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International Commission of Military History Newsletter



Issue 10, 2008

Welcome to the ICMH Newsletter

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Message from the Hague

When it's spring again, I'll bring again, tulips from Amsterdam. These are the opening lines of a famous song about beautiful flowers in Spring. Our International Commission of Military History (ICMH) has also begun a new year. This newsletter is to inform you of key developments currently taking place in and around the ICMH. These are many and of a very diverse nature. Together, they form a colourful, beautiful bouquet and may, in combination with the prospect of enjoying the warm Italian sun of late August, foster good spirits. I am grateful to Pat Harahan, the editor-in-chief of this Newsletter, for being able to offer you this bouquet.

The Italian Commission of Military History, headed by Col Matteo Paesano, is making good progress with the organisation of the XXXIVth ICHM Congress, that is being held from 31 August to 5 September in Trieste. The theme of the congress - "Military conflicts and civil population: Total wars, limited wars, asymmetrical wars" - is not only interesting in a historical context, but also relevant for present-day military operations. This Newsletter contains the latest information about the Congress. In a separate contribution, Dr. Ciro Paoletti will tell you about an important new activity, a workshop for young historians, the first result of brainstorming within our Task Force on Excellence. If you have not yet enrolled for Trieste, my advice to you is: be quick.

The Executive Board, which met on 12 April in New Orleans, is also pleased with the look of our Congress calendar. We look forward to reading the briefing that the Chairman of the Portuguese Commission, Luitenant-General A. de Sousa Pinto, will draw up on the Congress, that will be held from 31 August to 5 September 2009 in the beautiful city of Porto. A year later, namely from 30 August to 3 September 2010, we shall be meeting in Amsterdam, the city that during the previous week will be extending its hospitality to the world congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences. Brazil and France have meanwhile put themselves forward as candidates to host the Congresses of 2011 and 2012 respectively.

In cooperation with Prof. Dr. R. Jaun, statutes for an Educational Committee have been drawn up and subsequently approved by the Executive Board. You will find these statutes elsewhere in this Newsletter. According to our planning, therefore, we will be able to establish a third institutional pillar under the ICHM in Trieste. Besides the Bibliography Committee and the Military Archives Committee, we will then also have an Educational Committee. I consider myself fortunate that Ruedi Jaun has stated his willingness to act as first Chairman of the new Committee and is assured of the support of Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Kubiak of Poland as Secretary-General.

I expect that the South African Commission will present in Trieste the Acta of our exceptionally successful congress in Capetown in 2007. During the General Meeting we can also look forward to the presentation of a new instalment – part 29 no less – of the Bibliography. Achieving this is no mean feat by Dimitry Qeloz and his helpers, since on account of institutional changes, the traditional and generous Swiss (financial) contribution has largely disappeared. Finding an alternative place for this showpiece of the ICMH takes a great deal of energy. You will undoubtedly hear more about this dossier in Trieste.

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As Secretary-General, the future of the International Review of Military History is of particular concern for me too. After the publication of the international edition on conscription and recruitment, things have been rather quiet on the Review front. Only the French Commission has an edition in course of preparation, and continuity is now being called into question. I therefore appeal to all national commissions to look into the possibility of producing an edition of the Review. It is worth bearing in mind that the Review forms an excellent medium for presenting national military history to audiences outside your national boundaries.

Finally, I should like to inform you that, together with the Chairman of the French Commission, Prof. Dr. Jean Avenel, I am in the process of producing an attractive promotional brochure for the ICMH, which can subsequently be offered as a sort of "base text" to the national commissions, which can then tailor it to the specific target groups in their own country. Greater awareness, more members and easier access to third-party finance – these are the main goals of this exercise.

I look forward to seeing you in Trieste and bringing you up to date on all the developments concerning the ICMH. So, until we meet at our XXXIVth ICMH Congress!

Piet Kamphuis
Secretary-General

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2008 ICMH Congress in Trieste, Italy

Prof. Dr. Massimo de Leonardis
Secretary General - Italian Commission of Military History

As readers of the Bulletin already know, the 34th ICMH Congress will take place in Trieste, Italy, from Sunday 31st August to Friday 5th September 2008. This year the Congress theme is *Military conflicts and civil population: total wars, limited wars, asymmetrical wars*.

