

## International Commission of Military History

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## International Commission of Military History

[www.icmh.info](http://www.icmh.info)

## Newsletter



## Issue 21: Winter 2013-14

**Welcome to the ICMH Newsletter!**

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Our Congresses: Portugal 2009 \* Netherlands 2010 \* Brazil 2011 \* Bulgaria 2012 \* Italy 2013 \* France 2014

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### ICMH Newsletter, Issue 21: Winter 2013-14

#### Notice by the Secretary-General

For various reasons, this winter edition of our Newsletter appears with some delay, for which I apologize. But this enables us to already announce the official website of the 2014 Congress, which will take place at Varna in Bulgaria later this year: visit <http://www.bcmh140.com/en/> for registration and the latest news. And, of course, always visit our Commission's own website, under <http://www.icmh.info/>, for news and other information.

Another important announcement: For a long time, we were all used to receive important messages from our President's untiring secretary, Elisabeth C. ("Ilse") Cuperus. Lately, these messages came from a different e-mail: [ec.bloemsma@mindef.nl](mailto:ec.bloemsma@mindef.nl). We all unite in congratulating Ilse, now Bloemsma (and, even more so, her husband) on getting married!

#### From The President's Desk: Observations on New Books, Recent Congresses and the Future

Piet Kamphuis, *President, ICMH*

Now that the Low Countries by the North Sea have been covered in a blanket of leaves and people have dug their winter coats out of the wardrobe, it is very pleasant to be able to sit by the fireplace in the evenings to read a good book. We have many interesting options to choose from at the moment. Although many publishing houses and traditional booksellers are affected by the economic crisis, we can count ourselves lucky with the continuous supply of interesting and high-quality books in our area of expertise. Life, however, is all about making choices - and this is particularly true for the selection of reading material that is offered.

On one of these past few rainy autumn evenings, I picked up the anniversary edition *1938 – 2013: 75 years International Commission of Military History* (Vienna, 2013) again. This edition of the *International Review of Military History*, published under the editorial responsibility of our Secretary-General, provides a highly readable overview of military historical work from the Second World War until the present day. My attention, however, was mainly focused on the fascinating account of the history of our own organisation by a young German colleague. David Kostewicz named his essay "Clearing House for Military Historians". I think he chose this title well, because his analysis clearly shows how good personal relationships have influenced our organisation. Having a shared interest and shared ambitions, in combination with good chemistry on a personal level, have led to the long-lasting success of our *International Bibliography of Military History*. The same holds true for the latest additions to our family, the *Military Archives Committee* and the *Educational Committee*. The annual congresses are the best places to

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meet each other and are therefore of paramount importance to the functioning of our organisation.

The 39<sup>th</sup> congress that was held in Turin from 1 to 6 September 2013 was a big success. Although the Italian Commission received the go-ahead to organise the congress relatively late so that the communication of information also got underway rather late, the commission was able to offer the congress participants an excellent programme. The lectures and Round Tables were interesting and intellectually stimulating and the social programme was attractive and organised in great detail. The Italian Commission, under the leadership of Colonel Matteo Paesano, successfully established a good infrastructure to deepen existing contacts, ties and friendships and to come into contact with new parties. I am grateful to our Italian colleagues for their efforts and I would like to convey my compliments to them. After all, the 'clearing house' function, the exchange of research results and the joint brainstorming sessions about innovative questions can only thrive on such a platform.

It is abundantly clear that organising an ICMH Congress entails more than bringing together international specialists for a scientific congress about a historical theme. In fact, it is a highly complex and challenging activity. Throughout the years, we have developed a certain ICMH tradition as regards the structure and facilities for participants. As a result, the congress veterans have certain expectations.

Several years ago, the French Commission for Military History put in a request to organize the 2014 Congress, which would have the First World War as its theme. Unfortunately, the French Commission faced decreasing government and other types of funding during the preparations for the congress. Although the French colleagues, supported by the French member of the ICMH Board, Professor Jean Avenel, went to great lengths to continue the organization of the congress, they informed us in Turin that they were unable to sufficiently guarantee a congress in the ICMH tradition. It was therefore decided to explore options for other locations. Two national commissions accepted the challenge while the French Commission persevered in its efforts to turn kind words into hard commitments. Although it made some good progress, sadly it was too little too late. On 1 November, the agreed deadline, the board made its final decision. It concluded that the alternative proposed by the Bulgarian Commission to organize the 2014 ICMH Congress in the seaside resort of Varna offers more guarantees, and at lower costs for the participants. So, the die has been cast. I would like to take this opportunity to express my respect for the tremendous amount of work carried out by our French colleagues who, unfortunately, were facing adverse circumstances. They deserve our praise and appreciation for their efforts and dedication. And their disappointment is understandable.

