THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Portuguese medieval military historiography is still in an embryonic state, in spite of the enormous renewal process which it is currently undergoing. In fact, until a few years ago it could be summed up in a group of works, particularly in the first half of this century and the decade which followed, by military men who were interested in history. Among these, the works of Francisco Marques de Sousa Viterbo, Vitoriano José César (especially his invaluable collaboration in the monumental History of Portugal directed by Damião Peres, vol II, Barcelos, 1929), Belisário Pimenta and, especially, Gastão de Melo de Matos and Augusto Botelho da Costa Veiga, should be highlighted.

Altogether, their works can be seen as courageous contributions but, even so, are somewhat fragmented and isolated, not surprising given the authors' lack of access to analytical instruments which historical research has more recently been making available to scholars. Their works tended to focus primarily on analyzing forms of military recruitment (particularly municipal) which were characteristic of the Middle Ages, as well as discussing the events of particular battles fought in Portugal between the XIIth and XIVth centuries, especially the Battle of Aljubarrota (1385). In part, special attention to the equipment used by medieval Portuguese soldiers, particularly offensive weapons, was given by some authors (especially by Gastão de Melo de Matos, 1945). The importance of the latter's contribution, together with Augusto Botelho da Costa Veiga and Afonso do Paço, must be emphasized in relation to the notable archaeological work undertaken, between 1958 and 1960, on the battlefield of St. George-Aljubarrota, which allowed the exposure of the vestiges of the defensive entrenchment system used in this battle by the Anglo-Portuguese army in its fight against the invading Castillian army. Even today these excavations constitute a reference point in the study of medieval battlefields. Other important works issued from the pen of Costa Veiga, including a study of the campaign which ended in Aljubarrota (From Estremoz to Aljubarrota: Two weeks of military operations of Nun' Álvarez (31st of July to 15th of August, 1385), Coimbra, 1930), an attempt to draw up a military history of Northwest Portugal between 1220 and 1258 (Studies of Portuguese Military History, Vol. I, Lisbon, 1936), and discussions of the abilities of the most important medieval peninsular historians (Fernão Lopes - Some study elements of his historical research methods, Lisbon, 1940; and Ayala and Aljubarrota, Coimbra, 1951). As for issues of a strategic, or particularly tactical nature, this more traditional historiography - as we may call it - focused especially on analyzing the behaviour of the most important Portuguese military commander of the time (the supreme commander D. Nuno Álvarez Pereira, 1360-1431), or (particularly in the works of Belisário Pimenta) a comparative study of the battles of Atoleiros (1384) and Aljubarrota with the most important battles of the first phase of the Hundred Years War (especially Crécy and Poitiers). Throughout this period, only one civilian professional historian studied topics related to medieval Portuguese military history, Salvador Dias Arnaut, from whom we have notable (though markedly conventional) works on the battle of Trancoso - 1384 (Coimbra, 1947) and the campaign of Aljubarrota (Coimbra, 1947 and 1962).

After the passing, in the 1960s, of many of the military historians mentioned above, medieval Portuguese military history stagnated. It was only after almost twenty years, partly as a consequence of the then reborn Portuguese Commission of Military History, and the persistence of the old Military Magazine, that the topic of medieval military history once again gained stature in Portuguese cultural circles. Except that, this time, the work was not done by military historians; rather, a number of civilians took the renewed subject in hand, dedicating a number of specialized works to it, building upon the support of other historiographical approaches.

Thus, in the last two decades, medieval Portuguese military historiography has undergone a clear renewal process, giving rise to a variety of themes and periodization and
supported by solid work. Let us take a brief look at the areas of research investigated in this renewal. Methodological aspects, as well as the use of military history to further examine local and regional history, have been studied in great detail by Pedro Barbosa (1991 and 1992, papers presented to the 2nd and 3rd Conferences on Military History), a Professor of the University of Lisbon who is particularly interested in studying the various forms taken by the Re-Conquest of the central region of Portugal in the XVI\textsuperscript{th} and XIII\textsuperscript{th} centuries. The evolution of military architecture has already warranted very detailed studies, from the pen - in one instance - of a military man, António Pires Nunes (1988 and 1991) and - another example - by a civilian, Mário Jorge Barroca, archeologist and Professor of the University of Porto (especially his study From the Castle of the Re-Conquest to the Romantic Castle (IX\textsuperscript{th} to XI\textsuperscript{th} centuries), Porto, 1990/91). Questions of a strategic nature were undertaken in an innovative way by General José Alberto Loureiro dos Santos (Lisbon, 1986), while other authors, also members of the military, went back to investigating themes related to the tactical study of the most important battles, namely the campaigns of Atoleiros and Aljubarrota (viz. especially Carlos Gomes Bessa, 1987 and 1988; Nuno Valdez dos Santos, 1979; and Alcide de Oliveira, 1988). Naval warfare also warranted an important consolidated study, prepared by Saturnino Monteiro (Battles and combat of the Portuguese Navy, Lisbon, Vol. I, 1989), while matters related to military recruitment and armament were summed up by Artur Manuel Ceia (Lisbon, 1986). The proficil historical work of Humberto Baquero Moreno, Professor of the University of Porto and of the Portocalense University and ex-director of the National Archives of the Torre do Tombo, must be added to this list, first, because of a classic study on the political and military history of the battle of Alfarrobeira - 1449 (The Battle of Alfarrobeira, Coimbra, 2 vols., 1979-80) and, secondly, due to various smaller works examining such matters as military mobilisation and the privileges of the regional militia, medieval Portuguese castle-building, military social revolts, military rank (from regional governors and governors of frontier forts, through to cavalry captains) and, more generically, military organization in Portugal in the XVI\textsuperscript{th} and XVII\textsuperscript{th} centuries (the title of a work he completed in 1991). More recently, studying the internal workings of the Military Religious Orders (Santiago, Avis, Cristo and Hospital) has become the order of the day, particularly since the appearance of studies co-ordinated by Professor Luis Adão da Fonseca (see the works of Maria Cristina Cunha, Isabel Morgado e Silva, Maria Cristina Pimenta and Isabel Lago Barbosa, all of Porto, 1989) and periodical meetings in Palmela, the ancient centre of the Order of Santiago, organized by the Town Council (the Memorandum arising from the first of these three Meetings, dated 1991, is currently the only one available).

Based on these studies and, above all, on extensive archival research (mainly in document centres relating to the Royal Chancelleries, the Court Chapters and the above-mentioned Military Orders), as well as on numerous printed sources and contemporary literature (chronicles, treaties of war, princes' mirrors etc.), a Professor of the University of Coimbra, João Gouveia Monteiro, has finally been able to present a voluminous synoptic work on Portuguese military history of the XIV\textsuperscript{th} and XV\textsuperscript{th} centuries (viz. War in Portugal at the end of the Middle Ages, Lisbon, Editorial Noticias, 1998). This study, which considers at great length military recruiting, military administration, the theoretical and practical training of Portuguese military staffs, the movement of royal armies (including their food and lodgings, as well as the chain of command), and military operations such as sieges, guerrilla warfare and field battles, introduced two important new aspects: the world of faith and ritual normally associated with the soldiers of the Middle Ages, and an analysis of their armaments (for the period c.1350 - 1450). Some may, perhaps, consider the above work to be the apogee of historical studies produced to that time, one that sets out the principal guidelines which medieval Portuguese military history should follow in future.

Thus it may be said succinctly that the principal gaps remaining are principally in the study of naval warfare and the study of weapons (as much in respect of their physical