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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

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Although not our usual kind of ‘special issue’, this edition of the BJMH has its articles and research notes entirely focused on the Second World War. We have, in the past two years, gathered a wide range of pieces on the war. As 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the war’s end, it seemed both opportune and appropriate to publish them together.

In so doing, we are delighted to offer pieces covering a wide range of aspects of the war and reflecting multiple approaches to military history. These demonstrate how military history is evolving and how it connects to the study of history more widely. Three of our articles address occupied France, venturing into the history of covert operations, the question of political legitimacy and the Italian occupation. Other pieces examine an under-studied aspect of the Chindits, ‘moral fibre’ (or a lack of it) in RAF Bomber Command, and more recent issues around memory of the war – and the political uses of it.

In March, we announced that we would be introducing shorter Research Notes, and we present here five Notes also dealing with the Second World War. These highlight a range of different approaches which can be used for Research Notes, and we hope they will inspire others to contribute similar pieces.

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