

India and the Great War Centenary Commemoration Project – An Update

Shri Adil Chhina®

During the period under review (January - March 2016), the Shiv Nadar University has introduced a course on 'India and WWI'. This course, which is the first of its kind being offered by a university in India, is being taught by Squadron Leader Rana Chhina.

Every year, 11th of November is observed as Remembrance Day in the Commonwealth nations with the 'Poppy' as a symbol of remembrance. The USI-CAFHR has proposed the 'India Remembrance Project' in order to institutionalise a 'National Day of Remembrance' with the marigold as its symbol which would be unique to India and would honour the service and sacrifice of Indian Servicemen. It is proposed that this National Day of Remembrance be observed on 07 December, which can coincide with Armed Forces Flag Day. CAFHR is collaborating with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) in order to integrate CWGC commemorative activities within this project.

A symposium on the role of India in the two World Wars will be held in Brighton, UK in May jointly by the USI, the Imperial War Museum, Royal Pavilion Museums, Brighton and Hove and the Golden Tours Foundation. The objective of the symposium is to provide a platform to diverse groups and individuals who have been working on the subject to share their research and experiences.

A documentary on Allied prisoners of war held in Germany is being made by a Korean television network Educational Broadcasting System (EBS). Their primary focus is Korean

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prisoners but they will also be including Indian PWs on the Western Front. Lieutenant Colonel Parminder Singh (Retd), a USI member and Squadron Leader Rana Chhina (Retd) were interviewed to provide inputs in this regard.

The latest publication under the 'India and the Great War' project is the book titled *Les Hindous, Indian Army on the Western Front* by Squadron Leader Rana Chhina (Retd) with a foreword written by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

RESULTS

USI GOLD MEDAL ESSAY COMPETITION 2015

The Council of USI has decided that no prizes be given for this Competition (both Group 'A' & 'B'), the entries being of poor quality and not up to the mark.

LT GENERAL SL MENEZES MEMORIAL ESSAY COMPETITION 2015

The Council of USI had declared the following as Co-Winners of this Competition :-

- (a) IC – 34402K
Lt Gen GS Katoch, PVSM, AVSM, VSM
Directorate General Perspective Planning
IHQ of MoD (Army)
New Delhi – 110 011
- (b) IC – 41920M
Col Ashwin Baindur
Dir (Eqpt), FSDCD,
F Combat
College of Military Engg
CME
Pune – 411 031