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Salisbury Military History Society August 2024 eNewsletter



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Parish Notices

Battlefield Tour

Following discussions at our last committee meeting and the straw poll during last month's talk, we are proceeding with plans for a battlefield tour early next year. To start, it will be a day trip, and based on its success, we may consider extending future excursions to include an overnight stay and potentially, a journey to the continent.

Newsletter updates

If there are any ideas to make the newsletter even better then please don't hesitate to contact us through web query page on our website with the subject line 'eNewsletter suggestion'. Or email directly to salisburymilhist@gmail.com with the same subject.

Talk over society matters in a convivial setting?

We meet to discuss society business in the convivial surroundings of a local pub in Salisbury. The last few have been in the Chapter House. If you would like to come along to add your experience and ideas to the society and stay to enjoy a meal should you wish, come along to our next quarterly meeting on 14th Oct at 18:00 in the Chapter House Salisbury. There is no commitment to join the committee but it does widen the pool of ideas!

If anyone of 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 25th Sep - ['My Life As a Military Spy \(BRIXMIS\)' Major General Peter Williams](#)

Wed 23rd Oct - ['It's All Gone South' - The Story of MV Atlantic Conveyor and Chinook Bravo November in the Falklands Conflict - Andy Tailby](#)

Quiz Night and Buffet

In November, we will not have a talk as we are planning to rerun the successful **members-only** quiz night and buffet from the previous year. Alan Rooney has generously agreed to put in the research and effort once more to create a specialized military history quiz. For those who joined us last year, you'll recall the challenging and intriguing questions, so we extend our gratitude to Alan for doing this again!

As part of your membership, the buffet will be complimentary and will feature the customary selection of buffet dishes.

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 - Laugh or Fly with The Royal Flying Corps 1914-18

Wednesday 28th Aug

Peter Hart captivated a nearly full audience (quite impressive for August!) with tales of daring deeds and instructive stories from the aerial battles of the First World War. Eschewing a dry, chronological recounting of events, Peter opted for a more engaging thematic approach to depict acts of bravery, recklessness, and the rapidly gained experiences of the numerous young men piloting aircraft in their nascent stages.

He discussed the aircraft they operated, debunked some myths about prolonged dogfights, and delighted the audience with anecdotes of the antics in the mess that helped keep (most of) them sane during their service, marked by brief yet intense moments of fear.

[Based on his book cowritten with Gary Bain - Laugh or Fly: The Air War on the Western Front 1914 - 1918](#)

Next Talk: Weds 25th September

My Life As a Military Spy (BRIXMIS)

Peter Williams spent over 30 years in the Coldstream Guards and enjoyed an unusually varied career. As an Infantryman he carried out ceremonial duties in London, spent two years with Baluchi soldiers in the mountains of Oman, served twice in Northern Ireland and commanded 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards in Germany. In the early 1990s he wrote speeches for the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, an American general. During the Cold War he specialised in intelligence, serving first in Berlin from 1973 to 1975 as a Regimental Intelligence Officer. He then studied Russian and German before spending more than four years in the 1980s in Berlin and East Germany as an officer in the British Commanders'-in-Chief Mission to the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (known as BRIXMIS), in effect working as a military spy. In 1983 he was awarded an MBE for his success as an intelligence collector and analyst.

He is the Chairman of the BRIXMIS Association, a member of the International Guild of Battlefield Guides, the Patron of the British Ex-Services Association of Western Australia and a Governor of

also helps to train British military diplomats.

Selection of events through history in August

Why not explore the details behind these events?

Battle of Cannae (August 2, 216 BCE) - Hannibal's Carthaginian army achieved a significant victory against the Romans during the Second Punic War.

Battle of Thermopylae (August 480 BCE) - The famous stand of the Spartan King Leonidas and his men against the Persian Empire.

Battle of Blenheim (August 13, 1704) - A decisive battle in the War of the Spanish Succession where the Duke of Marlborough led Allied forces to victory against the French and Bavarians.

Battle of Long Island (August 27, 1776) - The first major battle after the United States declared independence, resulting in a British victory.

Battle of Warsaw (August 12-25, 1920) - Also known as the Miracle on the Vistula, Polish forces successfully defended Warsaw against the Soviet Red Army during the Polish-Soviet War.

Gulf of Tonkin Incident (August 2 and 4, 1964) - Incidents involving North Vietnamese forces and the U.S. Navy, leading to the escalation of the Vietnam War.

