

## International Commission of Military History Newsletter



### Issue 14, 2010 Welcome to the ICMH Newsletter

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## Message from The Hague

Piet Kamphuis, ICMH Secretary-general

### Message from The Hague

It is a strange sensation. The Saturday before Easter 2010, I am writing my last message from The Hague. 'Encouraged' by our dedicated editor-in-chief Pat Harahan, I simply must get it done. Although a mild spring sun is shining outside and the tulips and daffodils are blooming and a street organ is making happy noises, the Newsletter cannot wait any longer. It *is* one of the most important innovations since I began my period as Secretary-General in Madrid in 2000 and promotes the good exchange of information between and among the national commissions and specialised committees. Fourteen issues of the Newsletter have now been published, thanks to the dedicated support of Pat Harahan, Winfried Heinemann, Eric Bastin and Ilse Cuperus. I want to thank them profusely for the pleasant working relationship we have had and the support that they have provided.

The street organ outside is playing the swing tune *In the mood*, by Glenn Miller. The music matches my mood. My life 'swings' every which way, with my three professional caps fighting for precedence. As I have heard from contacts with many of our colleagues, the financial crisis is also casting its ominous shadow over the military-history landscape. Budgets are under fire, funding for research and other purposes has become scarce, and employment positions are threatened. I, too, am confronted with the repercussions on a daily basis.

At the same time, the organisation of the Amsterdam Congress demands a great deal of attention. Thanks to the outstanding work being done by the chairman of the Netherlands Commission for Military History, Prof. Dr Jan Hoffenaar, and his team, the organisation is solid. He will be informing you about the latest state of affairs in this issue. It is a source of great satisfaction to me that we are going to be able to make further progress on quality improvement when we meet in Amsterdam. Keynote speakers during the opening session (an innovation from Stockholm and Norfolk), the experiment in Trieste with Ph.D. candidates which has grown into a workshop with eight young colleagues from eight countries, a separate Round Table with top maritime historians, and the classic Round Table on New and Innovative Books will ensure that we do. The large number of paper proposals also gives me a warm feeling. Our Brazilian colleagues are also making good progress with the organisation of the 2011 Congress. That gives one a feeling of confidence that we are heading into a swinging future!

In many respects, the Secretary-General is a spider in the ICMH web. In Amsterdam, the Board for 2010-2015 will be elected. The Executive Board will be losing our Chairman, Prof. Dr Luc de Vos, and our first Vice Chairman, Prof. Dr Allan Millett, both of whom are stepping down. We are fortunate that our Treasurer, Brigadier Fritz Stoeckli and Second Vice-Chairman Dr Lars Ericson-Wolke are willing to stand again as candidates for a second term. I am, myself, actively searching for a successor for my own position as Secretary-General. The elections for the new Board are in good hands with the Election Committee being headed up by Dr Serge Bernier. The closing date for nominations is 30 April.

The Executive Board met last on 27 March in The Hague, followed on 28 March by an inspection of the congress centre in Amsterdam. They were fruitful days, and served to launch the preparations for the General Assembly. I shall be telling you about a number of important points further in this Newsletter.

And, finally, I want to thank you all for your reactions to the Newsletter. Again and again, it encouraged me to take up the pen to disseminate information among the colleagues.

I hope to be able to greet you in Amsterdam. Allow me to sing a few bars in anticipation: 'When it's spring again, I'll bring again, tulips from Amsterdam!'

Piet Kamphuis  
Secretary-General

### **News from the Executive Board**

Piet Kamphuis, ICMH Secretary-general

The Executive Board met on 27 March 2010 in The Hague (Netherlands). The most important topics of discussion were the following.

In 2009, the Bibliography Committee (BC) published volume 30 of the Bibliography, including an index of all 30 volumes. In doing so, the BC showed that it was very forward-looking. Although there are sufficient reserves to publish a 31st volume in 2010, it has been decided not to do so. From the beginning, the Swiss government has assumed a large part of the costs of the publication of the Bibliography. That support came to an end last year and the question was then: What's next? As reported previously, the well-known publishing company Brill (Leiden/Boston) has expressed interest in publishing the Bibliography. A period of intensive consultations followed between the Executive Board and the management of the BC, and between Brill and representatives of the ICMH. On 17 March, the final consultations were held between the Treasurer and the Secretary-General on the one hand, and Dr D. Queloz and Col H. de Weck of the BC, on the other. All parties were unanimously positive about the last proposal from Brill.

- Brill will publish the IBMH as a journal and as an on-line bibliography database.
- The journal will appear each year in two issues of initially 125 pages and comprise newly compiled bibliographical material (relating to books, articles and reviews) and articles delivered by the ICMH
- The on-line database would incorporate this new bibliographical material, but would be updated bi-annually with material from the 30 back issues of the Bibliography and old material and any updates from other Brill military bibliographies
- Brill intends to make the Bibliography the most authoritative and complete military history bibliography database within seven years
- Brill will pay the editorial team of the BC 4000 Euro (indexed) annually for 350 new records, rising in proportion with the number of extra records added,
- Brill will pay 7500 Euro for the rights and goodwill
- *All national commissions and their members* will get free access (through proxy servers) to IBMH ON Line (two issues a year) and the IBMH database,
- The IBMH can be produced at *reduced costs* for the ICMH and the quality can be approved as the editors can concentrate more on the quality of the content.

The Executive Board has approved the draft agreement; the formal decision will be taken in Amsterdam. It was also agreed that, starting on 1 January 2011, the finances of the BC will be integrated into the budget of the ICMH, as is also the case with the Military Archives Committee and the Educational Committee.

The Executive Board has also approved a standard information text about the history, mission and methodology of the ICMH. National Commissions are authorised to augment the standard text with information that is appropriate for the target groups in their own countries. Efforts are underway to present the standard text in English and French before the Congress in Amsterdam.

On the basis of lessons learned during the last ten ICMH congresses, Vice Chairman Allan Millet has made recommendations for the organisation of an ICMH Congress. His recommendation Memorandum was welcomed, though several amendments were made during the discussion that followed. The Board hopes to be able to put the Memorandum on the agenda in Amsterdam.

The Board has noted with satisfaction the progress being made by the Brazilian Commission with respect to the preparations for the Congress in 2011. Site: Rio de Janeiro. Time: 28 August - 2 September 2011. Theme: Decolonization. Colonial wars and Independence wars (XVIIIth to XXIst Century). A Round Table on the Peace Operations of the UN is scheduled.

The board has approved the proposal of the Bulgarian Commission for Military History to investigate the possibility of holding the Congress in 2012 in Bulgaria. Col Dr D. Minchev will present the formal proposal in Amsterdam.

The theme for the ICMH 2013 Congress is Intelligence in Action: Its transformation from World War I to the End of the Cold War. The Japanese Commission will be hosting the Congress from 26-30 August 2013 in the navy city of Kure City, in the prefecture of Hiroshima.

The Italian Commission has called on all national commissions to contribute to an international issue of the International Review of Military History that is to be dedicated to Airpower in the Twentieth Century. Contributions must be submitted before 1 September 2010.

Piet Kamphuis  
Secretary-General

### **ICMH Meetings in Amsterdam**

The meeting of the Executive Board will be held on Saturday 28 August (afternoon). The Bibliography Committee, the Military Archives Committee and the Military History Educational Committee will meet on Sunday 29 August (morning).

The full Board ICMH will meet on Tuesday 31 August (morning). The General Assembly ICMH takes place on Friday 3 September (afternoon). The newly elected Board ICMH will meet immediately after the General Assembly, in order to appoint (amongst others) the Vice-Presidents.

### **35<sup>th</sup> ICMH Congress, Amsterdam, 29 August – 3 September 2010**

Prof. Dr. Jan Hoffenaar  
President Netherlands Commission of Military History

We are glad to inform you that the preparations for the 36th CIHM Congress 2010 in Amsterdam from Sunday 29 August – Friday 3 September are progressing smoothly. We have received many registrations and paper proposals with relevant topics within the overall theme of the congress: 'Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: Irregular Warfare from 1800 to the Present'. Both the scientific programme and the social and partner programmes are nearly completed. The organization has the full support of the Ministry of Defence.

The Netherlands Minister of Defence has agreed to officially open the congress on Monday morning. The Netherlands Chief of Defence intends to participate during the first day of the congress and will host the evening reception in the

Rijksmuseum. Meanwhile, we have attracted three eminent keynote speakers for the opening session on Monday: Professor Douglas Porch, United States, Lt Gen Jonathon Riley, United Kingdom, and Professor Maj Gen (ret) L.S. (Solly) Mollo, South Africa. This part of the openings session will be chaired by Dr. Erwin Schmidl, Austria.

The theme of the congress is: 'Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: Irregular Warfare from 1800 to the Present'. This historically interesting theme is very topical today. The most important characteristic of this type of conflict is its asymmetry. Almost all states have had to contend with it at one time or other in their histories. The focus on the congress will be on the experience in the 19th and 20th centuries with so-called 'insurgencies', from the perspectives of the 'insurgents' and of the forces opposing them.

