

## Studying Prisoners of War: A beginner's guide

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<b>Start date</b>	8 April 2018	<b>End date</b>	8 April 2018
<b>Venue</b>	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
<b>Tutor</b>	Dr Gilly Carr  Midge Gillies  Derek Niemann  Dr Clare Makepeace	<b>Course code</b>	1718NDX046

**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings  
Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr  
**For further information on this course, please contact** [clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

**Dr Gilly Carr** is the Academic Director and Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Cambridge's Institute of Continuing Education. She is also a Fellow and Director of Studies in Archaeology of St Catharine's College, and a Member of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. Her areas of research include Conflict Archaeology, POW Studies, and Post-Conflict Heritage Studies and she is the author of over 50 publications. Recent works include *Legacies of Occupation: Heritage, Memory and Archaeology in the Channel Islands* (Springer 2012); *Cultural heritage and prisoners of war: creativity behind barbed wire* (with Harold Mytum; Routledge 2012) and *Prisoners of war: archaeology, memory, and heritage of 19th-and 20th-century mass internment* (with Harold Mytum; Springer 2013).

### Midge Gillies

Midge Gillies is the author of eight non-fiction books, including biographies of Amy Johnson and Marie Lloyd. In *The Barbed-Wire University* (Aurum Press, 2011) she explores what it was really like to be an Allied Prisoner of War in the Second World War and draws on her father's experience of captivity in Europe. She is the author of *Writing Lives* (CUP, 2009) and co-author, with Sally Cline, of *Literary*

*Non-Fiction: A Writers' & Artists' Companion* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2015). She studied history at Girton College and for three years was Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge. She is the Institute of Continuing Education's Academic Director, Creative Writing.

**Derek Niemann**

Derek Niemann is a freelance writer and editor specialising in natural history. His books include *Birds in a Cage*, the true story of POW birdwatchers, and *A Nazi in the Family*, an account of his grandfather's life as an SS officer involved in the Holocaust. Both are published by Short Books. Derek is a tutor in creative writing at ICE.

**Dr Clare Makepeace** is a historian, lecturer and consultant on the British serviceman's experiences in the First and Second World Wars. She has written for numerous academic publications, as well as *History Today*, *BBC History Magazine*, the *Daily Mail* and BBC news online. She is the author of *Captives of War. British Prisoners of War in Europe in the Second World War* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). Clare's work on masculinity and prostitution in the First World War inspired an Arts Council funded theatre production 'The House Behind the Lines', which recently completed a regional tour in Yorkshire. Clare has previously taught at undergraduate and postgraduate level at Birkbeck, University of London, and UCL.

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## Course programme

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09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	<b>Narrating captivity: diaries, memoirs, letters and logbooks (Clare Makepeace)</b>
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	<b>Self-improvement and entertainment behind barbed wire: sports, exams and theatre (Midge Gillies)</b>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	<b>Understanding internment through POW arts and crafts (Gilly Carr)</b>
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	<b>Studying nature and regaining self-esteem (Derek Niemann)</b>
16:45	Day-school ends

## Course syllabus

### Aims:

1. To show students how to use different kinds of sources to study POWs;
2. To introduce students to the daily lives of prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Second World War.

### Content:

This course aims to teach students how to study POWs through a number of the sources which they have left behind. Drawing on the different strengths of the tutors, all of whom have researched and published works on POWs, this course will expose students to different kinds of sources. In the first session students will be shown how to analyse diaries, memoirs, letters and logbooks, possibly the most ubiquitous kind of POW memorabilia in archives. From here, the second session will look at how POWs tried to pass the time by improving themselves through studying new skills, taking exams, keeping themselves fit, and joining in theatrical events. All of these left behind an array of certificates, sporting event posters and theatre programmes. What sense can we make of these, and why were they so popular behind barbed wire?

