

## International Commission of Military History Newsletter



### Issue 12, 2009 Welcome to the ICMH Newsletter

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## Message from the Hague

With the Afghanistan summit come and gone, life in the Hague has once again resumed its normal course. The spring sunshine has brought out the pleasant side of life as well as the tulips and has immediately reinvigorated not only your Secretary-General but also Pat Harahan, this newsletter's editor-in-chief. The objective of this newsletter is to inform you of key developments currently taking place in and around the ICMH.

In 2008, the Italian Commission of Military History hosted the XXXIV<sup>th</sup> ICMH Congress in Trieste. On 11 and 12 March in Milan, the ICMH President Luc de Vos and the undersigned once again had the opportunity to express our appreciation for the excellent organisation of the congress to our Italian colleagues. Professor Massimo De Leonardis was the driving force behind the highly interesting symposium entitled '*Sessant'anni di Alleanza Atlantica: tra continuità e trasformazione*' [Sixty Years of the Atlantic Alliance: between Continuity and Transformation].

From Milan we flew to Porto, where the XXXV<sup>th</sup> Congress will take place between 30 August and 4 September, and where we met with the remaining members of the Executive Board. On Saturday 14 March, the Portuguese Commission of Military History, under the inspirational leadership of Lieutenant General Alexandre de Sousa Pinto, provided us with extensive information regarding the preparations for the congress and gave us the opportunity to visit the congress location and a number of hotels. I must confess I immediately fell in love with the congress location, a wonderfully restored warehouse on the Douro river looking out over the famous 'Port houses' and equipped with high-quality congress facilities. A truly magnificent location for discussing 'Warfare in the Age of Napoleon. Precedents, military campaigns and lasting impacts'. Professor Dr. J. Esdaile, as the key note speaker, will open the scientific part of the congress on Monday 31 August. Sunday will not only be used for registration of participants and for meetings of the Executive Board, the Bibliography, the Military Archives and the Educational Committees: our Portuguese hosts have planned a city tour for the afternoon and an evening reception at the Mosteiro da Serra do Pilar. The congress will certainly be off to a flying start. The Executive Board was impressed by the Portuguese preparations and has full confidence that it will be an excellent congress. To make life easier for Colonel José António Banazol, the Chief Executive Officer of the XXXV<sup>th</sup> Congress, I now call on all readers, if they have not yet done so, to register for the congress! For more information regarding the Porto congress, I refer you to the article in this newsletter and the website.

On 15 March, the Executive Board held a meeting on current issues. The Netherlands Commission of Military History is making good progress with the organisation of the XXXVI<sup>th</sup> ICMH Congress, which will be held in Amsterdam between Monday 30 August and Friday 3 September. The theme of the congress will be 'Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: Irregular Warfare from 1800 to the Present'. In addition, the congress location - in the heart of Amsterdam by the waterside - played a role in the choice of theme, viz. 'The Military Revolution at Sea in the 17th century', for the traditional book panel. In addition, the Netherlands Commission sees possibilities for holding a Ph.D. workshop for approximately 8 promising young historians; these upcoming talents will not have to pay participation fees and will most probably be accommodated free of charge. The Netherlands Commission will present its programme in Porto.

In Porto, the Executive Board will also have an extensive exchange of views with the Brazilian Commission regarding the set-up of the 2011 congress. The plan is to use the congress in Rio de Janeiro to stimulate the establishment of national commissions in Latin America. The French Commission will undoubtedly present more detailed plans for the 2012 congress in France.

As Secretary-General, I am *ex officio* responsible for ICMH publication policy. Two subjects demand attention. Firstly, the International Bibliography of Military History, a recognised and well-known calling card of the ICMH. The future is uncertain owing to the withdrawal of part of the traditional financial and personnel support from the Swiss armed forces. Continuing on the same basis is, in all cases, impossible. In consultation with the leaders of the Bibliography, discussions have been conducted with Brill Publishers (established in 1683), a fully independent publishing company with offices in Leiden (Netherlands) and Boston (USA). These contacts have led to a publishing proposal from this renowned

publisher. The matter is 'to be continued'. In Porto, we can still expect to see another edition of the Bibliography, while the Acta of the Trieste Congress is also expected to be completed on time. As I have mentioned before, the International Review of Military History series has stagnated. It is my great pleasure, however, to announce that the Israeli Society for Military History has offered to compile an edition entitled *Battlefield: Decisive Battles in the Land of Israel* in 2011 or 2012. In addition, Brigadier General Salva Gagliano of the Italian Air Force has declared himself prepared to investigate the possibility of dedicating an international edition of the Review to air power. I hope that the results of this feasibility study will lead to a concrete project proposal in Porto. Incidentally, my request to the national commissions remains unchanged. Will you think about the question as to when your commission can once again compile an edition of the Review?