The overarching questions at this congress will be: 'Which military and non-military methods and tactics have been used for conducting and combating insurgencies and what effects have those methods brought about?' The following subjects suggest themselves:

- The anatomy of insurgency: description and analysis of insurgencies.
- How to defeat an insurgency?
- Analysis of the methods that have been developed to suppress insurgencies, in areas such as intelligence, resettlement, use of Special Forces, and civil-military cooperation.
- What was the role of information and propaganda during conflicts?
- Critical analysis of doctrines that different countries have developed in fighting insurgencies.
- The biographical approach: leaders and commanders in insurgency and counter-insurgency.
- Sources and methodology: analysis of the sources that were and are available to the military historian in studying insurgency and counter-insurgency.

The program for the workshop for PhD candidates is arranged. The international workshop committee has accepted eight candidates to present a paper. The young academics are from various countries which include Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Also the panel for a round table on 'the Military Revolution at Sea in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century' is complete. It will consist of Professor Nicholas Rodger, Oxford University, United Kingdom, Professor John Guilmartin Jr., Ohio State, United States, and Professor Michel Vergé-Franceschi University of Tours, France and is chaired by Professor emeritus Jaap Bruijn, University of Leiden, The Netherlands. A second round table on 'Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: New and Significant Books' will be organised by Dr. Pat Harahan. Two historians have already agreed to participate: Dr. Martin Burgin, Switzerland and Dr. James S. Corum, United States.

In addition to the scientific programme at the congress, a social programme will be offered, including a welcome reception and a boat tour of the canals of Amsterdam on Sunday afternoon/evening and a reception in the world-famous Rijksmuseum on Monday evening. There will be a barbecue on the ramparts of the old fortress town of Naarden on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday, congress participants and their partners will have a combined trip during the 'Market Garden' battlefield tour, with the famous Battle of Arnhem in 1944 as the focal point. In the evening, we shall enjoy an Indonesian rice table at the Bronbeek Royal Home for Retired Military

Personnel and Bronbeek Museum. Friday night there will be a Farewell diner at the Koepelkerk in the historic centre of Amsterdam.

The partners of the congress participants will not find themselves with a lack of things to do in Amsterdam. In addition to being able to sightsee on their own, a diverse partner's programme will be ready for them. Among others they will visit and tour the famous Zaanse Schans, the Muiderslot - a medieval castle, The Hague and the Royal Palace on the Dam.

As in previous years, the Congress will feature a post-congress tour. Mithras *Cultuur-Historische Arrangementen*, a Leiden-based leading firm of high-quality cultural and historical tours, is responsible for organising it. The comprehensive five-day post-congress tour from 4-8 September will cover different geographical areas of the Netherlands and various themes in Dutch history and culture. You will be accompanied during the whole tour by academically qualified Mithras guides. To pre-book the tour, or to see up-to-date information, go to [www.mithras.nl/tour2010.htm](http://www.mithras.nl/tour2010.htm), or send an email to [tour@mithras.nl](mailto:tour@mithras.nl).

Important to know:

The deadline for paper proposals is 1 May 2010. Between 15 April and 7 May the scientific board will assess the proposals. Participants will be informed no later than 7 May 2010 if their paper has been accepted.

We urge those members of your national commission who have not yet registered to do so at the earliest possible date. The deadline for registration is 31 May 2010.

For more information about the congress, for registration for the congress, and for hotel reservations: [www.cihm2010.nl](http://www.cihm2010.nl).

We look forward to seeing you in August in Amsterdam.

**Workshop for Graduate Students at ICMH Congress, Amsterdam**

Dr. Ciro Paoletti, Italy

Amsterdam will host the third ICMH-workshop for graduate students. This time the workshop theme will be related to the annual conference theme: 'Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: Irregular Warfare from 1800 to the Present'.

The Dutch Commission proposed an innovative concept for this congress. The call for papers proved fruitful with eight proposals from eight different countries: Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States.

The academic committee, consisting of prof. Jan Hoffenaar, col dr. Winfried Heinemann, prof. Jean D. Avenel, dr. Erwin Schmidl, and I, were happy to find that all the submitted proposals were interesting and acceptable. In some cases, the academic committee recommended that the paper presenters focus more on certain aspects of the congress's theme so as to be more effective. Prof. Hoffenaar has arranged for the Dutch commission to cover the congress fee and to accommodate all graduate students.

