

Placement Provider:	Manchester Histories
Placement Contact:	Louise Davies – Louise.Davies-2@manchester.ac.uk
Location(s) of placement:	Manchester
Start Date:	1 st November 2017
Duration:	6 months
Work hours each week:	0.5 – 1 day per week (to be discussed with applicant)
Deadline for Applications:	30 th September 2017
Resources available eg library data, computer, desk etc	Usual office resources
Equality and diversity policy is in place and monitored	Yes

Description of Placement:

Manchester Histories is seeking a PhD student placement to work alongside the partners. This will be an exciting opportunity to be involved in a major public history project which will engage a number of partners and produce a several different creative outputs and events. This role would particularly suit someone with a background in modern history or literature and with an interest in the cultural history of war and/or histories of memory (both broadly defined). The PhD placement will:

- support the historical research into the Battle of Manchester Hill, piecing together all of the information to form a coherent historical narrative;
- collect archival materials and stories related to the events around Manchester Hill to use and inform the creative team;
- work with the creative team to ensure the work produced is historically accurate;
- help to interpret the past by contributing to the creative process with artists and young people in a week long residency where the artists, researchers, and partners involved in the project come together to make the work in a series of different sessions and workshops, hopefully based at the Imperial War Museum North;
- deliver 2/3 workshops with young people/artists to make them aware of why we are commemorating Manchester Hill and its historical importance and meaning;
- write a short report that documents the process of the work and analyses the ways that the public engages with the past through new ways of working and interpreting stories.

Context for the Placement

During the last major German offensive on 21 March 1918, the 16th Manchesters were positioned on Manchester Hill in St Quentin, France. THE BATTLE OF MANCHESTER HILL was to be a truly tragic day for the battalion. A large German force, many thousands strong, attacked the 16th Battalion.

The 16th bitterly held their positions, fighting hand-to-hand with the German attackers. Lieutenant-Colonel ELSTOB performed bravely on that day, fighting with pistol and grenade, and encouraging his troops to continue fighting, making a number of journeys, despite very heavy fire, to replenish the dwindling ammunition supplies of the Manchesters.

At one point, he sent a message to Brigade that 'The Manchester Regiment will defend Manchester Hill to the last', to his men he had said 'Here we fight, and here we die'. They did so; the battalion was, for the most part, annihilated. Lieutenant-Colonel Elstob was killed in the battle; he won the Victoria Cross for his bravery.

Manchester Hill Project:

On Sunday 15th April 2018 as part for the First World War programme. there will be a remembrance day in Manchester to commemorate The Battle of Manchester Hill. There will be a civic reception, a wreath lying at the cenotaph in St Peter's Square, and a March to a service held at Manchester Cathedral.

In the week leading up to this Manchester Histories and Brighter Sound have been commissioned to work with Manchester City Council, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, emerging artists, young people and other partners to produce an immersive contemporary piece of performance work to tell the story of Manchester Hill in and around Manchester Cathedral.

The work will combine text, spoken word, 3D video mapping, sound, lights and visuals, resulting in a powerfully emotive work that commemorates 'The Battle of Manchester Hill,

The work will focus on the history of Manchester Hill to remember those lost, but will also explore how war shapes lives today.

The framework for the project will happen in three phases:

1. Research

We will work with a PhD Student from University of Manchester, archivists, museums such as The Museum of the Manchester Regiment to gather materials, assets, stories, and plan a site visit to Saint-Quentin in France to help us to have a better understanding of 'The Battle of Manchester Hill'.

We would consult with key people connected to the regiment, for example families and communities.

We will confirm lead artists, venue (we have had provisional conversations with Manchester Cathedral, and we are exploring Wednesday 11th – Friday 13 April 2018 as potential dates to present the work), the approach, budgets, and other funding opportunities.

Development

- We will build the concept in collaboration with partners
- We will put a call out for artists to realise the work
- We will develop a marketing and communication plan to promote the work
- We will produce a production/event plan to safely install the work

Realisation

We will run a residency with artists and young people to create the new work/ material over 5- 7 days - culminating in a showcase/ performance involving young emerging artists from Manchester -18 plus

We will present the work on location at Manchester Cathedral

Requirements:

Training and experience expected to be gained through the placement:

- hands-on experience or working in public history, the cultural sphere, history and heritage sector
- support career development and future opportunities
- able to reflect on the theory and practice of public history through hands on experience

- develop critical thinking in public realm

Financial assistance (if any) offered by the organisation:

A bursary of £750 is payable for this placement.

Other Comments: