



Salisbury Military History Society

January 2021 eNewsletter

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

A belated Happy New Year to all our members, subscribers, visitors and friends!

Parish Notices

Spring talks

As the national lockdown remains in effect, our January, February and March talks have been postponed and we are in discussions currently with the respective speakers to reschedule their topics for 12 months' time.

Annual General Meeting

As mentioned in last month's eNewsletter, we will update full members on the AGM in due course.

Military History News

Medieval Star Forts Are Surprisingly Alive and Well in North Africa

Recent aerial photos of French bases in Mali appear to show a return of the Sixteenth Century Vauban star fort. Inspired by the four-pointed *trace italienne*, Vauban forts are five-pointed stars that enable defenders to lay down flanking fire on attackers. Whilst such positions are well-suited to the terrain and operations in Mali, they would not be suitable against well-equipped adversaries with airpower. [Read more](#)

The story of the English Civil War massacre in a Nottinghamshire village and why it was covered up

376 years ago, a brutal massacre took place in the village of Shelford and only now are details being 'recalled'. In November 1645 Parliamentarians besieged the Royalist stronghold and killed 160 soldiers. However, how can such a bloody affair slip from public memory? Have such bloody battles been forgotten in order to not acknowledge inhumanity? In fact, how many other Civil War battles are similarly unrecorded? [Read more](#)

Discovered: forgotten Japanese midget submarine base built for WW2 suicide missions

In 1945 the Japanese military commenced plans to train and equip a force to intercept and sink the allied ships deployed to invade Japan. In June of that year, work began on Kushima where a huge number of midget submarines were readied. As we know, the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended the war and the suicide submariners were never despatched so such bases were inspected and made unusable. But how did the abandoned base on the uninhabited island of Kushima come to be forgotten until the Sengoshi Kaigi Matsue historical group followed up on a tip off? Commenting on how this base appears to be virtually intact, Professor Garren Mulloy said "My guess would be that the Japanese gave up on this facility before the end of the war and they either forgot to mention it to the occupation authorities or did not think it was of any significance." [Read more](#)

Online talks and podcasts

Click on the links below for the next (and future) webinars from a range of historians and societies.

[Western Front Association](#)

Next talk: Virtual Battlefield Tour #2: The Battle for Scimitar Hill, 1915 (Thursday 21st January)

[Army Flying Museum: Lockdown Lectures](#)

Next talk: The Pegasus Bridge Story (Thursday 21st January)

[Royal Engineers Historical Society](#)

Next talk: The Pill-box Problem: Engineer Intelligence in the Third Battle of Ypres 1917 (Thursday 21st January)

[The Royal Green Jackets \(Rifles\) Museum](#)

Next talk: War in the Green Mountains of Oman – Jebel Akhdar 1958-59 (Thursday 21st January)

[The Battlefields Trust](#)

Next talk: The Naseby campaign 1645 (Wednesday 27th January)

[The Green Howards Museum](#)

Next talk: The Sounds of War (Thursday 28th January)

[Guy Walters](#)

Next talk: Hunting Evil – How the Nazis Escaped and How They Were Tracked Down... Or Not (Monday 1st February)

[British Modern Military History Society](#)

Next talk: The Battle of Britain 80 Years On (Tuesday 2nd February)

[Manchester Military History Society](#)

Next talk: The Battle of Britain, 1940. Was it won by the British, or lost by the Germans? An analysis (Tuesday 9th February)

[Old Front Line](#)

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

[Peter Hart'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'll keep you all up-to-date regarding our future plans and welcome your continued correspondence.

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Membership Secretary

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Marketing Officer

Useful links:

Website - <https://salisburymilhist.com>

Email - SalisburyMilHist@gmail.com

Facebook - [SalisburyMilHist](#)

Twitter - [SalisburyMHS](#)

Who's who:

Joint Chairman & Speaker Secretary: Alan Rooney

Joint Chair: Bob Kershaw

Treasurer: John Loades

Secretary: Andy Sharpe

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

Marketing Officer: Dave Simons

Joint Events Officer: Alex Howie

Joint Events Officer: Sandy Forrest

