



The Steve Weiss Student Research Bursaries

offered by

The Secret WW2 Learning Network

to students of

the University of Chichester and King's College London

and to

subscribed Friends of

SECRET WW2 – The Secret WW2 Learning Network

What are the Steve Weiss Student Research Bursaries and for whom are they intended?

About the Bursaries

The two Bursaries have been created and funded by The Secret WW2 Learning Network, (The SWW2LN) a British educational charity, in memory of Dr Stephen Weiss, a WW2 veteran and UK-based academic and writer who died in 2020, aged 94. Steve Weiss was a subscribed Friend and strong supporter of The SWW2LN, he was a wonderful character who was well-known to many members of the charity. See the Appendix for further details.

The purpose of the Bursaries is to enable each award winner to undertake a study, or complete part of a larger study, which would necessarily involve travelling to undertake research. Each Bursary will provide finance to a maximum of £1,000 for travelling, accommodation or other related expenses. Retrospective awards will not be considered.

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Eligibility

The Bursaries are open to students of a relevant study course (e.g. History, International Relations, Politics, War Studies) at the University of Chichester or King's College London and subscribed Friends of The SWW2LN studying at any other university that is approved by The SWW2LN. Two bursaries are available each year, normally no more than one bursary will be granted to each university, though this may be varied according to demand e.g. in the event that one Bursary does not attract a suitable application, it may be allocated as a second Bursary to another university. Awards are open to students registered on full-time traditional or distance learning programmes. Students working and studying part-time who are able to clearly demonstrate financial need are also eligible.

The Bursaries are intended for:

- undergraduate students (e.g. BA/BSc) who have to undertake a final year project involving original research in a secret/clandestine aspect of the Second World War
- postgraduate taught students (e.g. MA) who have to undertake a dissertation involving original research in a secret/clandestine aspect of the Second World War
- postgraduate research students (e.g. MA by Research, MPhil or PhD) who have to undertake a thesis involving original research in a secret/clandestine aspect of the Second World War.

How to apply

Applications for the Bursaries are normally accepted only following the annual call by The SWW2LN and before the deadline specified in the call – see below. Any applications to be made outside the usual deadline should first be cleared by The SWW2LN and upon submission of the relevant details to info.sww2@gmail

You should apply using the form that can be obtained by emailing info.sww2@gmail and sending it, completed, via the contacts specified, you should not send requests or applications directly to The SWW2LN.

If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, please do not apply.

You are strongly advised to consult your academic supervisor before preparing an application. Candidates should inform their supervisor that they intend to submit an application and supervisors will be required to write a short statement of support confirming that applicants are registered students planning to undertake the described research.

Outline proposal

In preparing an application, you should describe the project or discrete piece of research in the form of an outline proposal of not more than 750 words. Your proposal should provide the following information:

- the research question(s) to be addressed;
- the research methods to be employed in the research;

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- details of how the research methods will be implemented in order to make it clear how the expenditure will be incurred;
- a breakdown of your anticipated budgeted expenditure. This should be expenditure that is directly incurred in the execution of research, for example travel and subsistence costs for travelling to interviews. The SWW2LN will NOT provide funding for the purchase of general purpose material or equipment, such as laptops, office software or reading material. Neither will The SWW2LN make a contribution to general living costs during the dissertation period. You should indicate the amount requested from the Bursary and also the possible availability of other sources of funds.

Reviewing process

Every shortlisted application will be reviewed by a panel comprising three Trustees of The SWW2LN who will rank applications on the basis of: quality, value for money, and impact. The decision of the panel will be final.

Annual call for applications and programme of dates:

- submission deadline: *1st February 2026*
- award winners of the Bursaries will be informed by *1st March 2026*
- a holder of this Bursary should submit expenses up to the amount awarded within three months of incurring the expense. Should an advance be required, this can be considered upon submission of evidence of the costs to be incurred. All claims for expenses must be supported by receipts/documentation.

If an application for a relevant qualification is being made at short notice and the above annual programme of dates is not feasible, dispensation may be possible upon application to info.sww2@gmail.com

In respect of students from the University of Chichester or King's College London, applications should be submitted to the following contacts who will then shortlist and submit no more than three applications from each university to the panel of three Trustees of The Secret WW2 Learning Network:

- University of Chichester: Professor Hugo Frey – h.frey@chi.ac.uk
- King's College London: Professor Juliette Pattinson - juliette.pattinson@kcl.ac.uk

Subscribed Friends of The SWW2LN are asked to submit their application via their academic supervisor to Paul McCue – paulmmccue@gmail.com

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Dissemination

In your application you should also consider the subsequent dissemination of information or understanding gained from the research supported by the Bursary and should discuss possible methods of dissemination. You are strongly encouraged to discuss possible avenues for dissemination with your supervisor. Dissemination plans should aim to reach at least two relevant organisations/bodies, e.g. academic journals, institutional newsletters, respected blogs etc.

