

## **Editorial**

Welcome to the first edition of the Journal of Military History and Defence Studies (JMHDs). The aim of the journal is to publish original research in military history and defence studies, defined broadly to include the history of war and of militaries, and also of the impact of these on wider society, in addition to the study of war, strategy, security and military organisation today and into the future. A particular aim of this journal is to provide an outlet for high-quality original articles produced by new researchers in addition also to publishing work by more established scholars. The emphasis on new researchers is supportive of our desire to create a platform that will make easily available first-class work that might otherwise remain hidden, locked away in an archive or forgotten on the shelves of a library or university resource room.

The journal is peer reviewed and articles are subjected to double-blind review. This ensures that papers published here meet the appropriate standard for scholarly work, but the review process is conducted with the nature of the submissions in mind. Submissions by new researchers have been reviewed as such, with an overt attempt to be supportive; one does not judge a postgraduate student by exactly the same metrics that one uses to judge an emeritus professor of war studies. Contributions should be judged with that in mind. That said, one should note the high quality of the work published here and it is hoped that scholars, both new and experienced, will find much to interest them.

It is important that journals such as this one exist, where people can read about war and conflict in its various guises and impacts, and where the role, status and actions of armed forces can be explored. This is not a topic that is popular with everyone, for reasons that are obvious. War and armed conflict are not positive phenomena. They always result in death, destruction and human suffering, the notion of a 'clean war' is a pernicious myth. However, that should not prompt us to ignore war, either in the past or the present. Ignoring war does not make it go away nor does it mitigate its impact. To paraphrase the Chinese warrior-philosopher Sun Tzu, war is of such importance, it is quite literally the province of life and death, that it is vital that it should be studied carefully. That study should not be confined merely to those in uniform. It is important that as many people as possible understand war and the activity of armed forces, not least so that they can make intelligent judgements about the way such forces are employed, and they can hold soldiers and politicians to account for the decisions that they make.

This journal is sponsored by the Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies (CMHSS) at Maynooth University (National University of Ireland) with the support of Maynooth University Library. The latter has a proud record of supporting projects that promote open access publication. The CMHSS was established in 2008 in order to coordinate and promote activity at Maynooth within the fields of military history and strategic studies and to manage that university's educational partnership with the Irish Defence Forces. Key activities include the establishment that year of Ireland's first ever MA in military history, and to date over 200 students from half a dozen countries have successfully graduated from that programme

to pursue careers in academia, the armed forces and a bewildering variety of other professions.

The Centre's other major activity is the provision of educational programmes for Irish Defence Forces personnel, including Diploma, Higher Diploma and Masters courses run in conjunction with the Cadet School, Infantry School and the Command and Staff School at the Irish Military College. It also runs courses in maritime strategy, naval warfare and strategic studies for the Naval Service. It has been a feature of all of these courses that students provide extremely good work, including written work that is often of publishable quality. The journal thus aims to make such work available and this will be reflected in future issues. We are very aware that work of a similar standard is produced by military personnel in academies and staff courses elsewhere, and welcome submissions of such for our consideration.

All of the articles published in this first edition represent Masters theses submitted as part of the MA in Military History and Strategic Studies at Maynooth University. The JMHDS is willing to accept such submissions, rather longer than most journal articles, as this facilitates the inclusion of research by individuals who might not have the time to pare their research to the usual limits, it also allows them to include material that would often be cut (and thus lost) in conventional peer reviewed journals. Most of these articles were first completed some years ago (in essence, we are publishing here some of the 'back catalogue' of papers), readers should be cognisant of the original date of completion (noted on the title page).

The first article, by **Jim Deery**, examines the contribution of Irish soldiers to the British Army during the Peninsula Campaign of 1808-1814. In that campaign Irishmen played an important role in the success of Wellington's force, engaging and eventually defeating the French in battles through Portugal, Spain and southern France. Deery establishes the very significant role played by Irish officers and men in non-Irish regiments, demonstrating that the 'Irish' contribution to the campaign was much greater than is often appreciated. He analyses the nature of Irish recruits, providing details of their age, religion, prior occupation and place of recruitment. The article is based on an MA thesis first submitted for examination in 2018 and published here for the first time.

In similar vein, **Peter Molloy** examines Ireland and the 1815 Waterloo campaign. In addition to exploring the role played by Irish soldiers and officers in the British Army, and briefly discussing their presence in the French and Prussian armies, he also examines the impact of the war on Ireland both before and after the climatic events at Waterloo. His work breaks new ground in terms of identifying the extent of Irish engagement in the campaign, and also in the impact that this had back 'home'. The article is based on an MA thesis first submitted for examination in 2011 and published online in 2012 via the Maynooth University Research Archive Library. A version of the paper was then published in the journal of the Military History Society of Ireland, *The Irish Sword*, Vol. XXX No. 119, Summer 2015. The work is published here in revised and complete form, including the databases omitted in the latter publication.

**James Dorgan** examines the evolution of naval aviation in Britain before the First World War. He explores the topic through the lens of decision-making theory, employing the four schools of 'military innovation theory' identified by Adam Grissom in 2004. The work combined detailed archival research with theoretical engagement, leading Dorgan to suggest that 'civil-military' explanations provide the most convincing explanation for the changes that took place. The article is based on an MA thesis completed in 2015.

**David Galbraith** provides an in-depth examination of a neglected campaign from the Second World War. He examines the German defence and evacuation of the Kuban bridgehead (in the Caucasus) from January to October 1943. The study is based on archival research using Russian and German sources, and charts the growing proficiency of Soviet arms and declining German capacity on the eastern front. The study provides interesting detail on the conduct of Soviet amphibious operations on the Black Sea coast, and of the German response. The work is based on an MA thesis completed in 2014.

The final article is by **Jonathan Carroll**, a PhD student and a former officer in the Irish Reserve Defence Forces. Carroll examines the introduction of a new Single Force Concept for the Irish Defence Forces and the impact that this has had on the Reserves. The paper examines the role and structure of the Reserve Defence Forces and identifies a series of very significant challenges that they face, whilst drawing conclusions that are critical of the approach taken by the Defence Forces to date. These conclusions are highly relevant to anyone interested in the Irish Defence Forces and Irish defence policy, and also to those interested in the role, structure and employment of reserve forces more generally. The article is based on research undertaken in support of an MA thesis first submitted in 2017, subsequently updated to ensure currency.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the journal and that you return to us for future editions. We also hope that you may be enthused to submit your own work to the journal and that, in this way, contribute to our mission to make high quality original research more widely available, and to encourage thought and debate in the fields of military history and defence studies.

*The editor, Jan 2020.*