

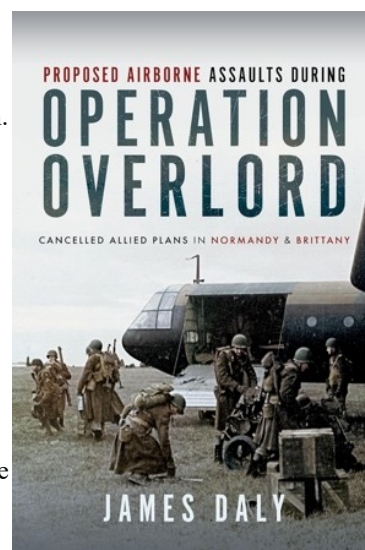


Alresford Historical & Literary Society

NEWSLETTER - 1st June 2024

**Next meeting: 7:30pm Wed 19th June, Methodist Church, changed programme
Operation Overlord a talk by James Daly, military historian and author**

James Daly is a military historian who has written several books about Portsmouth and the part it played in both world wars. His latest book '*Proposed Airborne Assaults during Operation Overlord: Cancelled Allied Plans in Normandy and Brittany*' was published in May 2024 just in time for the D-Day 80 commemoration. The airborne landings on D-Day played a major part in the success of the largest amphibious operation ever mounted. Yet just over three months later Operation MARKET GARDEN, the largest airborne operation ever attempted, failed to take all its objectives. It is notable, however, that in the film '*A Bridge Too Far*' Dirk Bogarde's Lieutenant General 'Boy' Browning refers to many cancelled operations since D-Day. What were these operations? Why do we know so little about them? And what can they tell us about Allied airborne planning, and the way that the Allies fought in 1944? As James Daly reveals, Airborne planning was frenetic and wide ranging during this period. One operation would have seen gliders landing on a beach; another would have seen the airborne troops taking off without maps; some of them were months in the planning; others were merely an idea that lasted for a matter of days. James explores a little-known aspect of the Allies' landings in France in the summer of 1944 [CA].



just published - May 2024

**Some comments on our last talk *Lord Louis Mountbatten*, by Adrian Smith
Emeritus Professor, Modern History, University of Southampton.**

Adrian provided us with in-depth analysis into the character of Mountbatten. Born in 1900 "Dickie" was one of the world-leading figures of the 20th century. His career started with active service in The Great War. He rose through the ranks and to fame between the Wars becoming Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command in the Second World War. After, he became Viceroy of India during our country's period of decolonisation. Insight into his complex life can best be explored through published biographies, including our speaker's books on the subject. As with all leaders, Mountbatten's character was complicated. Adrian's talk, presented with animated enthusiasm, vividly described how the great man was "slightly less liked the closer you approached him"! But Mountbatten and his wife Edwina were in every sense the archetypal glamorous couple of the last century. His assassination as an IRA target in 1979 was deeply felt throughout the UK, not least by his relatives in the royal family who loved and revered him beyond words [MD].



Next Outing: Our next outing is to Strawberry Hill www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk on Thursday 1st August. For more information and to book places please contact Colin Scott-Morton: colin.scottmorton@btinternet.com



Best wishes from

Mike Dickens, Hon Secretary secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk