



The Scottish National War Memorial under construction in the 1920s



and Willie Gallacher, encouraged by labour unrest, had hopes of a Communist revolution.

“We had known only working-class revolt. Now we could talk about working-class power”

Greater state intervention in industry during the war made people more aware of labour issues. Revolution or not, workers had been promised shorter hours, higher pay and a better standard of living. Collective action became the tool whereby ordinary working people had influence, and the tripling of the electorate enabled greater engagement with politics. The government's failure to deliver on their promises meant there was a sharp rise in industrial unrest, and strikes increased dramatically, with 85 million working days lost in 1921.

Arguably, the most significant strike in Scotland took place in early 1919, when the leaders of the Clyde Workers' Committee rejected a nationally negotiated agreement on working hours. The committee instigated a demonstration for a 40-hour week, arguing this would help to make work available for demobilised soldiers. On 31 January, up to 100,000 strikers gathered in Glasgow's George Square, and a violent confrontation with police ensued.

Fearing that unrest might become revolution, the government ordered tanks and English troops to restore order to the streets of Glasgow. Visitors to the exhibition can see photographs of what came to be known as 'Bloody Friday', alongside trade

Continues overleaf->

remained as Prime Minister, the election marked the start of the Liberal party's fall into decline, from which both the Unionist (Conservative) and Labour parties would benefit. A series of elections in the mid-1920s saw a resurgent Labour Party winning an increasing share of the vote in parts of Scotland.

Other voices were making themselves heard across the political spectrum. There was pressure for home rule for Scotland, and even some nascent fascist groups who sought confrontation with those on the left. Individuals like John Maclean

RIGHT: 'Bloody Friday' brought unrest to Glasgow



A BETTER WORLD?

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union records and news-sheets produced by strikers.

"We got work, we had to... within that few days, most of us are again in the cage, ready to descend once again to the wet and sweat and blackness, and glad to be able to do it"

The major economic downturn within a year of the Armistice, coupled with demobilisation, placed enormous pressure on the labour market, resulting in high unemployment in the 1920s. Parts of Scotland suffered particularly badly, not least because of a reliance on heavy industry, which had previously enjoyed a wartime boom. Organisations like the newly-established Royal British

Legion became a lifeline for many unable to find work.

As well as becoming a symbol of remembrance, the poppy played an important role in raising funds and providing employment for ex-servicemen, particularly those who were left with permanent disabilities. The Lady Haig Poppy Factory was established in Edinburgh in 1926, with "two workers, a pair of scissors and a piece of paper", but it soon grew.

Women were not immune to employment difficulties in the aftermath of the war. During the war, the government, in negotiation with trade unions, introduced measures to increase factory production. This paved

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(SCOTTISH BRANCH)

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ABOVE: Equal pay and the family

the way for women to take on skilled roles traditionally filled by men. Having thus formed the lifeblood of munitions and other wartime industries, women – particularly those in engineering roles – found themselves pushed out of work in 1919 through the Restoration of Pre-war Practices Act.

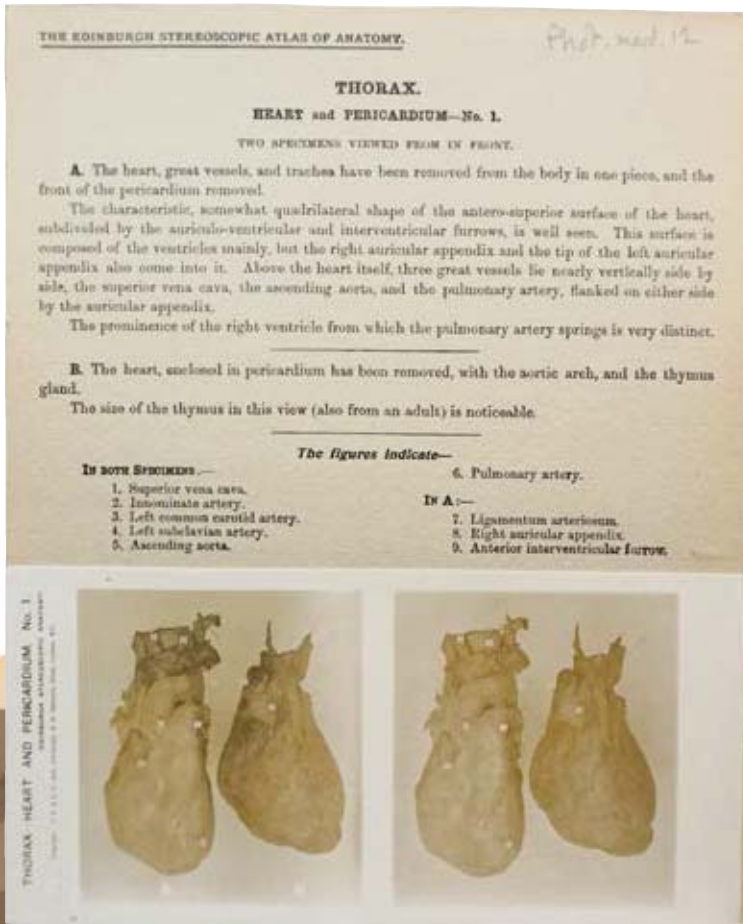
"The conditions existing at many of these places are beyond description and are a standing disgrace to the city"

