Call for Papers

Special Issue: New Perspectives on World War Two in West Africa

Research on World War Two in West Africa has expanded considerably in recent years thanks to the scholarship of David Killingray, Ashley Jackson, Chima Korieh, Timothy Stapleton, Judith Byfield, Eric Jennings, Ruth Ginio, Greg Mann, and others. As a result of this work, our understanding of the social context of warfare, the African 'home fronts,' the impact of the war on African workers, and the manpower contributions of African military workers is better understood than ever before.

However, key areas of the West African experience in World War Two remain under-researched. Despite the fact that various parts of West Africa played vital roles in the Allied war effort, in manpower and materiel, the region was not a major theatre in the conflict and thus its role in World War Two has long been marginalized in popular and academic histories.

This special issue highlights research that raises new questions about the West African experience during the war, whether thematic, linguistic, or geographical.

The special issue will consider articles submitted in English, French, and Spanish; we explicitly welcome contributions from scholars working in languages other than English.

We are particularly interested in contributions exploring:
- Islam in West Africa during World War Two.
- Arabic language sources relating to World War Two in West Africa.
- Spanish language sources relating to World War Two in West Africa.
- Portuguese language sources relating to World War Two in West Africa.
- Middle Eastern, European, and South Asian minority communities in West Africa during the war.
- Responses to the war in African language sources.
- West African wartime economies
- West African allegiances to Vichy or Free French forces
- West African soldiers outside of Africa
- The history of Dahomey (Benin) and Cote d'Ivoire during the war.
- The history of Niger and the Sahel during the war.
- Trans-Saharan exchanges and trade during the war.
- Commemoration and historical memory.
- Gender, masculinity, and the role of women during this period.
- Franco's policy towards West Africa and the history of Spanish Guinea during the war.
- Maritime history; particularly the role of Africans in naval and mercantile shipping.
- Aviation history; particularly the role of Africans in the RAF or other air forces, or the evolution of civilian aviation in the region.

If you are interested in proposing a paper on these or any other topics please contact Dr Oliver Coates (orc20@cam.ac.uk).

Abstracts should be submitted by 22nd December 2018, with completed essays due in April 2019.

Scholars interested in editing future special issues should contact the journal's Managing Editors, Roy Doron (dorons@wssu.edu) and Charles G Thomas (charles.thomas.42@us.af.mil).