

Salisbury Military History Society

August 2019 eNewsletter

Hello and welcome to the eNewsletter for August 2019.

After our Summer hiatus we are now gearing up for our run of Autumn meetings, starting on Wednesday the 25th of September with [Colonel Tony Malkin](#) discussing:

The 1973 Yom Kippur War

Despite the complete defeat of three Arab armies in the 1967 Six Day War, how was it that Israel failed to anticipate the assault on two fronts six years later? And how did the IDF (Israeli Defence Force) regain control in the 'Valley of Tears'?

Colonel Malkin will be discussing the war's context and conduct, its political background and intelligence failures, utilising his intimate knowledge of both the area and the protagonists, gained from 5 years living in Palestine and Israel.



Refreshment break

During the break there will be a cash bar, supplying refreshments and also a Book Stall selling a number of second-hand books. So, please come prepared with your purse or wallet!



A future date for your diaries: Wednesday 23th October, (two days prior to the anniversary of the famous cavalry charge), our upcoming talk will be on "The Battle of Balaclava" with our Joint Chairman, Colonel Bob Kershaw; whose book on "24 Hours at Balaclava" is now available [here](#).

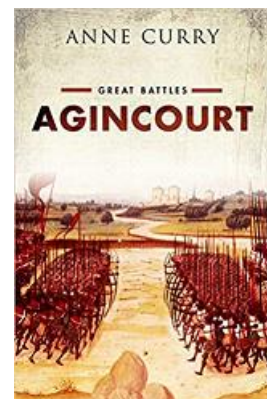
The poster for the talk can be downloaded [here](#).

Previously: Agincourt: Myth and Reality

At our June meeting Professor Anne Curry gave an excellent talk on the battle, setting the political climate with France that resulted in the battle at Agincourt and its context in the wider history of the Hundred Years War.

A surprise was that the facts of the battle have been continually "upgraded" or changed by many of the subsequent generations. This has led to numerous myths being born of the battle, from Shakespeare's version of events in Henry V to the Laurence Olivier's version of it in 1944. Neither being particularly true.

By 1944 it had become a marker of "Englishness" and, as such, enticed many people to claim their ancestors were present at the battle, fighting the European foe.



She also explained some very real concerns over the exact location for the battle and pointed out that more research was needed to categorically fix the location. She believes the currently accepted location to be close but not exact.

Intrigued? Did your ancestors fight in France during the period?...discover whether they did [here](#).

It was a fascinating and memorable journey with Professor Curry and our thanks go out to her.

Professor Curry's book "The Battle of Agincourt" is available [here](#).

Parish Notices

Membership

Please act now, complete your membership form and return it ASAP prior to our meeting on 25th September.

Membership forms for the next year (1st September 2019 to 30th June 2020) are now available on the website [here](#). Please take the time to read our Constitution - at the same link - when you visit the page.

From September onwards there will no longer be free drinks and nibbles but a cash bar, supplying refreshments, will be in operation for all members.

Full Membership

Having downloaded the membership form, you may either:

1. Type directly into the Word document and email it back, or
2. Print it out and fill it in.

Completed membership forms should be returned to the membership secretary either in person at a meeting or scanned/photographed copies may be emailed to salisburymilhist@gmail.com.

Payments may be made in the following ways:

- BACS/standing order (preferred) - bank account details on the membership form
- Cash - please bring this to any meeting
- Cheques may be made payable to "Salisbury Military History Society" and posted to the address below

Salisbury Military History Society
c/o The Cultural Experience
8 Barnack Business Park
Blakey Road
Salisbury
SP1 2LP

Monthly Membership

Having downloaded the membership form, you may either:

1. Type directly into the Word document and email it back, or
2. Print it out and fill it in.

As above, completed membership forms should be returned to the membership secretary either in person at a meeting or scanned/photographed copies may be emailed to salisburymilhist@gmail.com.

Pay £10 cash at the door at each meeting.

Please note, whichever type of membership you opt for, the completed form will need to be returned to the Society as your signature is required as acknowledgement of your acceptance of the Society's Constitution.

Non-Society Military History News:

New look Ministry of Defence team takes office

Secretary of State for Defence: Ben Wallace (MP, Wyre and Preston North)

Minister of State for Defence: Baroness Annabel Goldie

Minister for Defence Procurement: Anne-Marie Trevelyan (MP, Berwick-upon-Tweed)

Minister of State for the Armed Forces: Mark Lancaster (MP, Milton Keynes North)

Minister for Defence People and Veterans: Johnny Mercer (MP, Plymouth Moor View)

Read more: [Who Are The UK's New Defence Politicians?](#)

First trailer for '1917' aired

Excitement began to rise back when it was first announced that Sam Mendes would direct Steven Spielberg's production house's star-studded film '1917'. Including Benedict Cumberbatch, Colin Firth, Mark Strong and Richard Madden, the cast are followed through what has been described as the 'hellscape' of the Western Front. The movie will have a limited opening on Christmas Day before full release on 10th January 2020. [Read more.](#)