Scotland had long suffered a shortage of habitable homes in both urban and rural areas, and conditions worsened during the war. The 1919 Housing and Town Planning Act promised government subsidies to help finance the construction of 500,000 houses across the UK, within three years. However, as the 1920s dawned, the economy rapidly weakened and funding was cut. Less than half of the promised properties were built. Items on display give an insight into the squalor many faced, even as the decade drew to a close.

LEFT: Flanders poppy wreath catalogue

A survey of **DISCOVERY**





A closer look at the National Library's photographic archive reveals a collection rich with treasures from Scotland's social and cultural history

We recently carried out a comprehensive survey of the Library's photographic collections in a project funded by the Professor T Graham Brown Trust. Between June 2017 and September 2018, we worked our way through 1,010 individual collections, containing around 381,100 photographic images, most of which are held in our archive and manuscript collections.

The survey confirmed that we hold a photographic collection of great historic significance to rank

alongside other major collections held elsewhere in Scotland. Our collection documents more than 170 years of social, cultural, and technological history and reflects Scotland's influence on the development of photography at home and abroad.

The photographs date from the early 1840s to the present day, with one image even dating back to 1835. There are examples of many of the photographic processes and formats that have been developed since 1839, when the invention of photography was first announced to the world.

Left: Photographic Conservator, Ioannis Vasallos at work in the stacks

Continues overleaf

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The joint acquisition, earlier this year, of the MacKinnon photographic collection by the Library and National Galleries of Scotland (see *Discover* Issue 38, summer 2018), arrived too late to be included in this survey, but this is another significant addition to our collections.

We have identified many exciting opportunities for these collections to be further researched and shown to the public. However, the survey also flagged up the need for conservation treatment for some of the photographs. While the collections are generally in reasonable condition, there has been some deterioration, particularly of the more unstable types of photographic material, such as items created using

Our collection reflects Scotland's influence on the history of photography at home and abroad



Above: Daguerreotype portrait of a couple by Edward Kilburn

Left: The photographs date from the early 1840s to the present day



early, experimental techniques, and early 20th-century colour photographs. This includes fading and discolouration of images, mould growth within the layers of gelatine on photographic prints and negatives, surface dirt, and 'glass disease' – a type of deterioration of the glass used to house early photographs. Some items are also stored in unsuitable containers, making them challenging for readers to access.

We are now working to develop a plan of action for the photographic collections. Some tasks, such as moving unstable items into our dedicated cool store for photographic collections (set at around 15°C and 40 per cent relative humidity), will be done as soon as possible. In the longer term we will work on finding resources to carry out more extensive conservation, research, cataloguing and digitisation of the collections, which will enable this national asset to be better preserved and more accessible.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SURVEY

- ⦿ A large collection of 19th-century photographically illustrated books and albums, starting with *Sun Pictures in Scotland* (1845) by William Henry Fox Talbot
- ⦿ Significant holdings of work by important photographers in Scotland and England (1850s to early 1900s) such as Thomas Annan, George Washington Wilson and Francis Frith
- ⦿ Photographs by early female explorers such as Isabella Bird and Fanny Bullock Workman
- ⦿ Portraits of Scottish families from the 19th and early 20th centuries
- ⦿ Significant mountaineering and polar exploration photographs
- ⦿ Photographs from the Edinburgh Festivals from 1947 onwards
- ⦿ Extensive collections representing the activities of Scots abroad, such as travellers, explorers, settlers, soldiers and missionaries.



The 250th anniversary of the renowned publisher is an opportunity to celebrate and extol the literary treasures of the Library's John Murray Archive

A WORLD-SHAPING LEGACY



WORDS:
Kirsty McHugh
John Murray Archive and
Publishers' Collections Curator

In 1768, having no previous experience of the book trade, Edinburgh-born John McMurray (1737–1793) took over the bookselling business of William Sandby at 32 Fleet Street, London.

In deference to the anti-Scottish feeling in London at the time, he elected to drop what one of his friends called “the wild highland Mac” from his name. John Murray opened for business as bookseller and publisher on 20 October. On that day he could not have imagined that 250 years later, it would be celebrated as one of the most influential British publishing houses.

An ex-marine and hard drinker, John Murray I – as he was later to become known – was well-suited to the often boisterous and risky late 18th-century professions of publishing and bookselling. He published about 1,000 titles, and was the sole publisher of more than a third of them.

Under the management of seven generations of Murrays, the firm evolved and reacted to the demands of the reading public, from the late 18th to the early 21st century. As the publisher of Charles Darwin, Jane Austen,



David Livingstone, Austen Henry Layard and Lord Byron, and inventor of the *Handbooks for Travellers* series, the books issued by John Murray helped to shape the modern world and the way in which we see ourselves.

When John Murray VII decided to sell the publishing company in 2002, it was the oldest independent family-run publishing house in the world. Following the sale, the business

AN INSPIRING ARCHIVE

Above: Travel writer Patrick Leigh Fermor’s papers painted by Hugh Buchanan

Below left: Publishing records reveal details of sales and production costs of books by authors including Jane Austen

Previous page: John Murray (1737–1793), founder of the publishing dynasty, painted by David Allan c.1777

archive of John Murray covering 1768 to 1921 was purchased by the National Library of Scotland. Vital support was provided by the Scottish Government, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and a campaign spearheaded by Lady Balfour of Burleigh, resulting in a great number of donations from trusts and individuals.

The Library’s acquisition of the John Murray Archive allowed greater access to its content not only by scholars from all over the world, but also to anyone with an interest in the history of British literature and society.

Following the Archive’s arrival at the Library in 2006, thousands of people have been educated, entertained and inspired through a series of talks, events and publications, as well as an innovative 10-year-long exhibition. Opening up the archive also facilitated myriad research projects resulting in many books and articles on topics ranging



● The archive’s size and completeness is what makes it so special ●

from travel writing to Murray's relationship with Benjamin Disraeli and Lord Byron. Creative responses included artist Hugh Buchanan's watercolour studies of documents relating to Murray's famous authors, exhibited at the Library in 2015.

Over the past 12 years, John Murray VII donated more of the business archive to the Library, which includes the travel journals of John Murray III, proof engravings from Sir Austen Henry Layard's *Nineveh and its Remains*, annotated proof pages of Axel Munthe's *The Story of San Michele*, and material relating to the *Quarterly Review*.

The Library was also gifted business ledgers and files relating to books published from 1921 onwards, that provide a fuller picture of the firm and how it adapted to 20th-century publishing trends and technologies.

With the support of the Murray family and the John R Murray Charitable Trust, the Library also recently acquired the papers of Murray authors Osbert Lancaster and Patrick Leigh Fermor, complementing the material already in the Archive.

The size and completeness of the John Murray Archive is what makes it so special, but it also presents the challenge of



identifying and describing tens of thousands of items.

Much of the 2006 acquisition has been catalogued and descriptions can be viewed on our online catalogue, but work will continue for several years to process everything fully. Alongside the cataloguing, much of the material required conservation work to ensure that documents are well-housed, and that fragile or damaged documents are repaired so they can be safely handled.

Much of the essential conservation work on the Archive, which had been well maintained while in the Murrays' care, has

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Above: "Dam' good thing too! Reading books only gives people ideas." Cartoon by Murray author Osbert Lancaster

Below: Painstaking conservation work ensures the archive is preserved for the future

now been undertaken, but some minor repairs and routine work is still required.

I joined the National Library last autumn with a new remit to look after all the Library's publishing collections, as well as the John Murray Archive. We recently launched a refreshed website about the John Murray Archive at www.nls.uk/collections/john-murray and more information will be added to it – particularly in relation to its publishing in the 20th century.

In the coming months and years, I'll be looking at ways to explore the dialogue between different collections

of publishers' and booksellers' papers in the Library, and highlight the publication histories of some of Murray's most famous publications, such as Byron's *Don Juan*, which celebrates its 200th anniversary next year.

I believe the John Murray Archive remains a unique and valuable collection which has the capacity to provide original research and fascinating insights into British life and publishing for many years to come. The Library, and I personally, look forward to exploring new opportunities to open up its contents to as many people as possible.



BOOK GIVEAWAY

A collection of letters from some of Murray's most famous authors, edited by David McClay, has been published to mark Murray's 250th anniversary. We have several copies of *Dear Mr Murray: Letters to a Gentleman Publisher* to give away.

For a chance to receive a copy, email discover@nls.uk with 'John Murray Archive' in the subject heading.



MAPPING THE MILITARY LANDSCAPE

The extraordinary legacy of Scottish military mapping is showcased in a lavishly illustrated book drawn from the Library's map collections



WORDS:
Chris Fleet
Map Curator



In 1981, Aberdeen was mapped by the Russian Army. But this was no ordinary street map. It was, in fact, a very detailed repository of topographic intelligence. It included precise measurements of many features, such as widths and lengths of the Victoria Bridge and Wellington

Suspension Bridge over the Dee, and between these, the width of the Dee was also measured. Unlike other maps of the city, buildings were colour-coded by function – brown for residential, black for industrial, green for military and purple for civil administration. Green contour lines curve across

● We learn from this that the coastal area north from Aberdeen is suitable for amphibious landing ●

the map at very regular five-metre intervals, with frequent spot heights on the land and depths in the harbour. A set of 58 'important objects' were also numbered and named in the accompanying key.

The military purpose behind the map is also clear from its accompanying 'spravka', a detailed geographical description of the city. Among other things, we learn from this that the landscape around Aberdeen is 'dissected by deep river valleys that are the major obstacles for non-road mobile machinery', that 'the coastal area north from Aberdeen is suitable for amphibious landing'

Left: A section of the military road recently completed in Strathyre in 1749, part of the longer route from Stirling to Fort William

George Morrison, *Survey of Part of the Road from Sterling to Fort William... Eight Miles and Forty Five Yards* (1749)





and that the impressive 'harbour dockage facilities can provide complete overhaul of vessels, including destroyers'.

These Russian military maps are only a recent chapter in a long history of military maps of Scotland stretching back over six centuries. The Russian maps share a common thread with those made to support English invasion in the 15th century, the Wars of the Rough Wooing in the 16th century, Jacobite rebellions in the 18th century, and 20th-century defences in the two world wars. Scotland has had a uniquely important military history during this time, and maps provide a key insight into this.

This lavishly illustrated book is drawn from the rich map collections of the Library. It explores the extraordinary legacy of Scottish military mapping, including fortification

plans, reconnaissance mapping, battle plans, plans of military roads and route-ways, tactical maps, plans of mines, enemy maps showing targets, as well as plans showing the construction of defences. In addition to plans, elevations and views, it also discusses unrealised proposals and projected schemes. Much of the material in the book – some of it reproduced in book form for the first time – is visually striking and attractive, and has been selected for the stories it tells us about both attacking and defending the country.

Scotland: Defending the Nation – Mapping the Military Landscape by Carolyn Anderson and Christopher Fleet was published in October 2018 by Birlinn, in association with the National Library of Scotland. Price £30. ISBN: 9781780274935

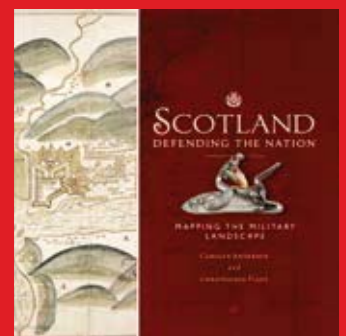
LAVISHLY ILLUSTRATED

Above left: The Russian military map of Aberdeen. Советская Армия. Генеральный штаб, Абердин = Soviet Army

General Staff, Aberdeen (0-30-104) (1981)

Above right: A little-known plan of Dunnotar Castle by John Slezer, Chief Engineer in Scotland from September 1671

John Slezer, *Plan of Dunnotar* (1675)



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To win a copy of this stunning book just answer the question below. Email your answer to the magazine editor, Lauren McGarry, at lauren@connectmedia.cc by 18 January, 2019.

