



Salisbury Military History Society

November 2022 eNewsletter

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

Parish Notices

Wednesday 23rd November

7.30pm (arrive from 7pm) - 'What does a Curator of Artillery do?' with Philip Magrath

For those that have visited Fort Nelson in Portsmouth or the Royal Artillery's former *Firepower!* museum in Woolwich, you would've been fascinated by the evolution of artillery pieces over time and awestruck by the size and intricate designs of some of the historical pieces. Captain William Congreve established an artillery school at Woolwich in 1778 beside the Royal Military Academy and, as the spoils of war often included enemy weaponry, this educational establishment began to take on an additional function as a repository – soon being renamed the 'Repository of Military Machines'. When the Repository moved to the Rotunda in 1820 its dual role as training institution and museum was consolidated. Today, responsible for an almost 250-year-old collection, what does a 'Curator of Artillery' do?

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'.

Rather than queuing to pay your 2023 subscription at the door at the January meeting, we encourage everyone to pay in advance by bank transfer if possible. The Committee proposes to keep the annual subscription at just £45.

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Upcoming talks

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

Wed 22nd Feb - 'The Battle of Minden, 1759' with Major General Ewan Carmichael

Wed 22nd Mar - 'Desert Warfare: The Experience of British Empire Armies in the Two World Wars' with Prof. Gary Sheffield

Wed 26th Apr - 'Why does the British government never talk about Nuclear Weapons?' with Dr. Andy Corbett

Wed 24th May - 'The Soldier's Soldier: A Leadership Life – Erwin Rommel' with Prof. Lloyd Clark

Wed 28th Jun - 'Alfred the Great and the campaign of 878 – What can we know?' with Prof. Ryan Lavelle

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

Review: 'Counter-Insurgency in Malaya: An Imperial Success Story' with Dr Robert Lyman (Wednesday 26th October)

The 12-year Malayan Emergency (1948-60) was not a "war" to the British or the Malayan authorities, despite it being labelled the Anti-British National Liberation War by the guerrillas. While the imperial forces outnumbered the Communists five-to-one at its peak, it was essential that the actions were led by police and security forces rather than the population feeling they were mired in a civil war. The period of 1950-52 was the most intensive period of military action with 43 per cent of the insurgents' casualties being incurred, along with 62 per cent of the security forces' losses. This aligns with the implementation of the Briggs Plan and its continuation by the High Commissioner, General Templer. Ultimately, success is ascribed to the political promise of independence to wider population and their economic support whilst

militarily denying food and support to the insurgents. The latter being somewhat different to the Vietnam theatre where insurgents had a good supply chain through North Vietnam and into China.

Read more - [Gerald Templer: The smiling tiger](#)

Gerald Templer is buried in Salisbury - [Find a Grave: Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Walter Robert Templer](#)

Annual General Meeting: New date

Due to a number of Committee member absences this month, we have moved our AGM to 25th January. The formal notification will be sent to Full Members in the New Year.

Christmas meal

The Committee will meet at [The Chapter House](#) at 7pm on Monday 12th December for a Christmas meal and we extend the invitation to everyone. Printed copies of the 'Function Menu' will be available at next week's talk. Our menu selections are required in advance as well as a £5 deposit per person.

Military History News

Allies killed more French civilians in the Battle of Normandy than the German occupation

Before the landings in Normandy Eisenhower estimated 75 per cent casualties among the paratrooper vanguard. At the end of D-Day, Allied casualties numbered 10,000. However, often not commemorated are the 15-20,000 civilians lost during the Battle of Normandy. For Marc Wortman, "French civilians suffered far worse casualties as a result of their liberation by the Allies than were inflicted by their [German] occupiers." A survey conducted on the U.S. Eighth Air Force's sorties during 1944 revealed only seven per cent landing within 1,000 feet of their targets.

Read more - [The Price of Freedom: The Forgotten Civilian Deaths of D-Day](#)

Oxfordshire's Military Heritage in 50 Objects

Launched in November 2021, The Ogilby Muster was launched as an online repository and resource for the photographs, documents, maps, audio and visual footage of the British Army's Regimental and Corps museums. In January 2023 the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum will present the Oxfordshire's Military Heritage in 50 Objects online exhibition.

Read more - [Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum military objects tell stories of the past](#)

Visit - [Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum](#)

Explore - [The Ogilby Muster](#)

Other articles

[Warrior Women: Female Military Units Throughout History](#)

[When horses go to war: The incredible history of man's actual 'best friend'](#)

[This is why wine was a warrior's drink for most of history](#)

[Rare Photographs Reveal the Honorable History of Japan's Samurai](#)

[The Good, the Bad and the Dirty: Understanding WWII Letter Acronyms](#)

[WWII POW Flag Added to National Museum of American History Collections](#)

[How Toys Changed After World War II](#)

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.

Institution of Royal Engineers

Online talk: '[Lt Col Sir Richard Fletcher](#)' (Wednesday 16th November)

The Western Front Association

Online talk: '[The Searchers: The Quest for the Lost of the First World War](#)' (Monday 28th November)

British Modern Military History Society

Next talk: '[The Gurkhas](#)' (Tuesday 6th December)

The Western Front Association

Online talk: '[German Tanks at Villers-Bretonneux](#)' (Friday 9th December)

[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: Ian Thomas

Treasurer: John Loades

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

Marketing Officer: Dave Simons