

## **The Wellcome Library makes 150 years of Royal Army Medical Corps' archives accessible thanks to Numen Europe and Bespoke Archive Digitisation**

Luxembourg, June 28, 2017 - Numen Europe, an expert in document and data processing, and Bespoke Archive Digitisation, specialised in the Digitisation of Cultural Heritage media, are digitising the archives of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), a specialist corps in the British Army which provides medical services to all Army personnel and their families, in war and in peace.

### **150 years of history preserved and available**

The documentary heritage of the RAMC covers more than 150 years of military medicine and includes wartime testimonials in the form of correspondence, diaries, memoirs, photographs and other memories bequeathed by former officers and men of the Corps.

The RAMC collection starts at the end of the 17th century with the campaigns of the Duke of Marlborough. It also includes the archives of the Battle of Waterloo (1815), the Crimean Wars (1854-6) and the Boers (1899-1902). The archives covering the 20th century refer to the two world wars, including (but not limited to) the Balkan campaign and the Battle of the Dardanelles.

These documents, particularly rich, varied and now freely available online to the global audience, include the memoirs of the staff of the Royal Army Medical Corps. They relate the life of the RAMC staff, the routine of everyday life, the disturbing tales of prisoners of war, medical acts, the evacuation of troops from the front line, ...

### **Digitising 200,000 archive in 8 months**

Launched in June 2016, the digitisation project aims to dematerialise 200,000 images in 8 months. A team of photographers specialized in the manipulation of valuable documents and the digitisation of cultural heritages operates on the Wellcome Library site using capture equipment adapted to this kind of operation.

Numen Europe carries out this new digitisation project with its partner Bespoke Archive Digitisation Ltd. *"It's a real recognition of Numen's skills to have been selected to digitise this amazing heritage fund. The formats can vary from day to day, our experienced photographers constantly adapt the shooting parameters in order to accurately reproduce the objects shot. The team that operates has a thorough knowledge of the historical collections and is entitled to manipulate rare and precious works"* explains Philippe Schweitzer, Account & Project Manager at Numen Europe.

Consisting of pieces of different formats, linked, unbound, sealed but also of photographs, newspaper articles, ... the precious documents are captured faithfully *"The digital facsimile we produce is a complete reproduction of its original (size, information, colour, density of the image, ...). The captured images (raw format) are then converted into JPEG 2000, that guarantees image quality*

*while considerably reducing (by 50 to 80%) the required storage volumes "* said Richard Keenan, Project Manager and Director of Bespoke Archiving Digitisation Ltd.

Once digitised, the RAMC Muniments Collection is deposited with the Wellcome Library and it will be returned to the Museum in the near future (<http://wellcomelibrary.org/collections/digital-collections/royal-army-medical-corps/>).

Numen Europe and Bespoke Archiving Digitisation Ltd have completed the digitisation of the RAMC fund. The two companies are currently digitising other archives and ephemera collections at the Wellcome Library. This second phase of the project will continue until December 2018.

Photos available upon request from [frederique.jacobs@jacobs-pr.com](mailto:frederique.jacobs@jacobs-pr.com)

### Heritage Digitisation

Numen is a leader in the field of heritage digitisation in continental Europe, providing a unique set of solutions for dematerialising rare and valuable works, extracting content and ensuring multi-channel distribution.

For 60 years, Numen has positioned itself on the entire processing chain of works, regardless of the original medium or format: capture, data conversion, indexing, structuring and multi-channel broadcasting. While adapting its technologies to the new needs of the publication of cultural works, the craft has gradually shifted towards the digitisation of old works, first to re-publish them in the original format and then simply for distributing in electronic form. Numen is thus directly involved in the preservation, dissemination and (economic) valuation of heritage, enabling as many people as possible to access documents and facilitating research methods in the vast digitised collections.

Numen's know-how and experience in the dematerialisation of documents has attracted a large number of national and international institutions:

- public: national libraries in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, Taiwan, Israel, the Royal Belgian Cinematheque, the Pompidou Center, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the National Archives, The European Parliament, the Publications Office, the European Commission (Historical Archives, DG Energy),
- as well as private: ProQuest, Wellcome Library, Hachette Filipacci Médias or Airbus-Infoterra

### About Numen Group

As a service provider in IT solutions, hosting and dematerialisation, Numen is committed to working with its customers in their digital transformation projects, optimizing customer relations and back offices, managing their documents and enhancing their cultural and sensitive contents.

With 980 experienced employees, Numen is a reliable technological partner for more than 500 clients from banking, insurance, real estate, health sector, publishing, distribution, culture, industry, human resources, as well as European institutions and public organisations.

Thanks to its 50 years of expertise, its local (16 sites in France) and European presence, its development and BPO centre in Madagascar, the company's annual turnover exceeds 65 million euros.

For more information: [www.numeneurope.com](http://www.numeneurope.com) - <http://www.numen.fr/en/>

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