In the third session, we examine the objects and artwork made by POWs and civilian internees, asking what insights we can gain into everyday life in the camps through the objects made to aid survival. In the final session, we move out of the barracks and onto the *Appelplatz* for the interminable roll-calls, gazing around the camp at the birds which flew and nested nearby. How did the study of nature help POWs to endure life in captivity?

### Presentation of the course:

The course will be taught through interactive seminar-style PowerPoint-illustrated lectures; class discussion and questions will be encouraged.

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- Demonstrate a preliminary understanding of the kinds of ephemera and memorabilia that POWs left behind;
- Understand how researchers can use these sources to learn about daily life behind barbed wire;
- Feel confident in beginning their own research into POWs.

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

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### **Non-fiction / academic accounts**

- Carr, G. and Mytum, H.C., 2012. *Cultural heritage and prisoners of war: creativity behind barbed wire*. Routledge.
- Gilbert, A., 2007. *Allied Prisoners in Europe, 1939-45*. John Murray.
- Gillies, M., 2011. *The Barbed-Wire University: The Real Lives of Prisoners of War in the Second World War*. Aurum Press Limited.
- Makepeace, C., 2013. Living beyond the barbed wire: the familial ties of British prisoners of war held in Europe during the Second World War. *Historical Research*, 86 (231), pp.158-177.
- MacKenzie, SP., 2004. *The Colditz Myth: British and Commonwealth Prisoners of War in Nazi Germany*. Oxford University Press.
- Mytum, H. and Carr, G. eds., 2012. *Prisoners of war: archaeology, memory, and heritage of 19th-and 20th-century mass internment*. Springer Science & Business Media.
- Niemann, D., 2012. *Birds in a Cage: Germany, 1941. Four POW Birdwatchers. The Unlikely Beginning of British Wildlife Conservation*. Short Books.
- Makepeace, C., 2017. *Captives of War. British Prisoners of War in Europe in the Second World War*. Cambridge University Press.
- Becker, A., 2004. 'Art, Material Life and Disaster. Civilian and Military Prisoners of War', pp. 26-34, in Nicholas J. Saunders, ed., *Matters of Conflict. Material Culture, Memory and the First World War*. Routledge.
- Houghton, F. 2014. 'To the Kwai and Back': Myth, Memory and Memoirs of the 'Death Railway' 1942–1943', *Journal of War and Culture Studies*, 7, 3, 223–35.
- Makepeace, C., 2017, 'Drawn in Blood and Bone. The Art of Captives of War', in Joanna Bourke, ed., *Art and War*. Reaktion Books. (due out November 2017).
- Twomey, C. 2009. 'Double Displacement: Western Women's Return Home from Japanese Internment in the Second World War', *Gender and History*, 21, 3, 670-84

### **POW memoirs and autobiographies**

- Bohdan, A. 1988. *Prisoner of War: My Secret Journal*
- Beckwith, E. G. C. ed., 1977. *The Mansel Diaries. The Diaries of Captain John Mansel, prisoner of war and camp forger in Germany 1940-45*. Wildwood House.
- Kee, R. 1947. *A Crowd is Not Company*. Eyre & Spottiswoode.
- Lomax, E, 1995. *The Railway Man*, Vintage.
- Newby, E. 1971. *Love and War in the Apennines*. William Collins.
- Panter-Brick, K. 1999. *Years not wasted 1940-1945. A POW's Letters and Diary*. The Book Guild Ltd
- <http://wlajournal.com/webcontent/moab/> - This website lists many POW memoirs!

## **Film and television**

- The Great Escape (1963)
- Stalag 17 (1953)
- The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957)
- The Colditz Story (1954)
- The Wooden Horse (1950)
- King Rat (1965)
- The Captive Heart (1946)
- Albert R.N. (1953)
- Colditz (series 1 and 2, 1972-1974)
- Unbroken (2014)
- The Railway Man (2013)

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## **Additional information**

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### **Venue**

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:  
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

### **Refreshments**

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on [ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1223 746262.

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 12 October 2017