



**You are warmly invited to attend
our February Lecture
at Millbank (*directions below*), also on Zoom
1830hrs Friday 23 February 2024**

**Our guest speaker, Brian Robertson, presents
'British Army Ambulance Trains and their place in history'**



For those who have served in the Defence Medical Services, Brian Robertson's name is synonymous with the history of British Army Ambulance Trains. His richly illustrated talk will include video covering the history, role and capabilities of ambulance trains from the days of the South African Wars through to the disbandment of all British Army Ambulance Train capability in 1995 at the end of the Cold War. He ends with a glimpse into the future for ambulance trains.

Between 1985 and 1994 Brian Robertson was Squadron Commander of the Ambulance Train Squadron RAMC(V), a Territorial Army Unit responsible for the running of British Army Ambulance Trains in Europe in the event of a Russian invasion. The Squadron was disbanded as above. Having spent some 15 years operating Ambulance Trains in the British Army of the Rhine Brian continues to promote and lecture on the use of rail for medical purposes.

Proceeds will be donated to Médecins sans Frontières

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





Our guest speaker



Colonel (retd) Brian Robertson, OStJ, TD, L/RAMC

After eight years' service as a Regular in the Royal Army Medical Corps Brian Robertson transferred to the Reserves in 1979, joining the Army Medical Service TA. Between 1985 and 1994 he was Squadron Commander of the Ambulance Train Squadron RAMC(V), responsible for the running of British Army Ambulance Trains in Europe in the event of a Russian invasion. After the Unit was disbanded he was promoted to the rank of Colonel L/RAMC and appointed Commanding Officer of 306 Field Hospital (V), a 200 bed TA Field Hospital, an appointment held until December 1999. After a period of service in the AMS TA Specialist Manpower Pool he retired from the Army in late 2006. He also served 22 years as a General Practitioner with the NHS in Aldershot.

Dr Robertson has a special interest in pre-hospital emergency care and the medical management of major incidents. He has lectured widely on pre-hospital care, mass gathering medicine, major incident medical management and the use of railways in disasters.

His attendance at large scale incidents has included:

- The Hungerford Multiple Shooting (1987).
- The Clapham Railway Accident (1988).
- The Purley Railway Accident (1989).
- The Loss of the Marchioness on the River Thames (1989).
- The Ufton Nervet Railway Accident (2004).



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He received his Territorial Decoration in 1989, and in 1992 became Officer Brother of the Most Venerable of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. In 1997 he was awarded the Haywood Medal of the British Association for Immediate Care (BASICS) for his contribution to pre-hospital care in the UK, and in 2002 was awarded the Asmund Laerdal Award for outstanding services to Immediate Care.

Dr Robertson was appointed National Chairman of the British Association of Immediate Care (BASICS) (2000-2003).

Following his long career in the Armed Forces, the National Health Service and the Event Medical Services commercial sector, Brian now offers consultancy services in all aspects of event medical provision. This encompasses event medical risk assessments through to the scoping of medical provision, plan writing, assisting clients with contractor selection, including quality assurance, through to post event reporting and review. He has considerable experience in all types of event medical provision from corporate and sporting events through to major events such as airshows and large public functions.

In April 2002 he was the Tactical Medical Commander (Silver Doctor) for the State Funeral of HRH Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. He personally scoped, planned and delivered the medical care to 56 major Ministry of Defence Airshows through the Event Medicine Company Ltd that he owned and ran between 2002 – 2020. In addition, he was Medical Director of the Farnborough International Airshow for 26 years (13 Shows) until 2018. He also scoped and delivered the medical provision for the NATO Summit held at Celtic Manor in South Wales in 2014 where the population at risk included 65 Heads of State and World Leaders.



British Ambulance Train crossing the Tugela River, Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902



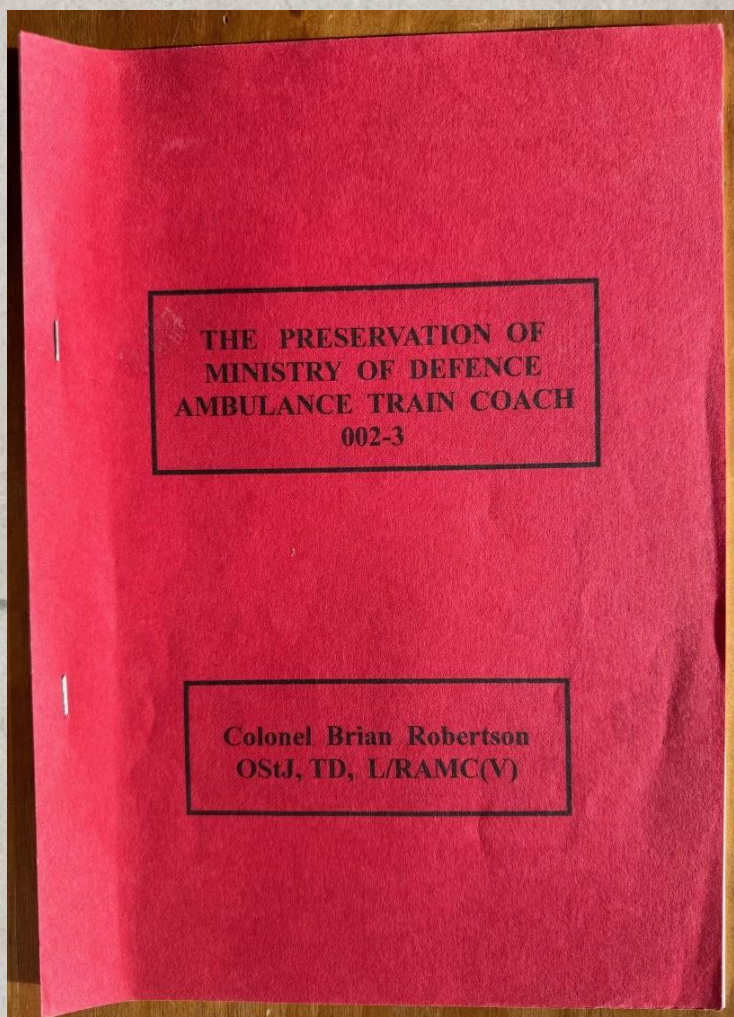
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Recommended Reading



