



Salisbury Military History Society

January 2023 eNewsletter

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

Parish Notices

Wednesday 25th January

7.30pm (arrive from 7pm) - 'The Great Game: Anglo-Russian Rivalry in Central Asia' with Major Gordon Corrigan

During the 19th Century the Russian Empire was expanding eastwards by 20,000 square miles a year. In 1800 the Russian boundary was 2,000 miles away from British India; by 1900 but a few hundred. Whether Russia really did harbour ambitions to take India is immaterial: the British thought they did, and so began the 'Great Game', the *Bolshaya Igra*. [Read more](#)

2023 membership subscriptions

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

Sort code 40-40-14

Account No. 02293544

Please include your name as the payment reference

Alternatively, if you'd prefer to receive an invoice, please email our Treasurer, John Loades (at john.loades@hotmail.com), who will arrange for a Subscription Invoice to be emailed to you from Zettle.com. Upon opening the emailed invoice, there is a link to an online payment page.

Upcoming talks

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](#)

Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 22nd February

Due to a number of Committee member absences this month, as stated previously we have moved our AGM to Wednesday 22nd February. The formal notification will be sent to Full Members in a couple of weeks.

Glossary of terms

We're fortunate to include a great range of experience and interests among our membership. However, the knowledge gap between the services, generations, professionals and hobbyists can vary widely. Therefore, we have started to collate a new '[Glossary of Terms](#)' webpage and we invite everyone to reply to this email (or email salisburymilhist@gmail.com anytime) with suggested entries, or requesting what particular abbreviations and acronyms mean.

c.140 military history books on offer

We've been contacted by someone wishing to pass on rather than dispose of around 140 military history books. They cover the Napoleonic Wars, First World War and Second World War primarily, but we're happy to put you in touch if you have any specific queries.

Military History News

Chariot charge sunk Kriegsmarine's Atlantic resilience

Though sinking the Bismarck in 1941 brought a pyrrhic victory for the Royal Navy, the Tirpitz was a far more daunting proposition as the Battle of the Atlantic saw more U-Boats hunting vital convoys. Winston Churchill instructed Vice Admiral Mountbatten to formulate a plan and, as the Tirpitz loitered in Norwegian fjords, the Royal Navy turned its attention to the essential dry dock at St. Nazaire – if the battleship could be attacked, it'd have nowhere on the Atlantic coast of sufficient size and with the necessary resources to seek repairs. Operation Chariot saw HMS Campbelltown packed with timed explosives and ram the Normandie dry dock as Commandos swarmed ashore to inflict as much damage as possible. Despite high casualties, the awarding of five Victoria Crosses is testament to the success of the raid.

Read more: [Operation Chariot: The Daring British Raid on St. Nazaire](#)

Other articles

[7 Greatest Women Warriors in History](#)

[7 of The Most Skilled Sword Fighters in History](#)

[5 Auxiliary Units of the Roman Army](#)

[The Untold Stories of Bharat's Military Expeditions in Iraq, Iran and Arabia](#)

[Is War Inevitable? Consider the Ancient Maya](#)

[The Oldest Military Forts Built Before America Was a Country](#)

[What Happened to the Jewish Soldiers Who Served with the German Army in World War I?](#)

[Polish Submarines Nicknamed the 'Terrible Twins' Struck Fear into the German and Italian Navies](#)

[From Thai-Burma railway to Sandakan, WWII history buff unearths stories of Australian POWs](#)

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: ['Elsie and Mairi Go to War'](#) (Monday 23rd January)

The Gurkha Museum

Next talk: ['The Art of War: Military art from the Bayeux Tapestry to the Second World War. What does it all mean?'](#) (Tuesday 24th January)

Army Flying Museum

Next talk: ['Chinook Crew Chick'](#) (Monday 30th January)

Napoleonic & Revolutionary War Graves Charity

Next talk: [‘A Soldier’s Life: Re-enacting the Napoleonic Soldier’](#) (Monday 30th January)

Gallipoli Association

Next talk: [‘Resilience: The 87th \(Union\) Brigade and its 270 days on the Peninsula’](#) (Tuesday 31st January)

British Modern Military History Society

Next talk: [‘Swordfish in the Battle of the Atlantic’](#) (Tuesday 7th February)

Institution of Royal Engineers

Next talk: [‘Mission France – The story of the Women of the Special Operations Executive’](#) (Wednesday 8th February)

[Old Front Line](#)

A 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 all back 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

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