

THE ARMENIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND (AHARI) AND
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH (NAASR)

PRESENT

**THE ARMENIAN LEGIONNAIRES:
SACRIFICE AND BETRAYAL IN WORLD
WAR I**

A Lecture by

Dr. Susan Pattie

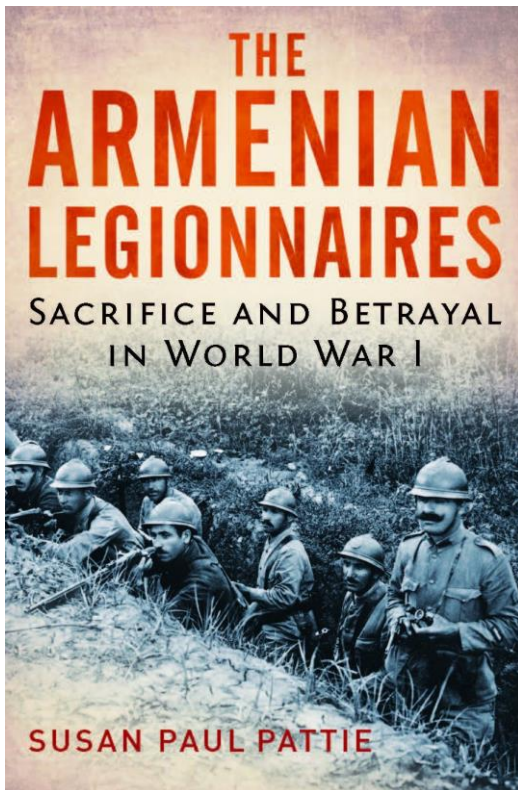
Honorary Senior Research Associate, University College, London

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 7:00pm

AHARI

245 Waterman St., 5th floor conference room

Providence, RI 02906



Following the devastation resulting from the Armenian Genocide in 1915, survivors of the massacres were dispersed across the Middle East, North and South America and Europe. Not content with watching World War I silently from the sidelines, a large number of Armenian volunteers joined the specially formed Légion d'Orient. Trained in Cyprus, the Legion fought courageously in Palestine alongside General Allenby, playing a crucial role in defeating the German and Ottoman forces in Palestine at the Battle of Arara in September 1918.

The Armenian legionnaires signed up on the understanding that they would be fighting in Syria and Turkey and, should the Allies be successful, would be part of an occupying army in their old homelands, laying the foundation for a self-governing Armenian state.

Susan Pattie describes the motivations and dreams of the Armenian Legionnaires and their ultimate betrayal as the French and the British shifted their priorities, leaving the Armenian homelands to the emerging Republic of Turkey. Complete with eyewitness accounts, letters and photographs, this book provides an insight into relations between the Great Powers through the lens of a small, powerless people caught in a war that was not their own, but which had already destroyed their known world.

Susan Pattie is an Honorary Senior Research Associate at University College London and former Director of the Armenian Institute in London. She holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Michigan and is also the author of *Faith In History: Armenians Rebuilding Community*.

Admission free (donations appreciated). Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Reception before and after program.

Copies of *The Armenian Legionnaires* will be available for purchase.

Contact AHARI at 401-454-5111 or info@armenianhistorical-ri.org for more information.