Colonel Matteo Paesano, President of the Italian Commission of Military History and Chief of the Historical Office of the Italian Defence General Staff, is confident that the theme will attract the attention of the numerous distinguished participants. In recent times, civilians have been directly and massively subjected to the consequences of war and their life has been conditioned and stressed by guerrillas, liberation movements, and terrorism. Gathering together international military historians in Trieste, the Congress will be an ideal opportunity to share views on this very challenging and interesting theme.

Colonel Paesano, for the preparation of this important event, is supported by a Scientific Committee, consisting of civilian and military academics from major Italian universities. The Scientific Committee will prepare the scientific program and a Working Group, organized from military staffs provided by the Armed Forces, will take care of all the other organizational and administrative aspects.

Specific themes of the ICMH Congress:

1. Civilians and Military: a changing borderline. The birth of the concept of civil population and the evolution of its juridical definition.

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2. Political regimes, international systems, limited or total wars. Civil population in asymmetrical warfare, guerrilla and counter guerrilla; genocides and ethnical epurations; indiscriminate war: terrorism.
3. Rules to protect civilian populations: genesis and development from the medieval *jus in bello* to contemporary international law. Military governments in conquered territories.
4. Military mobilization and civic mobilization from professional wars to mass wars.
5. Civil population in asymmetrical warfare, guerrilla and counter guerrilla; genocides and ethnical epurations; indiscriminate war: terrorism.
6. Social and demographical impact of wars: from Ancien Régime to Contemporary age.
7. Wars, Mobilizations and Militarization in the Civil Society. Political regimes, international systems, limited or total war.

Status of Papers:

So far some 61 proposals of papers have been received from 27 national commissions and countries. By the end of May the Scientific Committee will choose the papers accepted. They will inform the proponents, and they will prepare the academic scientific program. Scholars who have been accepted should be sent their final papers to the Scientific Committee by the end of June in one of the Congress' working languages.

Young Scholars Workshop and Book Roundtable:

For the first time at an ICMH Congress, a workshop will be organized for graduate students and researchers, chosen by their national commissions. The young scholars will present their research in a special panel available to all participants. In the next article in this Bulletin, Dr. Ciro Paoletti explains the background, planning, and presentations at this new workshop.

A Book Roundtable will be held on the theme: "Recent Books on Total Wars, Limited Wars, and Asymmetrical Wars." The session is open to all participants and discussion is welcome.

City Environment and Congress Information:

Trieste is a town of 212,000 inhabitants, and is the capital of the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia. Located in the northern end of the Adriatic Sea, the city lies close to the border with Slovenia. The Congress will take place at the Centro Congressi della Stazione Marittima, positioned on the waterfront in Trieste city centre. During the Congress, working languages will be English, French, and Italian and simultaneous translation will be available. The registration fee is € 300 for each participant to be paid upon arrival by cash, credit card or automatic debit card.

Participants will be welcomed by the Congress' Working Group staff at the airports of Trieste (Ronchi dei Legionari) and Venice (Marco Polo) and at the Trieste railway Central Station, and accompanied to their hotels. The same transfers will be organized on departure on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September.

On Sunday 31st August from 2.30 to 6 p. m., all Congress' participants will enjoy a tourist tour of the town, and a welcome reception in local restaurant from 8 to 10 p.m. On Wednesday 3rd September from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m., all participants will visit the towns of Palmanova, one of the most remarkable town fortresses in the world, and Aquileia, a famous archaeological and historical site. Then, on Thursday evening a concert will be staged for all Congress' participants at the Teatro Rossetti, followed by a dinner buffet. The closing banquet dinner will take place on the evening of Friday 5th of September.

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With the exception of Wednesday evening, all lunches and dinners will be offered to the participants, their cost being covered by the registration or paid by the Italian Commission, the Italian Armed Forces and local authorities.