I look forward to seeing you in Porto and bringing you up to date on all the developments concerning the ICMH. Until we meet again at our XXXV<sup>th</sup> ICMH Congress!

Piet Kamphuis  
Secretary-General

## News from the Executive Board

At its meeting in Porto, the Executive Board remembered with gratitude and respect Col J. Jessup (USA), who served the ICMH as Vice-President, and Prof. Dr. J.C. Allain (France), member of the Board during the first De Vos presidency, who both passed away during the last few months.

Schedule of meetings in Porto:

The Executive Board will meet on Sunday 30 August 2009, 09.00 - 13.00 hours, in the Congress Centre in Porto.

The Full Board will meet on Tuesday 1 September, 09.00 - 13.00 hours, in the same building.

The General Assembly will meet on Friday 4 September, 15.00 - 17.30 hours, in the same building.

The treasurer, Brigadier-General Stoeckli, will inform the General Assembly on the financial position of the ICMH and will present the 2010 budget.

During the General Assembly, the Board will propose candidates for membership of the Auditing Committee and the Election Committee. Both committees are to report their findings during the General Assembly in Amsterdam (2010).

The Executive Board has held extensive discussions on the idea of setting up a fourth specialised committee, namely a 'military museum committee'. President De Vos is examining the possibilities for doing this. Following on from these discussions, some members expressed the wish for the activities of these specialised committees to be linked - where possible - more directly to concrete targets or products.

During the ICHS World Congress in 2010, Prof. De Vos will act as moderator for the Round Table discussion which will be organised by the ICMH during this congress. The Round Table is intended to take stock of military historical work in the year 2010, to identify trends and to document undeveloped fields of research. Round Table participants will be: Prof. Dr. N. Corvisier (France), Colonel Dr. W. Heinemann (Germany), Prof. Dr. M. de Leonardis (Italy) and Prof. Dr. A.R. Millett (USA).

In the annex you will find an updated list of names and addresses. Please check these for accuracy and completeness. You can pass on any corrections to: [ph.kamphuis@mindef.nl](mailto:ph.kamphuis@mindef.nl) / [ec.cuperus@mindef.nl](mailto:ec.cuperus@mindef.nl)

## Welcome to the 35<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Military History, Oporto, Portugal

Colonel David Martelo,  
Portuguese Commission of Military History

Portugal will host, for the second time, the Congress of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH). After Lisbon's Congress, in 1998, it is now the turn of Oporto. The Congress gathers participants

from all the ICMH national military commissions. Military officers, historians and scholars, as well as several other experts in related fields, from all over Europe, America, Africa and Asia have already registered in this scientific meeting that we all expect to have a significant impact. The dates for the 35<sup>th</sup> Congress are 31 August to 4 September 2009. To register go to one of the Congress's official web sites [xxxvcongressicmh2009.com](http://xxxvcongressicmh2009.com) or [www.35icmh.com](http://www.35icmh.com).

The theme of the 2009 ICMH Congress, **Warfare in the age of Napoleon: Precedents, military campaigns and lasting impacts**, is intended to trigger an international and multidisciplinary debate, encompassing military, political, diplomatic, economic, social and cultural history aspects, at local, national, continental and global levels. Participants are invited to present their papers according to this thematic basis, which will serve as the structure for the Congress sessions. **Admissions of paper proposals are open until April 15<sup>th</sup>**. Abstracts and author's CVs should be sent to the Congress Scientific Office through the following address [35cihm@letras.up.pt](mailto:35cihm@letras.up.pt).

The 2009 Congress will be held in the former Oporto Customhouse, on the north bank of the Douro. The Congress is a jointly sponsored event by the Portuguese Commission of Military History, Oporto City Council and the University of Oporto. The schedule of the Congress follows the usual structure of previous meetings of the ICMH: the opening session, on August 31<sup>st</sup>, will be preceded, on August 30<sup>th</sup>, by the meetings of the ICMH Executive Committee and the Bibliography, Archives and Military Education committees and by a sightseeing trip of Oporto, in the afternoon.

Two simultaneous sessions are foreseen during the time of Congress, to which four other panels and workshops will be added. There will be a panel on "The other side of wars: transference of military technology and knowledge to the civil society". There will be a workshop, with panels, addressed to students pursuing master and doctoral studies, which will be coordinated by Dr. Ciro Paoletti of the Italian Commission of Military History. There will also be an interesting book panel that will have scholars speaking about "New and Recent Books on the Age of Napoleon." Colonel Aniceto Afonso, Portuguese Commission of Military History, has organized a session on the Portuguese military archives.

The Congress's work will be interrupted on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, for a full day tour to the historical towns of Guimarães, Ponte de Lima and Vila do Conde.