Generals in the Making

Benjamin Runkle's new book on Marshall, Eisenhower and Patton among others addresses the contribution of luck and fate in the rise of some of the most prominent generals of the Second World War. As Runkle recounts, "Eisenhower was called to the War Department after Pearl Harbor because the head of the War Plans Division's Asia department was killed in a plane crash on December 10, 1941. This accident forced [George] Marshall to find a replacement, thereby setting in motion the partnership that was crucial to winning the war." [Read more](#)

Operation Banner remembered 50 years on

14th August marked the 50th anniversary of Operation Banner commencing in Northern Ireland. Over 300,000 British personnel served and 1,441 died in the following 38 years. To mark the anniversary, the Royal British Legion hosted a commemoration of this longest deployment of British forces at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Site chosen for All-Ireland Military Museum

A cross-border committee has selected the site of the Battle of the Boyne for the new All-Ireland Military Museum, with its location being just 30 minutes from Dublin and 90 from Belfast. The ambition is to mirror the scope and success of the UK's 150-acre National Memorial Arboretum in the Midlands. [Read more](#)

From Haversacks to Skate Bags: The Secret History of Military Packs

Revealing developments over the last 160 years, Jon Custis has published his research into the influence that civilian backpacks have had on military packs, and vice versa. From the US Civil War to America's entry to the Second World War, army packs evolved gradually but it was in 1941 that the US Army Quartermaster borrowed heavily from a 1910 Norwegian creation and called upon the National Ski Association to assess the design. [Read more](#)

'War Is a Racket II'

Vietnam veteran Robert F. Boland has taken General Smedley Butler's 1935 book 'War is a Racket', expanded on the theme and brought it up-to-date with his 'War Is a Racket II: How the United States Government Manipulated the Country into Unnecessary Wars and Military Interventions'. Boland's book takes the reader from the Revolutionary War up to the Iraq War and reminds us that the US currently has 800 military bases in 70 countries. [Read more](#)

County Antrim museum curator honoured

Starting with his grandfather's Great War belt and chocolate tin, David McCallion has gone on to collect a vast array of military memorabilia and share his collection with the public as the 'War Years Remembered' museum. In mid-July he was awarded the 'Points of Light' award from then-PM Theresa May. [Read more](#)

Current and forthcoming events in Salisbury (and around Wiltshire/the SW)

23rd April - 5th October – “Women of REME” exhibition, REME Museum ([click here](#))

17th August – “Warminster Medieval Fair” ([click here](#))

17th/18th August – “Imberbus”, Warminster to Imber ([click here](#))

18th August – “Salisbury Plain Safari”, meeting place TBC ([click here](#))

22nd-26th August – “Salisbury History Festival” ([click here](#))

25th/26th August – “Legendary Joust”, Old Sarum ([click here](#))



3rd September – “Battlefields That Never Were: Second World War Defences in Wiltshire” lecture, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre ([click here](#))

5th September – “Forgotten Few - the story of the naval pilots in the Battle of Britain” lecture, Army Flying Museum ([click here](#))

5th September – “Airframe Tours of Cobham Hall”, near the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm Museum ([click here](#))

13th September – “Cabinet’s Finest Hour: The Hidden Agenda of May 1940” talk by Lord Owen, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre ([click here](#))

14th September – “Tiger Day 12”, The Tank Museum, Bovington ([click here](#))

17th September – “Maritime Patrol Nimrods” talk, Boscombe Down Aviation Collection ([click here](#))

19th September – “Changing Times: The Impact of Total War in Wiltshire and its Effects Post-War, 1939-1955” lecture, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre ([click here](#))

26th September – “Wiltshire’s Enemy Aliens: The Internment of Foreigners in the Second World War” lecture, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre ([click here](#))

28th/29th September – “South West Model Show”, The Tank Museum, Bovington ([click here](#))

...and finally:

As a Committee we are starting to look at possible members trips to various historic exhibitions and locations. Please do let us know of any thoughts or suggestions that you may have on potential destinations. For the Society to flourish it needs to be open and responsive to ideas and requests from all of its membership so, please do get in touch.

Again, to that end, should you know of anyone who may be interested in our Society, please do forward this eNewsletter to them. If you know of any institution or workplace that would be happy to advertise our upcoming talks, again do let us know.

Alternatively, for direct action, posters for the future talks can be downloaded [here](#).

I hope that you can join us on the 25th September for Tony's talk on the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Kind regards,

Keith Rigden
Membership Secretary

Dave Simons
Web & Marketing Officer

Useful links:

Website - <https://salisburymilhist.com>

Email - SalisburyMilHist@gmail.com

Facebook - [SalisburyMilHist](#)

Twitter - [SalisburyMHS](#)

Who's who:

Joint-Chair & Speaker Secretary: Alan Rooney

Joint-Chair: Bob Kershaw

Treasurer: John Loades

Web & Marketing Officer: Dave Simons

Secretary: Andy Sharpe

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden