

Institution: University of Chichester		
Unit of Assessment: History (28)		
Title of case study: Transforming Franco-British understanding of wartime resistance networks and legacies of the Second World War		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: June 2013-September 2019		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s):	Role(s) (e.g. job title):	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:
Andrew WM Smith	Senior Lecturer	May 2017-present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: May 2018-present		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N		
1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words)		
<p>Smith's uncovering and contextualising of networks of wartime resistance has shaped local, national and international commemorative networks. He has enhanced local engagement with the memory of World War Two, changing how Tangmere Military Aviation Museum curated exhibits, catalysing the Save Tangmere Tower campaign, and fostering local networks around D-Day commemorations. Nationally, Smith's public engagement work shaped a display in a London French high school and was described in parliamentary debates as helping drive national conversations about war memory. Internationally, Smith's research has forged commemorative connections with the French town of Melay, reconnecting the children of veterans involved in wartime resistance.</p>		
2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words)		
<p>Smith's research explores the often-hidden networks that underpin wartime action and how they subsequently shape heritage and commemoration around those events. In particular, his research focusses on resistance during the Second World War.</p> <p>The project began with an Innovation Award from the University of Chichester (UoC) to improve visitor experience at Tangmere Military Aviation Museum (TMAM) by enriching resources and deepening understanding of the significance of items on display. This drew on research in the National Archives (TNA), as well as UoC Special Collections to uncover historic connections between RAF Tangmere and the University (formerly Bishop Otter College). The college was occupied by the Air Ministry from 1942 and – as temporary Operations Room for RAF Tangmere – controlled clandestine flights to support French resistance and also the bulk of British air support during the D-Day landings.</p> <p>This research was broadened using the private papers of Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker at Magdalen College, Oxford, as well as the French National Archives, to uncover and retrace the wider organisation of clandestine flights for which RAF Tangmere served as a forward base. The identification and contextualisation of these networks and organisations led to two articles in the <i>Tangmere Logbook</i> (a TMAM newsletter), and then a peer-reviewed article in <i>European Review of History</i>. The latter used new archival material to uncover the personal interactions and connections that underpinned clandestine flight networks, revealing the enduring connections of this route of resistance, starting with the commemoration of prominent French resister Jean Moulin's crash landing at RAF Tangmere which took place at UoC in 2013.</p>		

Smith's commemorative focus was developed further using British, French, and American national archives to uncover the commemorative and political networks and contexts of the 1954 D-Day commemoration in Normandy. Smith published this research in a peer-reviewed article with *French History*. Exploring this anniversary of D-Day showed the organiser drawing on his own wartime networks as a former resister and devout Gaullist and offered a historical window onto a broader landscape of memory and diplomacy, helping to show how 'memory culture' influenced post-war French politics. This also catalysed Smith's own engagement in commemorative events, directly informing his work around the 75th anniversary of D-Day in 2019.

Smith's research was also shaped by his pathways to impact, when his commemorative work saw him invited to participate in local and national activities to support Holocaust Memorial Day. This involved undertaking commissioned research around resistance groups in Belgium during the Nazi Occupation and the broader experience of the Holocaust, using TNA records to retrace networks of resistance.

Currently, Smith is Co-Investigator on a collaborative project with the University of Sussex Digital Humanities Lab, 'The Lysander Flights: A Story told through Digital Cartography'. This project builds on Smith's research, 'mapping resistance flights', to foster public engagement and change museum practice. This project was awarded GBP50,000 by the Gerry Holdsworth Trust and is ongoing. Its outcomes will deploy Smith's research into the commemoration of resistance and his engagement with museums to develop new resources for helping the public visualise the networks that supported wartime resistance and to ensure continuing impact.

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

Andrew WM Smith, 'Eclipse in the Dark Years: Pick-up Flights, Routes of Resistance and the Free French', *European Review of History*, 25:2 (2018), 392-414.

This piece was published in a Routledge journal which is a leading international publication for historians of modern Europe. The piece makes use of multiple archives in Britain and France to present original insights into the organisation of resistance in the Second World War and to show how this connected to the legacy and commemoration of those wartime events. Reviewers said the piece was "well-researched and convincingly argued" and "offers some fascinating insights into the personal relationships behind Franco-British wartime cooperation".

Andrew WM Smith, 'Pan-Africanism and Decolonization: Between the Universal and the Particular' in Reiland Rabaka (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Pan-Africanism* (London: Routledge, 2020).

This piece builds upon the research Smith conducted when writing the programme for the opera PUSH (as mentioned in the details of impact below), and was an invited submission from the editor based at the University of St Cloud, Michigan. It engages with memorial culture in Belgium to show how broader shifts have taken place in the commemoration of empire (and was driven by research into the presentation of the Second World War in Belgium). The editor of the volume described the chapter as "exemplary".

Andrew WM Smith, 'Crises of Commemoration: Cold War, Decolonization, and the bungled 1954 D Day Commemoration', *French History* (advance online access, 2020).

This piece was published in an Oxford University Press journal which is a leading international publication for historians of France. The article uses multiple archives from the United States, Britain and France to present original insights into the ways in which memory culture, national politics, and international diplomacy interact, as well as retracing the legacy of wartime resistance networks. Reviewers described the article as "highly interesting and well-researched" and noted that the "archival work that has gone into writing this article is impressive."

All outputs available on request.

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

Smith's research into wartime resistance networks has had local, national, and international impact: in Chichester it transformed local heritage practice, by updating museum displays and supporting heritage campaigns; in London it deepened wartime commemoration in a French high school; in the British Parliament it enriched the reception of Holocaust commemorations to MPs and Lords; and in ceremonies in France it forged cross-national commemorative links. Together, these demonstrate a clear impact on public understanding, learning and participation in wartime commemoration and heritage.

