

# David Worsfold – author and journalist

## Book and research talks

All of these talks can be adjusted to last from 30 to 60 minutes and are supported by a wide range of illustrations, photographs and original documents. Some also have video available.

They are presented in an engaging style, perfectly tailored to the different interests of a wide variety of groups and audiences.



***Talks based on [Fighting for the Empire, the story of an Irish doctor's adventures through Imperial campaigns and two World Wars.](#)***

### The Kelly Story

- From Galway to Empire
- Ireland, India, NW Frontier, Persia, Tibet
- WW1: Egypt, Aden and Mesopotamia
- Marriage and family
- WW2: Ship's surgeon

### The North West Frontier

- Defending the Khyber Pass
- The Afghan Wars
- The Relief of Chitral
- Churchill and Kipling
- Day-to-day life

### Tibet Mission through the eyes of a Medical Officer

- The 1904 Mission: purpose and politics
- The characters: Macdonald, Younghusband, Waddell
- The challenges: Himalayas, cold, altitude
- Mission creep
- Massacre at Guru: treating the Tibetans
- Attacked in Lhasa
- Letters from the frontline

### WW1: Fighting the Turks

- The Ottoman Empire in 1914
- Egypt
- Aden
- Gallipoli
- Mesopotamia and the Siege of Kut

## WW1: Mesopotamia

- From disaster to triumph
- Defending the oilfields
- Thrust to Baghdad
- Siege of Kut: defeat and chaos
- General Maude and re-organisation
- Medical services: failures, re-building and nurses
- Advances up the Tigris and Euphrates

## Ship's Surgeon between the wars and WW2

- Passenger lines to South America – first “radio doctor”
- Voyage of the Dammed
- Volunteers for Royal Navy, aged 69
- France 1940: Bordeaux and the SS Madura
- Troopships to North Africa
- Atlantic convoys



***Talks based on Operation Aerial, the last great untold story of WW2, currently being researched and written. Due for publication in 2020.***

## Rescuing the British Expeditionary Force from France after Dunkirk

- Dunkirk: the BEF cut in two
- Breton Redoubt and Canadian reinforcements
- Operation Cycle and Cherbourg evacuation
- Operation Aerial and the Biscay evacuations
- Highland Division surrenders at St Valery
- St Malo, Dieppe and Lorient – and the Channel islands
- St Nazaire and the Lancastria disaster
- Bordeaux: collapse of the French government and the SS Madura
- Evacuations continue after the Fall of France

## Fleeing Hitler – The Civilian stories

- “Go South” – the exodus to the Atlantic ports
- Who were the 20,000? Brits, Jews, politicians, press
- Their stories from 10 year old girl to the world's richest man
- SS Madura's famous passengers



## **Historical talks derived from research for books and articles**

### **Voyage of the Dammed**

- 1938-39 – Jews leaving Germany for south America after Kristallnacht
- The SS St Louis and its German captain
- Refused entry to Cuba, USA and Canada
- Other ships come to the rescue – British welcome
- German captain Gustav Schroder becomes Righteous Among the Nations

### **The Indian Medical Service**

- Origins with the East India Company
- Role and structure under the Raj
- Stories of British and Irish doctors
- In peace
- In war
- Heroes of the IMS

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## **General interest talks about researching and writing using examples from book writing and from journalism**

### **Turning family history into historical biography**

- Creating a narrative
- Building the context
- Making personal interest into general interest
- Planning the structure and focusing your writing

### **Researching historical stories**

- Kelly book across four continents and 20 countries
- Sources: conventional and unconventional
- Military sources
- Local sources
- Foreign records
- Identifying the gaps

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