



Salisbury Military History Society

March 2023 eNewsletter

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

Parish Notices

Wednesday 22nd March

7.30pm (arrive from 7pm) - 'Desert Warfare: The Experience of British Empire Armies in the Two World Wars' with Prof. Gary Sheffield

In both world wars, British Empire armies had prolonged periods of fighting under desert conditions. This talk examines the factors that shaped the soldiers' experience – including climate, terrain, weapons, tactics, enemies and logistics – comparing and contrasting campaigns such as Mesopotamia and Palestine in the First World War, and Tobruk and Alamein in the Second, looking at the British, Australian, New Zealand and South African armies. [Read more](#)

Upcoming talks

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

Wed 26th Jul - 'To War with the Walkers' with Annabel Venning

Wed 23rd Aug - 'The Indian Mutiny' with Dr Rosie Llewellyn-Jones

Wed 27th Sep - Member talks: 'Barba del Puerco: A tactical engagement with strategic consequences' with Major-General Ashley Truluck and 'Withdrawal from Aden, November 1967' with Lt Col. Ray Faull

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

Royal Artillery Museum: Behind-the-scenes tour, lunch, tour of the Regimental silver & artworks

The Committee is in discussion with the Royal Artillery Museum stores and Royal Artillery Mess to confirm a tour date for May. The day will include a tour and talk at the RAM stores, hot lunch at the RA Mess and a tour of the Regiment's silver and artwork. We hope to be able to announce the date and price at the talk next week.

Book exchange

To replace our bookstall, we'll be introducing a book exchange from our February meeting. Everyone is invited to bring along any books (or DVDs) they no longer want and can take away something else that catches their eye. We only ask that you take home anything you bring which isn't snapped up.

Review: 'The Battle for Hill 107, Maleme, Crete (20th-23rd May 1941)' with Colonel Robert Kershaw (Wednesday 22nd February)

Always with an in-depth talk up his sleeve, we were grateful to Bob for stepping in when our Battle of Minden speaker had to withdraw from last month's meeting.

Defending Crete's northwest coast in 1941 and based around Maleme was the 5th New Zealand Brigade. As seaborne invasion was expected, 3-inch naval guns faced out to sea. However, the Fallschirmjäger were to implement General Student's "oil spot" strategy of Operation Mercury's airborne landings at Maleme, Chania, Rethymno and Heraklion. Such a plan would be hard to enact though, as there was no infantry or cavalry to relieve them after the initial engagements. Wolfram von Richthofen's Luftwaffe squadron was utilised as aerial artillery and 503 Junkers JU52s were assigned as the paratrooper transports. Losing around 240 of those JU52s was to impact the progress of Operation Barbarossa the following year. Despite the issues experienced by the German forces upon landing near Maleme, it was the poor communication between Lt. Col. Andrew V.C. (22nd Bn) and Brigadier Hargest that saw the

division and cutting off of NZ units around Maleme and, ultimately, the loss of Hill 107. The capital, Chania, fell on 27th May and the Allies evacuated to Alexandria on 28th May.

Military History News

Dangerous Generals: Haig & MacArthur

For retired U.S. Army officer Mike Hennelly, “dangerous” generals are those that exhibit incompetence repeatedly or who threaten national interests, highlighting Douglas Haig and Douglas MacArthur as examples of each, respectively. The ever-present issue involves real or perceived political interference in military affairs and vice versa. Prime Minister David Lloyd George clashed with General Haig, Robertson and Admiral Jellicoe almost immediately and only Haig lasted the Great War in his post thanks in part to his friendship with King George V. Whereas, when WW2 hero General MacArthur overstepped the mark with outspoken letters and interviews when leading United Nations forces in Korea, President Truman removed him without hesitation.

Read more: [Dangerous Generals](#)

Other articles

[The Warriors Who Shaped African History: The Horsemen of Oyo](#)

[Samurai Sword Master Kaito Suiju Rates Japanese Sword Movie Scenes](#)

[Outlaws at War](#)

[The major innovations of the Crimean War](#)

[6 Key World War I Battles Fought in Africa](#)

[British Actors Who Served in the Military](#)

[The Most Decorated Female Soldier in the History of Modern Warfare](#)

Local events, online talks and podcasts

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

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.

National Army Museum

Next talk: [‘Britain’s Soldiers in Iraq: A Long View’](#) (Wednesday 15th March)

The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum

Next talk: [‘The Red Fox of Colditz’](#) (Thursday 23rd March)

British Modern Military History Society

Next talk: [‘The War in Ukraine’](#) (Tuesday 4th April)

[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

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Without Portfolio: Andy McCafferty, Andy Sharp,
Bob Kershaw, Mark Vincent