Koenig: the oath of Koufra and the victory of Bir Hakeim. This myth-making had its reverse, however: the supposed weakness of the Italian Army would become an enduring source of mockery and ridicule, while revisionist historians endeavoured to detract from Montgomery's talents and to sideline the importance of El Alamein. If Operation Torch allowed for the liberation of Algeria and Morocco, it struggled to free Tunisia and immobilised the Anglo-American troops in the Mediterranean Theatre, thus delaying Operation Overlord.

This project seeks to revitalise the history of the war in the desert by providing a much-needed global perspective on this theatre of operations. National historiographies have certainly done much of the groundwork but they have remained prisoners of their national frameworks and have almost wholly neglected the point of view of the adversary. In addition, this project seeks to transcend the preoccupations of 'traditional' military history. Military operations will certainly be studied: it will be necessary to analyse the nature of the combat and thus to investigate the strategies adopted, the merits of the leaders, the resolve of men and the conduct of the operations. But the project also intends to broaden the investigation beyond the battlefield. It aims at a better understanding of the diplomatic context, such as the relations between Rome and Berlin or the divergences opposing London and Washington. It hopes to cast new light on the colonial dimension of this war by investigating the relations established between colonisers and colonised peoples during wartime and, in particular; by assessing the impact of the intrusion of newcomers (the Germans on the one hand, the Anglo-Americans on the other). This approach will allow for greater reflection on the phenomenon of acculturation aroused by these encounters. It also intends to assess the overall colonial contribution to the war effort (whether voluntary or compelled).

> INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP



OCTOBER 2014

CASA DE VELÁZQUEZ | MADRID

t. Universal carrier escorts a large contingent of Italian prisoners, captured at El Hamma, 28 March 1943. Photograph by Sgt John Silverside (No 2 Army Film & Photographic Unit). Ref: Imperial War Museum collection, NA 1630







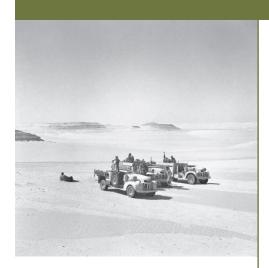






friday 1<u>7/1</u>0

SATURDAY 18/10



Coordination:

Olivier WIEVIORKA (École normale supérieure de Cachan)

Organization:

École des Hautes Etudes Hispaniques et Ibériques (Casa de Velázquez, Madrid), École normale supérieure de Cachan, École française de Rome, Deutsches Historisches Institut in Paris, Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom

Scientific board:

François DUMASY École française de Rome

Nicola LABANCA Università di Siena

Stefan MARTENS
Deutsches Historisches Institut Paris

David REYNOLDS University of Cambridge

Olivier WIEVIORKA

École Normale Supérieure de Cachan

Julie LE GAC École Normale Supérieure de Cachan

> 10h

Opening Session
Michel BERTRAND
Director of the Casa de Velázquez

Olivier WIEVIORKA École normale supérieure de Cachan

> 10h30-13h

EXPERIENCING A NEW KIND OF WAR

Chair

Nicola LABANCA Università di Siena

Peter GRAY

University of Birmingham

The Royal Air Force in the Desert War

Lars HELLWINKEL

Gymnasium Athenaeum Stade

Kriegsmarine and the War in North Africa

Discussion

Coffee-break

Fabio DE NINNO

Università di Turino

Italian Logistics, at odds under Allied Bombs, between Sicily and Libyan Coasts (« la battaglia dei convogli »)

Iain JOHNSTON

University of Cambridge

Independence and Interdependence: the Dilemmas of the Dominion Units in the British Eighth Army

Discussion

Celebration place

CASA DE VELÁZQUEZ, MADRID

> Secretary: Flora Lorente

E-mail: secehehi@casadevelazquez.org

Tel.: 0034 914 551 580

> 15h-17h

WAR VIOLENCE

Chair

David REYNOLDS
University of Cambridge

Martin CÜPPERS

University of Stuttgart

Nazi Plans for the Extermination of Jews in North Africa

Discussion

Julie LE GAC

École normale supérieure de Cachan

Looting and Repression:

the Troubled Liberation of Tunisia (1943)

Rüdiger OVERMANS

Universität Freiburg

German Prisoners of War

Discussion

Break

> 17h30-19h

MEMORIES OF THE DESERT WAR

Chair

Olivier WIEVIORKA

École normale supérieure de Cachan

Jorg ECHTERNKAMP

Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg/Zentrum für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr (Potsdam)

North Africa: A Forgotten Theatre of War? Identity, Legitimization and the Shifts in German Memory Culture since 1945

Patrick BERNHARD

University College, Dublin

Prosecuting Italian War Criminals and Writing the History of the Desert War

Agostino BISTARELLI

Giunta Centrale per gli Studi Storici

Memories of the Italian Prisoners of War

Discussion

> 9h30-10h30

THE IMPACT OF THE DESERT WAR ON LOCAL POPULATION

Chair

François DUMASY

École française de Rome

Daho DJERBAL

Université Alger 2

Alliances et mésalliances entre nationalistes algériens et parties en conflit durant

la Seconde Guerre mondiale

Fayçal CHERIF

Institut supérieur d'histoire du mouvement national

(Tunis)

The Desert War and the Rise of Tunisian Nationalism

Discussion

Coffee-break

> 11h-12h30

DIPLOMACIES AT WAR

Chair

Patrick BERNHARD

University College, Dublin

Haim SAADOUN

Open University and Ben Zvi Institute (Israel)

Operation Torch. International Relations, Spying and Resistance in Algeria

David REYNOLD\$

University of Cambridge

British and American Allies and the Experience

of the Desert War

Albert SALUENA

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

The Spanish Army in Morocco. Its influence in the Mediterranean during the Second

World War

Discussion

> 12h30-13h

GENERAL DISCUSSION