



EVENING CONFERENCE

Madam, Sir,

The Royal Higher Institute for Defence organises its next evening conference on 12 May 2015.

Waterloo, the Congress of Vienna and the New European Order

Dr Laurent HENNINGER

***Professor at the Centre d'études d'histoire de
la défense, IRSEM (Paris)***

Dr Charles Esdaile

Professor at the University of Liverpool

Despite its importance given in most history books, Napoleon's campaign of the Hundred Days, which is often mistakenly associated with just the Battle of Waterloo, is an almost minor event compared to the extent of the wars that had ravaged the whole European continent since the turn of the 19th century and to the changes that this entity is now preparing for. Napoleon's return from exile led to consequences that were diametrically opposed to the objectives pursued by the Emperor of the French: restoring French rule over the continent. The outcome of the battle resulted indeed in a major redrawing of the geopolitical map of Europe. At the Congress of Vienna the European powers agreed to put aside their differences in order to establish a new balance of power. As a result, France avoided being divided among the victors, but found itself surrounded by buffer states that were confirmed in their status and territorial integrity respectively. The shifts in the major balances of power marking the end of the Napoleonic era still have consequences on the current geopolitical situation, whereas we are witnessing a new evolution of the borders on a continental scale.

In order to address these issues, we have invited two eminent speakers who will cross their respective viewpoints on the campaign of the Hundred Days and on the events that followed the Battle of Waterloo. Laurent Henninger is a research fellow at the Centre d'études d'histoire de la défense of the IRSEM (Paris). He is committed to the promotion of the *histoire bataille*, an approach aiming at reconciling the *Nouvelle Histoire* and military history. Charles Esdaile is a professor in history at the University of Liverpool. He addresses military issues from the point of view of political and social historiography. In addition to this, he is a renowned expert on Spain during the Napoleonic era.

This conference will take place on Tuesday **12 May 2015 at 17:00 hours** in the conference centre of the Campus Renaissance (entrance: **Rue Hobbema 8, 1000 Brussels**). Lectures will be given in English and French with simultaneous translation into Dutch and French and/or English. Parking is available. We hope to welcome you all and kindly ask you to confirm your participation by registering online on the RHID's website: www.rhid.be.

Pre-registration is mandatory to access the premises and must reach us not later than Friday 8 May 2015.

Programme:

16 h 30 : Welcome
17 h 00 : Conference and Q & A
18 h 30-19 h 30 : Reception

(Signed)

Guido MAENE, MSc Eng

Colonel GS

Director-general

Royal Higher Institute for Defence