Question: What is a 'spravka'?



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A devastating tragedy remembered

A special online learning resource has been developed by the Library to mark the anniversary of the HMY Iolaire tragedy

A series of events has been organised in the Western Isles to mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of HMY Iolaire, one of the most devastating tragedies to affect Scotland in the 20th century.

In the early hours of 1 January 1919, 205 men died when the vessel struck rocks and sank only yards from the shore, where many families were waiting to welcome their loved ones.

The majority of the men were locals who were on their way home, having survived the First World War. Of those who died, 174 were from Lewis and seven from Harris.

Few events, before or since, have had such a profound impact on the islands. A great number of men had already died in the War and these further fatalities – when the returning sailors

were so close to home – made the trauma even more severe.


A number of commemorative events have already taken place and more will be held in the run up to the Iolaire Community Remembrance Event

in the Lewis Sports Centre, which will take place on Monday 31 December this year. It will feature military and school band performances, as well as poetry readings, songs and drama.

Other commemorations have included a book launch and memorial lecture, as well as performances by singer Julie Fowlis and fiddler Duncan Chisholm. An exhibition featuring portraits of 100 of the men who died will open on 29 December. And a special sculpture will be unveiled at the Iolaire Memorial in Stornoway at midday on 1 January 2019.



The wreck of HMY Iolaire (pictured left at sea – image courtesy of Adair Ltd) is marked with a pillar rising out of the water which can be seen on entering Stornoway harbour

 We have developed a special learning resource using our collections, in conjunction with descendants of the affected families and the Stornoway Historical Society. This tells the story of the Iolaire disaster and its after-effects, which continue to this day. Visit it here: digital.nls.uk/learning/iolaire

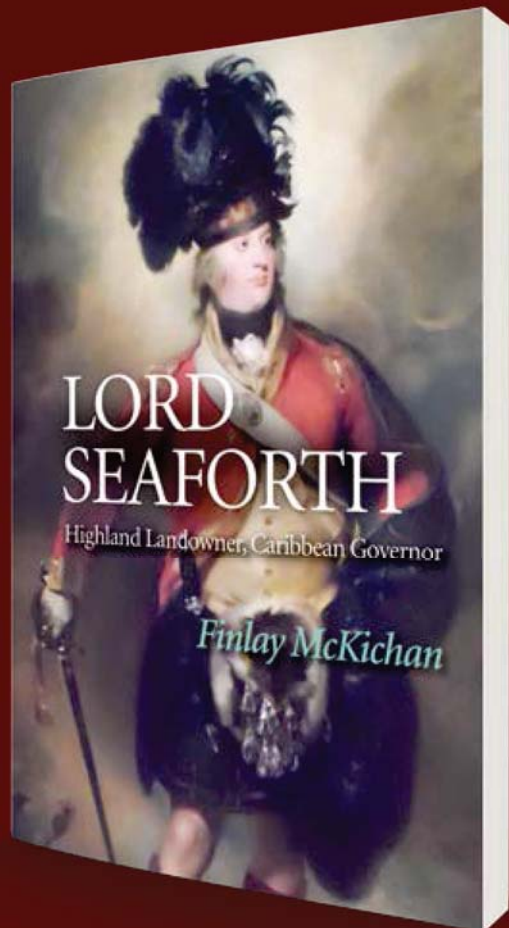
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In this biography, Finlay McKichan provides a fresh perspective on Seaforth's fascinating story as he fought for the legal rights of enslaved labourers. He also offers valuable insights into the political struggles leading to the end of the British slave trade in the Caribbean.



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Rugby Roll of Honour

On 21 March 1914, just a few months before the outbreak of the First World War, Scotland lost 15–16 to England at Inverleith, Edinburgh. Of the 30 men who played that day, 11 would not survive the War.

A total of 31 Scottish international rugby players died in the First World War, more than from any other nation. They are remembered in this solemn, moving and now rare volume *The Rugby Football International Roll of Honour* by E.H.D. Sewell, published in 1919.



1. Hawick rugby legend Walter Sutherland was killed aged 27 on 4 October 1918 – just weeks before the end of the War. A stray shell hit the 13-times capped player as he was cycling back to the front line.

2. David Bedell-Sivright died aged 34 on 5 September 1915 at Gallipoli from acute septicaemia, the result of an insect bite. He was one of the most famous sportsmen of his day – as well as being capped 22 times for Scotland, he was also the Scottish Heavyweight Boxing Champion in 1909.

