



Salisbury Military History Society

April 2020 eNewsletter

If you've missed any previous editions, you can find them on our website – [click here](#).

We trust this finds you all well.

Reflections on the First World War (22nd April) – POSTPONED

As restrictions on public events and movement remain, next week's talk is postponed. However, we will endeavour to reschedule Allan Mallinson for a future date.

Please be assured that we are determined to re-start our monthly talks as soon as the situation allows, and we will update you as soon as we have any further information.

Parish Notices

In recent months some members have reported times they've been unable to view the Society's website. This is a known issue that GoDaddy websites have with the Safari web browser so primarily affects Apple product users. Accordingly, a new website on a different CMS is in-build and will be launched in due course. Our site address will remain the same – www.SalisburyMilHist.com

Saturday 9th May 2020: (To be confirmed) **Overlord Wargame with Major General John Drewienkiewicz**
At February's meeting a show of hands indicated a good level of support for this event but unfortunately, not all of those who indicated an interest actually gave their names to Sandy or Alex, our joint Event Officers. At present we have 6 members expressing an interest in taking part, should you wish to add your name to the list please contact us via the website.

Saturday 6th June 2020: The 42nd Annual World Ship Society (WSS) Naval Meeting to be held in Bristol has been postponed. We await a new date potentially in late-October/early-November.
[Read more](#)

Future dates for your diary:

Wednesday 27th May: Victory in Burma – Lt. Col. Mike Tickner

Wednesday 24th June: Seapower States: Culture, Identity and Strategy - [Prof. Andrew Lambert](#)

Wednesday 23rd Sept: The Battle of Britain - [Col. Paul Beaver](#)

Military History News:

Chill on Coronavirus: These 5 Plagues Changed Military History Forever

With Covid-19 dominating the headlines, Robert Farley has taken a look back at five occasions that disease has affected the conduct of war. "Modern medicine, combined with the lethality of modern weaponry, has shifted the ancient balance between disease and combat. In World War II, more people died from bullets, shells, and bombs than from disease, a pattern that has generally held true ever since." [Read more](#)

Meet the American Irish battalion that defected to Mexico

As those with Irish heritage (and plenty without) celebrated St. Patrick's Day last month, the *Army Times* recounted the story of the American-Irishmen who defected to their southern neighbours in the Mexican-American War of the 1840s. Mistreated by their own commanders, Irish troops were wooed by an opportunistic Mexican propaganda campaign: "Come over to us! May Mexicans and Irishmen, united by the

sacred tie of [the Catholic] religion and benevolence". Of around 5,000 U.S. troops to defect, 175-265 were Irish and formed the Batallón de San Patricio ('St. Patrick's Battalion). [Read more](#)

World War II's Strangest Bombing Mission

On 30th January 1943 the RAF launched an air raid on Berlin that sought only to deliver noise. On that day, the Third Reich had planned a day of celebration to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Nazi's rise to power (and to distract the public from the news from North Africa and Stalingrad). No. 105 Squadron planned their own gifts to Goering and Goebbels – the knowledge Berlin was in striking distance. As the head of the Luftwaffe and Hitler's propaganda minister took to stages across the capital at 11am and 4pm respectively, Mosquitos buzzed the crowds giving the radio producers a tough decision: cut the speeches or broadcast the sound of air raids around the Reich. [Read more](#)

Current and forthcoming events in Salisbury (and around Wiltshire and across the SW)

This segment will return when restrictions on movement are lifted.

Free Military History Books:

In this time of social distancing and self-isolation, to which books are we turning? Below you can find links to a wealth of free downloadable eBooks.

"Salisbury, History Around Us" - HobnobPress.co.uk

Free War & Military eBooks - FreeBookBrowser.com

Free Online Military History Museums and Talks:

"History from home" talks - Eventbrite.co.uk

Army Flying Museum "Lockdown lectures" - ArmyFlying.com

Tower of London - YouVisit.com

Imperial War Museum "Hall of Remembrance" - Hall.IWM.org.uk

IWM Churchill War Rooms - MatterPort.com

Battle of Britain Bunker - EyeRevolution.co.uk

IWM HMS Belfast - Pan3Sixty.co.uk

RAF Museum - RAFMuseum.org.uk

The Museum of Flight - MuseumOfFlight.org

"Seven [U.S.] military museums you can visit virtually" - Legion.org

American Battlefield Trust Virtual Battlefield Tours - Battlefields.org

National Museum of the United States Air Force - NationalMuseum.af.mil

To recap, Allan Mallinson's talk on 22nd April, "**Reflections on the First World War**", has been postponed due to the current restrictions on public events and movements.

Keep well!

Kind regards,

Keith Rigden
Membership Secretary

Dave Simons
Marketing Officer

Useful links:

Website - <https://salisburymilhist.com>

Email - SalisburyMilHist@gmail.com

Facebook - [SalisburyMilHist](#)

Twitter - [SalisburyMHS](#)

Who's who:

Joint Chairman & Speaker Secretary: Alan Rooney

Joint Chair: Bob Kershaw

Treasurer: John Loades

Marketing Officer: Dave Simons

Secretary: Andy Sharpe

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

Joint Events Officer: Alex Howie

Joint Events Officer: Sandy Forrest

