



Your Military Ancestors

Course Book List

Students often ask us for suggested additional reading for our courses. For most of our courses any additional reading is up to you. For our Intermediate and Advanced Certificates courses, students generally attain higher marks when demonstrating evidence of additional reading and there are some compulsory texts for our Advanced Certificate courses.

Here is some optional further reading for this course, in the form of books that you may want to source before your course starts. There may be additional reading material referenced in the course notes. Note that some of these publications may no longer be in print, but can sometimes be found available from second hand book sellers online, or available to borrow from public libraries.

- Peter Duckers, *British Military Medals* (2nd ed, Pen & Sword, 2021)
- Simon Fowler, *Researching Your Second World War Ancestors* (The History Press, 2024)
- Simon Fowler, *Tracing Your Army Ancestors* (3rd edition, Pen & Sword, 2017)
- Simon Fowler, *Tracing Your First World War Ancestors* (2nd ed, Pen & Sword, 2021)
- Simon Fowler, *Tracing Your Naval Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2011)
- Bruno Pappalardo, *Tracing Your Naval Ancestors* (The National Archives, 2003)
- William Spencer, *Medals: The Researchers' Guide* (The National Archives, 2008)
- Phil Tomaselli, *Tracing your RAF Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2010)
- Chris Watts, *Tracing Your British Army Ancestor* (Society of Genealogists, 2009)

There are a number of social histories of the Army and Navy which can provide an idea of the life your ancestors led, the best of which are:

- Roy and Lesley Adkins, *Jack Tar: life in Nelson's Navy* (Abacus, 2009)
- Alan Allport, *Browned Off and Bloody-Minded: the British soldier goes to War 1939-1945* (Yale University Press, 2015)
- Tim Clayton, *Tars: the men who made Britain rule the waves* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2007)
- Byron Farwell, *For Queen and Country: a social history of the Victorian and Edwardian Army* (Viking, 1981)
- Richard Holmes, *Firing Line* (Penguin, 1986)
- Richard Holmes, *Redcoat: the British soldier in the age of the horse and musket* (HarperCollins, 2001)
- Richard Holmes, *Tommy: The British Soldier on the Western Front* (Harper, 2005)
- Brian Lavery, *Royal Tars: the lower deck of the Royal Navy 875-1850* (Conway, 2010)
- Brian Lavery, *Empire of the Seas: how the Navy forged the modern world* (Conway, 2009)
- Stephen Manning, *Soldiers of the Queen: Victorian Colonial Conflict in the words of those who were there* (The History Press, 2009)
- Richard van Emden, *The Soldier's War: The Great War Through Veterans' Eyes* (Bloomsbury 2009)
- Richard van Emden, *Britain's Last Tommies* (Abacus, 2006)

And if your ancestor served in the Napoleonic wars don't forget the novels of Patrick O'Brian, for the Navy, and Bernard Cornwell, for the Army.