

Skippers War: Dragon School, Oxford and the Great War

7th December 2021

- A short film streaming at 7pm on Tuesday 7th December 2021, followed by a live Q&A session
- Will feature readings from actors, Tom Hollander, Hugh Dancy, Paul Chahidi, and Sebastian Croft.
- Telling the First World War stories of prominent Dragon School students
- The live event will be free to view on the SOFO Museum website, no registration required, but donations welcomed to support the museum

Streaming on the Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum website from 7pm, Tuesday 7th December 2021, *Skippers War* is a short film highlighting an extraordinary cast, from what was a small North Oxford school, of young men that fought during the Great War. Their stories are told through a mixture of the speeches and writings of then-headmaster Charles 'Skipper' Lynam alongside a wealth of historical research.

Presented by Desmond Devitt, author of *The Skippers War* and the regular Skippers War blog, the film will also feature readings from a similarly exceptional cast of actors educated at the very same North Oxford prep school - The Dragon School. These include Tom Hollander, Hugh Dancy, Paul Chahidi, and Sebastian Croft.

Another 'old Dragon', former Secretary of State for International Development Rory Stewart OBE, said of *Skippers War*, the book on which the upcoming short film is based,

"The story of these hundreds of lives and deaths connected by five years in a north Oxford prep school is almost an encyclopaedia of the war. The Dragons evacuate from the beaches of Gallipoli, are killed at the third Battle of Ypres, meet Lawrence of Arabia and Marie Curie, grapple with the German High Seas Fleet in the Battle of Jutland, save the wounded at the Easter Rising and are shot out of the sky by Baron von Richthofen..."

The story of three old Dragons brought down by the infamous 'Red Baron', Manfred von Richthofen, and his 'Flying Circus', and another former pupil, Leefe Robinson, that would win the Victoria Cross shooting down the first enemy airship over England, are just a few that will be told in the film when it streams on 7th December from the SOFO Museum website.

Free to view with no pre-registration required, donations to support the museum's work - preserving the county's military heritage and the stories of local people affected by conflict - will be encouraged

Stream Link: <https://www.sofomuseum.org.uk/whats-on/skipperswar/>

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum
01993 810 211
www.sofomuseum.org.uk