Invited to submit reports on his research by David Coxon, Curator of Tangmere Military Aviation Museum (TMAM), Smith's retracing of wartime networks "changed the Museum practice in the curation of the exhibitions" (source 1). This "greatly benefited" the "temporary exhibitions at the Museum entitled 'Tangmere and the SOE' and D-Day at Tangmere 75" in 2018 and 2019 (each receiving over 3,500 visitors). Smith's research also catalysed the 'Save Tangmere Tower Campaign' (to conserve the derelict flight control tower) "setting out the academic and historical context" in collaborative events and joint media appearances throughout 2019 (source 2). One notable event, a recreation of President Eisenhower's 1944 visit to RAF Tangmere, was attended by Air Marshal Edward Stringer, His Grace the Duke of Richmond, and Chichester MP Gillian Keegan.

As pathways to impact, three public history events at UoC ('Moulin to Melay' March 2018, 'Moulin and Memory' May 2018, and 'D-Day 75: Chichester' June 2019, each with 40 attendees) used Smith's research findings to engage the local community, heritage institutions (TMAM, Secret WW2 Learning Network), colleagues in other universities (Hanna Diamond, Cardiff; Joan Tumblety, Southampton, Rod Kedward, Sussex), and relatives of the veterans discussed in Smith's research into wartime resistance networks (sources 4, 5).

Brigitte Williams, delegate of the *Fondation de la France Libre* commemorative body for Free French resistance, contacted Smith after being "very moved" by his blogpost summarising his research and the 'Moulin to Melay' event. Williams made Smith's research into wartime resistance networks the focus of the 'vitrine' display at the *Lycée Charles De Gaulle* high school in Kensington (3,867 pupils aged 3-19). This display in the main foyer focussed on Jean Moulin and his flights from Tangmere, quoting directly from Smith's research, and impacted public understanding by enhancing commemoration in a school environment (source 3).

As well as influencing French communities in London, the 'Moulin to Melay' event was organised as a joint Franco-British commemoration with the town of Melay, Saône-et-Loire. Mayor Jean-Claude Ducarre addressed British-based attendees via skype (including relatives of veterans mentioned in the research, some of whom were meeting for the first time), and our event ended with a rendition of the *Marseillaise*. Smith scanned Ducarre a copy of the programme signed with best wishes from the children of veterans. Ducarre said: "Thank you for this document which I presented during my speech at Melay this afternoon. We had over 200 people at the ceremony [...] and more than 30 flags flying. The ceremony was very moving and took place in the presence of the Prefect and President of the Department." The Melay ceremony duly finished with a rendition of 'God Save the Queen' as a symbol of Franco-British cooperation, and a demonstration of how retracting wartime networks impacted public understanding by reconnecting and deepening processes of international commemoration (source 4).

In 2019, Smith's research into wartime networks D-Day 75th Anniversary commemorations in Chichester. Smith led a coordinated programme of events involving UoC, Novium Museum, West Sussex Record Office, and TMAM, composing the event programme, which included historical essays on the experience and context of D-Day. Smith also ran an oral history project around this commemoration, gathering testimony from local residents on their

memories of D-Day preparations. As a result, an online open-access gallery of testimonies was created in collaboration with East Wittering Local History Group. Smith's research into wartime networks of resistance here shaped local understanding of the past and created public resources to shape future commemorative events (source 9, 10).

As a result of sustained local public engagement with his research, Smith was invited to join the Committee for the charity 'Chichester Marks Holocaust Memorial Day', helping organise three annual performances of *PUSH*, Howard Moody's internationally acclaimed opera about the Holocaust survivor Simon Gronowski. These performances took place in Chichester Cathedral in 2018, Speaker's House in Parliament in 2019 (with 100 in attendance), and Chichester Festival Theatre in 2020. The opera, performed by community choirs with three UoC students as vocal soloists, deals with the Holocaust in Belgium and Belgian resistance. Smith wrote the programme, including historical essays contextualizing the events and remapping wartime networks of resistance. The Westminster performance was covered in *The Jewish Chronicle*, and *The Times* called it "one of the most moving pleas for reconciliation that can yet have been heard within the walls of Parliament". It also led to a question being tabled by Gillian Keegan MP during a debate in the Commons, with the choir and committee subsequently commended in Parliament by sitting Prime Minister Theresa May, who said: "We welcome the Chichester choir to Parliament performing *PUSH*, and I commend it on its work in keeping alive the remarkably story of Simeon Gronowski." (source 7,8). As *The Times* said, this performance was "as much an act of remembrance and [...] education, as a conventional opera demonstrating a clear benefit to national understanding of wartime heritage.

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

1. Letter from David Coxon, Curator of Tangmere Military Aviation Museum
2. Letter from Matt Gover-Wren, Director of Save Tangmere Tower Campaign
3. Email from Brigitte Williams, Delegué de Fondation de la France Libre
4. Email from Jean-Claude Ducarre, Mayor of Melay
5. [Report on 'Moulin & Memory' by Secret WW2 Learning Network](#)
6. [Report on 'Moulin to Melay event' by Secret WW2 Learning Network](#)
7. [Link to Hansard records of debate featuring mention of Chichester Choir](#)
8. [Link to Times Review](#) of PUSH opera.
9. [Link to local press coverage about D Day 75th Anniversary oral history](#) project
10. [Link to 'D-Day 75: Chichester' website](#)