



Salisbury Military History Society

July 2021 eNewsletter

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

Parish Notices

Wed 28th July: 'Reflections on the First World War' with Allan Mallinson

For our first ever summer talk, we've invited Allan Mallinson to reflect on the Great War. As Marshal Ferdinand Foch's said in 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was "not a peace but a twenty-year armistice". How could this be when the Quadruple Alliance was so thoroughly defeated? Allan Mallinson is a highly regarded fiction and non-fiction author and this promises to be an outstanding return to the Society's usual top-quality service. [Read more](#)

As it's been a long absence, we'll send a reminder to everyone at the weekend.

For full members, entry is included in the 2019/20 membership fees already submitted. For non-members, entry is £10 on the door. The Society remains cash-only.

If you have any questions about our meetings or about the Society in general, please reply to this email and a member of the Committee will get in touch.

Book (& DVD) stall

Many of you have embarked upon clear-outs over the last 17 months and Andy has been in receipt of some fantastic books and DVDs. So, come ready to find your next read! You're also welcome to bring along any additional donations. As above, the Society remains cash-only.

Wed 25th Aug: 'Seapower States: Culture, Identity and Strategy' with Prof. Andrew Lambert

We're pleased to have rescheduled the excellent Prof. Lambert's postponed lecture so swiftly. In it he will explore the nature and consequences of being a seapower state, as opposed to continental military power, through a collective analysis of the five seapower great powers, Athens, Carthage, Venice, the Dutch Republic and Britain. [Read more](#)

Remembering John Collier

The Committee was saddened to hear of the passing of John Collier in May. A former Mayor of Salisbury, Cllr Collier was previously an RAF fast jet pilot and retired in 1998 as a Group Captain. [Read more](#)

A request for research assistance

The Committee has been approached by a highly regarded journalist to provide some assistance for a piece they're investigating currently.

"I'm looking into fights and disorder among troops in Salisbury in the March to October 1942 period. Memoirs of Parachute Regiment troops suggest that there were a number of big brawls with American troops.

"One sergeant also suggests that one alleged incident ended up being tried in the civilian court rather than the military justice system. This involved two Parachute Regiment sergeants (Bishop and Fisher) who were alleged to have smashed up an Italian restaurant in Salisbury and injured the proprietor. They were defended by one of their officers Major Philip Teichman, who practised as a solicitor in Wiltshire before the war. He got them acquitted though the sergeant who writes about it suggests they were guilty.

"I would be grateful for any further detail about this case - possibly from the local court and newspaper records. At the very least, I need to corroborate the basic facts. More generally, descriptions of military discipline issues in Bulford / Salisbury area in this period (1942) would be of interest."

Anyone able to assist in this endeavour should reply to this eNewsletter so the Committee can facilitate contact.

Members' content

Our feature focusing on books, articles, documentaries, podcasts and more.

This month we're taking a slightly different approach. Rather than featuring an author from amongst our number, we're highlighting a book which focuses on a topic close to all of us in the recent past - "[Chemical Warrior: Syria, Salisbury and saving lives at war](#)".

Headline Publishing: "Lifting the lid on Hamish's unique world of battlefield expertise and humanitarian work, *Chemical Warrior* is a thrilling story of bravery and compassion."

Military History News

The untold story of India's WW2 prisoners of war

Highlighting the treatment of Indian POWs in the Second World War, Diya Gupta focuses on two of the 75,000 captured: John Baptist Crasta in New Britain off New Guinea and Birendranath Mazumdar in Colditz, Germany. India joined the war in 1939 on the word of Lord Linlithgow who had not consulted the Indian National Congress. However, some Indian nationalists saw their participation as a stepping stone on the road to independence. Indians fought in every theatre and in Burma, 70 per cent of the fighting force was Indian. The stories of these men imprisoned thousands of miles from home form an important part of the conflict and independence narratives. [Read more](#)

The Changing of the Guard: The British Army Since 9/11

A new American examination of the British Army over the last 20 years through oral testimony is being hailed as a definitive cultural history. In reviewing this new book, retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Wm. Preston McLaughlin recounts how the British Army is "outdated in its perspectives" and falls short of its self-proclaimed status as "The Best Little Army in the World". Despite the unfavourable content, the book is well researched and written and McLaughlin urges for it to be studied at Sandhurst. [Read more](#)

What is happening in Tigray? Ethiopia's brutal civil war explained

When a socialist junta deposed Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974, there was great uncertainty in Ethiopia and rebel groups formed across the country. Representing just 7 million of the 116 million-strong population, it was the northern region's Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) that formed the staunchest opposition which ultimately toppled the Communist dictatorship in 1991. Following over two decades of economic growth, a new government was formed, a pan-Ethiopian party led by one of the larger ethnic groups - the Oromo. What followed was a re-balancing of what was perceived as Tigrayan favouritism. After an attack by the TPLF on an Ethiopian Army base in Tigray last November, the ebb and flow of the conflict has seen over 2 million people displaced and a worsening famine amidst reports of atrocities. Following accusations that the government is engaging in genocide, now that the TPLF has taken key cities, a new phase of the deadly civil war is upon us. [Read more](#)

Other articles

[The stories behind seven of Somerset's hillforts and what remains of them](#)

[The Russian Ministry of Defense is building a war memorial in Northern Norway](#)

[In first, all-female tank crew to deploy alongside Egyptian border](#)

[Declassifying India's War Records Will Pave Way for More Objective Assessment of Military History](#)

[5 Prisoners Of War Who Bravely Defied Their Captors](#)

[How to spot a fake war photo](#)

Local events, online talks and podcasts

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

As societies, clubs and other groups return to in-person meetings, we'll be phasing out the online talks section of the eNewsletter. If you'd like to continue seeing this content, do let us know and we could explore creating a page on the Society website.

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

[Boscombe Down Aviation Collection](#)

Next talk: 'The Golden Oldies' (Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st July)

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

Next talk: 'Iraq and Afghan Wars: Lessons Learnt' (Thursday 22nd July)

[National Army Museum](#)

Next talk: 'Battle of Salamanca: Wellington's Finest Hour?' (Friday 23rd July)

[Gallipoli Association](#)

Next talk: 'The Welsh at Gallipoli' (Tuesday 27th July)

[Wessex Military History Group](#)

Next talk: 'The Indian Army in the New Forest in WW1' (Thursday 29th July) - £5, email jameskrporter@aol.com

[Western Front Association](#)

Next talk: 'A fine feat of War: The taking of Mont St Quentin 1918' (Monday 2nd August)

[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

After a challenging 17 months, we'd like to thank you once more for your continued support. We're looking forward to seeing you back at 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:

Joint Chairman & Speaker Secretary: Alan Rooney

Joint Chair: Bob Kershaw

Treasurer: John Loades

Secretary & Bookstall Co-ordinator: Andy Sharpe

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

Marketing Officer: Dave Simons

Joint Events Officer: Alex Howie

Joint Events Officer: Sandy Forrest