(Published for the Museum of Military Medicine, 1998)

Ambulance trains are still in use in Europe, though not by the UK. Members are referred to the December 2023 issue of the BMA's magazine *'The Doctor'*, which gives an account of the work by the ambulance train currently being used by Médecins sans Frontières to evacuate casualties in Ukraine, click [HERE](#).



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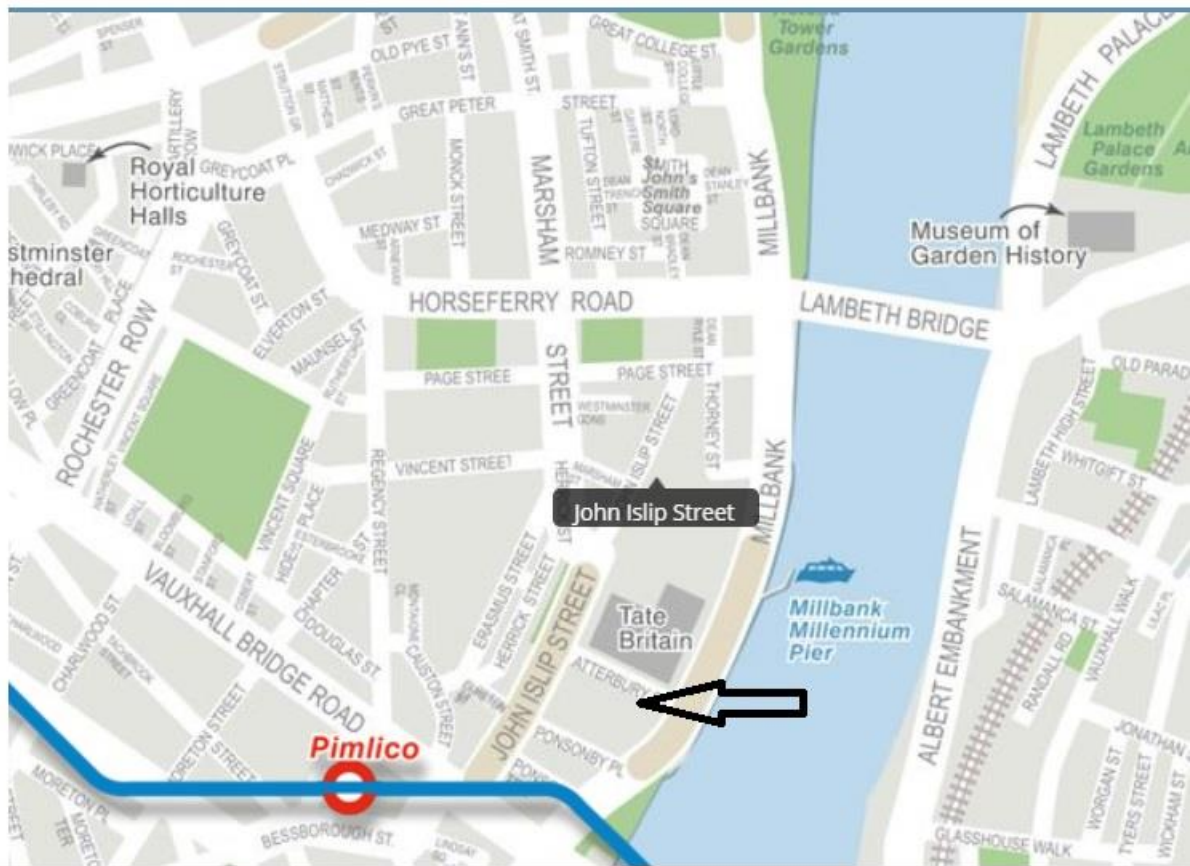
Directions for Millbank (Chelsea College of Arts, formerly the Royal Army Medical College)

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

We meet for light refreshments at Reception from 1730hrs. The talk commences at 1830hrs.

Guests and non-members are very welcome. Everyone attending the talk, whether in person at Millbank or online via Zoom, is requested to register beforehand via www.friendsofmillbank.org

LondonTown.com - John Islip Street Location Map



info@friendsofmillbank.org



www.friendsofmillbank.org