

# THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR MILITARY HISTORY

## ANNUAL REPORT – 2008

### Military History Society of Ireland AGM - 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Once again, the principal event of the year was the annual Congress, the XXXIV<sup>th</sup>, held in Trieste, from the 31<sup>st</sup> August to 5<sup>th</sup> September on the theme “Military Conflicts and civilian population: limited wars, total wars and asymmetric wars.” Professor Alan Kramer of Trinity College Dublin represented the Society and presented a paper entitled “**German War Crimes 1914/1941: Continuity or Break?**” Professor Jorit Wintjes of Wurtzburg University and a member of the Society also presented a paper entitled “**Total War: The Ancient Perspective**”. I also attended the Congress as did Commandant Frank McGoldrick. The event was attended by 280 delegates and accompanying persons from 37 countries. A total of 63 papers were presented, 41 of which were in English. The Congress also featured a books roundtable and a young scholars’ workshop.

Once again we express our gratitude to the Minister for Defence for the subvention which covers the expense of sending a speaker to this important annual event without the need to call on Society funding. The Department provides this support in addition to the payment of our annual subscription of 650 Swiss Francs to the International Commission.

The Bibliographie Internationale of the International Commission is published annually and consists of several hundred summary reviews of the latest military history books. Our contribution to the Bibliographie was continued as usual this year and reviews of nine books of Irish interest were submitted for inclusion in Tome 30 which will be published next year. Tome 29 was published in September and contains eight reviews submitted by this Commission. As ever, we are greatly indebted to Dr. Patrick McCarthy, Chairman of the Books Committee, for his dedicated work in reviewing the books and compiling the submission.

Next year the annual Congress, the XXXV<sup>th</sup>, will be held in Porto from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September on the theme “Warfare in the Age of Napoleon’: precedents, military campaigns and lasting impacts”. Our speaker will be selected shortly. If any members are interested in attending this event, they will find full details on the Congress website [www.xxxvcongressicmh2009.com](http://www.xxxvcongressicmh2009.com) Looking further ahead, the 2010 Congress is due to be held in Amsterdam on the theme of Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency. The 2011 Congress will be held in Rio de Janeiro and that of 2012 in Paris.

**PM**

6<sup>th</sup> December 2008