The following graduate students will participate and present papers at the ICMH Congress in Amsterdam:

- Mario Muigg (Security Academy of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior - Institute for Science and Research), '*Police in International Peace Operations.*'
- Alexandrou Charalambos, (Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus), '*The Role of information and propaganda during the insurgency, 1955-1959, in Cyprus.*'
- Daniel Whittingham (Department of War Studies, King's College London), '*Charles E. Callwell and the art of irregular warfare.*'
- Zsolt Tóth (Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University of Hungary), '*The Insurgency in West Hungary in 1921.*'
- Martijn Kitzen (Netherlands Defence Academy - Faculty Military Sciences - Department of Military Operational Art and Science), '*Collaboration with Local Power Structures in Counterinsurgency: Insights from the Dutch Colonial Past.*'
- LtCol Janne Mäkitalo (Finnish Army), '*The Development of the Yugoslav Art of War after the Second World War*'.
- Major John Ringquist (US Army), '*Bandit or Patriot: Somali Irredentism, Kenyan Counterinsurgency, and the Shifra War (1963-1967).*'
- Fankie Monama (Stellenbosch University), '*Government and Wartime Insurgency in the Union of South Africa, 1939-1943.*'

The graduate students' workshop continues to provide young scholars with an excellent opportunity to present their research to an international audience of experienced historians. We are very fortunate that the national commissions and the hosting commission in particular have enabled us to organise yet another graduate workshop.

### **ICMH Elections, 2010**

Serge Bernier, Canada

President, ICMH Election Committee

In 2010 the ICMH will hold elections for officers and board members. All offices are open in the election. At the congress in Oporto, Portugal, ICMH President De Vos appointed a three person election committee. The president of the election committee will be Dr. Serge Bernier, Canada, with Ann von Luttichau, United States, and Colonel (retired) Jan E. Kronlund, Finland serving as members.

Any national commission whose dues are up to date may propose a candidate for all of the officers and board positions on the ICMH bureau. A national commission can have only one representative on the ICMH bureau. To propose a candidate, the person should send a letter of application to the Secretary-general, ICMH. The letter must bear three signatures, the candidate's, the president's and the secretary general's of the national commission. The deadline for candidates' letters is the end of April 2010.

The elections will be held during the 36<sup>th</sup> ICMH Congress in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Elections will be held in the following order:

- a) President
- b) Secretary general
- c) Treasurer/Assistant secretary general
- d) Members of the ICMH Board

### **Articles on National Commissions**

#### **The Hellenic Commission on Military History**

Lt. General Nicholas Mastrantonis

## President

The Hellenic Commission on Military History (HCMH) was established in 1980. Its purpose was to provide scientific historical services for the promotion of military history in the framework of the ICMH. On August 24, 1985 it became an official ICMH ordinary member during the ICMH congress in Stuttgart. On July 27, 1998 the Commission assumed its current form under the name 'Hellenic Commission on Military History' by a ministerial decision. The commission belongs directly to the Hellenic National Defense General Staff (HNDGS) in all matters administrative, operational and financial.

The Hellenic Commission is a standing commission with six ordinary members. The President, Vice President and Secretary-general are high rank active or reserve officers recalled to active service, with wide and acknowledged activities on the field of Military History. They are selected by General Staff and are appointed for a three (3) years period that can be renewed. The three other members are civilians, professors of history or historians coming from History Services or the Higher Military Educational Institutions of the Armed Forces. There are also associates of the commission, people with deep and profound interest in military history who are distinct personalities like academics, university professors, diplomats and other intellectuals. The Hellenic Commission's work is supported by a secretariat composed of military and auxiliary personnel.

The fundamental purpose of the existence of the Hellenic Commission is to represent Hellenic National Defense General Staff and Greece generally in the ICHM's congresses and activities. Nevertheless, Hellenic Commission on Military History's activities, obligations and competence have increased through years, having always as aim to promote and stimulate the interest for military history. It participates with papers and presentations not only in the ICMH's congresses but also in the annual conference of 'Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group of the Partnership for Peace Consortium', and other relevant historic conferences.

The Hellenic Commission has bilateral cooperation agreements on military history issues with several countries in realization of the Bilateral Military Cooperation Program of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff. In the framework of bilateral cooperation, the work proceeds in the implementation of common publications with other countries. Concerning its publishing activity, the Hellenic Commission has already realized the publication of an ambitious project that demonstrated the contribution of the Armed Forces to the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Its translation in the English language is currently underway. Several other publications are underway as for example 'Joint Warfare across Time, Historical Cases', into the English language, and 'Historic Events Catalogue of the Hellenic Armed Forces' in the Greek language.

Within the framework of the ICMH, the Hellenic Commission organized in Athens the XIIth and the XXVIIth International Congress of Military History in 1987 and 2001, respectively. The theme of the last congress was 'Military Conflicts and Geopolitics in the 20th century'. IN 2001 the HCMH has published volume 79 of the Revue Internationale d' Histoire Militaire.

## **International Military History Conference in Tunisia**

Dr. Hans Pawlisch

President, US Commission on Military History



The Tunisian Commission on Military History organized a three-day conference in Tunis dedicated to the theme of 'Naval Activities and Geostrategy' from 2-6 December 2009. While the overall conference theme was global, the majority of papers focused on maritime power in the Mediterranean Sea region from the Punic Wars to the present. There were ten academic sessions over three days featuring 31 papers. The quality of the papers presented by international scholars proved excellent and the Tunisian historians' presentations were highly professional. Military and naval historians participated from Tunisia, Portugal, Italy, Germany, and the United States.

On the evening of December 3, the Minister of National Defense, Mr. Kamel Morjane, who is President of the Tunisian Commission on Military History, hosted an official dinner at his residence. Also present were Dr. Luc De Vos, President of the International Commission on Military History, and his wife. On the last day of the conference, there was a visit to Utica, a small satellite Punic and later Roman town with necropolis adjacent to what was once Carthage. The mosaics were exquisite. The participants visited a sea-side villa previously owned by a French baron who devoted his life to studying ethnic musicology, recording his research in a six-volume history that was published posthumously. The family donated the estate and its contents to the Tunisian government, and the state operates the house as a trust dedicated to promoting Tunisian music. The curator presented us with complimentary CDs on our departure.

Colonel Lotti Chelbi Vice President of the Tunisian Commission organized and conducted the conference. The venue, a seaside hotel on the outskirts of the Tunis, proved an admirable location for the meeting. Hotel security was good, rooms and service were first class, and the buffet luncheons and dinners featured a large variety of tasty local cuisine and traditional western fare. The Tunisian Commission should consider hosting one of the forthcoming ICMH international congresses.

### **National Commission of Military History in Hungary**

Major Laszlo Veszpremy  
Secretary-general

Professor Dr. Josef Zacher, President of the National Commission on Military History in Hungary died suddenly in December 2009. As a retired colonel, he was laid to rest with full military honors on January 6, 2010 in Budapest, Hungary.

### **National Commission of Military History of Germany**

Colonel Dr. Hans-Hubertus Mack is the new Director of the German Military History Research Institute in Potsdam. Colonel Dr. Hans Ehlert, the former director, has retired. In the new position, Colonel Mack serves as president of the National Commission of Military History of Germany.

## **Conferences and Meetings**

### **German History Conference**

A conference 'On the Path to Reunification – West and East Germany in their Alliances from 1970 to 1990' will be convened by the Military History Research Institute in Potsdam from 22 – 24 September 2010. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Germany's reunification on 3 October 2010, the 51st International Conference for Military History focuses on the question which role changes in security and military policies played in the long run-up to the events of 1989 and 1990. Confrontative behavioral patterns prevailed throughout the Cold War era of

the 1950s. They constituted an immanent risk factor in the nuclear age. Starting in the early 1970s, the period of détente – much furthered by West Germany's own Ostpolitik – introduced a new dynamic to East-West relations, based on antagonistic cooperation and transformation. Within the context of the recent transatlantic historiographical discussions on the long-term developments leading up to 1989, the conference focuses on changes and events related to security politics and the German question.

The conference is open to everyone interested in the topic. Further information regarding location, (modest) conference fee, and program will be available in due course on the MGFA's homepage, <http://www.mgfa.de>. For information see:

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Visit the website at <http://www.mgfa.de>

### **International History Conference, Amsterdam**

The 21st Congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences will be held in Amsterdam from 22 - 28 August 2010. The Congress is jointly organized by four organizations: the Netherlands National Committee: Koninklijk Nederlands Historisch Genootschap, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, and the International Institute of Social History.

The International Congress of Historical Sciences takes place every five years. This Congress provides an ideal venue for extensive reports, papers, debates, exchanges, and meetings reflecting historical research in action. It is the meeting place for the global community of historians. In recent years the Congress has been held in Madrid (1990), Montreal (1995), Oslo (2000), and Sydney (2005). The Congress' themes were adopted by the General Assembly of the CISH in 2007. The congress will be held in the Amsterdam city center. The Universiteit van Amsterdam will host the large congress.

For information consult: [www.ichs2010.org](http://www.ichs2010.org)

### **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. 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)