



Volunteer Role Profile: Oral History Project

Aim of the Oral History Project

The Royal Artillery Museum's (RAM) mission is to collect, conserve, interpret and exhibit artefacts, documents and stories that inspire a wide audience to discover, enjoy and learn about artillery, the Royal Artillery and their place in history.

With the Oral History Project, we intend to build an archive of video interviews covering as many as possible of the operations, theatres and garrisons in which Gunners have served from the 1940s to the present day. While some will reflect active service, many will involve daily life, all telling the Gunner story. We are interested in a range of different perspectives on these stories, so the memories of junior ranks will be as valuable as those of more senior personnel.

Volunteer role

The role will involve conducting video interviews with former Gunners, in their own homes, about their personal experiences of serving with the Royal Artillery. On interview day, volunteers will work in teams of two. One to conduct the interview and ensure paperwork is completed; the other will operate the camera equipment. All volunteers will receive training in conducting interviews and using the equipment.

What's involved?

- Interviewing Gunner veterans and family members
- Recording these interviews using camera and audio equipment
- Travelling from Larkhill to interview locations
- Helping interviewees with paperwork and taking notes during the interview
- Helping with research and preparing interview questions
- Briefing RAM Archives staff and providing feedback after the interview

Volunteers may also have the opportunity to:

- Edit videos

Time

This is a flexible role, and both training and interviews will be planned to fit with your availability. However, as you will be travelling to interviewee's homes, you will need to be available for a full day per interview. Though not an essential requirement for the role, on occasion volunteers may be asked to travel to locations further afield, which could require an overnight stay.

Place of work

All training will take place at Larkhill Camp. The camera equipment also needs to be collected from this site. The Oral History Interviews will typically take place in the interviewee's homes or at Larkhill.

Oral History Project Co-ordinator

Ali Stump, RAM Archives Assistant, is managing the Oral History Project, and will be your main point of contact within the RAM Archives staff team.

Transport

Volunteers will need to use their own transport to travel to Larkhill Camp and also to travel to the location of each interview. Expenses will be paid for mileage to and from the interviews. We will encourage volunteers to car share when driving from Larkhill to the interview site.

Desirable skills

- Basic computer skills
- Commitment and reliability
- Good people skills - confident speaking to veterans, and sensitive to difficult subject matters
- Ability to work methodically and consistently, and to follow procedures
- Interest in the work of historical archives, and a desire to learn more
- Ability to work as part of a small team
- UK Driving License and access to a car

An interest in military history and knowledge of the Royal Artillery and its history

Benefits

- Chance to learn new skills
- Training in handling and using camera equipment, and in carrying out research
- Training in video and audio editing (where relevant)
- Travel expenses to interviews will be reimbursed
- Opportunities to carry out your own research at the Archive & Library

References

One reference will be required.

Additional

A Driving License or Passport will be required for security purposes to access Larkhill Camp.

If you are interested in volunteering for this exciting project, please contact us at oralhistory@RoyalArtilleryMuseum.com or phone 01980 634208 to arrange a chat.