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Salisbury Military History Society May 2024 eNewsletter



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Parish Notices

Newsletter updates

The eNewsletter has changed release timing. This avoids duplicated reminders for the upcoming talk and allows the newsletter to include a summary of the current monthly talk. It also allows the inclusion of any late breaking news that frequently comes to light when members meet for our event. If there are any ideas to make the newsletter even better then please don't hesitate to contact us through our web query page on our website with the subject line 'eNewsletter suggestion'. Or email directly to salisburymilhist@gmail.com with the same subject.

Repeated Call for participation

While the few members involved in the committee endeavour to offer a diverse program of events covering various periods and aspects of military history, broader member participation can help maintain our high standards. Consider volunteering to join the committee alongside peers like yourself. There's no need to take on any official society roles; simply participate as a committee member without a specific portfolio, contributing ideas for upcoming member events and talks. No ongoing commitment is required! It's your society, help to shape its future! And committee meetings are a convivial affair at a local hostelry!

Links Curator

We are seeking an individual interested in taking on the role of 'Links Curator' for our eNewsletter. The role entails monitoring related groups and societies for upcoming events and compiling a list of pertinent links for the Marketing Officer to include in our monthly publication. The task is not burdensome and is sure to be informative. If you are interested, please send an email to salisburymilhist@gmail.com with the subject line 'Links Curator'.

If anyone our members comes across an interesting link that they feel would be of interest to the other members then please email us at salisburymilhist@gmail.com with the subject 'Interesting Link'.

Upcoming talks

Wed 26th Jun - 'A Very Secret War: Bugging the Nazis in WWII' with Dr Helen Fry
Wed 28th Aug - 'Laugh or Fly with The Royal Flying Corps 1914-18' with Peter Hart
Wed 25th Sep - 'My Life As a Military Spy (BRIXMIS)' Major General Peter Williams

Parking

There is a small car park and lay-by opposite St John's Place on Lower Road (for approx. 20 cars). Parking is also allowed on single yellow lines on Lower Road after 18:00. Alternative car parking is

View all our events



Talk Summary - Drone Dynamics: A Look at drones in the Ukraine theatre and the lessons for the future

Wednesday 22nd May.

Our customary fourth Wednesday monthly talk took place at the well-attended St John's Place. The discussion on the 22nd of May shifted from our usual historical perspective on military history to explore the role and impact of drones in contemporary warfare, marking a new chapter in history.

Lt Col (Ret'd) Robin Phayre, an expert drone operator, delivered an authoritative presentation on drones. He covered the definition of a drone, their capabilities, and their application in conflicts, particularly referencing the ongoing war in Ukraine. He highlighted the intensifying arms race of measures and countermeasures, both physical and electronic, and described the array of drones in use, from modified commercial models to advanced, purpose-built ones, including micro drones and those as large as aircraft and small ships.

The audience was struck by the pervasive role of drones in modern warfare and voiced concerns about their potential to significantly alter future combat operations.

This serves as further evidence, if any were needed, that conflict is a powerful driver of technological advancement.

Social Media

The Society endeavours to keep a presence on a number of social media sites. Here are some highlights for this month.

X (Formerly Twitter) @SalisburyMHS

On most days we try to provide an 'On This Day' post that picks out an event from many eras in history with the aim of providing a window not only into well known battles and campaigns but also looking at

[The Battle of Ackia](#), which took place on May 26, 1736, was a significant event during the Chickasaw Wars.

[The Siege of Kohima in 1944](#) which was a pivotal battle in the Burma Campaign during World War II came to a conclusion on 16th May.

[The Battle of Farmington took place on May 9, 1862](#), in Farmington, Mississippi, during the American Civil War.

[The Battle of Pwll Melyn](#), also known as the Battle of Usk, took place on 5 May 1405 and was a significant conflict during the Glyndŵr Rising, which lasted from 1400 to 1415.

[The Battle of Lützen, fought on 2 May 1813](#), was a significant conflict during the German campaign of the Sixth Coalition.

YouTube

Our YouTube channel is new but it our intention to post excerpts of talks (where licensing and copyright allow) as well as videos that we feel would be of interest within our Military History remit.

[Excerpt of Robin Phayre's 22nd May talk on Drone Dynamics: A Look at drones in the Ukraine theatre and the lessons for the future](#)

YouTube



Member Spotlight - Ashley Truluck CB CBE

Ashley Truluck CB CBE is Chairman of the *Society for Army Historical Research (SAHR)* and has been conducting historical and battlefield tours for more years than he can remember - with *MOD*, *The Cultural Experience*, and the *Battlefields Trust*.

