



Forgotten Veterans

Returning Soldier Network Symposium Programme

Birmingham Newman University, 9 April 2026



9.00-9.30 Welcome, Tea & Coffee

9.30-11.00 I: Cultures of Care, Control and Contestation: Welfare Provision and Colonial Veterans in the Interwar Era

Chair: Dr James Brennan

‘The Infinitely Sad Spectacle of Our Cripples’: Disabled Veterans and State Neglect in French-Ruled West Africa’.

Prof Dónal Hassett, Maynooth University, PI COLVET Project

‘The Other Veteran and the Italian State: Colonial Ex-Soldiers and their Quest for Provision between the Wars’.

Dr Nicola Camilleri, Maynooth University, COLVET Project

‘From ‘Ma-Baap’ to Miser: The Political Economy of the Soldier’s Body and the Radicalization of the Colonial Veteran (1918–1939)’.

Dr Anindita Bhattacharya, Maynooth University, COLVET Project [online]

11.00-11.30 Comfort Break

11.30-1.00 II The Precarity of Memory for Women, Heroes, and the Defeated

Chair: Prof. Kathryn Hurlock

‘Veterans of the Women’s Royal Air Force (1918-1920): state silence and archival self-representation.

Lucia Wallbank, Air Force Museum

After the Medal: The Forgotten Lives of Returning Victoria Cross Soldiers from the Black Country’.

Laura-Leigh Evans, Birmingham Newman University

‘Forgotten in Defeat: Former Austro-Hungarian POWs and the Struggle for Recognition after the First World War’

Louise Earnshaw, University of Leeds

1.00-1.45 Lunch

1.45-3.15 III Colonial Veterans, Imperial Identities, and the Politics of Recognition

Chair: Dr Duncan Frankis

"We are King George VI's soldiers, not Roosevelt's little black boys": Reflections on Identity and Britishness amongst West Indian Ex-Airmen.'

John Concagh, Queen Mary, University of London

'Between Metropole and Colony: Belgian colonial veterans and their war recognition (1917-1951).'

Brecht Kreyman, University of Brussels

'After Empire, After Memory: Colonial Cold War Veterans and the Precarity of Remembering RAF Changi, Singapore'

Ryan Ellis, University of York

3.15-3.30 Comfort Break

3.30-5.00 IV Locating the "Veteran" in Non-Traditional Military Spaces

Chair: Dr Kristin O'Donnell

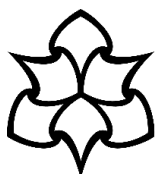
"Field Canteen Workers' Battlefield Experiences in Winter and Continuation Wars',
Maija Ikonen, University of Turku, Finland

The Limits of Sacrifice: Locating the nuclear "veteran" in Australian military mythology', Max Billington, Deakin University, Melbourne

'Forgotten Veterans Afloat: Moral Injury and the Returning Soldier on the UK Waterways', Corinna Priest, Birmingham Newman University

5.00 Close

The organisers would like to thank the following for their generous support:



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