

THE IRISH COMMISSION FOR MILITARY HISTORY

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Once again, the principal event of the year was the annual Congress, the XXXVIIIth, held in Sofia, Bulgaria from 26 to 31 August on the theme '**Technology and Warfare**'. The Society was represented by Mr. Fergal Purcell who presented a paper entitled 'The Long Walk: An aspect of the evolution of Improvised Explosive Devices from the Irish War of Independence to 21st century Afghanistan, and their impact on military tactics and technology.' The Congress was attended by over two hundred delegates and accompanying persons from thirty-three countries. A total of seventy-one papers were presented in a series of parallel sessions spread over four days. The Congress also featured a round-table discussion on new and recent books on the subject and a workshop for PhD candidates.

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.

Japan was originally scheduled to host the 2013 Congress but withdrew following the natural disasters in 2011. A substitute venue was difficult to arrange but it is now expected that next year's Congress, the XXXIXth will be held in Turin, Italy from 25 to 30 August with the theme '**Joint and Combined Operations in the History of Warfare**'. Our speaker will be selected shortly. Paris is the venue for 2014 when the theme will be the outbreak of World War I. China is the venue for 2015.

Peter Mulready

10 November 2012