

# USING THE WAR: CHANGING MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR TWO



Annual Conference of the Oral History Society with King's College, London  
Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd July 2005

# This international oral history conference is about the Second World War. The conference will explore the understanding of how representations of the war have been created and how they have changed over time.

A range of presentations from across Europe, Asia, Oceania, and Latin and North America will address the War's consequences and legacy in the memories of participants and for successive generations. These presentations are organized into two major themes which reflect the ways in which the War continues in many countries to play a part in historical consciousness and everyday life. 'Remembering, forgetting and silences' explores individual memories in relation to dominant discourses, identity, myth and intergenerational transmission. The second of the two themes, 'Using memories of war', includes reminiscence as a therapeutic intervention and the ways in which the media has shaped recollections of the War.

There will be over 70 presentations and posters. The keynote speakers are:

- Paula Hamilton: 'Trans/forming memories: World War Two across the generations'
- Andreas Kruse: 'Guilt in the German history: How to transform moral guilt into responsibility'
- Alexander Portelli: 'Innocent victims of liberating cannon: Remembering armed bombardment in Rome'

**ANDREAS KRUSE** is Professor and Director of the Institute for Gerontology at the University of Heidelberg. His publications include *Wir haben uns als Deutsche gefühlt, Lebensrückblick und Lebenssituation jüdischer Emigranten und Lagerhäftlinge, Gesundheit im Alter* and *Gerontopsychosomatik und Alterspsychotherapie*. The recipient of many national and international awards in gerontology, medicine and psychology, he has represented Germany on various committees on policy on ageing including for the European Commission, the World Health Organisation, and the United Nations.

**PAULA HAMILTON** is an Associate Professor, and has taught history at the University of Technology, Sydney for several years and worked in a range of oral history projects with community groups, museums, heritage agencies, and local councils. She is co-director of the Australian Centre for Public History and also jointly edits the journal *Public History Review*. She has published widely on public memory and historical consciousness in Australia. She is currently completing a book (with Paul Ashton) for Halstead Press and the National Museum of Australia titled *What is History in Australia Now? Australians and the Past*.

**ALESSANDRO PORTELLI** is Professor of American Literature at the University of Rome. He is author of *The Death of Luigi Trastulli and Other Stories: Form and Meaning in Oral History, The Battle of Valle Giulia: Oral History and the Art of Dialogue* and most recently, *The Order Has Been Carried Out: Rome, the Ardeantine Caves, and Memory*, winner of the prestigious Viareggio prize in Italy.

● **SIR MAX HASTINGS**, the distinguished military historian, journalist and former newspaper editor, is the guest speaker at the conference social evening.



Mrs Agnes Smith, a fifty year old mother of ten pictured here in June 1942, was a forewoman of a Greenock shipbuilding yard on Clydeside in Scotland. She had 45 women to look after and was experienced in most of their jobs herself. Photographer: Coote R G G (Lt). © Imperial War Museum

# marks the 60th anniversary of the end of II provide an opportunity to gain a greater the war in memory have changed.

## REMEMBERING, FORGETTING AND SILENCES

A number of speakers will explore how different individuals choose to remember or forget their experiences particularly in relation to the **dominant discourses** in different cultures. These include:

**PAMELA SUGIMAN** (McMaster) ““These feelings that fill my heart”:

Japanese Canadian Women’s Personal Memories of Internment”;

**SABINE MOLLER** (Essen) ‘Multiple past. Public cultures of recollection and family memories of the National Socialist period in eastern Germany’;

**TOMOYO NAKAO** (Okayama) ‘Oral History and history: POWs’ memories and “what is the truth?”’;

**WENDY UGOLINI** (Edinburgh) ‘Remembering the Arandora Star: commemoration within the Italian community in Scotland’;

**ANGELITA REYES** (Arizona) ‘Always remembering the “Unpleasant Business” of a very unfriendly fire: homicide and gendered-oriented memory-telling’.