Battle of Guadalcanal (August 7, 1942) - The first major offensive by Allied forces against the Empire of Japan during World War II.

Battle of Amiens (August 8-11, 1918) - A key battle in World War I that marked the beginning of the end for the German Army.

Invasion of Kuwait (August 2, 1990) - Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which led to the Gulf War.

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 from a talk by Dr Helen Fry for the Salisbury Military History Society on 26th June 2024.](#)

[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](#)

[Full Talk: Flying to the Sun: A Modern Englishman in Mediaeval Japan with Michael Jay](#)

Excerpts of Peter Hart's talk will be uploaded later as it requires editing

YouTube

Local Events, Online Talks and Podcasts

- 06 Sep [Kosovo 25 - A lecture and lunch on the Gurkhas in Kosovo](#)
(The Gurkha Museum, Winchester)
- 07 Sep [Winchester Heritage Open Days Weekend](#)
(The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum, Winchester)
- 10 Sep [Heritage Open Day: Free entry](#)
(REME Museum, Lyneham)
- 10 Sep [Crash Bang Wallop](#)
(Boscombe Down Aviation Collection, Old Sarum)
- 13-15 Sep [Heritage Open Days: Behind the Scenes Tours](#)
(Royal Artillery Museum stores, Larkhill)
- 13 Sep [Following in his footsteps: A 39 hour adventure through Nagaland](#)
(The Gurkha Museum, Winchester)
- 14/15 Sep [South West Model Show](#)
(The Tank Museum, Bovington)
- 14 Sep [First Anywhere - The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry](#)
(Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock)
- 15 Sep [Walk: King Alfred's base at Athelney 878](#)
(The Battlefields Trust, Burrowbridge)
- 19 Sep [In Search of the Band of Brothers; Archaeology at Aldbourne](#)
(The Army Flying Museum, Middle Wallop)
- 19 Sep [The French Connection: Stories of the Occupied South of France, 1942-1945](#)
(The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum, Winchester)
- 23 Sep [We Fly The Line: The AAC in Cyprus](#)
(The Army Flying Museum, Middle Wallop)
- 28 Sep [Tiger Day - Autumn](#)
(The Tank Museum, Bovington)

Some recent release books of interest

[Paris '44: The Shame and the Glory - Patrick Bishop \(Released 25th July\) well timed for the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Paris on Aug 25th 1944](#)

[Laugh or Fly: The Air War on the Western Front 1914 – 1918](#)

[The Walls Have Ears - Dr Helen Fry](#)

[Operation Biting: OPERATION BITING: The Sunday Times Number One Bestselling Military History of the 1942 Parachute Assault to Capture Hitler's Radar - Max Hastings](#)

[Sky Warriors: The Sunday Times Bestselling History of the British Airborne Forces in the Second World War - Saul David](#)

Online Events

30th August

Breaking the Gothic Line

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/whats-on/breaking-gothic-line>

3rd September

Sheridan's Valley Victory: Fisher's Hill, 1864

<https://www.thenmusa.org/events/>

<https://www.thenmusa.org/events/>

6th September

Churchill's Spaniards

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/whats-on/churchills-spaniards>

10th September

Sheridan's Valley Victory: Fisher's Hill, 1864

<https://www.thenmusa.org/events/>

11th September

The Most Influential Royal Engineer

<https://www.instre.org/events/11-sept-24/>

The Road To Revolution: The French And Indian War

<https://www.thenmusa.org/events/>

13th September

Ismay: Soldier, Statesman, Diplomat

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/whats-on/ismay-soldier-statesman-diplomat>

18th September

The Road To Revolution: The French And Indian War

<https://www.thenmusa.org/events/>

19th September

No Sacrifice Too Great: The 1st Infantry Division In World War II

<https://www.thenmusa.org/events/>

20th September

Getting Them Home: The Flying Nightingales

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/whats-on/getting-them-home-flying-nightingales>

23rd September

We Fly the Line: The AAC in Cyprus, 1957-1994

<https://armyflying.com/what-s-on/events/we-fly-the-line-the-aac-in-cyprus-1957-1994/>

27th September

The Brutal Fight for Hill 107 (Bob Kershaw)

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/whats-on/brutal-fight-hill-107>

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](#)

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

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

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

[7 Greatest Military Strategists from History](#)

[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

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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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Salisbury Military History Society · c/o The Cultural Experience · 11B Mansfield Park, Four Marks · Alton, Hampshire GU34 5PZ · United Kingdom

