

Swedish Eustory – 2008/2009 History Competition

We launched our first history competition on the 21st of May 2008 with a small ceremony at Kristianstad University College. At the same time we also sent out brochures to all the schools in Sweden that was studying history at the required level this year. We have also sent out a reminder to these schools by e-mail and fax in late August so they wouldn't forget about the competition. The information about the history competition is of course also available on our website: www.svenskaeustory.se

The theme for our first history competition is Sweden during World War II and since we didn't do much during this war we are focusing on the home front. We have named the competition "Somewhere in Sweden – World War II in a local history perspective". The words "Somewhere in Sweden..." are taken from a very famous song during this time – "Någonstans i Sverige", sung by a very popular singer named Ulla Billquist and the song is about a Swedish soldier far away from home and it is a good illustration for Sweden during this particular time.

In the beginning of autumn 2008 we held a seminar with lectures on World War II and some information about the Eustory competition. We sent out letters of invitation to teachers and students from schools not too far away from Kristianstad University College.

When we reached the 19th of January 2009, the deadline for the competition, we could proudly present 30 contributions from nearly 70 participants from schools all over Sweden. Ten of these essays were chosen for the final competition and the jury was of one opinion: Evelina Bengtsson's essay was by far the best one. She had written about the army service corps in Hässleholm during WW II and how the war was portrayed in the media. The runner up was a contribution from 16 pupils from Örkelljunga and they had chosen to write about ordinary life in the shadow of WW II. For the third place the jury elected Madeleine Lundqvist from Säter. Her essay "A soldier's story" focused on one Swedish soldier and his experiences of WW II.

We had our first award ceremony at the University College in Kristianstad on the 29th of May. The award winner, Evelina Bengtsson, received a diploma, flowers, books and a sum of money for her excellent contribution. She was also later chosen to take part in the Youth Academy in Ronda together with other European award winners.

During the award ceremony we also launched our second history competition – this time on the subject of local heroes. We hope that this competition will be even more successful than our first one.