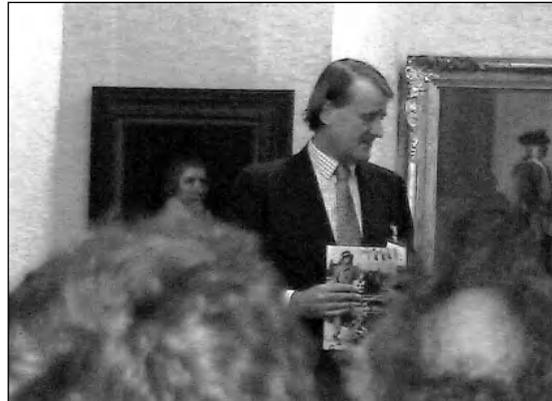


THE CHAB VISITS THE ACWRTUK IN LONDON

Peter Lockwood is the president of the ACWRTUK, a British Round Table that regroups American Civil War buffs. During a meeting on the *CSS Alabama* in Cherbourg in 1999, friendship ties developed between Peter Lockwood, Gerald Hawkins and Hubert Leroy and the latter deepened their relationship through correspondence and Internet e-mails. The ACWRTUK publishes a quality quarterly magazine named *Crossfire* that is distributed to their members. Peter Lockwood and Ted Alexander (Historian in chief of the Antietam National Park) paid a visit to the CHAB in June 2000 and several of its members ably guided them through the Waterloo Battlefield Park. To thank them for the warm welcome, Peter Lockwood invited Gerald Hawkins, Hubert Leroy and Serge Noirsain to a December 2000 conference given by a member of the UK association at the National Army Museum in Chelsea, London. The event was most impressive as much by the prestigious museum room where the conference took place as by the historical proficiency displayed by the large attending audience. The subject of the presentation was the career of James Longstreet in the Confederate army. The talk was most professional and, as can be seen by the photographs taken during the afternoon, the assembly must have numbered over one hundred people, a remarkable feat taking into account the fixed entrance fee for members and visitors alike. The public came from all horizons including Scotland and Ireland ... and of course Belgium.



Serge Noirsain (left) and Gerald Hawkins (right) pose in the Army Museum in London with Peter Lockwood (middle).



In his opening speech to the ACWRTUK audience, President Peter Lockwood introduces Serge Noirsain's new book.



Gerald Hawkins in the conference room of the Army Museum during the interval of the ACWRTUK conference.



Serge Noirsain poses in front of the portrait of a British general in the meeting room of the ACWRTUK in the Army Museum.

During the question-and-answer session that followed the lecture, we were truly astonished by the level of knowledge displayed by many attendees on the subject developed by the speaker. Following the presentation, biscuits, coffee and tea were served to the public at the same time a book dealer was proposing a vast selection of publications on the Civil War. Peter then took a few minutes to portray *Gerald Hawkins* and *Serge Noirsain* as well as the association they represented. He went further on to introduce Serge's recent book on the building of a Confederate Navy in Europe. Gerald Hawkins then took the stand to briefly present the CHAB, its origin, activities, achievements, and goals. Serge had only one regret, that of not having brought more copies of his book with him. Those available were sold instantly, the attractive image portfolio receiving much praise from the public. In the evening, Serge and Gerald were Peter's guest for dinner in a typical English pub along with several members of the UK association. Aside from the excellent food and drinks, it was a delight to chat with everyone, and once again, we were truly amazed at the knowledge level of the party on the subject of the American Civil War.



Gerald Hawkins takes the stand at the ACWRTUK meeting in London to introduce the CHAB, her history and achievements.



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