FIRST WORLD WAR SEMINARS

ACADEMIC YEAR / ACADEMIEJAAR 2015-2016

THURSDAY 11 FEB 2016, leper, 8.15 p.m.

Prof. Michael Hammond (University of Southampton – Department of Film Studies)

Forbidden Zones: War Nurses in Hollywood 1931-32

a book of poems and short stories drawn from her experiences as a volunteer nurse with the French adapted and/or written by women. This paper will Army. The title referred to 'the strip of land immediately behind the zone of fire' where she worked. In presented for these scriptwriters both in terms of 1930 Rebecca West wrote four monthly instalments their representation of the horrors of war, and in for Cosmopolitan about her experiences as a nurse terms of the cultural myths which circulated in this on the Western front under the title "War Nurse: period around the role nurses played (or were sup-An American Woman on the Western Front." This posed to have played) during the war. popular series drew the attention of MGM's Irving

Thalberg and resulted in War Nurse, released in November of 1930. The following year another war nurse film, The Mad Parade, was produced by minor In 1929 Mary Borden published The Forbidden Zone, production company Liberty. Both films were scenarios based on the experiences of frontline nurses examine the particular challenges that war subjects

THURSDAY 25 FEB 2016, Canterbury, 6 p.m.

Senior Captain Tom Simoens (Royal Military Academy, Brussels – Department of Conflict Studies)

Discipline in the Belgian Army (1914-1918)

tactics used by the military, but also the relationships courts-martial of the 1st Army Division.

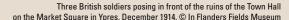
between officers, NCO's, corporals and their men. I will claim that the Belgian Army - generally spoken -Between 1914 and 1918, discipline in the Belgian army made a swift move from a rigid and formal discipline was deeply modified by the extreme living, working towards a more loose and informal discipline based and fighting conditions of the trenches. Trench war- on mutual respect. My presentation will be based on fare not only modified the equipment, technics and military archives, war diaries and archives from the



Belgian chasseurs à cheval arriving the cavalry barracks in Brussels during the mobilisation of the Belgian army, 29 July-3 August 1914. © In Flanders Fields Museum









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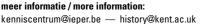












16 een reeks van acht seminars die gratis accessible to all. toegankelijk zijn voor alle geïnteresseerden.

leper. De voertaal is Engels.

Het In Flanders Fields Museum en de University In Flanders Fields Museum and the University of Kent organiseren in het academiejaar 2015- of Kent organize a series of eight seminars,

The four seminars in Ypres are scheduled De vier seminars die doorgaan in leper vinden on Thursdays at 8.15 p.m. and take place in telkens plaats op een donderdag om 20u15 the conference room of the Town Hall (2nd en gaan door in de conferentiezaal van het floor), Cloth Hall, Grote Markt 34, 8900 leper. In stadhuis (2de verdieping), Grote Markt 34, 8900 Canterbury, the seminars will be held in Darwin Lecture Theatre 2 at 6pm. All are welcome.

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER, leper, 8.15 p.m.

Tim Fox-Godden (University of Kent – School of Architecture)

Khakitects: Experience, Memory and Design in the War Cemeteries of the old Western Front

chitect working for the Imperial War Graves Commisformed the IWGC architectural department in France experiences of the war on the Western Front. is rarely given more than a mention in passing. This

paper will explore how the war experience of this group of junior architects influenced almost every part of the design process, aspects that have hith-In 1917, the decision was taken that every junior artects. It will show how the junior architects shaped sion (IWGC) should have served in the armed forces everything from the practicalities of location and sitduring the war. Ostensibly, this was a decision to ening, to the preservation of battlefield features within sure that the cemeteries, to be designed by a group the cemetery plans. Moreover, it will go on to show of older architects, would retain a legitimacy and how the process was a personal journey of rememconnection with those who were buried within them. brance that included the design of cemeteries and The few works on the subject of the IWGC architec- memorials that contained friends and family memture, notably Longworth and Stamp, conform to the bers. For the first time, this paper will show how this idea that Lutvens. Baker and Blomfield are chiefly group of architects used their experience of the war accountable for the architectural response visible and the landscape to design an architecture of memtoday. In contrast, the group of young architects that ory that is resonant with both personal and general

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER, Canterbury, 6 p.m.