Parallel to the Congress, a wide range of additional activities is also foreseen. Receptions will be offered by the Portuguese Commission of Military History, the Portuguese Army and the Oporto City Council. Sightseeing and visits to several monuments and sites of historical interest will complement the academic programme and will offer the opportunity to learn more about Oporto. To the accompanying persons tours will be provided to some other northern towns, such as Aveiro, and the possibility to cruise the river Douro, besides plenty shopping opportunities.

After the Congress, for those wishing to do so, Post-Congress tours are available that will take them to some of the most famous Portuguese tourist sites, such as the Douro region where Port Wine is produced, Lisbon, or the centre and south of Portugal, including Coimbra, Mafra and Évora.

## Information on Oporto city

Oporto, or just Porto in Portuguese, is Portugal's second largest city, and it is a very busy industrial and commercial centre. The city itself isn't very populous, with about 240,000 inhabitants, but the Oporto metropolitan area contains 1,500,000 inhabitants in a 50 km radius, including cities like Gaia, Matosinhos, Maia, Gondomar and Espinho.

The city was built on the hills overlooking the Douro river estuary, and its historical centre became a World Heritage Site in 1996 (UNESCO). It has been continuously inhabited since at least the 4th Century, when the Romans referred to it as Portus Calle.

Oporto has a semi-Mediterranean climate, although it is strongly affected by the Atlantic Ocean, which makes it cooler than Mediterranean cities. However, temperatures can rise as high as 35°C in August during occasional heat waves.

Medieval and modern architecture styles coexist in a harmonious manner granting Oporto its uniqueness. Oporto's geography is hard on the feet, but pleasant to the eye. The city is extremely hilly, with many buildings built into a cliff face overlooking the river. Stairs cut into the stone run up and down the cliff face and offer a laborious but rewarding walking tour. Facing Oporto, on Douro's left bank, in the suburb of Gaia, notable Port Wine companies' warehouses are located.

## Getting to the congress in Oporto

### By plane

Sá Carneiro Airport, also known as Aero Porto do Oporto, is the third busiest airport in the country and it is just 15 km away from the city centre. Here you will find regular flights from and to almost all major world cities. Just outside of the airport is the Aero Bus, which takes you to the city centre. A similar taxi trip will cost 20 Euro. The Metro line connects the Airport to the city centre and to the most important hotels in the city, offering a fast and peaceful ride through the heart of the city.

### By train

The city is served by two major railway stations: "São Bento" and "Campanhã". Trains from and to Madrid and Paris are regular, other non-domestic destinations vary according to demand and time of year. Domestic trains are very frequent and usually on time.

### By car

The city is served by five major highways: A1, which connects Oporto to Lisbon, A29 which connects Oporto to Aveiro, A3 connects Oporto to the northern Spain, A28 connects Oporto to Viana do Castelo and the northern Portuguese border, and A4, which goes eastwards from the city towards Vila Verde da Raia, on the Portuguese border.

## Hotels and Lodging in Oporto

Oporto offers plenty of lodging options. Visitors find a welcoming assortment of Oporto hotels. Families and vacationers can sleep comfortably and cheaply, and business travellers find these hotels affordable and attractive options as well.

For the 35<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Military History the following Oporto hotels are booked for the participants.

### Hotel Tiara Park Atlantic - 5\*

Located in the Avenida da Boavista, the Tiara Park Atlantic Porto Hotel is 20 minutes far from the International Airport of Francisco Sá Carneiro and 5 minutes from the town centre. Due to this privileged localization, the guests have a wonderful view, being ten minutes far from the Foz beaches. The warm welcome and excellent service matches the hotel facilities.

### Sheraton Porto Hotel & SPA - 5\*

The Sheraton Porto Hotel & Spa was opened in November 2003, with a new concept. The marble, the wood, the steel and glass live harmoniously together in the different spaces of this 12 storey building. The Sheraton has 266 bedrooms and suites, a bar with different ambiances and a restaurant, the "Porto Novo".

### Porto Palácio congress Hotel & Spa - 5\*

The Porto Palácio Congress Hotel & Spa, recently selected as a member of "The Leading Hotels of the World", is specifically geared towards business and leisure tourism, meeting the strictest quality standards. Situated in the heart of the city, the Porto Palácio Congress Hotel has now been refurbished and expanded. The hotel and spa complex includes a Conference Centre. Opened quite recently, it has a capacity for 600 persons.

### Hotel Ipanema Park - 5\*

The HF Ipanema Park is known for its personalized and meticulous service. The elegant interior, where the soft tones contrast with the brilliant floral arrangements, make it irresistible and unique. Strategically

placed between Boavista and Foz, the HF Ipanema Park is a few minutes from down town and from the highway towards the airport.

#### Hotel Pestana Porto - 4\*

Located in Praça da Ribeira, right in the historical centre of Oporto, very close to the Congress venue, and set on the city's medieval wall, the Hotel Pestana Porto is situated in a quarter of ancient buildings dating back to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. Spread along the Douro riverbank with magnificent views and a unique atmosphere, these buildings were classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. With a privileged location, next to the railway station and only 20 km from Francisco Sá Carneiro International Airport, this four-star hotel (styled as a Charm Hotel), offers guests a unique experience. Besides panoramic river views, all 48 rooms (including 3 suites) are equipped with safe-deposit box, mini-bar, air-conditioning, direct-dial phone, satellite TV and radio. The hotel's Vintage restaurant offers an excellent range of local specialties, while guests can sample the very best Port wines in the Heritage café.

#### Hotel Ipanema Porto - 4\*

Located at the town entry, when coming through the Arrabida Bridge, the HF Ipanema Porto is surrounded by shopping centers, cinemas, theaters and by the « Casa da Música » (Music Hall). The historical area, the São Bento railway station and the Port Wine cellars are all 10 minutes away. The HF Ipanema Porto was recently renewed and redecorated in order to provide a modern, comfortable and more practical atmosphere.

#### Quality Inn Portus Cale - 4\*

The Quality Inn Portus Cale, on the Avenida da Boavista, is a hotel essentially for business travelers. Located at 15 km far from the international airport of Francisco Sá Carneiro, this four stars Hotel offers 72 rooms fully equipped, with air conditioned, cable TV, direct telephone, minibar and individual safe.

#### Hotel D. Henrique - 4\*

In the heart of the city of Oporto and recently renewed, the Hotel D. Henrique was build having in mind the needs of business men and modern travellers. It offers comfortable accommodations in the 112 rooms well equipped, including 22 executive suites. The «Além Mar» restaurant offers a selection from light meals to more elaborate ones. The panoramic bar at the top floor is the ideal meeting point for business or social reunions. The Sala Navegador (Navigator's Room) was recently build, with a magnificent view over the city is the perfect place for meetings, banquets and special events

#### Hotel Tuela - 3\*

Renewed at the end of 2004, the HF Tuela, represents the Oporto's regeneration of traditional hotels and it is today an excellent example of a balance of simple, comfortable and modern ambiances. With several cultural and leisure options, the fact of being central is other of its characteristics. Only at 20 minutes, are the airport, the historical centre, the S. Bento railway station and the Port Wine Cellars.

Additional information on these hotels and the program is available from one of the Congress's official web sites [xxxvcongressicmh2009.com](http://xxxvcongressicmh2009.com) or [www.35icmh.com](http://www.35icmh.com)

Lieutenant-General Alexandre de Sousa Pinto, President of both the Portuguese Commission of Military History and the Congress, welcomes you and looks forward for your participation.

### **ICMH Congress Graduate Student Workshop**

Ciro Paoletti, Italian Commission of Military History

Last year in Trieste, we had the first ICMH workshop for graduate students. It was about War and Civilians and the graduate students came from five different countries. It seems to have gained a certain success. As Colonel Winfried Heinemann, German Commission of Military History, underlined the number of paper presenters needed to be reduced. Following his opinion, when talking with the Portuguese Commission I asked them whether they preferred to have still eight participants or less. Then, having seen how good and constructive it is for the graduated students to be evaluated by a good commentator, I decided to keep commentators for each panel. So, when the Portuguese Commission

declared to prefer the lightest and more academically fruitful solution of only six participants, we had no doubt in dividing them in two panels of three, followed by a commentator.

What about the topic? I asked the hosting Portuguese commission for one, and they suggested a very interesting topic: “The transfer of military technology and knowledge to the civil society”, which we enlarged a bit, including the exchange of cultures through the military. Then, I began contacts here and there, and suddenly the world financial crisis and related budget cuts appeared to have produced relevant consequences in many countries, preventing some national commissions to act as they would have liked. Anyway, we have as a result six students coming from five countries: Portugal, France, Brazil, Italy and United States. They all will be hosted and fee-exempted by courtesy of the Portuguese Commission, whose President, General Alexandre de Sousa Pinto, gave all the possible support to this initiative, deserving all our gratitude.

The Brazilian participant, Mr. Marcos Vinicius Ribeiro de Lima, from the Universidade Gama Filho - Rio de Janeiro - will speak about “*Brazilian Armed Forces in the process of occupying Paraguay during the War of the Triple Alliance (1869-1876)*”; Miss Julia Osman of the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill will propose a paper about the influence of American revolutionary mind and principles on the reorganization of the French Army in the late XVIII century. Mr. Benoit Roger, from the Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, *La guerre de 1806-1807: un exemple de "guerre totale" napoléonienne?* Mr. Giacomo Maestri, from La Sapienza University of Rome, will remain in the Napoleonic era, speaking about *Changes in the Papal States caused by the French occupation: 1798-1814*. Portugal, as the hosting country, has, of course, a good number of presenters, whose papers seems quite interesting, and strictly related to the theme: Mr. Luís Moreira’s *Territory and frontiers. Cartography based on military topography. The Portuguese case*, and Mrs. Sara Pinto and Patrícia Costa’s *From military engineering to seaport construction. Transfer of techniques and technicians. The case of Portuguese seaports (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Centuries)* are both of the highest interest, especially for all those who are concerned by the history of military technology.

According to the titles and the abstracts seen till now, this workshop seems to be a promising and attractive session. As seen last year, the workshop provides young scholars with a good opportunity to reach a large and professional audience - something unfortunately rare for young scholars - thanks to a good, strong and generous support by their national commissions and especially by the hosting national commission.

Finally, I would like to present my personal, more respectful and warmest thanksgiving to the Minister of Defence of Portugal, Professor Nuno Severiano Teixeira, a former colleague, as the Portuguese member of the Bibliography Committee till 1999, for all the support he gave to the Conference and to the workshop.

## **ICMH Congress Book Panel: “New and Recent Books on the Age of Napoleon”**

Pat Harahan

United States Commission of Military History

Each year the ICMH Congress has a session on bibliography. The concept is for leading historians to discuss new and recent books/articles over the past 10-15 years which they have found to be the most influential in the field. The scholars are encouraged to explain why these books and authors have become influential. The historians will discuss new archival sources and the placement of archival materials on the internet. Discussion from the audience is always encouraged. In Oporto, the book panel will be held on Tuesday, September 1, from 1400 -1600.

“New and Recent Books on the Age of Napoleon” will be the book panel topic for the 2009 ICMH Congress in Oporto. Historians from France, Great Britain, and the Netherlands will be speaking. In addition, I have invited a leading naval historian to participate on the panel. Please join us for an interesting discussion of leading books and authors during the congress.

## **ICMH Committee News**



## ICMH Bibliography Committee

Dimitry Queloz

Swiss Commission of Military History

This year, the International Bibliography of Military History is celebrating its 30th anniversary. In order to celebrate this anniversary, we have decided to attach a compilation of indexes to the volume that will be published this July, as usually. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people and institutions that have co-operated with the Bibliography over these past three decades. A very big thank you to all of you!

Volume number 30 is the last one to appear in the old style. For financial reasons, but also due to the necessity to reform a concept that has never been formulated as such and the possibility to work with a big publishing house with excellent reputations in academia, the Dutch publisher Brill, it became necessary to design a new Bibliography. Work on this is in progress. During the conference in Porto we will be able to give you more details on that. If all goes as expected the first new volume will be published in the summer of 2010.

The new Bibliography will be even more sophisticated in terms of the quality of language, as well as formally and scientifically. We want to compete with the standards and practices of the big review journals in order to be more broadly read among the academic world. The new Bibliography will, as was the case with the old one, comprise of reviews on texts on military history. The scientific report will be replaced by one or several articles which will examine a topic of military history from a historiographical angle. It will have a length of eight to ten pages and will be accompanied by a bibliography. The topic itself will be at the choice of the author. Also as a new feature, this article will be peer reviewed in order for the Bibliography to fulfil higher academic standards. It will be written in English and published only in this language.

We would also like to take this opportunity to call upon all to submit proposals for these articles for the new volume.

## ICMH Committee on Military Archives

Hans-Joachim Harder, President

The military archivists of CIHM will meet in Oporto on Sunday, August 30. The topic to be discussed will be "The national policies on archives and the military archives - theory and practices." An invitation to all of the national commissions to be represented on the Archives Committee will be sent out by the Portuguese member of the Committee on Military Archives.

This invitation has been published in the Committee Bulletin, *Mars & Janus*, #12 (fall/winter 2008/2009). The Bulletin can be accessed electronically on this site:

<http://www.bcmh.org.uk/archive/international/Mars&Janus122008Fall.pdf>

If time allows in Oporto, we will organize a workshop during the week. It will have a scientific session, a visit to the Oporto District Archives, and a visit to the Portuguese Center of Photography. In addition, we will have a dinner for the members of the committee on 2 September.

