

## Illustrated talks for general audience by Martin Stoneham

*More information about Martin, comments on the talks & his recent book overleaf.*

### 'The Unknown Captain, Royal West Kent Regiment'

How, entirely by chance, a 101 year old mystery was unravelled by Martin. *See endnote.*

### '...there is some corner of a foreign field that is forever England.'

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission - its foundation in 1917 and subsequent development, its cemeteries and its value to family history enthusiasts.

### The Victoria Cross

An outline of its history, its recipients and some of the more unusual facts about it.

### 4 November 1918—Seven VCs in one day

Crossing the Sambre-Oise canal referring particularly to the actions of Sapper Archibald, Major Waters & Major Findlay and their fellow Sappers. – *See endnote.*

### Bailey: the Bridge and the Man

The eponymous bridge, from its development at the start of World War 2, earlier military bridges, its successors and its current military and civilian use. *See endnote.*

### Hobart's Funnies: Innovation, Ingenuity, Initiative

Describing the specialised tanks that came to the fore on D Day and have remained in use since then and were on active duty in Afghanistan.

### The Albert Medal.

A now forgotten medal for gallantry instituted in 1866 whose youngest recipient was only eight years old.

### Terence Cuneo "A day without painting is a day wasted".

One of the late 20th Centuries most prolific artist and internationally renowned for his scenes of railways, horses and military action. Official artist for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

### The General Officers of World War 1

**Short talk:** A commentary on John Singer Sargent's painting of the General Officers.

**Longer talk:** The above plus details of the General Officer casualties in the war.

### The Royal Engineers Museum

A former Sapper's personal view of the roles of the Royal Engineers as displayed at the Royal Engineers' Museum, Gillingham, focussing on their World War 1 activities.

### World War 1: Mons to the Somme

Covering the retreat from Mons to the Marne, the advance to the river Aisne, the move to Flanders and the events of 1916. Particular reference is made to the higher command of the BEF, various actions of the Royal West Kent Regiment and the work of the Royal Engineers.

**For those with a special interest in the Napoleonic period.**

### Lt Col Sir Richard Fletcher RE

His military and family life. He was the Duke of Wellington's Commanding Royal Engineer for much of the Peninsular War. His medals can be seen at the RE Museum.

### Military Bridging in the Peninsular War

A commentary on the work and achievements of the British military engineers in Portugal and Spain. Originally delivered at the Wellington Congress, Southampton University.

**For more information email: [sapper@stoneham.org](mailto:sapper@stoneham.org) or call 01474 853014**

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**Martin Stoneham is a military historian specialising in the work of the Corps of Royal Engineers and its predecessor Corps.**

He served in the Corps of Royal Engineers from 1963 until 1970.

Martin is member and Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Royal Engineers.

He now works solely on researching, writing and talking about military history.

A regular visitor to the Western Front and the Normandy beaches, he has also visited the major Peninsular War battlefield sites.

He is Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Engineers Museum at Gillingham, and is on the committee of the Royal Engineers Historical Society & a member of various military history associations. He is actively involved with the Royal British Legion, ABF: The Soldiers' Charity and the Cuneo Society.

Web site: <http://stoneham.org> OR <https://homepages.plus.net/mwstoneham/>

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**'The Unknown Captain, Royal West Kent Regiment'**

Mrs Prunella Scarlett LVO, the great niece of Captain Cecil Thomas Tuff, who attended the rededication service at Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery with her brother Mr Geoffrey Tuff, recently said: *The Tuff family is thrilled that the grave of our great uncle Cecil has been found. We are so grateful to all those involved, particularly the researcher Martin Stoneham, whose initiative it was after reading the names on his local World War I memorial.*

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*The story of the Bailey bridge and the man responsible for a wartime design that helped the allied armies surge through Europe, was told to Probus members by Martin Stoneham in an illustrated talk that captivated his audience. The Bailey bridge was, as Mr Stoneham described, "the original flatpack".*

**The Royal Engineers Museum - IET retired members Group organiser**

*I found it fascinating and I know, from comments afterwards, that so did my members. The Royal Engineers are clearly an outstanding part of the British army and you demonstrated their skill, achievements and bravery in an interesting and comprehensive way.*

**4 November 1918—Seven VCs in one day**

*On behalf of Mott MacDonald [Birmingham office] I'd just like to thank you once again for your brilliant presentation on Monday evening. It really proved to be a focal talking point of the evening; I heard so many staff and guests discussing the detail of your research and the clear, poignant delivery.*

April 2021

**West Kingsdown Remembers - The First World War**

A record of Service to their King and country of those from the village who are remembered on the War Memorial.

[92 page A4 book with A3 map. Published September 2019 and available from Martin.]

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