

Miscellaneous

Award of the Paul Reuter Prize

The 1997 Paul Reuter Prize for outstanding works in the field of international humanitarian law has, by unanimous decision, been awarded jointly to

Major General A.P.V. Rogers

Director of Army Legal Services in the United Kingdom,
for his work entitled
Law on the Battlefield,¹

and to

Professor Geoffrey Best

of St. Anthony's College, Oxford University,
for his work entitled
War and Law since 1945.²

The jury emphasized the excellent quality of these works, which make a significant contribution to international humanitarian law.

Law on the Battlefield approaches international humanitarian law from the angle of military operations. Aimed at military lawyers and students of public international law, it focuses on the legal rules that should be known and incorporated into the military decision-making process by all officers holding command responsibility. The work sheds light on some rather obscure aspects of the law of armed conflict, without being too technical for non-lawyers or civilian readers.

¹ A.P.V. Rogers, *Law on the Battlefield*, Manchester University Press, Manchester and New York, 1996, 170 pp. See *IRRC*, No. 312, May-June 1996, pp. 397 ff.

² Geoffrey Best, *War and Law since 1945*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1994, 434 pp. See *IRRC*, No. 305, March-April 1995, pp. 229 ff.

War and Law since 1945 offers new insight, from an historical point of view, into the phenomenon of war and the limits placed on it by humanitarian law. In so doing it highlights the relationship between civilization and war. The central question addressed is whether legal restrictions really have a moderating impact on the conduct of war, whether they render military operations less cruel, and whether they provide broad protection for those affected by violence.

The jury of the Paul Reuter Prize, chaired by Paolo Bernasconi, a member of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), also comprises Professors Giorgio Malinverni and Christian Dominicé of the University of Geneva, Professor Daniel Thürer of the University of Zürich, member of the ICRC, Françoise Krill, ICRC Legal Adviser, and Hans-Peter Gasser, Editor-in-chief of the *International Review of the Red Cross*.

In 1982 the late Professor Paul Reuter, Professor Emeritus at the Paris University of Law, Economics and Social Sciences and former Chairman of the United Nations International Law Commission, made a donation enabling the ICRC to set up the Paul Reuter Fund, the income of which is used to support projects promoting knowledge and understanding of international humanitarian law.

The Fund also provides for the award every three years of the Paul Reuter Prize, worth 2,000 Swiss francs, in recognition of a particularly outstanding work in the field of international humanitarian law.

This is the fifth such award since the Fund was created. Professor Best and Major General Rogers will receive the prize at a ceremony in spring 1997.

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