

= Gunther E. Rothenberg =

Gunther Erich Rothenberg (11 July 1923 ? 26 April 2004) was an internationally known military historian , best known for his publications on the Habsburg military and Napoleonic Wars . He had a fifteen @-@ year military career , as a British Army soldier in World War II , a Haganah officer in the 1948 Arab ? Israeli War , and in the United States Air Force during the Korean War .

= = Escape from Nazi Germany and military service = =

Gunther Erich Rothenberg was born in Berlin . His family was a culturally assimilated German Jewish family . In 1937 , Rothenberg moved to the Netherlands with his mother ; his father later joined them . The family moved next to Britain , where Rothenberg had some schooling . In 1939 , he moved to Mandatory Palestine , then under British rule . There he joined the Zionist movement and Hashomer Hatzair (The Youth Guard) , a Socialist @-@ Zionist youth movement . He retained his passion for a Jewish homeland throughout his life .

On 13 July 1941 , his parents emigrated to the United States on the Villa de Madrid , an overcrowded ocean @-@ liner that left Barcelona on 20 June . His father , Erich Joseph Rothenberg , was an importer , and both his parents spoke English , Hebrew , French , and German . Their visas , issued in Lisbon , Portugal , claimed Cuban citizenship . At the age of 57 , his father registered for the fourth draft in 1942 , listing his residence as New York City , and his next of kin as his wife , Lotte .

In 1941 , Gunther Rothenberg volunteered for the British army , serving in an all @-@ Jewish unit . He was wounded in North Africa . He transferred from the Royal Army Service Corps to the Intelligence Corps and fought with the Eighth Army . He served in the Italian campaign , in the Yugoslav war of liberation and in Austria . His service continued in the occupation of Austria until 1946 . He was a civilian employee of U.S. Intelligence 1946 @-@ 1948 . Rothenberg returned to Palestine and joined the Haganah for Israel 's War of Independence . He rose to the rank of captain in the Israel Defense Forces .

By 1948 , Rothenberg 's father had died and his mother , Lotte (1894 ? 1990) , had become a naturalized United States citizen . To be with her in New York City , Rothenberg journeyed to Canada , arriving in Halifax , Nova Scotia ; traveling from there to Toronto , he lived for a while at Wycliffe College , where he worked briefly as a construction laborer . On 19 November 1948 , he crossed the international border into the United States at Buffalo , with \$ 12 @.@ 00 in his pocket . In 1951 , he volunteered for the United States Army , transferred to the Air Force , and served in the Korean War until 1955 . He remained guided by a deep sense of duty and a strong sense of American patriotism throughout his life .

= = Education and career = =

After military service in the United States Air Force , he graduated from the University of Illinois with an undergraduate degree . Two years later , he had a master 's degree from the University of Chicago . In 1959 he finished his doctoral degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana @-@ Champaign . He retired from Purdue University , was appointed Professor Emeritus , and lived in Canberra , Australia , where he continued to write about the Napoleonic Wars .

He wrote several ground @-@ breaking books on the organization of the Habsburg military and the military reforms of Archduke Charles in the first decade of the Napoleonic Wars . His last book , The Emperor 's Last Victory , about the Battle of Wagram in 1809 , was published posthumously . Although he had never finished high school , with the help of the GI Bill , Rothenberg completed a bachelor 's degree from the University of Illinois in 1954 . He attended graduate school at the University of Chicago , where he was recognized as an argumentative , sometimes abrasive , graduate student with a keen mind . As a graduate student , Rothenberg reviewed W.E.D. Allen 's Caucasian Battlefields : A History of the Wars on the Turco @-@ Caucasian Border , 1828 ? 1921 (Cambridge University Press , 1953) for Journal of Modern History , He wrote his 1956 masters '

thesis entitled General Crook and the Apaches , 1871 ? 1874 : the campaign in the Tonto Basin . Rothenberg received his doctorate from the University of Illinois : his 1959 dissertation , *Antemurale Christianitatis* : then military border in Croatia , 1522 ? 1749 , was published in 1960 by the University of Chicago Press , as *The Military Border in Croatia , 1522 ? 1749* ; he followed this with a second study , *The Military Border in Croatia , 1750 ? 1888* : a study of an imperial institution in 1966 , also published by University of Chicago Press . Both volumes were translated into German in 1970 .