Presentations will address issues of the **intergenerational communication** of memories of war including:

**KATARZYNA SZAFRANSKA** (Lodz) ‘The

process of intergenerational transmission of the memory of the second world war in Polish and Jewish families; consequences of war experience in the third generation’;

**JOHN CHIRCOP** (Malta) ‘Legacies of War: Using “return to basics” memories of war as shared strategies of survival in the Maltese islands’;

**ANDREI PODOLSKIJ** (Moscow) and **PETER COLEMAN** (Southampton) ‘War and trauma across three generations: the intergenerational transmission of war memories in the former Soviet Union’.

And on **mythic memories, social memory** and **silences** there are:

**ALEXANDER PRENNINGER** (Vienna–Salzburg) ‘Communities and

rituals of liberation day in the Mauthausen Memorial’;

**FEDERICO GUILLERMO LORENZ** (Buenos Aires) ‘How our enemy made us better. Uses of memories of World War II during the Malvinas-Falklands War and afterwards’;

**DIENKE HONDIUS** (Amsterdam) ‘Bystander memory: Dutch non-Jewish eyewitness narratives about the deportations’;

**GELINADA GRINCHENKO** (Karazin Kharkiv) ‘Ostarbeiters of the Third Reich: remembering and forgetting as the strategies of survival’;

**CORINNA PENISTON-BIRD** (Lancaster): ‘ “All in it together and backs to the wall”’: Constructing the People’s War in the 21st Century’. A final strand within this theme is the ways in which **individual memories and identity** intertwine, and includes:

**PHIL COHEN** (East London) ‘Everyone has a right to be frightened! Changing War stories in Britain and Germany since 1945’;

**DIANE GARST** (Texas) ‘Search for Identity in Child Survivors of the Holocaust’.

## USING MEMORIES OF WAR

Another major theme of the conference will look at the ways in which memories of the conflict have been used in the production and use of history and in reminiscence as a therapeutic intervention.

**ALISON PARR** (Ministry for Culture and Heritage, New Zealand) ‘Breaking the silence: a retrospective assessment of the costs and rewards of remembering, through oral history, traumatic wartime experiences and their consequences’;

**MARIA PACHALSKA** and **BRUCE DUNCAN MACQUEEN** (Gdansk) ‘Polish concentration camp survivors: A neuropsychological perspective’;

**MARVIN J. WESTWOOD** (Vancouver) ‘Group based life review for veterans: integrating the war experience’;

**NIRMAL PUWAR** (Northampton) and **KULDIP POWAR** (Banshee Media Group) ‘The art of memory work’.

● In addition **SIMON WESSELY** will chair a discussion panel from King’s (London). The panel will include **EDGAR JONES** (who has recently published on the impact of bombing on civilians),

**STEVE WEISS** (a US infantry veteran of World War Two) and **SUSIE KILSHAW** (a medical anthropologist), who has extensive experience of interviewing Gulf War veterans.

This theme also includes the ways in which oral history and reminiscence have been employed by the media. Presentations here will include:

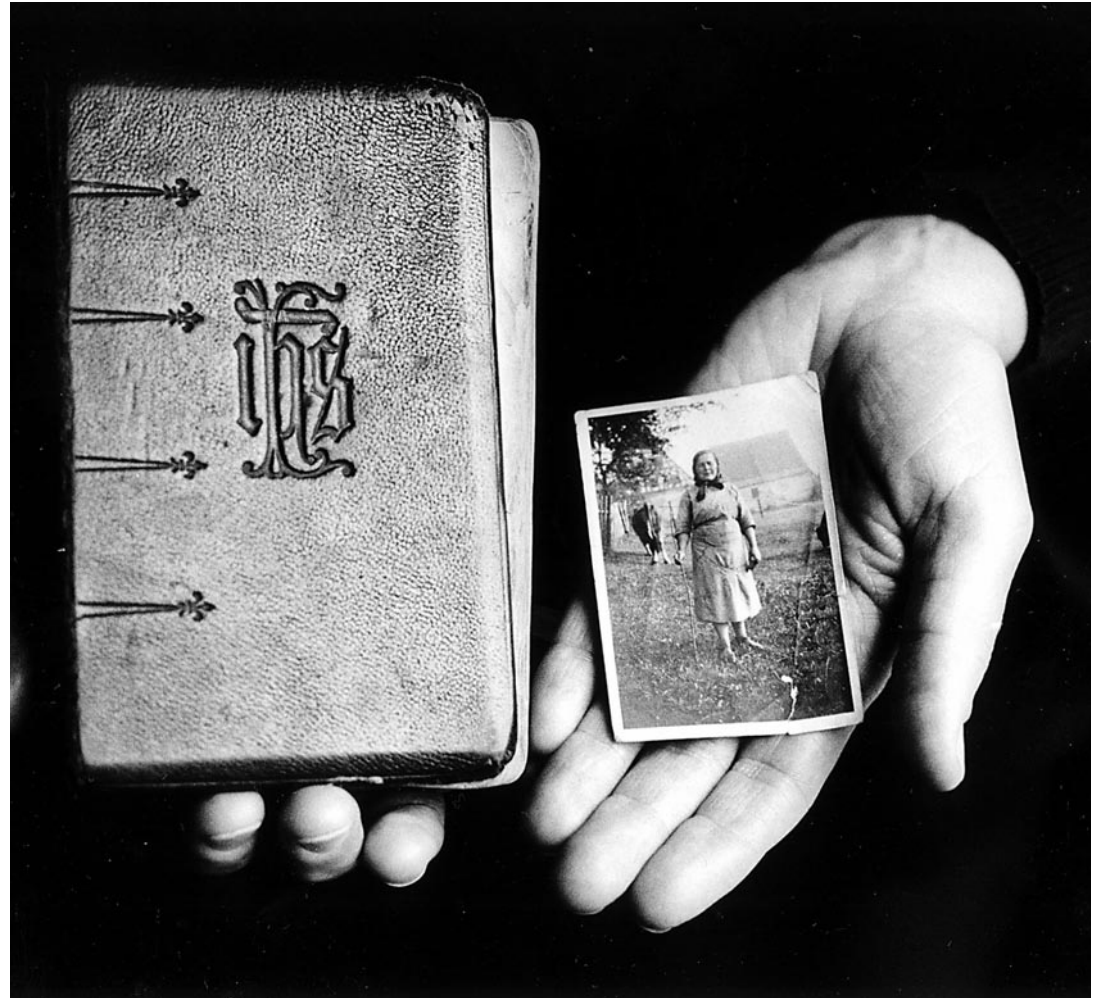
**ERIC WHITE** (Milwaukee). 'Making retro patriotism history: The official account of the "Good War"';

**FRANK BÖSCH** (Bochum) 'Managers of the memory? The eye-witness on TV and the changing memories of World War Two';

**PHILIP SEATON** (Hokkaido) 'Japanese war memory – postwar generation testimony'.

Above all else this international conference will be a meeting at which participants will be able to exchange ideas and approaches to oral history. Further details, including a complete listing of speakers and titles, are available at: <http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/conferences/>

● For further details contact Belinda Waterman, University of Essex, [belinda@essex.ac.uk](mailto:belinda@essex.ac.uk)



A second generation Polish woman holds the only two possessions her mother bought to Britain at the end of the Second World War; a Polish bible and a photo of her holding the bible on the farm in Germany where she was forced to work during the War. Picture by Tim Smith.

# REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to register for the **USING THE WAR** conference and have ticked the appropriate boxes below and provided the necessary payment herewith (one copy of the form per person).

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Tel: ..... Fax: .....

Please tell us if you have any special access, mobility or dietary requirements and contact the conference administrator if you require further information.