In a particularly varied military career he served with Gurkhas, Communications & Intelligence, and Army Aviation, - commanding at every level from rifle platoon through troop, squadron, regiment, and brigade/garrison, to Commander Far East Land Detachments. His more senior staff appointments included acting the Army's Chief of Staff Operations, UK Director Attack Helicopters, and Assistant Chief of Staff at NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). These assignments saw him serving in Malaysia, Brunei, India, Nepal, Hong Kong, UK, Germany, USA, and Belgium; and deploying on operations worldwide.

In an equally varied second career, he acted as Strategic Advisor to MOD, the Home Office and

managing consultant at The Cultural Experience.

His extra mural appointments have included Colonel Commandant of the Royal Corps of Signals; Regional Chairman for the Gurkha Welfare Trust; chair of the Criminal Justice Board; chair of the Wiltshire Community Foundation; and he was recently honoured to serve as HM High Sheriff for Wiltshire.

His personal interests revolve around outdoor pursuits: As an Ocean Skipper he has completed several ocean crossings and circumnavigated the World including doubling Cape Horn. As a keen hillwalker, he treks frequently in the Himalayas and elsewhere. And his battlefield touring takes him to historic locations across Europe and further afield. Happily married to Jenny, living in a historic farmhouse in Broad Chalke, with two grown-up children and their families living nearby.

Follow on Twitter @ Truluck_Wilts (main account) and Instagram @ ashleytruluck_

We know our members are a modest lot and wouldn't want to press themselves forward so, if you know a member who you think we should cover in the spotlight, why not nominate them so we can contact them and explore the opportunity. Just email us at salisburymilhist@gmail.com with subject line 'Spotlight Nominee'. No one will be included without their agreement and participation. We want to showcase the variety of members and could do with a non-military suggestion as well.

Local Events, Online Talks and Podcasts

There is a wealth of upcoming military history talks and events in Salisbury and the surrounding areas. This calendar is updated regularly so check back for new additions.

[D DAY 80 - COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS IN SALISBURY](#)

[Annual Chalke Valley History Festival 24th-30th June](#)

[Where to see 2024 Battle of Britain Flights](#)

[In commemoration of D-Day 80, the Army Flying Museum at Middle Wallop in Hampshire will stage a series of fascinating talks, looking at many aspects of the landings on 6 June 1944.](#)

[The Keep Military Museum in Dorchester will be hosting a special evening on Saturday 8th June 2024 to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.](#)

Military History News

Please see below a periodically updated list of articles from the world of military history.

[10 Inspiring Stories Of Bravery During The Battle Of Britain](#)

[Interesting Links from British Military History](#)

[The mysterious story of the Unknown Warrior](#)

[Bernard Law Montgomery: Unbeatable and unbearable](#)

[Introduction to Legion: life in the Roman army](#)

[History Has No Lessons for You: A Warning for Policymakers](#)

[Exhibiting military history.](#)

[New Medieval Books: Byzantine Military Rhetoric in the Ninth Century.](#)

[Legion: Life in the Roman Army review - 'More than just a blood and guts orgy of military might'](#)

[Why a Rabbit Appears on This Japanese Samurai Helmet](#)

[The Navy's Short-Lived Plan to Dominate the Skies with Flying Aircraft Carriers](#)

[Learning Lessons from the Prussian Past?](#)

[Which Countries Were Major Players in World War II?](#)

[Carry On films: The star who helped World War II prisoners escape](#)

[D-Day 80th anniversary: Pop-up museums tell Portsmouth's story](#) [video]

[10 War Movies Military Experts Praised for Accuracy & Realism](#)

Click on the links below for the next (and future) webinars from a range of organisations. Some of these talks may have a small fee to join.

[Old Front Line](#)

A World War One podcast featuring 30-45min episodes.

[Pete and Gary's Military History](#)

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 to St. John's Place next week!

Best regards,

Tony Corkery
Marketing Officer

Keith Rigden
Membership Secretary



Who's who:

Chairman & Speaker Secretary: Ian Thomas

Secretary: Mark Vincent

Treasurer: John Loades

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

Marketing Officer: Tony Corkery

Without portfolio: Andy McCafferty, Bob Kershaw

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Our meeting venue is:
St John's Place, Lower Road, Bemerton, SP2 9NP

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