



June 2023

TADS Newsletter

Website: www.tadshistory.com

Next Meeting - Monday 9th June at 8pm in
Baughurst and Heath End Village Hall, Heath End Road,
Baughurst RG26 5LU

‘The Invisible Corps’

By Roy Larkin

A look at the story of the Army Service Corps 1914-1918, revealing a story of evolution, ‘passing the buck’ and meddling civilians. The Service Corps were the army equivalent of a supermarket’s largely hidden warehouses and lorries which put the goods on the shelves. In this case shells rather than bananas.

Roy is a member of TADS and is a very respected historian of the British back up organisations operating in World War I.

(Everybody welcome - visitors £3.00)

If you wish to stop receiving this Newsletter please email Richard Brown or notify Carol Stevens or any Committee member.

Comments, queries and suggestions to:

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www.tadshistory.com

Future TADS events:

Monday 14th July 2025 in Baughurst and Heath End Village Hall

The real Downton Abbey - what it was really like to be in domestic service.

The Battle of Hastings: regime change 11th Century style.

By Mike Cooper

Whatever history one knows, 1066 is a date that many remember.

On 24th April 1066 there was a sign 'things were going to happen'. Many of us know about 1066-and-all-that, but Halley's Comet appearing was the catalyst. The embroidered Bayeux Tapestry has tangible evidence, perhaps with input from the chaplain, William of Poitiers.

Bayeux Tapestry
showing Halley's
Comet, top right.



Lecturer Mike Cooper said that the Domesday Book of 1086 mentions 'Sudcote' - Southcote, Reading regarding a set of tax records to the value of £4-5. Brictward had land in central Berkshire - Wokefield area worth 'three hides'.

Before 1066 Athelstan was the first English king. We were being ruled before that by Danish kings. Edward the Confessor was a pious and dignified king, but was troubled by the Danes. King Athelstan was advised by Bishop Godwin who was very influential and ruled when the King died without an heir. The royalty of the 11th Century was somewhat muddled, being illiterate, but nevertheless supported by the Pope, who was also very influential.

Many people who don't know much history are often aware of the so called Battle of Hastings (1066) (which was actually at the site of Battle Abbey) where the Normans fought better and defeated and mutilated our King Harold. The English arrows apparently had little effect on the Normans' armour.



Bayeux Tapestry -
King Harold is
killed

The seamstresses who embroidered the Bayeux Tapestry showed all the details we know of today. After 1066 there was English expansion to the North and West of Europe but away from Scandinavia. There seems to have been unrest, trouble and strife until times of Mary Tudor. In Southern England at least, Mike said, we leant towards crusading.

Before William the Conqueror conquered us, it was rumoured that King Harold was a thug, was ruthless and had a significant force of thugs! I imagine that people had assumed that Harold was mild and 'harmless' (1064), although he had been a scary king.

Thank you Mike for your comprehensive talk.

Rosemary Bond

A copy of the Bayeux Tapestry

Want to see the tapestry (really an embroidery) and save yourself a trip to Northern France and the museum's £10.10 entrance fee? Then go to Reading Museum where they have an accurate, full size replica made in Victorian times. The museum's website has a display of the tapestry panel by panel. See:

<https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/collections/britains-bayeux-tapestry>

Aldermaston Court

The building was featured on television news programmes last week as one of the country's ten most endangered Victorian buildings. It has been empty for several years and is in need of urgent work to save it for the future. The news item was sponsored by the Victorian Society and fronted by their President, Griff Rhys Jones.

VE Day

Representatives of TADS attended some of the events in the area which marked the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II. In particular, Richard gave a talk about Tadley in WWII at the National Women's Register tea party in Baughurst Hall.

We had a pictorial display at the commemoration service at St Mary's Church, Tadley on Sunday 11th May. We sold a good number of our books at the events. We still have plenty of copies of 'In Grateful Remembrance' our book about the men named on the War Memorial for sale at the reduced price of only £10.

Raffle

The raffle at our meetings has proved popular and is providing additional funds. Some how Treasurer Christine has been producing the prizes, but her stock is reducing. If you have anything suitable for a prize, Christine would welcome it.



Two of the many superb VE Day displays by Tadley U3A knitters



What's On? Events which may be of interest.

Milestones Museum The website to buy admission tickets can be found at: <https://www.milestonesmuseum.or.uk/>

14/15 June - **Father's Day Weekend**

Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

To June 29: The Comedy **Wildlife Photography Awards 2024**

11 June: (10am – 4pm) **Sustainability Day**

Drop in during the day and join members of the Basingstoke and Deane sustainability team to find out how to save money on your energy bills, ways to travel sustainably, and how to attract more wildlife in your gardens. There will also be sustainable tips and hints cards for you to take away.

22 June, 2 pm: Sunday afternoon talk – **Six Little Heads: The 1905 Amesbury Murders** by Neil Berrett (followed by tea or coffee and cake) £7.00 and must be booked. To book go on-line at www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum, call in, or phone 01256 465902

Friends of the Willis Museum (7.30pm at the museum, non-members £3.00 and please book by telephone on 01256 465902)

19 June - War Diaries of The **Canadian 4th General Hospital** at Park Prewett by David Hopkins. *The construction of Park Prewett Hospital was not completed until 1917. The building was first used by the Canadian Army Medical Corps as a military convalescent hospital.*

Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society
(7.30pm at Church Cottage Basingstoke)

7 July - Meeting subject not known.

TADS annual membership is £20 per person. Correspondence to Tadley and District History society, c/o 5 Church road, Pamber Heath, Tadley. RG26 3DP