During the Congress, military events and other cultural and tourist visits to museums, churches, exhibitions, historical and natural places, shopping malls will be organized either for all participants or accompanying persons only. Delegates wishing to participate in the accompanying persons program will have to pay an additional fee.

An interesting post-congress tour will start in Trieste on Saturday 6th September, ending in Rome on Thursday 11th September. It will include visits to Venice, Padua, Florence and Rome.

For information on the provisional scientific and social programs please visit the web site: <http://www.difesa.it/SMD/Staff/Reparti/Vreparto/CISM/CIHM/>, where English, French and Italian versions are provided. From this page links will direct to all the necessary information on the scientific and social programs, the registration, the hotel reservations and the post-congress tour. For enquiries about the Congress please contact the Project Officer, Capt. (It. Navy) Alfredo Maglietta: E-mail: cihm2008@smd.difesa.it . Fax: (+39) 0646912197.

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Welcome to Oporto, Portugal and to the 35th International Congress of Military History

Sousa Pinto

President, Portuguese Commission of Military History

In 2009, from August 30th to September 4th, Portugal will host for the second time the prestigious Congress of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH) in Oporto. The first time Portugal housed this event was in 1998 in Lisbon. We expect that delegates from more than 35 countries will participate in this Congress. Among these delegates we expect military officers, historians, researchers, academics, professors of military science, archivists and diplomats.

The theme of this 2009 35th Congress of the International Commission of Military History will be: “‘Warfare in the Age of Napoleon’: precedents, military campaigns and lasting impacts”. This is intended to be an international and multidisciplinary event involving aspects of military, political, diplomatic, economic, social and cultural history, developed at local, national, European and global levels.

The sessions will include approaches from the political and ideological precedents of the wars, to the campaigns and military strategies, as well as its global projections – in geopolitics, economy, society and culture. In this domain, particular emphasis will be placed on drawing a new political order and the dissemination of new ideologies that gave birth to the new regimes and new forms of government which surpassed the European area and were projected into other continents. Contributions centred on other military and political experiences connected synchronically or diachronically with this major event are welcome, in order to promote comparative approaches to the theme.

The main objective of this Congress is to enable contacts between senior and junior researchers, as well as to gather the most advanced investigators in these areas of speciality, in order to promote a debate about vast and complex issues that, although already widely analysed in the

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panorama of international historiography, are not exhausted in the available scientific literature. At the same time, the spirit of the Congress will be to promote discussions under the central theme: The Peninsular War and how its outcome affected Europe's, America's and the world's future. It also aims to draw the attention of a wider public beyond militaries, academics and specialists and, at the same time, cross multiple perspectives that will better contextualize and more justly approach the reconstitution, always incomplete, of the intricate historical-military dynamic.

The city of Oporto was chosen to house this event as 2009 is the bicentennial year of the second French Invasion of Portugal, whose main impact was felt in the northern part of the country, namely in Oporto. At the time, and today, Oporto is the biggest urban centre and seaport in this area. Connecting the Congress sections with other initiatives, such as thematic exhibitions, the historical reconstitution of conspicuous successes to the history of Oporto, the realization of cultural shows or just rambling around itineraries used by French troops in their territorial invasions, this event wants to project itself to the community in general.

In fact, for all the Congress participants and accompanying persons there will be organized a number of receptions, tours and visits to national monuments and sites that not only will complement the Academic Program, but also will show everyone the city of Oporto. In 1996, the city's historical centre was classified as a World Heritage Site, with its river and bridges, as well as the cities of northern Portugal. Visits include the historical cities of Braga, Guimarães, Viana do Castelo and Vila do Conde. A cruise on the Douro river and the opportunity of shopping in a traditional Portuguese city are also other proposed activities. There will be postcongress tours that will offer visits to some of the most famous Portuguese places, including the Douro region, classified by Unesco in 2002 as a World Heritage region and where the famous Port Wine is produced, Lisbon and the south of Portugal.

The 2009 Congress is co-sponsored by the Portuguese Commission of Military History, the Oporto City Council and the University of Oporto, through the Department of History and Political and International Studies.

