



# Salisbury Military History Society

## November 2021 eNewsletter

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

### Parish Notices

#### **Wed 24th Nov: 'I Knew the Few' with Dilip Sarkar**

Wing Commander George 'Grumpy' Unwin DSO, DFM and Bar of No. 19 Squadron, No. 12 Group Fighter Command once declared "If anyone ever needs to know anything about the RAF during the summer of 1940, don't ask the Few, ask Dilip!" Therefore, we're privileged to welcome Dilip Sarkar next Wednesday to share with us the reminiscences shared with him by those who flew. [Read more](#)

For full members, entry is included in the 2019/20 membership fees already submitted. For non-members, entry is £10 on the door. We accept cash or card payments at the front desk.

A reminder that Simon Akam's talk 'The Changing of The Guard' has been rescheduled to 22nd June 2022.

#### **Upcoming talks**

Wed 26th Jan - 'The Bruneval Raid, 1942' with Paul Oldfield

Wed 23rd Feb - 'The Light Division in the Peninsular War' with Tim Saunders

Wed 23rd Mar - 'Doctor Enigma' with Dr Mark Baldwin

For more information on all our talks, click through to each from [our 'Events' webpage](#)

#### **Wed 15th Dec: Christmas meal**

The Committee will be meeting for dinner at The Chapter House at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15th December and we'd like to extend the invitation to all members. You can view [the a la carte menu here](#). If you'd like to join us, please let us know by replying to this email or speaking to a Committee member at next week's talk.

#### **Annual General Meeting and 2022 membership**

The Committee invites full members to the AGM on Wednesday 26th January 2022. More details will follow in due course, but motions will include the moving of the membership year from September-to-August to January-to-December, and enhancing the £45 annual subscription to include 10 talks (January to October) plus the AGM event in November.

#### **Review: Wed 27th Oct: 'The RNAS Armoured Car Expeditionary Force on the Eastern Front, 1915-17' with Alan Wakefield**

With a focus on the Royal Naval Air Service's Armoured Car Expeditionary Division, Alan Wakefield of the Imperial War Museum presented key excerpts from his 2019 book 'A long way from France and Flanders - Experiences of British Military Personnel in South Russia 1916-1920'. At the outset of the Great War, Conservative MP Commander Oliver Locker-Lampson (RN) began raising a unit numbering 42 officers and 500 men, and equipped them with armoured cars and lorries. As they were in effect a private military unit, Locker-Lampson was insistent that they were not absorbed into the British Expeditionary Force as the belligerents dug in on the Western Front. Shipped out to the East, they fought through Romania and Galicia (modern day Ukraine) before withdrawing to Mesopotamia upon the outbreak of the Russian Revolution. The post-war British Military Mission to South Russia (BMMSR) offered an opportunity: to battle-hardened soldiers, it was a way to avoid returning to "normality" in Blighty and to those who never got the chance to fire their rifles, it was an adventure. Alan Wakefield can be seen in the forthcoming Channel 5 documentary series 'Secrets of the Imperial War Museum'.

## Military History News

### **The Ogilby Muster: A digital collection of the Great War**

On 3rd November the Army Museums Ogilby Trust published The Ogilby Muster online platform. In time, TOM will contain over two million photographs, letters, diaries and other documents from British personnel in World War One, as curated from Regimental and Corps museums across the UK. Some of the artefacts have never been seen before and their publication is the culmination of a four-year project funded by a LIBOR grant from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [The Ogilby Muster](#)

### **How World War I Turned Soldiers into Tourists**

Though journalists and photographers tracked the Union and Confederate Armies during the U.S. Civil War, it was the Great War that saw combatants document their experiences both on the frontline and on leave. By 1918, over two million Kodak cameras had been sold and the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri has recently opened a new exhibition displaying 300 photographs from their collection. [Atlas Obscura](#)

### **Other articles**

[5 military archaeological discoveries found by pure luck](#)

[The horse bit and bridle kicked off ancient empires – a new giant dataset tracks the societal factors that drove military technology](#)

[How many Days of Military Honor does Russia celebrate?](#)

[How the US Civil War Inspired Women to Enter Nursing](#)

[Amazing story of British Army's first black officer to lead white troops](#)

[German Zeppelins Were Made with Cow Intestines and it Led to Sausage Restrictions During WWI](#)

[How a Japanese American Regiment Rescued WWII's 'Lost Battalion'](#)

### **Local events, online talks and podcasts**

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

As societies, clubs and other groups return to in-person meetings, we'll be phasing out the online talks section of the eNewsletter. For now though, click on the links below for the next (and future) webinars from a range of organisations. Some of these talks may charge a small fee to join.

#### **Western Front Association**

Next talk: 'Black Poppies' (Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November)

#### **Lockdown Lectures**

Next talk: 'Road to Colditz' (Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November)

#### **Wessex Military History Group**

Next talk: 'The Battle of Cannae, 216BC' (Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November) - £5, email [jameskrporter@aol.com](mailto:jameskrporter@aol.com)

#### **The Gurkha Museum**

Next talk: Slim Sahib (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December)

#### **British Modern Military History Society**

Next talk: 'Battle of the Bulge' (Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December)

#### **Classic Battlefield Tours**

Next talk: 'The Christmas Truce' (Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December)

[Old Front Line](#)

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

[Pete and Gary's Military History: Peter Hart and Gary Bain](#)

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.

We look forward to welcoming you to St. John's Place next week.

Dave Simons  
Marketing Officer

Keith Rigden  
Membership Secretary

**Useful links:**

Website - <https://salisburymilhist.com>

Email - [SalisburyMilHist@gmail.com](mailto: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