



The Swedish Commission for Military History

by Lars Ericson Wolke, President of the Swedish Commission and Member of the ICMH Board

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Please note that some of the information given here might be out of date by now – in case of doubt, please check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 Swedish Commission for Military History was founded in 1938, the same year as the International Commission for Military History (ICMH). Today the Swedish Commission has some 170 members - new members are elected after proposals made by any member to one of our two annual meetings. The members represent a broad spectrum of military historians, academic scholars, employed and formerly employed by the armed forces, university students, and other people who have a deep and profound interest in military history. This reflects the main task for the Swedish Commission: "to promote scientific research in military history and stimulate the interest for military history".

The Swedish Commission has two annual meetings, in autumn and in spring. At every meeting a member, or an invited guest, presents a lecture about some military history topic, followed by a discussion and finally a small supper. Besides these meetings some other activities are arranged, mainly to visit places of historical interest, such as the barracks of the Royal Horse Guards or the museum of the Swedish national authority for signals intelligence, the National Defence Radio Establishment. The Swedish Commission does not have the financial capability to arrange conferences and other activities. Instead we try to promote different military history activities by having a close cooperation with important institutions such as the Military History Section of the National Defence College, the Military Archives and the Army Museum.

Within the framework of the ICMH the Swedish Commission has published three volumes of the *Revue d'histoire Militaire*. Already by 1949, the ICMH edited and published volume 7 of the *Review*, and in 1955 we published volume 15 in the same series. In 1984 volume 57 of the *Revue* was about the Swedish neutrality policy during the 19th and 20th centuries. The book was given the title *Neutrality and Defence*. In 1996 the Swedish Commission published a book - outside the *Revue*-series - about Swedish participation in international peacekeeping operations during the 19th and 20th centuries, with the title *Solidarity and Defence*.

We also have close contacts with our fellow Nordic Commissions, both on a formal and on a more individual level, especially with the Danish and Finnish Commissions. Active participation in the annual Conferences by national commissions within the framework of the ICMH has for a large number of years been a priority task for our Commission, and it still is. The Swedish Commissions twice has arranged the annual international military history conferences within the framework of the ICMH. The first was in 1973 and the second in 2000, both were held in Stockholm. At the later conference the theme was *The Total War, The Total Defence, 1789-2000*.