

CALL FOR PAPERS

Army, Society and Warfare in the Bohemian Lands under the Habsburgs (1526–1918)

Pardubice, Czech Republic
Great Hall of Pardubice Castle
14–15 September 2023

Co-organised by

Institute of Habsburg and Balkan Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences
Institute of History, University of Pardubice
Czech Society for Military Historical Research

Gunther Rothenberg noted that “The army was one of the most important, if not the most important, single institution of the multinational empire of the Habsburgs.” This view, that the Habsburg army stood largely above the national, cultural and religious conflicts that ultimately tore the Austro-Hungarian Empire apart, has until now not been thoroughly questioned. This duality of division and centrifugal forces on the one hand, and unification and cohesion on the other also characterises the historiography of the Habsburg military in the Bohemian Lands. The same metaphor can be used to understand the memory of the Habsburg army and its heritage after 1918. On the one side, we see divisive sites, such as White Mountain, and unifying ones such as Kolin or Königsgratz on the other. In what sense can this centrifugal-centralising dynamic be viewed in the light of new research in military history and historiography?

Our Conference welcomes papers on any aspect of Army, Society and Warfare in the Bohemian Lands from the beginning of the Habsburg rule to the breakdown of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy at the end of the First World War. Our geographical remit is Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia (until the Seven Years War) and Lusatia (until the thirty Years War). We are particularly interested in papers based on new and original archival research. There will be panel on heritage studies, a special roundtable on re-enactment, and a separate poster session, accessible to the general public.



Individual contributions can deal, but are not limited to any of the following topics:

- Wars, Campaigns and Battles
- Equipment, Weapons, Artillery, and Fortifications
- Logistics, Supply, and Provisions
- Recruitment, Conscription, Motivation, and Desertion
- Non-Commissioned Officers and Private Soldiers
- The Officer Corps from Generals to Subalterns
- Discharged Soldiers and Retired Officers, Invalids.
- Military Families: Life and Status of Wives and Children of Habsburg Soldiers
- Military Education: Cadet Houses, and Regimental Schools.
- National and religious minorities in the military: Protestants, Jews, etc.
- Relations between Soldiers and Civilians
- Military Culture: Humour, Slang, Visual Art, songs, Military Music and Bands, Manifestations of Military Masculinity.
- Historical Memory: Memorial, Monuments, Regimental Clubs, Military Museums.
- Memory of the Habsburg Army in Czechoslovakia and Czechia from 1918 until Today
- Re-enactment and Experimental Archaeology
- Papers offering a direct comparison between the Bohemian Lands and other parts of the Habsburg Monarchy are welcome

Please send and abstract to of up to 200-300 words together with a short one-page vita by 31 May 2023 to: conference2023@dejinyvojenstvi.cz

Practical Information:

- Papers in English; posters in Czech, English and German
- No conference fee
- Accommodation and travel subsidy will be offered to invited conference speakers who are unable to draw on institutional funds. Priority will be given to graduate students and early career scholars.
- There is the possibility of optional post-conference tour to visit the Josephstadt fortress on Saturday 16 September 2023

We are looking forward to your abstracts, and to see you in Pardubice.

Organizers:

Dr. Ilya Berkovich (Institute of Habsburg and Balkan Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Dr. Vítězslav Prchal (Institute of History, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, University of Pardubice)

Dr. Petr Wohlmut (Faculty of Humanities, Charles University)