Due to the initiative of the Portuguese, we have invited representatives from the following Archives to participate in the workshop:

- Arquivo Nacional (Torre do Tombo) National Archive):  
<http://www.dgarq.gov.pt/>
- Arquivo da Defesa Nacional (National Defense Archive): <http://adn.defesa.pt/adn/>
- Arquivo Histórico Militar - Exército (Historical Military Archive - Portuguese Army):  
[http://www.exercito.pt/portal/exercito/\\_specific/public/allbrowsers/asp/default.asp?stage=1](http://www.exercito.pt/portal/exercito/_specific/public/allbrowsers/asp/default.asp?stage=1)
- Arquivo Histórico da Marinha (Navy Archive):  
<http://www.marinha.pt/Marinha/PT/Extra/Biblioteca/Arquivo+Central+e+Arquivo+Hist%C3%B3rico/>
- Arquivo Histórico da Força Aérea (Air Force Historical Archive): <http://www.emfa.pt/www/po/ahfa/>



- Arquivo da Engenharia Militar (Military Engineering Archive): <http://www.exercito.pt/bibliopac/>
- Arquivo Distrital do Porto (Oporto District Archive):  
<http://www.adporto.pt/>
- Arquivo Municipal do Porto (Oporto Municipal Archive):  
<http://www.cm-porto.pt/gen.pl?p=stories&op=view&fokey=cmp.stories/620>

We hope to have a fruitful exchange of ideas from these new participants.

## **ICMH Military Education Committee**

Rudolph Jaun, President  
Suisse Committee of Military History

The first Meeting of the ICMH Military Educational Committee will be held in Porto on 30th August, 2009. This committee was established in 2008 at the ICMH General Assembly in Trieste, Italy. Professor Dr. Rudolf Jaun of Switzerland was elected as president and Professor Dr. Krzysztof Kubiak of Poland was selected as the secretary-general.

The objectives of this new committee are outlined in the statutes as follows:

- to encourage the exchange of experiences in the teaching of military history,
- to discuss military history curricula and best practices in the teaching of military history,
- to exchange programmes, course textbooks, manuals and various reference material,
- to enhance the transfer of historical knowledge and expertise to students.

We would like to suggest the following topics for our first meeting in Porto:

General Military History. Suggestions on how to design and structure the topic: Wars and battles or continuities and disruptions. Another topic will be: War Gaming: caught between diversion and scientific analysis.

Please submit your presentation outline, in one single page only, by the end of May 2009 to Prof. Dr. Kubiak ([herkub@wp.pl](mailto:herkub@wp.pl)) and inform your national committee of your participation. We are looking forward to receiving your paper proposals and seeing you in Oporto.

## **Information on the National Commissions:**

### **The Swedish Commission for Military History**

Lars Ericson Wolke  
President, and ICMH Board Member

The Swedish Commission for Military History was founded in 1938, the same year as the International Commission for Military History (ICMH). Today the Swedish Commission has some 170 members - new members are elected after proposals made by any member to one of our two annual meetings. The members represent a broad spectrum of military historians, academic scholars, employed and formerly employed by the armed forces, university students, and other people who have a deep and profound interest in military history. This reflects the main task for the Swedish Commission: "to promote scientific research in military history and stimulate the interest for military history".

The Swedish Commission has two annual meetings, in autumn and in spring. At every meeting a member, or an invited guest, presents a lecture about some military history topic, followed by a discussion and finally a small supper. Besides these meetings some other activities are arranged, mainly to visit places of historical interest, such as the barracks of the Royal Horse Guards or the museum of the Swedish national authority for signals intelligence, the National Defence Radio Establishment. The Swedish Commission does not have the financial capability to arrange conferences and other activities. Instead we try to promote different military history activities by having a close cooperation with important institutions such as the Military History Section of the National Defence College, the Military Archives and the Army Museum.

Within the framework of the ICMH the Swedish Commission has published three volumes of the *Revue d'histoire Militaire*. Already by 1949, the ICMH edited and published volume 7 of the *Review*, and in 1955 we published volume 15 in the same series. In 1984 volume 57 of the *Revue* was about the Swedish neutrality policy during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The book was given the title *Neutrality and Defence*. In 1996 the Swedish Commission published a book - outside the *Revue*-series - about Swedish participation in international peacekeeping operations during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the title *Solidarity and Defence*.

We also have close contacts with our fellow Nordic Commissions, both on a formal and on a more individual level, especially with the Danish and Finnish Commissions. Active participation in the annual Conferences by national commissions within the framework of the ICMH has for a large number of years been a priority task for our Commission, and it still is. The Swedish Commissions twice has arranged the annual international military history conferences within the framework of the ICMH. The first was in 1973 and the second in 2000, both were held in Stockholm. At the later conference the theme was *The Total War, The Total Defence, 1789-2000*.

## Israeli Society for Military History

A museum for the "Commemoration of the Volunteering of the Palestinian Jews to the British Army in World War II," is nearing completion. The museum will be a permanent memorial to the 35,000 men and women who volunteered entirely of their own volition from a population of 500,000 Jews. Collectively and individually, they served and fought with the British Army from Ethiopia in the south, across North Africa, in Greece, Crete, and Italy to then in France in the north and the Persian Gulf in the east.

Dr. Mordechai Gichon, President of the Israeli Society for Military History, drawing upon the assistance of other members of the society, has for the last four years served as chairman of the museum committee, shaping the exhibition in a building erected for that purpose. In addition, the museum exhibits will narrate the post VE-Day era when these volunteers were the spearhead of caring for and rehabilitating Holocaust survivors. Upon their return home they became a vital component in shaping the newly formed Israeli army that confronted in 1948-49 the invasion of five regular Arab armies. Members of the ICMH will be welcome to visit the bilingual museum.

## Announcement of Naval History Symposium, United States

The United States Naval Academy will convene a Naval History Symposium in September 2009. The History Department of the United States Naval Academy invites proposals for papers to be presented at its 2009 Naval History Symposium held in Annapolis, Maryland, from 10-12 September 2009. In 2007 the symposium was extremely successful, with over 300 historians in attendance and 138 papers presented. A limited number of travel stipends are available to scholars residing outside the United States and for graduate students residing in the United States. The program committee will award prizes to the best papers presented at the Symposium. As in the past, we intend to publish selected papers at a later date. Information on the 2009 symposium can be found online at [www.usna.edu/History/symposium](http://www.usna.edu/History/symposium). Specific inquiries should be directed to Commander C.C. Felker at e-mail [felker@usna.edu](mailto:felker@usna.edu).

## Announcement of Conference of Army Historians, United States

**The US Army Center of Military History** is soliciting papers for the 27-30 July 2009 biennial **Conference of Army Historians**, to be held in the Washington, DC. This biennial conference is the premiere US Army-sponsored training conference for its historians, both military and civilian. The 2009 theme is "Exiting War: Phase IV Operations." Phase IV Operations is a term used by the US military and the US Department of State that describes all post-conflict operations and efforts, including reconstruction. As such, papers may deal with any aspect of the US Army's role in post-conflict operations, including but not limited to: peace-keeping, national-building, reconstruction, counter-insurgency, occupation, and withdrawal. Special attention will be given to topics that focus on the current Global War on Terrorism. Prospective participants should send a detailed topic proposal and formal resume to the Conference of Army Historians, U.S. Army Center of Military History, via e-mail to [CMHHistoriansConf@conus.army.mil](mailto:CMHHistoriansConf@conus.army.mil)

## **Announcement of the Tunisian Commission of Military History Conference**

Colonel Lotfi Chelbi

Tunisian Commission of Military History

We have the honour to inform you that the Tunisian National Commission of Military History proposes to organize an international symposium of military history on the topic, "Naval military activities and geo-strategy". The symposium will be held in Tunis on 26, 27, 28 & 29 October 2009.

The symposium will be attended, in addition to that of university professors, historians and researchers from Tunisia, by eminent speakers from brotherly and friendly countries.

The costs of travel and stay in Tunisia are the responsibility of the Tunisian Ministry of National Defence. Presenters who would like information are requested to complete and return their information to the following e-mail address: [cn\\_histoiremilitaire@defense.tn](mailto:cn_histoiremilitaire@defense.tn)

Information requests may be mailed to the Tunisian Commission of Military History at Avenue Habib Bourguiba, Palais de la Rose, La Manouba 2010, Tunis

E-mail: [cn\\_histoiremilitaire@defense.tn](mailto:cn_histoiremilitaire@defense.tn)

## **Announcement of the British Commission of Military History Conference**

Michael Orr

British Commission for Military History

The Centre for Second World War Studies and the British Commission for Military History are organizing a joint conference from Friday 24 July to Sunday 26 July 2009 to mark the 70th Anniversary of the outbreak of Second World War. The Conference will be held at the Centre for Professional Development, College of Medical & Dental Science, University of Birmingham.

The theme of the conference is "New Thinking on the Second World War". Archival research is beginning to challenge many of the traditional interpretations of the war and the organizers would like to receive proposals for papers which take a fresh view of many aspects of the war. Proposals for papers from current PhD students are particularly welcome. It is intended that a number of papers will review the established reputations of a number of major commanders and there will be four workshop sessions, dealing with the following topics:

- Land Warfare - Tactics & Operations
- Women in War
- Small Wars in a Great War - Resistance & Counter-Resistance Operations
- Occupation Policies & Economic Exploitation

Professor Gary Sheffield of the University of Birmingham will give a keynote address on "The British Army in the Second World War; Past, Present & Future".

Accommodation will be available on the University of Birmingham Campus from Thursday 23rd July until the end of the conference. A significant reduction of the Conference Fee will be offered to the chosen speakers. For further information about the Conference or to offer a paper please contact: Michael Orr, Secretary General, at [secgen.bcmh@ntlworld.com](mailto:secgen.bcmh@ntlworld.com).