Dominiek Dendooven (In Flanders Fields Museum/University of Antwerp- Department of History)

The Chinese Labour Corps. 1917-1920

From 1917 to 1920 more than 140,000 Chinese labourers were sent to the Western front. They were mainly nese Republic aimed to obtain a seat at the post-war deployed for construction and demolition work, road peace conference. Yet, the Chinese Labour Corps left construction, digging trenches and clearing battlefields, work on the railways, loading and unloading acknowledged to this very day. of ships and trains. Despite the apparently ephemer-

al nature of this work, it was vital for the allied war effort. Moreover, the political stakes were high: by sending labourers to the Western front the new Chia lasting but contested legacy that has not been fully

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER, leper, 8.15 p.m.

Keith D. Lilley (Queen's University, Belfast – Institute for Collaborative Research in the Humanities)

Behind the Lines: Frontline geographies, spatial technologies and mapping First World War landscapes

geographers and historians of cartography have in research linking the National Library of Scotland. er potential and significance evaluated.

University of Kent and Queen's University Belfast, the paper explores otherwise 'hidden histories' of frontline geographies that emerge through using geovisualisation tools and analysing digitized trench maps. Maps were a crucial tool in the military campaigns The paper focuses on a series of 1:20,000 scale mapalong the Western Front and elsewhere during the sheets, covering Messines between 1916 and 1918, First World War, with great innovations in the development of surveying and cartography through photo- Analyst software, This allows us to assess the acgrammetry and aerial photography. While historical curacy of the underlying geodetic network, such as trigonometrical stations and survey work, that underrecent years used qualitative approaches to under- pinned these larger-scale Allied topographic maps of stand the efficacy of these military developments in the Western Front. Clearly, examining how far these 'spatial technologies', this paper sets out an analyt- trench maps were cartographically 'accurate' is of ical framework for using Geographical Information great importance in evaluating their efficacy in con-Systems (GIS) - as a 21st century spatial technology ducting warfare on the ground, both in Belgium and - to explore how British trench maps were made and in France. The results of our initial analyses will be used. Using recent collaborative cross-disciplinary presented and discussed in this paper, and their wid-

N.B. TUESDAY 24 NOV 2015, Canterbury, 6 p.m.

Dr. Birger Stichelbaut (University of Ghent and In Flanders Fields Museum - Centre for Historical and Archaeological Aerial Photography)

World War One aerial photography in Belgium: a University) and the In Flanders Fields Museum exlandscape archaeological perspective

Since 2006 the Department of Archaeology (Ghent Belgium and France.

plore the archaeological potential of these historical aerial photographs. This presentation explores how During the First World War, millions of aerial photo- thousands of these images are now converted into graphs were taken by all fighting countries, docu- a primary source on their own and complementmenting a cultural landscape from which the relicts ed with other non-invasive techniques. This pressometimes remain visible as scars on the landscape. entation also highlights how these historical aerial Most often however this landscape is preserved photographs are used in modern museum contexts beneath the surface as archaeological heritage, presenting a bird's eye view of the Western Front in

THURSDAY 14 JANUARY, leper, 8.15 p.m.

Dr Rebecca Wynter (University of Birmingham – Department of Education & Social Justice)

Keeping the Peace: Working Relationships and the Friends' Ambulance Unit in the First World

Red Cross and the Order of St John, but these parties were just two of those the corps worked with. Over the next four-and-a-half years, the FAU had to negotiate with governments, armies, local authori-In August 1914, the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) ties, faith organisations, wealthy and philanthropic was established by Quakers, a faith group with firm Belgian women, farmers, and with Quakers who pacifist principles. The FAU operated under the objected to frontline service. This paper will explore authority of the Joint War Committee of the British how the FAU attempted to keep the peace in the midBritain, it will also consider how members of the FAU cruit.

dle of war in order to work effectively. In the cente- coped with the conflict that consciences brought, as nary year of the 1916 introduction of conscription in well as the influx of a new sort of less-privileged re-



Post-war visitors with Chinese Labourers, 1919. © In Flanders Fields Museum

THURSDAY 28 JAN 2016, Canterbury, 6 p.m.

Prof. dr. Luc Rasson (University of Antwerp –Department of Literature)

A Path of Glory leading toward the Stars: Film and the Great War in the Air

and, at least implicitly, advocate a pacifist attitude. trend of films about the air war in the Thirties.

However, films showing the war in the air will very often carry values of romantic heroism and chivalry and will not question the legitimacy of the war. These In this lecture I would like to focus on what has been films seem to be impervious to a pacifist stance, even called the "bifurcated vision" of the Great War in in the Thirties. I will focus on the first feature film film. A movie taking place in the trenches will mostly made about the young air forces, William Wellman's describe the war as an absurd waste of young lives Wings (1925) and, if I have enough time, dwell on the

