Running Wires: Digital History in the Classroom and the Field

Ian A. Isherwood  
Gettysburg College

Amy E. Lucadamo  
Gettysburg College

R.C. Miessler  
Gettysburg College

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Abstract
The First World War Letters of H.J.C. Peirs is a digital history project that publishes the letters of a British World War I officer 100 years to the day they were written. By telling the story of one person, we have aimed to humanize a dehumanizing war and supported the effort to commemorate the centennial of the conflict. While the project was conceived with pedagogy in mind, it has grown beyond the letters and crossed boundaries: from the analog to the digital, from the classroom to the public, and from the archives to the field.

Keywords
digital humanities, digital history, world war i, archives, memory

Disciplines
Digital Humanities | European History | Military History

Comments
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RUNNING WIRES
Digital History in the Classroom and the Field

Ian Isherwood, Amy Lucadamo, R.C. Miessler
Gettysburg College

Bucknell University Digital Scholarship Conference
October 6, 2018

#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs
#TeamPeirs

Ian Isherwood ‘00
Assistant Professor

Amy Lucadamo ‘00
College Archivist

R.C. Miessler
Systems Librarian

Jenna Fleming ‘16
(2014–2016)

Kevin Lavery ‘16
(2014–2016)

Melanie Fernandes ‘17
(2016–2017)

Meghan O’Donnell ‘18
(2016–2018)

Jesse Campana ‘18
(2018)

Abigail Winston ‘19
(2018–Present)

#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs
Hugh John Chevallier “Jack” Peirs (1886-1943)
From the Analog to the Digital
From the Analog to the Digital

LE VERGUIER - 21-22 MARCH

Trenches - Bombardment of positions with regular and gas shells commenced at 4:30 AM. The Headquarters moved again to a sunken road on the southeast corner of Le Vergier.

The dugout was on the haunted cable route, but by 7 AM all telephone communications with the forward companies was lost.

At 10:30 AM Companies A and C were cut off from retreat by the enemy. A Company's Lance Corporal John Sayer showed incredible resistance for which he later received the Victoria Cross.

At 3 PM Peirs arrived to take over command and attacks on the village begin. Throughout the night Peirs leads counterattacks.

On the morning of the 22, only Fort Grebeaud and the Battalion Headquarters remain and Peirs ordered a retreat, against his orders to hold the town.
From the Analog to the Digital

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From the Analog to the Digital

#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs
From the Archives to the Field

#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs
From the Archives to the Field

#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs
# From the Archives to the Field

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June/July 2016: 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme</th>
<th>March 2018: 100th anniversary of the German Spring Offensive and the defense of Le Verguier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field research</strong> - sites in France and Belgium where Peirs spent time in 1916 &amp; 1917</td>
<td><strong>Field research</strong> - sites in and around Le Verguier specific to the 8th Battalion’s movements in March 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Archival research</strong> - National Archives in London, the Surrey History Centre in Woking</td>
<td><strong>3 Skype calls</strong> back to students in Gettysburg and <strong>7 Facebook Live sessions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photographic survey of Peirs</strong>-related sites in London and Carshalton</td>
<td><strong>Making connections</strong> with local people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funded by a Research and Professional Development Grant</strong> from the Office of the Provost</td>
<td><strong>Funded by crowdfunding campaign</strong> facilitated through the Department of Development, Alumni, and Parent Relations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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From the Archives to the Field
“So that’s that.”

11.11.18.

My dear Father,

So that’s that. Our next difficulties will arise in keeping the men occupied before peace is declared & afterwards till demobilised, which I presume will be done gradually out here. There is an educational scheme in the
Love to all Jack.