

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

JOB DESCRIPTION

HEAD OF STORY TELLING

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

The Royal Signals Museum exists to foster *esprit de corps* amongst members of the Royal Corps of Signals, including related reserve and volunteer bodies, and to promote understanding of the history and military and technical accomplishments of the Corps, and its antecedents, amongst the general public and serving and retired members of the Corps. The Museum is located within the Royal Signals training facility at Blandford Camp in Dorset and is open to the general public.

The Museum has adopted the idea of story-telling as its principal means of achieving its promoting *esprit de corps* and understanding. To enable the Museum to stay current, we need to find really good relevant stories, and to tell them really well. Stories are an excellent way of bonding, of providing information, or promoting understanding, and of entertaining. At the moment, story-telling is one of the many the things that happen in the Museum. However it does not yet have a central role.

ROLE

This is a new role and will be a senior position within the Museum. The Museum's new strategy proposes that we should consciously promote story-telling to become the central design principle that underpins and provides the logic for the organisation, operation and resourcing of the Museum.

In the production of the Royal Signals Centenary book, *Roger So Far*, it became clear that the Royal Signals has a tremendous number of excellent stories to tell. However these stories are not routinely being captured, for two reasons:

- Today's reliance on digital communications for routine military correspondence leaves no permanent written record for historians (and story-tellers) to draw on; and,
- Unit historical records inevitably take a low priority in the lives of busy regiments.

The post holder will work with the Head of Research to uncover, summarise and tell the stories already held in the Archive, will build on this collection of stories through interviews with serving and retired members of the Corps and will work with the Curators, the Business Manager and volunteers to tell the stories both in the permanent displays, in exhibitions and on-line.

The post-holder will focus much of his/her time on capturing and re-telling today's stories, and those of the recent past and will use volunteers to capture and re-tell stories from the more distant past.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Identify inspiring stories already held in the Archives

The Museum Archives contain a vast number of books, papers, recordings and photographs relating to the Corps but woefully inadequate metadata and information retrieval systems. The post-holder will work with the Head of Research and volunteers to extract inspiring stories relating to people, routine activities, campaigns, units and technologies and to oversee the collation of the information putting the stories in forms that can readily be found and told. This will include summarising key books and documents electronically and in hard copy so that stories can be retrieved easily and quickly when required. Where possible the stories should be illustrated with photographs and films.

Fill gaps in the Corps 'collection of historical stories

The post-holder with the Head of Research will produce a catalogue of the stories identified in the Archive, identify gaps in the overall story and seek to fill them with interviews and research. These interviews and research are likely to be carried out by volunteers but under the direction of the post-holder.

Capture the Corps' story as it unfolds

Much of the Army speaks in a form of jargon that is incomprehensible to the general public and to soldiers of different generations. In addition, most of the members of the Royal Signals are far too modest, or afraid of mockery, willingly to give accounts of their achievements, especially in writing. This, along with the lack of regular written records, makes it very difficult to compile a contemporary record of the Corps' activities that has any depth or human feel. The post holder will be expected to visit units, identify (with the help of the unit's senior officers and senior non commissioned officers) people with interesting contemporary stories to tell, persuade them to tell their stories, record and transcribe the stories and obtain photographs and maps to illustrate them. This will involve overnight stays at some units and the post-holder will need to drive in their own transport to visit most of the units. Royal Signals soldiers strive to be tough, skilful, confident, brave and cheerful. The stories should illustrate these characteristics as well as the Corps' abilities to improvise and innovate in difficult circumstances. As with the historical stories these stories should cover people, routine activities, campaigns, units and technologies. They should show how the Corps is essential to both the physical and moral components of British military doctrine's 'fighting power'.

Re-tell the Corps' stories

Once stories have been gathered the post-holder will be expected to share them in ways that will inspire members of the Corps and the general public. This should be done through social media platforms, the website, the Corps magazines (the Wire and The Journal), lectures, orally, on film and using display panels in the Museum. The post-holder will work with the Curators and the Business Manager to build exhibitions and recruit and train volunteers to tell their stories and those of others, live, as part of the exhibitions.

Additional

Assist with the general activities of the Museum including conducting guided tours of the Museum for military personnel and the general public, helping at external events, assisting with supervision of school visits and the interpretation of the Museum displays to them, opening and closing the Museum on occasions and carrying out other duties as may be reasonably required.

QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS

Essential

- Demonstrated ability to communicate well orally, on social media platforms and in writing
- Strong networking and relationship management skills
- Strong interviewing/journalistic skills
- An appreciation, at a basic level, of the complexities of and the technologies incorporated in modern military communications systems.
- Understanding of, or the potential to understand, the modern British Army
- An ability to understand the mindset of, and to communicate with, soldiers and officers who are younger than 30.
- Good organisational skills and attention to detail
- Good IT skills
- Persuasive
- Experience of recruiting, training, tasking and supervising volunteers
- Able to work unsupervised and as part of a team
- Understanding of restrictions imposed by legislation relating to the Official Secrets Acts, data protection, intellectual property and copyright
- Willingness to drive to visit units once or twice a month using own vehicle.

Desirable

- A knowledge of military history and of the evolution of communications technology
- Experience of archival work
- Stage presence

CONDITIONS

A full time position – 37.5 hours per week (Monday to Friday) with some evening and week-end work and some overnight stays at units.

Salary in the region of £30,000-£34,000, per year depending on experience.

The post holder will be eligible for the Workplace Pension Scheme.

Holiday entitlement of 30 days per year excluding Bank and Public Holidays.

Based in Blandford Camp, Dorset.

The Royal Signals Museum follows a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, colour, gender, age, nationality or disabilities.

APPLICATIONS

To apply please e-mail a CV (2 pages maximum) detailing your relevant experience and qualifications with a covering letter (2 pages maximum) explaining your suitability for the post to director@royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk.

Applications should be received by 5.00 pm on 30 November 2021.

Interviews are expected to take place in December 2021 and references will be taken up before the confirmation of an appointment.