



Salisbury Military History Society

April 2022 eNewsletter

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

Parish Notices

Wednesday 27th April

7.30pm (arrive from 7pm) - 'Moltke and his Generals' with Quintin Barry

When Helmuth von Moltke took over as Chief of the Prussian General Staff, the Prussian army had not fought for more than forty years. Yet within a decade and a half he had brought it to the point where it was the strongest in Europe. His successes on the battlefield led to his methods being painstakingly analysed by commentators and slavishly imitated by Western armies. His success was not only due to far-sighted strategic planning, the comprehensive reorganisation of the General Staff and his grasp of new technologies; it was also due to his leadership of a talented, if disparate, group of subordinates, even if some of them sometimes failed to grasp his overall intentions. [Read more](#)

For Full Members, the cost of entry is included in your annual subscription. For all other attendees, you can pay £10 on the door.

We accept cash and card payments at meetings, or cheques that should be made out to the 'Salisbury Military History Society'. For bank transfers, the Society's account details can be found on the [membership form here](#). As we've already held our first meetings of the year, part-year fees now apply ([see here](#)).

Upcoming talks

Wed 25th May - 'Zulu Rising: The epic story of the Battle of Isandlwana' with Ian Knight

Wed 22nd June - 'The Changing of the Guard' with Simon Akam

Wed 27th July - 'Victory in Burma' with Lt. Col. Mike Tickner

Wed 24th Aug - TBC

Wed 28th Sept - TBC

Wed 26th Oct - 'Counter-Insurgency in Malaya: An Imperial Success Story' with Dr. Robert Lyman

Wed 23rd Nov - 'The Soldier's Soldier: A Leadership Life – Erwin Rommel' with Prof. Lloyd Clark

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

Book stall

Every month our book (and DVD) stall offers a fantastic range and great prices. We also welcome donations if you've had a clear out recently.

Review: 'Doctor Enigma' (Wednesday 23rd March)

The words 'Enigma', 'Ultra' and Bletchley Park are synonymous with World War Two code breaking, but Dr Mark Baldwin – 'Doctor Enigma' – revealed how the first Enigma cypher machine was patented in February 1918. This Chiffriermaschinen was rejected by the German government and so was sold on the public market. In fact, the British Foreign Office purchased one in 1928 (the year that the inventor died). With the incoming Nazi Government's rearmament plans requiring secrecy, the Enigma company was absorbed into the government as they purchased 40,000 machines. Three Poles from Poznan University cracked the Enigma code in 1932 and their work later formed the basis of the work undertaken at Bletchley Park. By the end of the war, over 3,000 messages were being deciphered each day before the machines were reset at midnight and the decryption exercise began all over again.

Your Committee

The Society is led by an enthusiastic Committee that books speakers, hosts talks, organises events and fulfils administrative requirements. Most of your current Committee has served for almost three years and so we're always keen to invite new postholders to join us in order to encourage fresh ideas. Andy will be stepping down as Secretary once a successor has been appointed, so please do reply to this email or speak to any Committee member at the next meeting if you're interested in this position or any others.

Military History News

Downing Street ignored Falklands military requests: 'Other things on its mind'

The 1982 Defence White Paper proposed cuts across the British armed forces. Though the Royal Navy was to suffer the most – losing an aircraft carrier, most of its amphibious capability and up to 10,000 sailors – the Army was set for a reduction of 7,000 soldiers and the RAF 2,500 personnel. When an Argentinian force captured South Georgia and the Falkland Islands, then-Defence Secretary John Nott admitted “Well, we were completely preoccupied with the Cold War. South America and the Falklands had never crossed our minds. We were in a very dangerous world. The Soviets were getting stronger and stronger, and my concern as Defence Secretary was 100 percent the Soviets. I think I knew where the Falkland Islands were, but only just.” Following the Task Force’s victory in the South Atlantic, the White Paper was revisited and revisions were made “to increase the mobility and flexibility of our Armed Forces for future operations in the NATO area and elsewhere”. [Read more](#)

Lessons from the fall of Baghdad for the Ukraine war

It is understood that President Putin spent much of the Covid pandemic in isolation applying himself to the study of Russian history, which has reignited his desire to restore a Russian Empire. Having made thrusts into Georgia and Crimea, and manoeuvred his forces into a “peacekeeping” role in the Transnistria region of Moldova, now he seeks to unite Ukraine with his reinvigorated Russia. As the war extends far longer than many expected, some commentators are pointing to the dogged defence, insurgency and presence of mercenaries and are drawing comparisons to 1980s Afghanistan or Iraq from the summer of 2003. [Read more](#)

Other articles

[A fresh take on why Octavian won the war against Antony and Cleopatra](#)

[Explained: The Regimental Colours of the Indian Army, its importance and history](#)

[This Polish Submarine is Famous for the WWII Incident Named After It](#)

[John “Mad Jack” Churchill Was the Most Interesting Participant of WWII](#)

[How the STEN Submachine Gun Helped the British Army During WWII](#)

[Meet The De Havilland Mosquito: The Best Combat Plane Of World War II?](#)

[Lincolnshire's role in the Falklands War Black Buck air raids](#)

[Putin’s War on History: The Thousand-Year Struggle Over Ukraine](#)

Local events, online talks and podcasts

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

While online talks continue, we’ll include them in our eNewsletters. 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: 'The Gallipoli landings: Holding the initiative' (Monday 25th April)

Wessex Military History Group

Next talk: 'The Lochnagar Mine' (Wednesday 27th April) - £5, email jameskrporter@aol.com

British Modern Military History Society

Next talk: '79th Armoured Division – Hobart's Funnies' (Tuesday 3rd May)

[Lockdown Lectures](#)

Next talk: 'The Battle of Maiwand' (Monday 16th May)

[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 seeing you all at St John's Place next week.

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:

Chairman & Speaker Secretary: Alan Rooney

Vice Chair: Bob Kershaw

Secretary & Bookstall Co-ordinator: Andy Sharp

Treasurer: John Loades

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

Marketing Officer: Dave Simons

Events Officer: Sandy Forrest