

Preface

Terrain has a profound effect upon the strategy and tactics of any military engagement and has consequently played an important role in determining history. In addition, the landscapes of battle, and the geology which underlies them, has helped shape the cultural iconography of battle certainly within the 20th century. In the last few years this has become a fertile topic of scientific and historical exploration and has given rise to a number of conferences and books.

The current volume stems from the international *Terrain in Military History* conference held in association with the Imperial War Museum, London and the Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham, at the University of Greenwich in January 2000. This conference brought together historians, geologists, military enthusiasts and terrain analysts from military, academic and amateur backgrounds with the aim of exploring the application of modern tools of landscape visualisation to understanding historical battlefields. This theme was the subject of a Leverhulme Trust grant (F/345/E) awarded to the University of Greenwich and administered by us in 1998, which aimed to use the tools of modern landscape visualisation in understanding the influence of terrain in the First World War. This volume forms part of the output from this grant and is part of our wider exploration of the role of terrain in military history.

Many individuals contributed to the organisation of the original conference and to the production of this volume. In particular credit is due to Linda Murr, our conference administrator, both for helping us shape the original concept and doing much to organise the conference. In this context Richard Waller and Jason Wood also deserve mention for their invaluable assistance. We are grateful for the support of our partners, particularly Peter Simkins, Mark Seaman and Brad King at the Imperial War Museum; and John Nowers and John Rhoads at the Royal Engineers Museum for their enthusiastic support. During the production of the volume Marilyn Croucher has provided secretarial support and Ben Holmes provided IT expertise at a critical moment. We would also like to thank all those who reviewed papers within the volume, often while revising their own contributions; to these individual we simply say thank you. Finally, it is to those who have contributed to this volume and to the delegates of the original conference that we owe the greatest debt. Our last word is in memory of Chris Campbell, delegate and enthusiastic expert on the Korean War, who died shortly after the conference.

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Chatham
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Fields of Battle

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