



Salisbury Military History Society

September 2021 eNewsletter

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

Parish Notices

Wed 22nd Sept: 'British Volunteers and the Spanish Civil War' with Ray Wilkinson

Next week Ray Wilkinson will discuss what led 2,500 mainly working-class Britons to travel to Spain to fight the fascists in the 1936-39 civil war. Ray is a highly-regarded member of the Guild of Battlefield Guides and this promises to be an excellent talk. [Read more](#)

For full members, entry is included in the 2019/20 membership fees already submitted. For non-members, entry is £10 on the door. The front desk remains cash-only though the bar accepts card payments.

Book (& DVD) stall

As we saw last month, Andy has done a great job compiling a fantastic collection of books and DVDs. While you're likely to walk away with a bargain, we also welcome your continued donations. The book stall remains cash-only.

Book offer

The Committee has been asked if any members would be interested in a free copy of a recently published book about correspondence between soldiers and sailors on active service in WWI to their families in West London. Please reply to this email and we'll put you in touch with the donor.

Forthcoming talks

Not only has Alan been liaising with our postponed speakers to arrange new dates, he has also booked in some prestigious new guests and our programme to May 2022 can be found on [our Events webpage](#).

Review: 'Seapower States: Culture, Identity and Strategy' with Prof. Andrew Lambert (Wed 25th August)

"Ultimately, I've written a rather large book about the arrangement of eight letters", said Prof. Lambert of his 2018 book 'Seapower States'. Those letters are S-E-A-P-O-W-E-R and the importance is whether we talk about 'seapower' or 'sea power'. While in the Seventeenth Century Montesquieu eulogised about seapower states with great navies enforcing a political system that empowered the merchant class, 200 years later Mahan was writing about states with big navies as being sea powers. The Athenians, Carthaginians, Venetians, Dutch and British developed great navies to protect and extend their influence through international trade and to do so involved keeping routes and ports open. The Russian Empire and today's mammoth U.S. and Chinese navies are sea powers rather than seapowers, as their culture and identity do not rely on the sea. A fantastic example of the distinction was HMS Defender's passage through Ukrainian waters in the Black Sea in June, which the Russian coast guard attempted to divert. As Prof. Lambert summarised, the Royal Navy is a constabulary force that fights, whereas the U.S. Navy is a fighting force. It's no coincidence that the UK is leading a Carrier Strike Group in the South China Sea currently.

Wed 6th Oct: '100 Years of Uniform'

'[Silver Salisbury](#)' is a community engagement group that organises a programme of events every September and October, around the International Day of Older Persons on 1st October. This year, we are sponsoring an event being held at The George Hotel in Amesbury: '100 Years of Uniform', presented by Bethany Joyce from The Wardrobe (The Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum). As sponsor, Society members are invited to attend and can register for free tickets on [eventbrite](#).

Military History News

The Tragic Fate of Marshal Ney

In 1812 Michel Ney was the last Frenchman to leave Russian soil as he led the rear-guard in the retreat from Moscow. Three years later he was dead; a military hero, but political traitor. The bravest of France's military leaders, Ney inspired authors, poets and artists. Ultimately though, he appeared to be a political opportunist as he switched his support from Napoleon to the Bourbons and back again. After the defeat at Waterloo, it was that final re-alignment with Bonaparte that resulted in his arrest and execution. Certainly, he was a military hero and as he stood without a blindfold, he gave his final order to his own firing squad. [Read more](#)

The Biggest Traitors in Military History

While traitors like Benedict Arnold are despised for the betrayal of their country and Harold Cole is held accountable for up to 150 deaths, the actions of Alfred Redl devastated Austria-Hungary. Whilst leading the army's counter-intelligence operations for a decade before the Great War, Redl passed invasion plans, tactics, troop numbers and agent names to the Imperial Russian Army. These actions impacted the Austro-Hungarian Army so much as for commentators to lay the deaths of some half-million people at Redl's door. [Read more](#)

Other articles

[The Ormskirk survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade who became a celebrity](#)

[Medal given to first soldier to die in First World War sells for thousands](#)

[East London's new military museum – RAF Hornchurch](#)

[Writing the Canadian Official Histories of the Second World War: The Problems with British Historical Liaison](#)

[Weighty tome captures New Zealand's World War II in pictures](#)

[A German Bunker Was Hidden Inside A Roman Fort On A Tiny Island That Still Holds More Mysteries](#)

[Battle of Asal Uttar: When Indian troops took on mighty Pattons of Pakistan and won](#)

[Russian Student Schools Putin on Military History](#)

Book reviews

[Deserters of the First World War: The Home Front](#)

[Sabotage by canoe: how the Special Boat Service changed the course of the Second World War](#)

Local events, online talks and podcasts

[Click here](#) to see a wealth of 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. For now though, click on the links below for the next (and future) webinars from a range of organisations. Some of these talks may charge a small fee to join.

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

Next talk: 'China' (Thursday 16th September)

[Army Flying Museum: Lockdown Lectures](#)

Next talk: '100 Years of Army Fixed-Wing Flying' (Monday 20th September)

[Western Front Association](#)

Next talk: 'Bullecourt, staff planning processes for the Australian operations in April and May 1917' (Saturday 25th September)

[The Great War Group](#)

Next talk: 'The Forgotten Legion: British Widows of the First World War' (Sunday 26th September)

[Gallipoli Association](#)

Next talk: 'A Yorkshireman in an Irish Division' (Tuesday 28th September)

[Wessex Military History Group](#)

Next talk: 'The Battle of Bocage - Normandy 1944' with Tim Saunders (Wednesday 29th September) - £5, email jameskrporter@aol.com

[British Modern Military History Society](#)

Next talk: 'The Blitz in London December 1940' (Tuesday 5th October)

[Classic Battlefield Tours](#)

Next talk: Battle of Verdun (Friday 8th October)

[Old Front Line](#)

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

[Pete and Gary's Military History: Peter Hart and Gary Bain](#)

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 welcoming more of you back to 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