## **Announcement of the International Congress of Historical Sciences Amsterdam, August 2010**

Pat Harahan

United States Commission of Military History

The International Congress of Historical Sciences organizes a large international conference every five years. This interesting international congress of historians, archivists, and scholars from many disciplines, nations, and affiliated societies across the globe provides is an excellent venue for extensive reports, papers, debates, exchanges, and meetings reflecting current historical trends. Historians from every

continent, save Antarctica, will participate. In 2010, the International Congress of Historical Sciences will be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from 22-28 August. Interested, historians can send in a paper proposal by completing the registration form on the website [www.ichs2010.org/register.asp](http://www.ichs2010.org/register.asp). For a preliminary program, including the activities of the Affiliated International Organizations and International Commissions, including the ICMH, go to [www.ichs2010.org](http://www.ichs2010.org)

The ICMH will sponsor a panel at the 2010 International Congress of Historical Sciences on the topic, **“Military history: Current trends and perspectives.”** President Luc De Vos will moderate the panel, with the following historians participating:

- Professor Allan Millett, USA
- Professor Jean-Nicolas Corvisier, France
- Professor Massimo de Leonardis, Italy
- Colonel Dr. Winfried Heinemann, Germany

## Announcement of ICMH Congress, Amsterdam, 2010

The ICMH Board has announced that its annual congress in 2010 would be held in Amsterdam, the week following the International Historical Sciences Congress. The Netherlands Commission of Military History is organizing this ICMH Congress. The theme has been selected and will be:

**‘Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: irregular warfare from 1800 to the present’**

This ICMH Congress will be held in Amsterdam from 29 August to 03 September, 2010.

## Recent news

### Professor Jean-Claude Allain (1934-2008),

French Commission of Military History

On Saturday 20 December 2008, Professor Jean-Claude Allain died in hospital in Tenon, France. The *Commission Internationale d’Histoire Militaire* will sorely miss this friendly colleague, who was a leading historian specialising in the history of international relations in the twentieth century. His academic career started in 1967 with his appointment as assistant at the Sorbonne, followed by professorships at the universities of Maine (1978-1989) and Paris III (1990-2000). The thread running through his full and varied career was his interest in French-Moroccan relations, about which he had a great many publications to his name.

In addition, Jean Claude Allain made a name for himself as editor-in-chief of scientific journals, such as *Relations internationales* and *Guerres mondiales et conflits contemporains*. He was a familiar figure and a wise manager within the French Commission for Military History. During the period 2000-2005, the ICMH was also able to benefit from his managerial talents. As a member of the Board, he often observed exchanges of opinions with a friendly smile, after which - in just a few short sentences - he would get to the heart of the matter and present a solution. He was a wise and generous person who always had a close interest in our military history community. We shall miss him in Porto.

### Professor and Colonel John E. Jessup,

United States Commission on Military History, died on February 7, 2009. Colonel Jessup served in World War II and in the U.S. Army’s Special Forces in Korea and Viet Nam. He served as the Deputy Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, ‘The Old Guards’ at Ft. Myer. During his long military career, he was awarded Silver Star, Bronze Star, and four Purple Hearts. In 1970, Jessup graduated from Georgetown University, with a doctoral degree in Russian Studies. He worked at the US Army’s Center of Military History as the Chief of the Histories Division. Following retirement, he was a history professor of the Soviet Union and Russia at George Mason University. For the American Military University and Mirus University, he served as Academic Dean.

Colonel Jessup served on the founding committee which established the U.S. Commission on Military History. He was the founding president of the US Commission and served for four terms. He served as an officer and trustee for more than two and a half decades. In 1975, he was elected Vice President of the International Commission of Military History and held that office from 1976-2000. During his long

association with the ICMH, Professor Jessup attended more than 37 colloquia, where he often presented papers and served as moderator of panels. Due to his long association, Colonel Jessup had many military history friends and associates from nations around the world.

## **Final Announcement**

Piet Kamphuis, Secretary-general  
Pat Harahan, Newsletter editor

The objective of the ICMH Newsletter is to communicate information concerning the national commissions and the ICMH's officers, board, committees, and congresses to all of the commissions. The newsletter is a way of communicating information in three languages, English, French and German, across five continents to the officers and members of 41 national commissions.

We need your help. The national presidents and secretary-generals are encouraged to send the newsletter editor information regarding forthcoming international congresses and conferences. If your national commission is sponsoring a military history conference, museum exhibition, or planning a special exhibition of a military archive, please send the editor a brief communiqué. Your announcements and communiqués will be published in the ICMH Newsletter. Please send the information to Pat Harahan, ICMH Newsletter editor at the e-mail address, [harahan@verizon.net](mailto:harahan@verizon.net)