

Salisbury Military History Society

June 2019 eNewsletter

Hello and welcome to the eNewsletter for June 2019.

Our meeting of the 22nd May was the first to fully reflect the format that we wish to establish. A main guest speaker, in this case Nigel Jones, delivering our keynote talk. A Society member delivering a shorter presentation, David Kirkpatrick, and another member, James Thompson, having a 'table-top' display of items and memorabilia. I thought that the format worked very well.

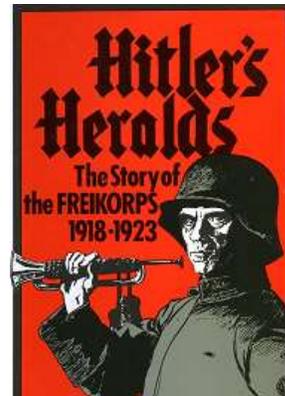
Any other thoughts to the contrary or agreeing or other format suggestions?

Hitler's Heralds

Our thanks go out to [Nigel Jones](#) for his fascinating talk of the 22nd May the on the Freikorps.

He painted a picture of the disintegration of the returning German army, the dramatic political swing to the Left, the calls to follow the revolution in Russia and the ongoing rationing and how it all helped lead to the collapse of the old order, resulting in the abdication of the Kaiser and the birth of The Weimar Republic. This political vacuum was filled by the Social Democratic Party (SPD), Germany's largest political party.

Shorn of an effective army and beset by revolutionary insurrection the SPD formed the Freikorps to suppress these revolts. However, as so eloquently explained by Nigel, once this original task had been fulfilled, the Freikorps steadily turned against its creator, the SPD. Though dissolved in 1920, Freikorps veterans supported Hitler's failed 'Beer hall putsch' and many went on to become future leaders in the Nazi party.



Nigel covered a subject that is often overlooked completely or treated as a simple footnote in the history of the rise of National Socialism but, impressively, he also did it without notes, slides or PowerPoint. A real 'tour de force'.

More works on Nigel's areas of interest are available on [Amazon](#).

Lanchester's Square Law

David Kirkpatrick delivered an intriguing presentation on his analysis of American Civil War battles using Lanchester's Square Law, for modern combat (using firearms).

His study of these battles supported Lanchester's Square Law combat model, validating the importance of superior numbers. David had obviously done a great deal of work on his analysis and his presentation of his results made for a very professional and impressive talk by one of our own members. Thank you, David.

May's Table-top



James Thompson very kindly brought a folder of family items to show members during the 'refreshment' break. His grandfather had fought in the Great War for Germany and was wounded at Verdun. These items included his grandfather's record of service book, his wound medal and his war medal and photographs. All of great interest!

Please note the change in date and time for:

Agincourt: Myth and Reality, Tuesday 18th June (7.45-9.45pm)

With [Professor Anne Curry](#)

"Everyone knows what happened on 25 October 1415. Or do they? Actually, the likelihood is that we simply carry in our heads jingoistic images of triumphant Laurence Olivier and his bowmen decimating the French to strains of William Walton's stirring music in the 1944 film of Henry V based on Shakespeare's 1599 play. Or maybe we remember an ancient patriotic drawing in a biased school history book. And that's what fascinates about the battle of Agincourt. It has been re-spun for every generation, according to contemporary culture and political requirements for most of six centuries. It is all about perception." (Susan Elkin in The Independent Saturday 22nd August 2015).

Professor Curry's studies into the conquest of Normandy by Henry V reach some dramatic conclusions regarding Agincourt:

"The English were undoubtedly 'happy' but by no means 'few'. They had between 8,500 and 9,000 at the battle whilst the French had only a few thousand more at most. The chronicle accounts of the battle are what we would today call 'spin'".

Professor Curry will be expounding further on these myths and realities, in far more detail, at her talk on the 18th June and we look forward to welcoming her to St. John's Place.

Numerous published works by Professor Curry are available [here](#).

Parish Notices

Membership

Membership forms for the next year (1st September 2019 to 30th June 2020) are now available on the website [here](#). Please take the time to read our Constitution - at the same link - when you visit the page.

From September onwards there will no longer be free drinks and nibbles but a cash bar, supplying refreshments, will be in operation for all members.

Full Membership

Having downloaded the membership form, you may either:

1. Type directly into the Word document and email it back, or
2. Print it out and fill it in.

Completed membership forms should be returned to the membership secretary either in person at a meeting or scanned/photographed copies may be emailed to salisburymilhist@gmail.com.

Payments may be made in the following ways:

- BACS/standing order (preferred) - bank account details on the membership form
- Cash - please bring this to any meeting
- Cheques may be made payable to "Salisbury Military History Society" and posted to the address below

Salisbury Military History Society
c/o The Cultural Experience
8 Barnack Business Park
Blakey Road
Salisbury
SP1 2LP

Monthly Membership

Having downloaded the membership form, you may either:

1. Type directly into the Word document and email it back, or
2. Print it out and fill it in.

As above, completed membership forms should be returned to the membership secretary either in person at a meeting or scanned/photographed copies may be emailed to salisburymilhist@gmail.com.

