

# Far from Jihad...

## Combatants of Muslim Origin in European Armies in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

organisateurs

Xavier Bougarel

Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin

Raphaëlle Branche

CHS du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle, université Paris 1

Cloé Drieu

CETOBAC/CNRS, EHESS

contact :

farfromjihad@gmail.com

Hundreds of thousands of Muslim combatants – the vast majority of them being non-Europeans – fought in the ranks of various European armies in the 20th century. How Islam was perceived by the military authorities supervising these combatants? What role did Islam play for the troops themselves? This conference aims at reintroducing the question of religious belonging and practice into the study of Muslim combatants in European armies by focusing on the combatants' viewpoint as much as possible, alongside the viewpoint of the administrations and military hierarchy.

## Thursday 22 May

1:30 pm: Welcome

2:00pm: **Introduction**

Army and the State Facing Religious Diversity:  
Propaganda, Management and Organisation

2:15-4:15pm • Moderator: Annette Becker

**Michelle Mann**, *Defenders of Islam and Western Civilisation? Pro-Muslim Propaganda in France and Germany, 1914-1918*

**Sarah Ann Frank**, *Colonial Prisoners of War and Vichy France: Experiences and Politics*

**Claire Miot**, *The Officer for Muslim Affairs in the First French Army (1944-1945): An Intermediary or an Agent of Control?*

Coffee break

4:45-6:30pm • Moderator: Stefan Petke

**Franciska Zaugg**, *Albanians in the Waffen-SS: the 21st Mountain Division of the SS Skanderbeg*

**Xavier Bougarel**, *Islam, a 'Convenient Religion'? The Case of the 13th SS Division 'Handschar'*

## Friday 23 May

Facing Battle: Experiences and Accounts

• Moderator: Robert Johnson

9:00-11:00 am

**Kiril Feferman**, *Between Non-Russian Nationalities and Muslim Identity: Perceptions and Self-Perceptions of Soviet Central Asian Soldiers in the Red Army, 1941-1945*

**Franziska Davies**, *Muslims in the Russian Army during the First World War*

**Anne Ducloux**, *A Muslim Woman, Officer in the Red Army during the Soviet-Afghan War*

Coffee break  
11:15am-1:00pm

**Julie Le Gac**, *Haunted by Jinns: Dealing with War Neuroses among Muslim Soldiers during the Second World War*

**Daniel Owen Spence**, *Allah Might Provide the Fuel: Muslim Sailors in British Colonial Navies, from the Second World War to Independence*

Faith and Religious Practice in Wartime

• Moderator: Pierre-Jean Luizard

2:00-4:00pm

**Tanja Buehrer**, *Muslim Askaris in the Colonial Troops of German East Africa during the First World War*

**Emmanuelle Cronier**, *Feeding Muslim Troops during the First World War*

**Mujadad Zaman**, *There Is No Doubt that This Is Not an Ordinary War, but a Very Great One: Understanding Muslim Religious Practices and Identity from World War Two*

Coffee break  
4:15-5:00 pm: **General discussion**

#### affiliations

Annette Becker, University of Paris Ouest Nanterre, Institut Universitaire de France

Xavier Bougarel, Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin

Raphaëlle Branche, CHS du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle, University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Tanja Buehrer, The Swiss National Science Foundation

Emmanuelle Cronier, University of Amiens

Franziska Davies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München

Cloé Drieu, CETOBAC/CNRS, EHESS

Anne Ducloux, CETOBAC

Kiril Feferman, Lomonosov Moscow State University

Sarah Ann Frank, Trinity College, Dublin

Robert Johnson, University of Oxford

Julie Le Gac, Institut des Sciences-sociales du Politique (ENS Cachan / University of Paris Ouest Nanterre)

Pierre-Jean Luizard, Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités (CNRS/EPHE).

Michelle Mann, Brandeis University

Claire Miot, Institut des Sciences-sociales du Politique (SP-ENS Cachan), Orléans University

Daniel Owen Spence, University of the Free State

Stefan Petke, Freie Universität, Berlin

Mujadad Zaman, University of Cambridge

Franciska Zaugg, University of Bern