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION** will commence from 11.00 am on Friday 1st July, 2005. The Oral History Society **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will take place at 5.30 pm on Saturday 2nd July. The conference will end at 1.30pm on Sunday 3rd July. Details of the programme can be found on the conference website at [www.oralhistory.org.uk/conferences/](http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/conferences/)

**CONFERENCE FEE** Your conference fee covers all conference sessions, light refreshments and Saturday lunch.

Please tick the appropriate category:

- £103.00 standard fee
- £83.00 fee for Oral History Society members. Joining now entitles you to the reduced conference rate, in which case please include the appropriate additional payment (see subscription rates below\*)
- £51.00 concessionary fee for full-time students/unwaged/pensioners
- £22.00 Conference social Saturday evening (not included in the cost of the conference) with speaker Sir Max Hastings

**ACCOMMODATION** A limited amount of student accommodation has been reserved for conference delegates which can be booked on a first-come first-served basis. Details of this and further information on accommodation can be found at [www.oralhistory.org.uk/conferences](http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/conferences) or contact the conference administrator

- I enclose payment of £\_\_\_\_\_ to cover my conference fee/conference fee plus new membership fee/conference dinner (delete as necessary)  
Cheques to be made payable to the Oral History Society OR
- Charge the above amount to my credit card: Card type: *Visa/Mastercard/American Express*

Credit card number: ..... Expiry date: .....

Signature: .....

Please return this form by Friday 3 June 2005 to the conference administrator:  
**BELINDA WATERMAN, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX,  
WIVENHOE PARK, COLCHESTER CO4 3SQ**

Please retain a copy of this form.

Any queries please contact [belinda@essex.ac.uk](mailto:belinda@essex.ac.uk); tel: +44 (0)1206 872313.  
Final programme information will be available on the conference website in June.  
If you require the information by post, please tick here

\*Subscription Rates: **Individuals:** United Kingdom £15.00; International (surface) £20.00; International (airmail £25.00) **Institutions/Groups:** United Kingdom £25.00; International (surface) £30.00; International (airmail £35.00). Note: All membership and journal subscriptions run yearly from 1st January.

# ORAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Oral History Society is a registered charity which publishes a twice yearly journal *Oral History*, organises an annual conference and operates a comprehensive regional advice and information network for members using oral history in schools, colleges, with older people, in libraries, museums and communities. Individual membership costs £15 per year, and benefits include reduced rates for conferences and publications, the illustrated journal, and mailings of activities of interest to members.

**■ FOR DETAILS** contact Rob Perks,  
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Cover picture: The Battle for Normandy, 10th July 1944. A British soldier in Caen after its liberation, gives a helping hand to an old lady amongst the scene of utter devastation. The town had been substantially destroyed during the bombardment, leaving large numbers of the population homeless. Photographer: Malindine (Capt). © Imperial War Museum

**DATE:** Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd July 2005

**TIMES:** Friday: 11am to 6.15pm

Saturday: 9am to 5.30pm

Sunday: 9.15am to 1.15pm

**KING'S**  
*College*  
**LONDON**

King's College London is one of the two oldest and largest colleges of the University of London: a major multi-faculty university institution with some 19,200 students. It has a leading position in UK higher education and a world-wide reputation for research and teaching. King's academics pursue and achieve excellence in a wide range of research activities and scholarship. In the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise, twenty four subject areas were rated 5 or 5\*, the highest ratings achievable.

In 2004, King's College, London, celebrated its 175th anniversary. Among its internationally recognised departments are War Studies and the Institute of Psychiatry, both of which have undertaken wide-ranging research into the Second World War. King's also houses the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives. Indeed, the College found itself fully engaged in the Second World War. Psychiatrists from the Maudsley treated soldiers suffering from post-combat disorders and traumatised air-raid casualties at Mill Hill and Sutton Hospitals. And the Franklin-Wilkins Building (Waterloo Campus), in which the conference takes place, functioned as a hospital during the conflict.

In 2004, War Studies and the Institute of Psychiatry collaborated to set up the King's Centre for Military Health Research. It has three research strands: war and health; war and psychiatry; personnel issues and social policy. It is particularly appropriate, therefore, that King's should host this conference on the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

**VENUE:** King's College London, Franklin-Wilkins Building (Waterloo campus), Stamford Street, London SE1 9NN

