



Salisbury Military History Society

July 2022 eNewsletter

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

Parish Notices

Wednesday 27th July

7.30pm (arrive from 7pm) - 'Victory in Burma' with Lt. Col. Mike Tickner

On 14th June 1945 the 14th Army conducted a victory parade in Rangoon having captured the city with barely a shot fired in anger. Meanwhile the final elements of the Imperial Japanese Army were in full retreat from Burma into Malaya and Siam. Starving, dressed in rags and riddled with tropical diseases, this was no longer the Japanese Army which had so resoundingly defeated the Indian and British Army three years earlier. The fall of Singapore and the terrible retreat had been the British Army's greatest defeat, yet these soldiers had been transformed into a victorious army. As the 14th Army, they were now able to defeat the most brutal of enemies in the most testing of climates and in the most difficult of terrain. This talk will consider why and how each army conducted warfare and why the Forgotten Army was transformed into a devastating fighting force.

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, card and cheque payments at meetings. 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're half way through 2022, part-year fees apply ([see here](#)).

The bookstall will be open at next week's talk for purchases and donations.

Upcoming talks

Wed 24th Aug - 'Old Wardour Castle & Salisbury during the English Civil War' with Julian Humphrys

Wed 28th Sept - 'Dunkirk 1940: The German View of Dunkirk' with Col. Robert Kershaw

Wed 26th Oct - 'Counter-Insurgency in Malaya: An Imperial Success Story' with Dr. Robert Lyman

Wed 23rd Nov - 'The Soldier's Soldier: A Leadership Life – Erwin Rommel' with Prof. Lloyd Clark

Wed 25th Jan - 'The Great Game: Anglo-Russian Rivalry in Central Asia' with Major Gordon Corrigan

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

Member benefits

In addition to a significant discount on entry to monthly talks, Full Members can benefit from the Society's ongoing relationships with local organisations including museums and shops. [Find out more here](#)

Review: 'The Changing of the Guard: The British Army since 9/11' with Simon Akam (Wednesday 22nd June)

In attendance last month was one of our local journalists who gave us a write-up afterwards: "Changing of the Guard author reveals why he lost his publishing contract" ([Salisbury Journal](#))

Your Committee

The Society is led by an enthusiastic Committee that books speakers, hosts talks, organises events and fulfils administrative requirements. Most of your current Committee has served for over three years and so we're always keen to invite new postholders to join us in order to encourage fresh ideas. Andy will be stepping down as Secretary once a successor has been appointed and we will be electing our 2023 Committee in just four months, so please do reply to this email or speak to any Committee member at the next meeting if you're interested in this position or any others.

Military History News

The Greatest Wartime Leaders in History

Six British leaders – Edward I (no.20), Francis Drake (no.25), Oliver Cromwell (no.28), Horatio Nelson (no.33), Arthur Wellesley (no.35) and T.E. Lawrence (no.47) – are included in a list of the top 60 greatest wartime leaders in history. [See them all here](#)

Why the Battle of Ortona Was Nicknamed the 'Italian Stalingrad'

Despite lasting just eight days in December 1943, the Battle of Ortona on the Adriatic coast was labelled the 'Italian Stalingrad' due to its intense urban fighting. Both the Allies and Axis Powers acknowledged the vital importance of the deep port and so two battalions of elite *Fallschirmjäger* (paratroopers) from the German 1st Parachute Division dug in to defend the town from the advancing 1st Canadian Infantry Division. With no experience in house-to-house fighting, the Canadians learnt new tactics quickly and forced the Germans into a quiet exit three days before New Year's Day. [Read more](#)

Other articles

[The Greatest Women in Military History](#)

[Top 3 tactical withdrawals in military history](#)

[Winged Hussars: The Rise and Fall of Europe's 'Angels of Death'](#)

[Nenagh Military History and the Barracks](#)

[The dangerous mythology of Franz Ferdinand's assassination](#)

[Second World War lost RAF bomber is finally found](#)

[Japan's erasure of WWII history education is causing problems: Japanese peace-promoting activist](#)

[First Lebanon War 1982: A Turning Point for Israel](#)

[Cornwall to host National Armed Forces Day 2023 in Falmouth](#)

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.

[The Society for Army Historical Research](#)

Next talk: The Logistical Challenges of a Nineteenth-Century Siege - Ciudad Rodrigo 1812 (Thursday 21st July)

[Old Front Line](#)

A fortnightly 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 you all 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