3. James Pearson died on 31 May 1916 aged 26 at Hooze, Belgium. He played for Watsonians and was capped for Scotland in 1909–13.





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31 October

Reassessing Tartan History

7 November

The Register Houses at War, 1914–1918

12 November

Clothes shopping in 17th century Edinburgh

27 November

*Exploring Archives:
Tales of the Unexpected*

29 November

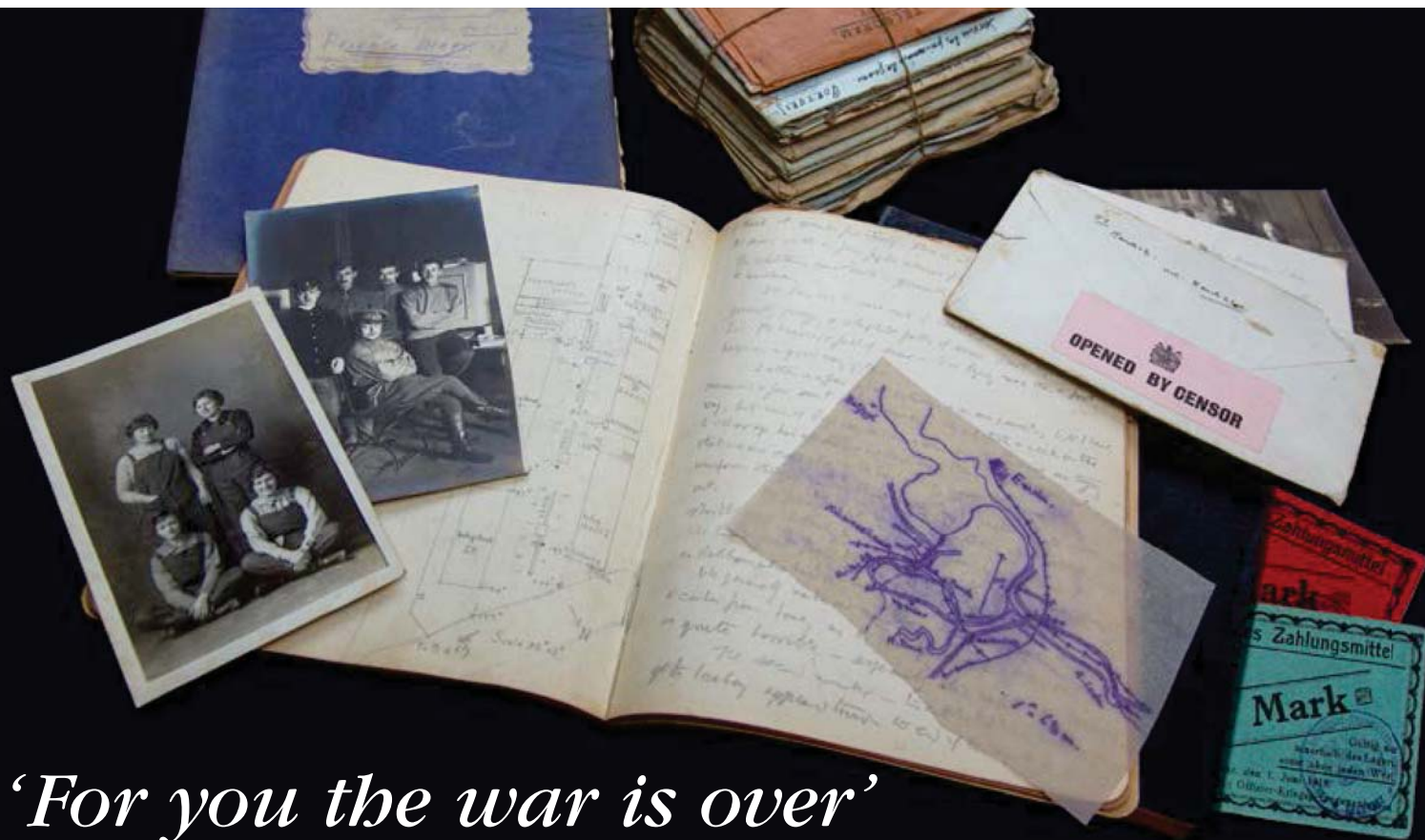
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[DUPONT, PIERRE, TAPISSIER DU ROY]

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