Report to the Trustees

The Bursary winners must acknowledge the award in their research output with the wording:

This research was conducted with the assistance of The Steve Weiss Student Research Bursary, created and funded by The Secret WW2 Learning Network, a UK registered educational charity: www.secret-ww2.net www.facebook.com/secretww2net

and provide the Trustees with a copy of the research report or dissertation. The Bursary winners must also submit a shorter 1-2 page informative abstract setting out the aim and objectives of the research, the methods used, the key findings, conclusions and recommendations. The SWW2LN may publish the abstract on its website, Facebook page or in its newsletter.

Conditions

The decisions of the Trustees of The SWW2LN are final and they reserve the right not to make an award of a Bursary if they judge there to be no suitable candidates.

The Trustees of The SWW2LN will correspond only with winners of the Bursary and will not enter into any correspondence or other contact with applicants for the Bursary unless there is a need for clarification.

The Trustees will use information provided in applications to publicly announce the award of the Bursary, along with winners' names and project titles: on The SWW2LN website; its Facebook page; and in the charity's newsletter. Final reports of funded projects will also be added to The SWW2LN's website.

Completed forms should be sent to the relevant university contact named above

Further Information

For further information about the Bursary please get in touch with the relevant university contact or via info.sww2@gmail.com.

Stephen Weiss obituary

By Steve's daughter, Claudia Pétursson and published in The Guardian, 27th February 2020.



Steve Weiss at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris in February 2020, when he took part in a ceremony to honour veterans of the US Office of Strategic Services. Photograph: Chad Garland/Stars and Stripes

My father, Stephen Weiss, who has died aged 94, was a member of “the greatest generation”, who fought in the second world war. He was on the frontlines in France in the summer of 1944. Caught in a firefight in the Ardèche region, he and seven others were separated from their unit and hunted by Nazi forces. A farmer, Gaston Reynaud, hid the Americans in his hayloft. With help from the French Resistance, they organised their escape. Dressed in police uniforms, they crossed enemy lines, beginning a harrowing journey to safety.

Steve was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Jeanette (nee Seidman), a seamstress, and William Weiss, a bodyguard. In 1942, immediately after graduating from Lafayette high school, Brooklyn, he volunteered for service in the US army.



Steve Weiss, third from left, in France, 1944, after being cut off from his US Army unit

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At the end of the war, he worked for the Department of the Army as a photographer based in Paris. He travelled all over Europe recording the devastation of war, venturing as far north as Norway and as far south as Sicily. His photos are a part of the US National Archives. He returned to Brooklyn in 1946 and spent about six months in intense treatment for PTSD. He learned to manage it, and became involved in supporting affected veterans.

Around 1948, he travelled to Los Angeles, where he enrolled at radio and television school. He was hired by CBS, and worked in the entertainment industry for the next 30 years.

In LA he met Rosemary Valaire, a former Royal Ballet dancer, who was teaching at the American Ballet School. They married in 1957, and had two daughters (my sister, Alison, and me) and a son (my brother, Andrew).

Steve worked in sound editing at CBS, ABC and various Hollywood editing firms until 1989, when he decided to take early retirement and pursue his interest in military history. He had already studied for a master's in psychology at Goddard College, Vermont, in 1976. Because he wished to know more about the part of the war in which he had fought, he was advised to study in Europe and pursued doctoral studies at King's College London. He received a master's in war studies in 1990 and a doctorate in 1995.



Steve Weiss, far right, boarding a troop ship during the Second World War

Steve became an extremely popular lecturer at King's from 1995 until 2020, and was made a KCL fellow in 2019. He authored two books, *Allies in Conflict* (1996) and *The Invisible Scars of War* (2011).

My father was made a *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* in 1999, then *Officier* in 2007 and *Commandeur* in 2013. He also received the US Bronze Star, the French *Médaille de la Résistance* and two awards of the *Croix de Guerre*.

In February this year, he travelled from London to participate in the 75th anniversary commemoration of the US Office of Strategic Services in his beloved Paris, the city he fell in

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love with as a young soldier, to lay a wreath on the grave of the unknown soldier under the Arc de Triomphe.

Steve is survived by his children, Alison, Andrew and me, and by eight grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Claudia Pétursson



Above and below – Steve Weiss with members of The SWW2LN at Valençay, France in 2019



Rev 12/2025 pmm

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