The Congress will take place in the former Custom House, bordering the north bank of the River Douro. The building dates back from the 19th century and have recently housed events such as the 1998 Iberian-American summit, as well as the 2000 and 2007 Portuguese presidencies of the European Union.

All national commission members and accompanying persons who are interested in participating in the 2009 Oporto ICMH Congress will have information from a new website that will be created soon. The Portuguese Commission of Military History will also present an overview of the program and city to the international delegates at the ICMH Congress in Trieste, in September 2008.

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Workshop: An opportunity for young scholars

Dr. Ciro Paoletti
Italian Commission of Military History

Last year at the ICMH Congress in Capetown, a Task Force Excellence committee was created to enhance the ICMH activities. The committee proposed to the ICMH Board many different possible initiatives. The Board approved, among them, my proposal to organize a workshop for

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young scholars and assigned me the direct and personal responsibility for preparing and presenting it.

Direct contacts with the national commissions obtained good results. The national commissions were quite supportive, and the Trieste Congress will see young scholars presenting their research in the first workshop. All of the scholar’s topics are linked to Congress theme - War and Civilians.

The workshop is reserved to graduate students selected with the help of national commissions, which provide them with trip expenses, whilst the Italian Commission of Military History offered to exempt, them from the conference fee and to provide free accommodations during the meeting.

For the first workshop, participants will come from five different countries: France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and United States. They are eight young scholars and their papers seem quite interesting and attractive, as they cover a wide range of topics. Here are the scholars and topics.

A general overview of the Congress’ themes will be explored in a paper proposed by Mr Maniscalco, Roma 3 State University, “Europe’s role in vicinity conflicts and its impact on civilians”. Mr Couto (University of Porto (Portugal)) will present a research paper on “War and the civilians - the soldiers' impact at the hospitals (a case study from a Portugal)” and Mr Avenel, University of Poitiers, France, a paper on “Strategic bombing: civil populations as an objective.

Representing the German MGFA, Captain Storkmann will present a paper on “Solving Conflicts or Inciting Guerrilla Warfare? East German military support in Southern Africa and its civilian victims.” Mr Pastori, from the Catholic University of Milan will speak on the topic of “Civilians and war: weapons, population and territory during the repression of the Mad Mullah’s revolt in Somalia (1890-1920)”. Miss Rosato from Roma 3 State University will explain here research on “Conflict and peace process in Colombia: the impact of small wars, guerrilla and counter guerrilla on civil populations.” Miss Tillman, from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, goes deeply into the civilian experiences during an American foreign military intervention, “War and civilians: the case of the Marine Corps occupation of the Dominican Republic.” Investigating the aftermath of war and its impact on civilians, Mr Becherelli from Rome 1 University will present a paper on “Civilians and Italian Mission in Budapest in 1919.”

According to the titles and the abstracts I have reviewed, it seems to be a promising and attractive session. The workshop will provide these young scholars a good opportunity to reach a large and international audience – something unfortunately rare for young scholars – thanks to a good, strong and generous support by the national commissions and the host commission. So, we can hope that this initiative will contribute to improving the involvement of young military historians in the ICMH and will help them to gather professional success in the future.

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News from ICMH Committees

ICMH: International Bibliography of Military History

Dmitry Queloz, Editor

The *Bibliographie internationale d'histoire militaire* is facing increasing financial problems due to new budgetary cuts at the Swiss Ministry of Defence, our greatest sponsor for more than 25 years. However, our resources allow us to publish volume 29 in July of this year and volume 30 next year. Possible solutions are currently under study and you will be informed about this in good time.

Volume 29 of the *Bibliographie* is nearing completion and we should be able to present it at the Conference in Trieste in September. This year we welcome the return of Israel as contributor to our publication after an absence of several years. As a sign of our scientific success, we have received more than 350 contributions. However, in consequence of our limited resources, we have had to keep back around 50 of these for volume 30. We are very grateful to all our contributors and apologise to those whose contributions will only appear next year.

