



Salisbury Military History Society

July 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.

Firstly, we'd like to thank you all for your messages of support and your continued interaction with the Society during the lockdown. Over the last few months, we've liaised with our speakers and St John's Place to ensure that those talks we weren't able to offer since March are rescheduled. We're pleased to announce that Alan has re-booked all those speakers to join us in 2021 and you can find our full [2020/21 programme here](#).

Parish Notices

Although we've already away a few months, we're now on our summer break and preparing for our 2020/21 programme. We've also taken the opportunity to refresh our website to place even more emphasis on our fantastic talks and speakers – <https://salisburymilhist.com>

Future dates for your diary (if circumstances permit):

We continue to liaise with John DZ regarding the rescheduling of the D-Day war-gaming event and will update you all when we have a new date.

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

Wed 28th Oct: 'RNAS Armoured Car Expeditionary Force on the Eastern Front, 1915-17' - [Alan Wakefield](#)

Wed 25th Nov: 'The Falklands War – There and Back Again: The Story of Naval Party 8901' - [Dr Mike Jones](#)

Military History News

Remembering the 'Last Eleven'

Writing in the Bangkok Post, the terrible attack in Reading elicited reminiscences from an expat's time spent in Forbury Gardens and wondering at the bronze lion erected in memory of the 1880 Battle of Maiwand in Afghanistan. While 1,000 Britons and Indians died along with 3,000 Afghans, the lion remembers the men of the 66th Berkshire Regiment and, in particular, the 'Last Eleven' who fought a last stand as their comrades withdrew. [Read more](#)

The 'She Moses' of the American Civil War

Early-June marked the 157th anniversary of the Combahee Ferry Raid, the first military operation to be led by a woman and not just any woman, but a freed slave leading Union troops against the Confederacy to release slaves and wreak havoc behind enemy lines. With an intimate knowledge of the South, in 1863 Harriet Tubman guided three Union ships to strike a humiliating blow on the Confederacy, freeing over 700 slaves and torching infrastructure, buildings and resources. [Read more](#)

The Battle of Britain: Won not by military leaders

As we approach the 80th anniversary of the victorious conclusion to the Battle of Britain, we're reminded that on that occasion it wasn't a glorious military leader claiming the plaudits. British history lauds Henry V at Agincourt, Nelson at Trafalgar and Wellington at Waterloo, but that summer in 1940 depended on fresh-faced fighter pilots: 'The Few' whose average age was just 20. Britain had done well to invest in Hurricanes, Spitfires and radar but it was those aircrews who won the battle for the skies over the South East of England. [Read more](#)

Russia dedicates cathedral to victory in 1945

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Allies' victory over Nazi Germany, a new Orthodox cathedral has opened at the Defence Ministry's Patriot exhibition park – the site of the Battle of Moscow – and dedicated to the Russian armed forces. The cathedral's priests have all been selected from the military in order that they may act as guides on military history as well as more spiritual matters. [Read more](#)

How the Korean War shaped the nuclear world

Had it not been for the Korean War, would the US-Soviet rivalry have been played out more via diplomatic and commercial manoeuvrings? Until the North Koreans crossed the 38th Parallel, America had no inclination to become involved in another war across the Pacific Ocean. Whether or not Moscow and Pyongyang saw this as an open invitation, ultimately it led to the US forward defence strategy that saw the deployment of forces in Japan, Taiwan, Indochina and Australia. [Read more](#)

25 years since Srebrenica

On Saturday, we commemorated a quarter-century since the massacre of Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) at Srebrenica. Despite the UN declaring the town a safe enclave in April 1993 and emplacing a lightly-armoured Dutch force, Bosnian Serb attacks continued under the leadership of Ratko Mladic. On 6th July 1995 the town fell and some 20,000 Bosniaks sought refuge at the Dutch base. With the UN troops outnumbered, no-one stopped the massacre that followed. Around 8,000 men were killed and last year the Dutch Supreme Court ruled that the Dutch force was partially to blame for 350 of those deaths. A damning report published in 2002 led the entire Dutch Government to resign. While Serbia has apologised, it doesn't accept that this was genocide. [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. A new page on our website will also display a wide-range of upcoming local historical events and talks.

Webinars

Though museums are re-opening now, webinars and online talks continue and we've collated a selection you may be interested in over the coming weeks.

[History from Home](#)

Next talk: Alan Turing and the Enigma Machine (Wednesday 15th July)

[Western Front Association](#)

Next talk: Carry On Up the Tigris – The Experiences of British and Indian Troops in Mesopotamia 1914-18 (Wednesday 15th July)

[Imperial War Museum](#)

Next talk: Talking History – Innovators (Wednesday 15th July) – members only

[National Army Museum](#)

Next talk: Holding the Line: Soldiering in South-Eastern Iraq (Friday 17th July)

[Army Flying Museum](#)

Next talk: From Red Rissoles to Blue Budgies (Monday 20th July)

[Royal Engineers Historical Society](#)

Next talk: The Lines of Torres Vedras (Monday 27th July)

As restrictions are eased, we wish you all an enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming you back as soon as possible, hopefully for our Battle of Britain talk in September. Follow us on social media for the latest updates from the Society and look out for our next eNewsletter next month.

Best 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

Secretary: Andy Sharpe

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

Marketing Officer: Dave Simons

Joint Events Officer: Alex Howie

Joint Events Officer: Sandy Forrest

