



Salisbury Military History Society

February 2022 eNewsletter

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

Parish Notices

Wednesday 23rd February

7.30pm (arrive from 7pm) - 'The Light Division in the Peninsular War' with Tim Saunders

The Light Brigade, subsequently the Light Division, was without doubt the elite of Wellington's Peninsular Army. While they emerged as the best light troops, they certainly weren't the first or only light infantry in the British Army. Based on his books, historian Tim Saunders will answer the question "how did they emerge as that elite so quickly when much of the rest of the Army struggled with the realities of campaign?" [Read more](#)

For Full Members, the cost of entry is included in your annual subscription. For all other attendees, you can pay £10 on the door.

We accept cash and card payments at meetings, or cheques should be made out to the 'Salisbury Military History Society'. For bank transfers, the Society's account details can be found on the [membership form here](#). As we've already held our first meeting of the year, part-year fees now apply ([see here](#)).

Thank you to those that have signed up for the first time or renewed for 2022. Full Members can collect their 2022 membership card at the first talk they attend in the new year.

Upcoming talks

Wed 23rd Mar - 'Doctor Enigma' with Dr Mark Baldwin

Wed 27th Apr - 'Moltke and his Generals' with Quintin Barry

Wed 25th May - 'Zulu Rising: The epic story of the battle of Isandlwana' with Ian Knight

For more information on all our talks, click through to each from [our 'Events' webpage](#)

Review: AGM (Wednesday 26th January)

Before our last talk, Full Members were invited to meet for the Society's second Annual General Meeting. The Committee presented reports on their activities and four motions were passed:

1. To approve the Society's financial statement presented at the AGM - Approved
2. To amend the Society's Constitution for the membership year to run from 1st January - Approved
3. To approved the Committee's recommendation to keep annual membership at £45 and non-member attendance fee at £10 per meeting - Approved
4. To ratify the schedule of Membership Fees as proposed by the Committee for the year commencing 1st January 2022 - Approved

All Committee members standing again were unopposed and re-elected. Andy Sharp will remain as Secretary until a successor is announced.

Anyone interested in the position of Secretary is invited to have an informal chat by phone, email or at the next meeting. Please reply to this email or speak to a Committee member for further details.

Review: 'The Bruneval Raid, 1942' (Wednesday 26th January)

Paul Oldfield kicked off the new year with his evocative recounting of the Bruneval Raid – "Operation Biting" – in February 1942 and how significant its repercussions were on the Second World War. The combination of Germany's Freya and Würzburg radar emplacements along the French Channel coast caused serious concerns for the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, ultimately because the British didn't know how they operated together. A combined arms force was drawn from across the UK to prepare at Thrupton (51 Squadron), Tilshead and Alton Priors (paratroopers) and Arish Mell (embarkation flotilla). As with any operation, the night of 27th/28th February did not run entirely to plan, but the force

departed the beach with important equipment and a startled radar operator. Subsequent interrogations revealed that German radar did not require skilled operators, unlike British systems. On the German side, the result was that radar positions were better camouflaged and defended. For the British, combined operations had been proven to work, and the Parachute Regiment was established six months later.

Military History News

How Many Times Has the US Officially Declared War?

In the 246 years since the United States declared independence in 1776, Congress has declared war on 11 countries in five conflicts. While the First and Second World Wars are included in that number, America's involvements in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq were not preceded by formal declarations by Congress. [Read more](#)

The Forgotten Battle That Began the Second World War

While everyone could name or recognise the major battles of the Second World War, do we recall the first and last? The Battle of Czajánek's Barracks on 14th March 1939 took place by accident when the Czech 12th machine-gun company of the 8th Infantry Regiment didn't receive their government's order to stand down and so faced the advancing "Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler" regiment. Six years later, the final battle of the war – at Odžak - did not include German combatants, as Yugoslav partisans fought independent Croatian forces. [Read more](#)

Other articles

[These are the 4 strangest military units in history](#)

[The Persian Immortals: the feared elite guard of the Achaemenid empire](#)

[Roman legions: the backbone of the Roman military](#)

[5 Top Secret Military Bases That Changed History](#)

[Aviator Call Signs: The History & Naming Rituals](#)

[The Chinese Civil War: a guide to the conflict and the rise of Mao Zedong](#)

[Why Did Flying Boats Experience a Dip in Popularity Following WWII?](#)

[Military Legend: Why The F-4 Phantom Was Such An Amazing Fighter](#)

[Australia's Largest Historic Collection of Militaria Uncovered](#)

Local events, online talks and podcasts

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

While online talks continue, we'll include them in our eNewsletters. 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.

Western Front Association

Next talk: 'Research & Records Using CWGC Archives - Collection Gems' (Saturday 19th February)

Lockdown Lectures

Next talk: 'REME Aviation – Auster to Apache: Part 2' (Monday 21st February)

Wessex Military History Group

Next talk: 'Custer's Last Stand' (Wednesday 23rd February) - £5, email jameskrporter@aol.com

[British Modern Military History Society](#)

Next talk: 'The Boer War' (Tuesday 1st March)

[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 seeing more of you 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:

Chairman & Speaker Secretary: Alan Rooney

Vice Chair: Bob Kershaw

Secretary & Bookstall Co-ordinator: Andy Sharp

Treasurer: John Loades

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

Marketing Officer: Dave Simons

Events Officer: Sandy Forrest