



## **Report on XXXth ICMH International Congress, Rabat, Morocco**

**August 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 2004**

By Peter Mulready, Irish Military History Commission

I attended this year's Congress in Rabat, the theme of which was "**The Economic Aspects of Defence through Major World Conflicts**". Colonel Donal O'Carroll also attended the Congress as did Mr. Peter Rigney and his wife Mary. Mr. Rigney is a research officer with the Irish Congress of Trades Unions and he presented a paper entitled "War, non belligerency and economic independence, the politics of coal in the Second World War." Following the Congress I took part in a 5 day guided tour to Marrakech and the south.

### **The Congress**

The venue for the Congress was the Hilton Hotel in Rabat. The Congress was attended by 261 delegates and accompanying persons from 29 countries. Morocco supplied a further 77 delegates. A further 15 delegates attended as observers from the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Mauritania, Senegal and Tunisia. The venue and facilities, including translation services were all very satisfactory. The organisers went to great lengths to ensure that the Congress ran successfully.

This Congress continued two concepts introduced at the 2002 Norfolk Congress, namely a Track 2 Programme and a discussion of New Military Books. This year there were six Track 2 sessions, as well as a seminar on military books to accompany the eight Track 1 sessions. The seminar on military books was very useful and dealt with new and significant books on the military history of South Africa, the naval history of the Mediterranean and major interpretations in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century on the naval history of the Mediterranean.

### **Papers Presented**

A total of 44 papers were presented, of which 20 were in English. I attach a list of these English language papers. I have copies of all of these papers should anyone wish to obtain one. In addition the three papers at the Book Seminar were in English. I do not have copies of these but am in the process of obtaining electronic copies of them.

These papers which I found particularly interesting included "Fortifications and the cost of pre-modern occupation" (DeVries), "Money makes the Dutch go Round" (Enthoven), "How the Confederate States of America financed their War Effort" (Luraghi), "Industrial Armies: From Industrial Revolution to World War" (Hacker) (One of the best papers of the Congress), "Railroads and Wagons in the Defeat of the South, 1861-65" (Higham), "The Race for Oil. On the importance of the Caucasus Region for German Warfare in the age of the World Wars" (Muller), "The Norwegian merchant fleet in WW1, WW2 and the Cold War" (Kristiansen) and "Hidden Treasure: the Italian war economy's contribution to the German war effort, 1943-1945" (Saxon).



## **Social Events**

These included the Welcoming Reception and the Closing Dinner. Other evenings featured tours of Rabat and Casablanca. The mid-Congress one day outing featured a guided tour of Fez followed by a visit to the archaeological site of Volubilis. One military visit was to the 1<sup>st</sup> Parachute Brigade for a demonstration of sky diving.

## **Future Congresses**

The XXXIst Congress and the 5-yearly elections will be held in Madrid from 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2005 on the theme "Terrestrial and Naval Power at the Time of Trafalgar." The XXXIIInd Congress is scheduled for Potsdam, Germany in August 2006.

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## **List of Papers**

From international economic cooperation to military expansion: An Examination of the Meaning of War Economy in the 1930s	Y Katada	Japan
Fortifications and the cost of premodern occupation	K DeVries	USA
Defence Industry in the post-cold war era. The case of Romania	M Ionescu	Romania
Money makes the Dutch go Round (1568-16648)	V Enthoven	Netherlands
Economic Constraints in Military Strategy	M Mayzel	Israel
Economic aspects of participation of Bulgaria in WW1	D Minchev	Bulgaria
New and significant books in the military history of southern Africa	T Potgieter	South Africa
Survey of new & significant books of the naval history of the Mediterrean	I Loucas	Greece
Major interpretations in 20th cent. on the naval history of the Mediterrean	J Guilmartin	USA
How the Confederate States of America financed their war effort 1861-65	R Luraghi	Italy
Participation of Turkey in NATO: A history of the Turkish contribution up to the present day	O Turan	Turkey
Interdependence between economic and military factors in two Great World Conflicts of XXth century: comparison & conclusions	Leki & Titani	Albania
The effects of the developments in the Aftermath of the Gulf Crisis and War on Turkey's Economic Life; The Sacrifices Turkey has made in order to support the UN resolution	E Yalcin	Turkey
Industrial Armies: From Industrial Revolution to World War	B Hacker	USA
War, non Belligerency and economic interdependence, the politics of coal	P Rigney	Ireland



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in the Second World War

Defense industry of the Republic of Korea (ROK)	Kim & Kwan	S Korea
Japan's financial power mobilising for military buildup towards the Russo-Japanese war (1904-1905)	K Ono	Japan
Railroads and wagons in the defeat of the south, 1861-1865	R Higham	USA
The race for oil. On the importance of the Caucasus Reion for German Warfare in the age of the World Wars	R Muller	Germany
Economic Consequences of the Sino-Japanses War (1937-1941)	K Arakawa	Japan
Fighting the cold war: the mutual Defense Assistance program of 1949 between the nesessities of rerarmament and economic recovery	M de Leonardis	Italy
The Norwegian merchant fleet during WW1, WW2 and the Cold War	T Kristansen	Norway
Hidden treasure: the Italian war economy's contribution to the German war effort, 1943-1945	T Saxon	USA
The War to resist US Aggression ans Aid Korea & Chinese Economy at that time	Q Dexue	China