The World Wide Web is a powerful tool for expanding our understanding of the past that is changing ways previously inaccessible sources, including family and oral histories, can be shared. The Military History & The World Wide Web briefing at the Royal United Services Institute in Whitehall on 25 July will explore the web’s almost unlimited potential to store and make available data and images about the past. It will showcase an example of a successful military history website which has captured 13 gigabytes of data; equivalent to several million words of texts and hundreds of images, many of them previously unpublished. The briefing will also hear about a proposed, non-profit, web based history initiative designed to capture information about formations and individuals that served in British, Commonwealth and Imperial Armed Forces during the Second World War.

Agenda

1030-110 Coffee and networking

1100-15 Chairman’s opening remarks

1115-145 A modern perspective on the role of the military historian
Speaker: Mr Emile Simpson, MA (Oxon)

Mr Simpson served in the British Army from 2006-12 as an infantry officer in the Royal Gurkha Rifles. He has a degree in modern history from Oxford University. Mr Simpson is author of the acclaimed War From the Ground Up: Twenty-first century conflict, published in 2012. War From The Ground Up draws on personal anecdotes from the frontline, related to historical context and strategic thought, to offer a re-evaluation of the concept of war in contemporary conflict.

1145-1215 Case study: The Irish Brigade Website.
Speaker: Richard O’Sullivan, BSc, co-founder, The Irish Brigade Website.

Mr O’Sullivan is a finance manager and teacher who has worked in business in the UK, Africa, South Asia, South-East Asia and Japan.

The Irish Brigade Website is a non-profit web-based history resource about the 38 (Irish) Brigade in Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Italy and Austria in World War II. It contains official war records; regimental histories, eye-witness accounts and previously unpublished stories and photographs.

1215-45 The Armed Forces in the Second World War History Website initiative
Speaker: Edmund O’Sullivan, BSc (Econ), co-founder of the Irish Brigade Website.

Mr O’Sullivan is an economist, business person and author based in Dubai.

The Armed Forces in the Second World War History Website initiative is a project to establish a non-profit web-based resource containing complete information about units, formations and individuals that served in the UK, Commonwealth and Imperial Armed Forces in the Second World War. The objective is to launch the website in 2015 to coincide with the 70th jubilee of the end of the war.