Finally, it is our sad duty to announce the death of Captain Igor Amosov, who for many years was a member of our committee and also our Russian correspondent. Despite the sometimes difficult relations with the Russian Commission for Military History, Captain Amosov continued to provide us with contributions on scientific works published in his country. We wish to express to him posthumously our warm thanks for his valuable cooperation and will remember him as a friend.

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ICMH Committee of Military Archives

Dr. Hans-Joachim Harder
Federal Archives – Military Archives of Germany
President of CAM

International archivists are cordially invited to attend the CAM meeting 2008 during the 34th International Conference of Military History in Trieste. The committee will meet at the Centro Congressi della Stazione Marittima in Trieste on the Sunday morning, 31 August 2008, 10.00h.

Last November I sent out an e-mail asking all members of the archives committee about their preferences as to our 2008 meeting in Trieste. The question was whether we should discuss either the Congress' theme: „Military conflicts and the civil population: Sources in the military archives“ or another theme: „The task of record centers in the structure of military archives“.

The answers coming from all over the world were truly encouraging. They showed that we should do both. So one topic will follow the general theme of the CIHM congress, the other one will be specific to archivists. It will be interesting to compare the situation in the different member countries. There were already volunteers for both subjects. Papers will be presented by the delegates from Portugal, Belgium, Austria, USA, and Poland.

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ICMH Education Committee

Pr. Dr. Rudolf Jaun

Dozent für Militärgeschichte

Verteidigung Bevölkerungsschutz Sport, Departementsbereich Verteidigung

Höhere Kaderausbildung der Armee

Militärakademie an der ETH Zürich (MILAK)

The Educational Committee will be founded during the General Assembly of ICMH in Trieste. The Statutes are ready and approved by the Board of the ICMH. After the General Assembly meeting there will be a short information meeting with a presentation of the forthcoming activities of the committee and the first meeting in 2009 in Porto, Portugal.

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The Irish Commission for Military History and The Military History Society of Ireland

Peter Mulready

Secretary-general

The Irish Commission for Military History was formed in 1980. It could be said to be the 'international office' of its parent organization, The Military History Society of Ireland. The Society was founded in 1949 and its purpose is "To promote the study of military history and, in particular, the history of warfare in Ireland and Irishmen in war." The Society has a membership of 750 in addition to an institutional membership of 85. Members are to be found in Ireland, Britain, Europe, United States and throughout the world. The Society's activities cover four main areas, lectures, field trips, a foreign tour and a journal.

The Society holds an annual Winter Lecture series in Dublin, open to the public, comprising seven lectures covering a range of military topics and time periods. In June and September, a day trip and a weekend visit respectively, are arranged to explore selected Irish battle sites or locations of military interest. On a bi-annual basis a foreign tour is arranged to visit overseas battlefields. The Society's journal 'The Irish Sword' is a twice yearly publication, renowned for its scholarly treatment of military history. The Society has organized seminars on such topics as the Irish civil war and Irish service with UN peace missions. Active consideration is currently being given to organizing a seminar on the Irish War of Independence (1919-21).

The Society is affiliated under the name of the Irish Commission for Military History to the ICMH. Originally, the Society, by its own terms of reference, since amended, confined its research to warfare in Ireland and set up the Irish Commission to facilitate attendance and scholarly participation at the international ICMH Congresses.

The Irish Commission had its first participation in the activities of the International Commission when selected members attended the 1981 conference at Montpellier, France. Since then, with a few exceptions, members of the Irish Commission have presented papers at every Congress. This year Irish Commission is in the fortunate position of having two scholars propose papers for the Trieste Congress.

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To date the concern of the Irish Commission has been mainly directed towards the preparation of papers for conferences of the International Commission. It is hoped in the future to attract into the Commission students of military history whose interests lie in a wider field of military study than that embraced by the Society.

The Society's website is www.mhsi.ie and it provides some basic information on its activities. The President of the Military History Society of Ireland and the Irish Commission of Military History is Colonel Donal O'Carroll and the Secretary General of the Irish Commission is Peter Mulready, who can be contacted by email at peter.mulready@esb.ie

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