



Salisbury Military History Society

August 2022 eNewsletter

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

Parish Notices

Wednesday 24th August

7.30pm (arrive from 7pm) - 'Old Wardour Castle & Salisbury during the English Civil War' with Julian Humphrys

When, at the end of the 14th century, John Baron Lovell began the construction of Old Wardour Castle his intentions were anything but military. Rather than a powerful fortification he wanted a modern up-to-date building that reflected his wealth, taste and newly acquired status. But when, 250 years later, Civil War broke out in Britain Wardour became an important military garrison. The castle changed hands twice, the second time after a three-month siege which was vividly recorded in his memoirs by its then governor, the parliamentarian Edmund Ludlow. In this talk Julian Humphrys will examine the sieges of Wardour and the light they shed on 17th century warfare and also look at the experiences of nearby Salisbury during this period of conflict.

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, card and cheque payments at meetings. Cheques 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're half way through 2022, part-year fees apply ([see here](#)).

The bookstall will be open at next week's talk for purchases and donations.

Upcoming talks

Wed 28th Sept - 'Dunkirk 1940: The German View of Dunkirk' with Col. Robert Kershaw

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

Wed 25th Jan - 'The Great Game: Anglo-Russian Rivalry in Central Asia' with Major Gordon Corrigan

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

30-minute member talks

A number of members have expressed the wish to give a talk to the society. Therefore, we are planning to dedicate our March meeting to 30-minute talks (plus Q&A) from two members. If you would like to be one of those speakers, please let us have a brief synopsis of your talk, a little about you and, if possible, a suitable picture we can use to promote the talk on our posters and website. We'd like to have all 2023 speakers registered with us by the end of October so we have sufficient time to promote the talks. If we have more than two responses then we may repeat the event in September 2023 as well.

Member benefits

In addition to a significant discount on entry to monthly talks, Full Members can benefit from the Society's ongoing relationships with local organisations including museums and shops. [Find out more here](#)

Review: 'Victory in Burma' with Lt. Col. Mike Tickner (Wednesday 27th July)

Last month we welcomed Mike Tickner to dispel myths about Burma and to frame the campaign in the context of the Japanese advances and subsequent collapse in the Far East. While we may imagine close quarters combat in lush jungle, the realities were that Kohima resembled the Western Front of two decades before and many British victories were won on the vast plains. It's important to acknowledge this as a multi-national victory, as the British forces included 2.5m Indians and there were almost as many Africans as Brits in the 14th Army. The true success story though, is that the British were able to develop a jungle warfare school that taught and implemented genuine all-arms combat with units capable of

armoured, airborne, amphibious and urban operations. So, while the Imperial Japanese Army far from home fought the war it *had* to, the British Army fought the war it *chose* to.

AGM and your 2023 Committee

At our AGM in November, we will elect our 2023 Committee, which books speakers, hosts talks, organises events and fulfils administrative requirements. Most of your current Committee has served for over three years and so we're always keen to invite new postholders to join us in order to encourage fresh ideas. Andy stood down as Secretary in January, but has served as Interim Secretary while a successor has been sought. Please do reply to this email or speak to any Committee member at the next meeting if you're interested in any of the posts.

Military History News

Operation Mincemeat: How a Dead Body and a False Identity Helped the Allied Invasion of Sicily

It's a story we all know, no doubt: how British intelligence dropped a corpse carrying fictitious 'Top Secret' documents into the sea to trick the German High Command into believing the Allies would invade Greece and Sardinia rather than Sicily. A fortnight into Operation Husky, the Germans still believed the Sicilian landings were a ruse to distract from the real amphibious assaults. Consequently, such exploits have been retold in books and on the big screen for decades as new details emerge about the work of the OSS and SOE. [Read more](#)

The Australian way of war

Over the last century, Australia spent 47 years fighting in nine wars. But why does this remote land mass go to war? No army could hope to invade and conquer it so how is it threatened? Professor David Horner argues that Australia joins alliances as a junior partner to gain global diplomatic credit at the expense of few lives. [Read more](#)

Other articles

[Britain did not join the Great War to protect France – despite what Netflix may claim](#)

[Great Britain's 6 Biggest Contributions to World War II](#)

[Luck of Kokura: The Japanese City That Avoided Atomic Bombing – Twice](#)

[How do 50-ton tanks end up as toys for trigger-happy civilians? Inside the Pentagon's flawed 'demilitarization' process](#)

[Is the Marine Corps Becoming Irrelevant?](#)

[The past show: Meet the history buffs having the time of their lives](#)

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.

The Western Front Association

Next talk: 'Pioneers in Orthopaedic Surgery: Fighting a war on two fronts' (Friday 2nd September)

British Modern Military History Society

Next talk: 'The Mesopotamia Campaign in the First World War' (Tuesday 6th September)

Manchester Military History Society

Next talk: 'James Graham, 1st Marquess of Montrose' (Tuesday 13th September)

[Institution of Royal Engineers](#)

Next talk: 'The Mad Moore of El Alamein' (Wednesday 14th September)

[Old Front Line](#)

A fortnightly 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