

Commission Internationale d'Histoire Militaire * International Commission of Military History

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The Irish Commission for Military History and The Military History Society of Ireland

by Peter Mulready, Secretary-general

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Please note that some of the information given here might be out of date by now – in case of doubt, please check
with the organization directly!*

The Irish Commission for Military History was formed in 1980. It could be said to be the 'international office' of its parent organization, The Military History Society of Ireland. The Society was founded in 1949 and its purpose is "To promote the study of military history and, in particular, the history of warfare in Ireland and Irishmen in war." The Society has a membership of 750 in addition to an institutional membership of 85. Members are to be found in Ireland, Britain, Europe, United States and throughout the world. The Society's activities cover four main areas, lectures, field trips, a foreign tour and a journal.

The Society holds an annual Winter Lecture series in Dublin, open to the public, comprising seven lectures covering a range of military topics and time periods. In June and September, a day trip and a weekend visit respectively, are arranged to explore selected Irish battle sites or locations of military interest. On a bi-annual basis a foreign tour is arranged to visit overseas battlefields. The Society's journal 'The Irish Sword' is a twice yearly publication, renowned for its scholarly treatment of military history. The Society has organized seminars on such topics as the Irish civil war and Irish service with UN peace missions. Active consideration is currently being given to organizing a seminar on the Irish War of Independence (1919-21).

The Society is affiliated under the name of the Irish Commission for Military History to the ICMH. Originally, the Society, by its own terms of reference, since amended, confined its research to warfare in Ireland and set up the Irish Commission to facilitate attendance and scholarly participation at the international ICMH Congresses.

The Irish Commission had its first participation in the activities of the International Commission when selected members attended the 1981 conference at Montpellier, France. Since then, with a few exceptions, members of the Irish Commission have presented papers at every Congress. This year the Irish Commission is in the fortunate position of having two scholars propose papers for the Trieste Congress.

To date the concern of the Irish Commission has been mainly directed towards the preparation of papers for conferences of the International Commission. It is hoped in the future to attract into the Commission students of military history whose interests lie in a wider field of military study than that embraced by the Society.

The Society's website is www.mhsi.ie and it provides some basic information on its activities. The President of the Military History Society of Ireland and the Irish Commission of Military History is Colonel Donal O'Carroll and the Secretary General of the Irish Commission is Peter Mulready, who can be contacted by email at peter.mulready@esb.ie.