Pay £10 cash at the door at each meeting.

Please note, whichever type of membership you opt for, the completed form will need to be returned to the Society as your signature is required as acknowledgement of your acceptance of the Society's Constitution.

Committee members

If you would like to take part in the running of our Society and become a Committee member please do let us know, either in person or via email.

Non-Society Military History News:

New 50p coins set marks Britain's military history

Following the news in last month's eNewsletter that the Royal Mint has produced a new £2 coin commemorating D-Day ([see here](#)), the Mint has also announced a new military history set as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations of the heptagonal 50 pence piece. The four coins depict the Battle of Hastings, Victoria Cross, Battle of Britain and D-Day. [Read more](#)

10 photographs that made history

Leading historians have been asked to choose the most iconic photographs and military events feature significantly, including the Battle of Antietam, the Somme, the Soviet flag over the Reichstag and the bombing of Hiroshima. [See the top photographs here](#)

New US 2nd Army Division museum opens in South Korea

"How can we be good soldiers, civilians, airmen, Marines, sailors and Coast Guard unless we know where we came from?" asked retired Colonel Michael Alexander when speaking at the new 2nd Infantry Division museum. The museum – active since the early-1970s – has opened at Camp Humphreys, the Division's new home in rural Pyeongtaek 55 miles south of Seoul. [Read more](#)

AAMHM celebrates 10th anniversary

The African America Military History Museum in Hattiesburg, Mississippi celebrated its 10th anniversary last month. The museum started in May 2009 collecting obituaries and ceremonial flags and today recounts the stories of generations of African American men and women who have served in the US armed forces. [Read more](#)

China's biggest military museum re-opens after seven-year refurbishment

The Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution re-opened in Beijing on 1st June following an extensive seven-year renovation programme that has seen it double in size. Some commentators are viewing the expansion as significant during the current trade war with the USA, expressing concerns at China's increasing militarism. [Read more](#)

'Warbird Workshop' commissioned for UK TV

A new six-part series following the restoration of warplanes has been given the green light for TV channel Yesterday. Aircraft we'll see in the 'Warbird Workshop' will include a Condor Legion biplane, a Spitfire and a C47 troop carrier. The series will air in 2020. [Read more](#)

Current and forthcoming events in Salisbury (and around Wiltshire/the SW)

“When the Bassett Boys came home” exhibition, Royal Wootton Bassett Town Hall Museum ([click here](#))

23rd April - 5th October – “Women of REME” exhibition, REME Museum ([click here](#))

18th June – “From Sapper to Spitfire Spy via Old Sarum” talk, Boscombe Down Aviation Collection ([click here](#))

20th June – “UNPROFOR 1995 – The AAC’s return to expeditionary operations” lecture, Army Flying Museum ([click here](#))

27th June – “Naval Pilots in the Battle of Britain” lecture, Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm Museum ([click here](#))

28th-30th June – Armed Forces Day, Salisbury ([click here](#))

28th-30th June – “TANKFEST”, The Tank Museum, Bovington ([click here](#))

11th July – “Sagittarius Rising and the Royal Flying Corps” lecture, Army Flying Museum ([click here](#))

13th July – “Royal Navy International Air Day”, RNAS Yeovilton ([click here](#))

...and finally:

As always, the talks will be at St. John's Place, Lower Road, Bemerton, Salisbury, SP2 9NP.

A final reminder of the change of date and time for our June talk by Professor Anne Curry. "Agincourt: Myths and Reality" is now on Tuesday 18th June at 7:45pm, £10 (cash) at the door, to include wine and nibbles.

Parking details [here](#).

A future date for your diary: Our first talk after our summer break will be on Wednesday 25th September at 7.30pm.

The subject: **1973 Yom Kippur War: Political Background and Intelligence Failure**

The speaker: Colonel Tony Malkin.

The poster for the talk can be downloaded [here](#).

Should you know of anyone who may be interested in our Society, please do forward this eNewsletter to them. If you know of any institution or workplace that would be happy to advertise our up-coming talks, again do let us know.

There will not be an eNewsletter in July, but I will be contacting you later in the summer with an update on our programme of talks for the coming year and a reminder to complete your membership forms. I would ask that you complete and return the forms promptly in order to allow time for membership cards to be made up in time for them to be collected at our September meeting. Membership cards will only be issued to those who purchase the year's membership.

Kind regards,

Keith Rigden
Membership Secretary

Dave Simons
Web & Marketing Officer

Useful links:

Website - <https://salisburymilhist.com>

Email - SalisburyMilHist@gmail.com

Facebook - [SalisburyMilHist](#)

Twitter - [SalisburyMHS](#)

Who's who:

Joint-Chair & Speaker Secretary: Alan Rooney

Joint-Chair: Bob Kershaw

Treasurer: John Loades

Web & Marketing Officer: Dave Simons

Secretary: Andy Sharpe

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden