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Editorial

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## EDITORIAL

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We are delighted to present this Special Issue, edited by James Kitchen and Stuart Mitchell in honour of the late Sir Michael Howard.

Sir Michael's own studies were disrupted by war, serving with the Coldstream Guards in the Italian theatre during the Second World War before returning to complete his studies at Oxford. As Kitchen and Mitchell note, Howard's experience of war was formative in shaping him as a historian and this personal understanding of the experience of war clearly informed the history that he later produced. As detailed by the authors in this volume, Howard's academic and institutional contributions were many, but what bears repeating was Howard's role in establishing the credibility of military history as an academic discipline.

Finally, we are pleased to say that Howard was a key supporter when the BJMH was first proposed, noting that the 'birth of the *British Journal for Military History* will be as welcome as it is long overdue'. This, perhaps, reflected his insistence that military history must engage with broad debates on the study of war and involve the widest range of authors: academic, military and 'amateur'. We feel that he would be pleased that the BJMH not only does this, interpreting military history in the widest possible sense and publishing scholarly articles from authors of all backgrounds, but also engages with an audience far beyond academia.

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