

THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR MILITARY HISTORY

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Once again, the principal event of the year was the annual Congress, the XXXVIIth, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 28 August to 2 September on the theme ‘Decolonisation: Colonial and Independence wars from the 18th century to the Present’. The Society's speaker was Brig. Gen. Patrick Purcell, a Vice President of the Society. He presented a paper entitled ‘Decolonisation: Congo 1960-61.’ The Congress was attended by almost 300 delegates and accompanying persons from 38 countries. Twenty-seven countries were scheduled to present over 80 papers in a series of triple parallel sessions. The Congress also featured a round-table discussion on “Peacekeeping Operations under the aegis of the United Nations.”

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.

An annual feature of the work of the International Commission has been the publication of the *Bibliographie Internationale*, consisting of several hundred summary reviews of the latest military history books. Tome 31 was published this year as a journal and an online edition. The Society submitted nine reviews for inclusion in it. 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's Congress, the XXXVIIIth will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria from 26 to 31 August with the theme ‘**Technology and Warfare**’. Our speaker will be Fergal Purcell who will speak on EOD experiences and the Defence Forces. The Congress website www.bcmhl38.com Japan is unable to host the Congress in 2013, due to the national disasters and a replacement will be announced shortly. Paris is the venue for 2014 and China for 2015.

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