

## **THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR MILITARY HISTORY**

### **ANNUAL REPORT – 2009**

#### **Military History Society of Ireland AGM - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

Once again, the principal event of the year was the annual Congress, the XXXV<sup>th</sup>, held in Porto, from the 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.” Dr. Ian Speller of the National University of Ireland Maynooth presented a paper entitled “**The War at sea in the Age of Napoleon and the development of maritime strategy.**” I also attended the Congress. The event was attended by over 300 delegates and accompanying persons from 36 countries. A total of 86 papers were presented, 40 of which were in English. The Congress also featured a books roundtable, a discussion 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 31 which will be published next year. Tome 30 was published in September and contains nine 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 XXXVI<sup>th</sup>, will be held in Amsterdam from 29<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September on the theme “Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: Irregular Warfare from 1800 to the Present.” 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.cihm2010.nl](http://www.cihm2010.nl) Looking further ahead, the 2011 Congress is due to be held in Rio de Janeiro. The 2012 and 2013 Congresses are scheduled for Tunisia and Japan respectively.

**PM**

5<sup>th</sup> December 2009