IRISH BRIGADES ABROAD: FROM THE WILD GEESE TO THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

Author: Stephen McGarry
Publisher: The History Press Ltd
(September, 2013)
(ISBN: 978-1845887995
Price: £18.00 / Kindle: €13.60
Pages: 288 pages

THE BOOK OPENS with a great statement; “From the time of King James II’s reign over the three kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland, swashbuckling young Irishmen achieved great success and fought with distinction in most of the major battles in Europe and beyond.”
We know how true this statement has become over the last few years with so many military books on the plight of Irish soldiers fighting abroad. However not since J.C. O’Callaghan’s ‘History of the Irish Brigades in the Service of France’, which was written nearly 150 years ago has there been such a comprehensive compilation of the Irish Brigades who fought across the continent. With such chapters on: The Recruitment of the Irish Regiments Abroad, The Jacobite War (1688–90), 1st Jacobite Rising (1715), The Flight of the Wild Geese (1745), The First The Battle of Fontenoy (1745), Lt Gen Thomas Lally’s Expedition to India, American War of Independence (1775–83), the French Revolution (1789) to any researcher from here on in and will certainly be used quite extensively making it every military historian’s must-read. This book will be a companion illustrations to accompany the 288 pages. This book will be a companion

LOCKED OUT: A CENTURY OF IRISH WORKING-CLASS LIFE

Editor: David Convery
Publisher: Irish Academic Press Ltd
(Sept, 2013)
(ISBN: 978-0716532026
Price: €22.55 PB/ €58.50 HB
Pages: 304 pages

THIS BOOK TAKES you back a hundred years, into the lives of the ordinary people who worked day in day out. People you never would have heard much about because of all the coverage of the troubles at the time. It’s written by 12 different contributors, each contributing their knowledge and research to a chapter, which I found was a very interesting way of comprising the book, as it gives you different perspectives of the different happenings through the years of the working class of Ireland. The lead-in chapter by Conor McCabe explains the 1913 Dublin Lockout and the roles of all the factors and different trade unions that had a part to play. Probably the most interesting part of the book for me was discovering about the existence and evolution of the ‘animal gangs’ in chapter 6 by Donal Fallon. ‘Animal gangs’ first starting out as what Gardai at the time described as ‘of the corner boy type’ newsboys. Another interesting chapter is the final chapter in which the class issue is touched on by Michael Pierse who gives us a deep look at the different classes at the time and relates them to today’s class divisions. This book is a very interesting read for the Irish historian in all of us, I would highly recommend it.

THE VOLGA GERMAN – A NOVEL

Author: Colin Sloan
Publisher: Resurgam Press (August 2013)
(ISBN: 978-0956794826
Price: £12.85
Pages: 170

EX IRISH DEFENCE FORCES and UN veteran Liam Broy, is a cheeky north Dublin lad who in the late eighties is travelling around Europe while he tries to figure out what he will do with the rest of his life. Having come out of the army after his recent peacekeeping trip to Lebanon, where he won two bravery awards trying to save his pals on a patrol in southern Lebanon. Liam finds some solace while toiling away in the bowlays of the Munich Bayerischer Hof Hotel in Germany - “It’s nothing compared to the Leb”.
He is befriended by a quiet elderly hotel colleague, Andreas Mensche, who eventually lets Liam stay with him. Andreas is also a veteran, only of a different war; as a 16-year-old he was caught up in the outbreak of WWII. His parents and sisters were killed by the NKVD in his home town of Strekerau – The Jewel of the Volga. He then served in the German Army during the battle for Stalingrad. The two veterans forge a different kind of friendship, where each slowly releases their memories of the horrors of war and eases each other’s pains.
This is an enjoyable read which explores post-conflict stress with very different characters and experiences. This book will be enjoyed by those who have served in the military and people who like a ‘good read’. The book is available from Easons & Sons and on amazon.co.uk. WF

About the editor: Colin Sloan has published several books including ‘Titus Unlive’, ‘From the Lambeg to the drum’, ‘Straight outta Belfast and Lisburn: Camera and Verse’. He has worked as a bookseller for many years in Northern Ireland. www.colinsloanauthor.com