In part @-@ time temporary teaching positions in Illinois and four years at the Southern Illinois University , Rothenberg taught European and world history , and published an instructor 's manual on history of the world , with Henry C. Boren . In 1962 , Rothenberg joined the faculty of the University of New Mexico ; over the following ten years , he rose to the position of full professor . In 1972 , he accepted a position at Purdue University . There , he taught courses in military and European history . As a teacher , his popular course on World War II attracted more than 250 undergraduates annually .

In the 1970s , Rothenberg also established himself as an international Napoleonic scholar with *The Art of Warfare in the Age of Napoleon* , published in 1977 . He also mentored hundreds of graduate and doctoral students . He regularly published in such peer @-@ reviewed publications as *Journal of Military History* and served on the editorial board of *War in History* . In 1985 , Rothenberg was a visiting Fulbright fellow in the Department of History in the Faculty of Military Studies at the Australian Royal Military College , Duntroon . He retired from Purdue in 1999 and was named Professor Emeritus .

From 1995 ? 2001 , Rothenberg was a visiting fellow at the School of Historical Studies , Monash University . After his retirement , he moved to Melbourne , Australia , and then to Canberra , where his third wife , Eleanor Hancock , taught at the Australian Defence Force Academy . Although retired , he continued to teach , lecture , and publish reviews . He also wrote two more books .

Life in Australia did not always please him ; he missed both his colleagues in North America and his Purdue students . His politics ? he " was anything but politically correct " ? did not mesh well with Australia 's leftist atmosphere . He wrote indignantly to a friend in the United States that he regretted moving to Australia when the authorities confiscated his muzzle loaders , which were prohibited " Down Under . "

In 2004 , he returned to the United States to present the keynote address at the 34th Annual Conference of the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe . He had recently completed *The Emperor 's Last Victory : Napoleon and the Battle of Wagram* , which was published posthumously in November 2004 . He died at the age of 80 .

= = Legacy = =

Rothenberg 's legacy is not only the generations of scholars he prepared , but also his vast historiographical contribution to understanding the Revolutionary era . For many years , his *Army of Francis Joseph* (1976) was the standard and the only English language analysis of the Habsburg Army in the French Revolutionary and the Napoleonic wars . He changed the widespread perception of Archduke Charles ' military acumen . A masterful historian , Rothenberg was known furthermore as an eminently fair scholar . After publishing a critique of a publication , the author contacted him , and proved the critique unjust ; Rothenberg immediately wrote to a review retracting the criticism , and the two scholars remained friends for the remainder of his life .

Some of his colleagues considered Rothenberg " the greatest scholar of the Napoleonic era of our day . " His adventurous life and diverse experiences gave him a deep understanding of human nature . This made him a valuable colleague and a treasured mentor for his many graduate students .

High Point University conducts the Gunther E. Rothenberg Seminar in Military History .

= = Personal life and family = =

His first marriage in 1952 ended in a 1967 divorce . In 1969 , Rothenberg married Ruth Gillah Smith , a widow with three daughters (Judith Goris , Laura Allman , Georgia Jones (all born Herron)) , whom he helped to raise ; she died in 1992 . In 1995 , he married for a third time , to Eleanor Hancock , a lecturer at Monash University in Australia . She is now a Senior Lecturer in History at the Australian Defence Force Academy at the University of New South Wales , and has written the first biography of Ernst Julius Röhm . Her 1988 doctoral thesis , National Socialist Leadership And Total War , 1941 ? 45 for the Australia National University was published by St. Martin 's Press in 1992 .

= = Publications = =

Rothenberg published hundreds of journal articles , reviews , and lectures . This is a partial list .

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