



**You are warmly invited to attend
our June Lecture,
at Millbank (*directions below*), also on Zoom
1830hrs Friday 27 June 2025**

**Our speaker, David Vassallo, presents
Op PALLISER and Op BARRAS, 25 Years on – a personal account**



Nothing ever happens on Spearhead, so they told me.

In spring 2000 I was assigned for six months, as a military general surgeon, to a Field Surgical Team (FST) in Colchester within the Spearhead Lead Element, the British Armed Forces' principal high readiness component. This essentially consisted of a battlegroup formed around a light infantry battalion, with supporting arms, prepared to deploy to trouble spots anywhere around the world at the behest of Her Majesty's Government.

I was reassured by the powers that be that I could continue with normal duties. Therefore, while I prepared my kit, I left it at home in the south of England while I commenced an attachment to a hospital in Salford, Manchester, some six hours rail journey from home.

Soon afterwards, late one Friday evening in early May, I received a phone call ...

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You can read more of Op PALLISER in 'Give me a clue, hot or cold?', in Glimpses of War, within the Resources section of our website, <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/gow/>

...

Op BARRAS, a hostage rescue mission, followed four months later, after another phone call.

**Proceeds will be donated to the speaker's chosen charity,
The Museum of Military Medicine**

**Prior registration required. Refreshments 1730hrs, supper at 2000hrs.
All are welcome. Register [HERE](#) or via www.friendsofmillbank.org**





Our speaker



Col (retd) David Vassallo FRCSEd DHMSA DMCC MA L/RAMC

David, originally from Malta, is a consultant military general surgeon who served 35 years in the Royal Army Medical Corps between 1983 – 2018, deploying frequently to field hospitals in war zones from 1990 - 2011, commencing with Saudi Arabia (First Gulf War), followed by multiple tours of duty in Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan. He remains active in an educational role, developing HOSPEX Tabletop training for field hospitals and for WHO Emergency Medical Teams in Belgium, Denmark, Ethiopia and elsewhere.

Not surprisingly, David is deeply interested in military and military medical history. He is actively involved with various voluntary organisations in Malta and the UK, including the George Cross Island Association, Heritage Malta, Friends of Valletta, the Museum of Military Medicine, and the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. He has a Masters in the History of Warfare from King's College London, his dissertation being on the transformation of the UK's Defence Medical Services in recent conflicts and how this led to significantly improved survival rates on the battlefield, see <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/milmedrev/>.

He has been Chairman, Friends of Millbank since 2020, developing its website into a unique military medical history resource, see www.friendsofmillbank.org. He organises regular talks on the last Friday of most months at Millbank and online, open to all, which celebrate the history, achievements and ongoing relevance of military medicine to today's world.



Friends of Millbank



Directions for Millbank

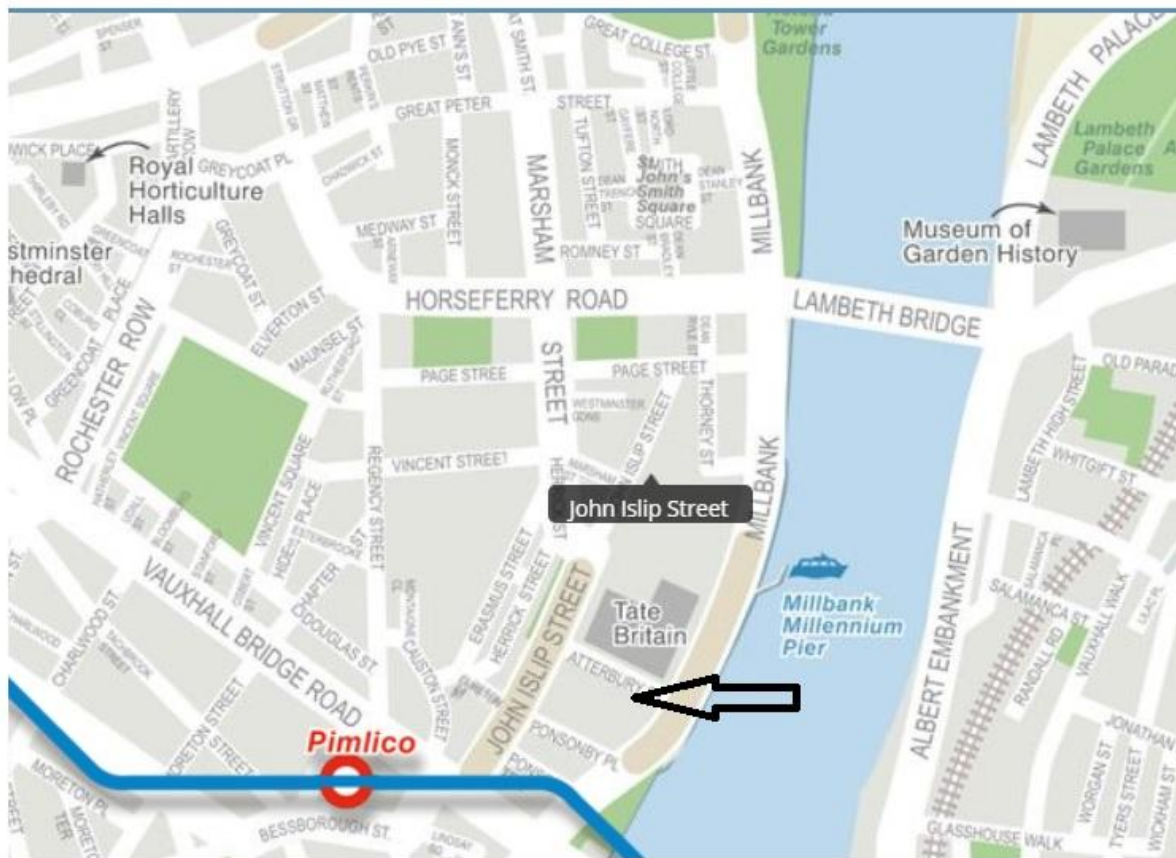
(Chelsea College of Arts, formerly the Royal Army Medical College)

See College history at <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/college-history/>

The entrance is via Atterbury Street, opposite Tate Britain (arrowed on map below).

We meet at the College Reception for light refreshments from 1730hrs. The talk commences at 1830hrs. Guests and non-members are always welcome, please donate £5 to attend, or enrol as a member for only £20 p.a. Everyone attending the talk, whether in person at Millbank or online via Zoom, is asked to register beforehand via www.friendsofmillbank.org

LondonTown.com - John Islip Street Location Map



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www.friendsofmillbank.org