



Salisbury Military History Society

June 2021 eNewsletter

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

Parish Notices

POSTPONED: 'Seapower States: Culture, Identity and Strategy' with Prof. Andrew Lambert

With the current lockdown restrictions extended to 19th July, next Wednesday's lecture by Prof. Andrew Lambert has been postponed. However, we're pleased to announce that this talk is already rescheduled for Wednesday 25th August instead.

Wed 28th July: 'Reflections on the First World War' with Allan Mallinson

For our first ever summer talk, we've invited Allan Mallinson to reflect on the Great War. As Marshal Ferdinand Foch's said in 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was "not a peace but a twenty-year armistice". How could this be when the Quadruple Alliance was so thoroughly defeated? [Read more](#)

If you have any questions about our meetings or about the Society in general, please reply to this email and a member of the Committee will get in touch.

Members' content

Our feature focusing on books, articles, documentaries, podcasts and more.

In the 77th anniversary month of D-Day, we recall our very first meeting in February 2019 in which our own Bob Kershaw presented '**Landing on the Edge of Eternity: 24 Hours at Omaha Beach**'.

US Publisher's Weekly: "Kershaw brings home the significance of the battle with suspense and uncertainty that has been glossed over in other recent accounts."

Kirkus Review: "A revisionist look that won't cheer America-firsters but that helps broaden our understanding of a crucial battle."

Shelf Awareness Review: "This is a visceral account of apparent defeat, ultimate victory and how the United States Army sustained more than 2,400 casualties on a single beach in one day.... A stunning account of the Omaha Beach landings during D-Day."

<https://robertjkershaw.com/landing-on-the-edge-of-eternity/>

Military History News

Able Archer 83: the Nato war-game that nearly spelled nuclear disaster

Following the détente of the 1970s, Ronald Reagan's tenure in the 80s brought increased military spending, the "evil empire" speech and the 'Star Wars' programme. The Soviet Union was already suspicious of Reagan's motives and, as tensions mounted, Soviet Premier Yuri Andropov called his American counterpart a "war monger". This was the context when NATO troops gathered for Exercise Able Archer 83 in November 1983. Andropov was an ex-KGB hardliner, but he was also paranoid and suffering from debilitating kidney disease. So, when the NATO forces used a previously-unknown code on the night of 9th November, nuclear weapons were readied across the Warsaw Pact nations. The big red button was never pressed, but Soviet forces were not stood down for months to come. [Read more](#)

Other articles

[5 Of The Most Admired Ancient Elite Military Units](#)

[Luding bridge: Key part of China's military history](#) [video]

[Plymouth's Palmerston forts: Striking structures built for an attack which never came](#)

[These Are the First Military Bases Whose Confederate Names Could Be Changed](#)

[Historians Cast New Light on the Battle of Midway](#)

[Forgotten history of abandoned RAF stations in Hampshire](#)

[FIRE! Five Greatest Tank Battles in Military History](#)

[4 Cold War Double Agents Who Could Outfox James Bond](#)

[40 years ago, Israel bombed an Iraqi nuclear reactor. How it changed the world](#)

Local events, online talks and podcasts

[Click here](#) to see upcoming events in Salisbury and surrounding areas.

Click on the links below for the next (and future) webinars from a range of historians and societies. Some of these talks may charge a small fee to join.

[Western Front Association](#)

Next talk: 'The Enemy Within: Germans in Britain 1914-18' (Wednesday 16th June)

[Wessex Military History Group](#)

Next talk: Camouflage in War (Thursday 24th June) - £5, email jameskrporter@aol.com

[Army Flying Museum: Lockdown Lectures](#)

Next talk: Double Agents & Double Crosses Spies in History, Fact & Fiction (Monday 28th June)

[Gallipoli Association](#)

Next talk: Morale and combat motivation in VIII Corps at Helles (Tuesday 6th July)

[British Modern Military History Society](#)

Next talk: The Real War Horse (Tuesday 6th July)

[Classic Battlefield Tours](#)

Next talks: Media and warfare from the Falklands to the present (Friday 9th July)

[Manchester Military History Society](#)

Next talk: Normandy 1944 (Tuesday 13th July)

[Boscombe Down Aviation Collection](#)

Next talk: 'The Golden Oldies' (Tuesday 20th July)

[The Royal Green Jackets \(Rifles\) Museum](#)

Next talk: 'Iraq and Afghan Wars: Lessons Learnt' (Thursday 22nd July)

[Old Front Line](#)

A weekly World War One podcast featuring 30-45min episodes.

[Peter Hart's Military History](#)

For more than 40 years historian Peter Hart has interviewed thousands of veterans about their experience of war.

[New Books Network](#)

A series of interviews with authors of military history books

Thank you for your continued support over the last 15 months and we look forward to welcoming you back to St. John's Place next month (we hope)!

Dave Simons
Marketing Officer

Keith Rigden
Membership Secretary

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 & Bookstall Co-ordinator: Andy Sharpe

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

Marketing Officer: Dave Simons

Joint Events Officer: Alex Howie

Joint Events Officer: Sandy Forrest