In this issue of the Newsletter, you will find information about the successful congress in Turin as well as the first bits of information about the 40<sup>th</sup> ICMH Congress which will be held in Varna, Bulgaria, from 30 August to 6 September 2014 and which will have the

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following theme: The First World War 1914-1918. Please make sure to block this period in your agenda.

I wish you pleasant reading and I hope you enjoy this issue of the Newsletter.

### From the Secretary General's Desk

Erwin A. Schmidl, *Secretary General, ICMH*

At the Turin congress, we were able to present two achievements, which took up most of my time in the preceding months. First, our own website, <http://www.icmh.info/> (or [www.histmil.info](http://www.histmil.info) – both URLs lead to the same website) has become operational in early 2013. It is offered in all our five official languages, and I owe my thanks to all who contributed translations or proofread texts: Col. Flavio Carbone and Dr. Ciro Paoletti from Italy, Eric Bastin for the French, and Col (R) Herminio José Fernández García and Captain (Navy, ret.) José María Blanco Núñez for the Spanish texts, and our Senior Vice-President, Dr. Pat Harahan, who patiently checked my English efforts.

The website is still not perfect, but it is continually updated and expanded – please visit regularly, and I am grateful for your comments and suggestions. We also have a list of congresses and publications, with links where appropriate, and I try to add new texts, and the histories of national commissions.

The second achievement, already mentioned by our President, is the ‘commemorative book’, which we published as no. 91 of the *Review*. Its main element is the history of the International Commission, written by an ‘outsider’, *Kapitänleutnant* (Lieutenant Commander) David Kostewicz, a submarine officer from the German Bundeswehr. David wrote this piece originally as a master’s thesis at the German Helmut Schmidt University at Hamburg in 2009, and has been brought up to date. Again, my gratitude goes to the author, but also to Pat Harahan, who assisted me in editing it.

Complementing Kostewicz’s piece on the International Commission is an article by Nicola Labanca, professor of contemporary history at the University of Siena, on the development of military history in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was written in Italian for the publication, but the English version is now available on our website as well (<http://www.icmh.info/>). In addition, our President contributed a preface in French, and I added some afterthoughts in German, so we have at least four of the five official languages of our Commission represented. My sincere apologies go to our Spanish and Latin American friends for not having an article in Spanish as well – we simply did not manage to do so in time for the Turin Congress!

Any commission which need additional copies is invited to contact me directly at: [Erwin.schmidl@bmlvs.gv.at](mailto:Erwin.schmidl@bmlvs.gv.at), and I will send the requested copies (as long as stocks last) as soon as possible. Enjoy reading about our own history!

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### Report on the 2013 ICMH Congress in Turin, Italy

Pat Harahan and Massimo de Leonardis, *Vice-presidents, ICMH*

The International Commission of Military History held its 39th annual international congress in Turin, Italy from August 31 to September 5, 2013. Hosted by the Italian Commission of Military History, led by Colonel Matteo Paesano and Professor Massimo de Leonardis, the congress's theme was, "Joint and Multilateral Operations in Military History." More than 197 historians, archivists, museum specialists, and graduate students participated in the congress. They represented 36 national commissions of military history and came to Italy from four continents. In addition, there were more than 63 accompanying persons at the conference.

At the opening session, national military historians, Italian professors, Italian military officers, and graduate students listened to remarks from Senator Professor Mario Mauro, Italian Minister of Defense and Admiral Luigi Binelli Mantelli, Chief of the Defense Staff, Italy, Piero Fassino, Mayor of Turin, and Dr. Piet Kamphuis, President, ICMH. The Congress' opening address was presented by Professor Antonello Falco Biagini. A Round Table discussion on contemporary military operations around the world brought out many interesting concepts and ideas. The Congress' scientific sessions began in the afternoon and continued throughout the week.

In all, 36 academic sessions were held during the congress. The first session involved historians from France, Italy, Israel, and Greece, and subsequently there were panels with historians from many, many nations discussing their research and interpretations of military operations in the past and present. Discussions continued long after the specific sessions, taking place in the convention halls, and during receptions. Hosting an international conference involves many people outside of the academic historians. The Italian Military History Commission and the Ministry of Defense had a planning and organizational staff, a registration and conference group, a transportation company, and translators for the congress. Two regional governments and the city administration assisted in sponsoring the conference. Across Italy, seven universities endorsed the congress, and many universities sent graduate students who participated in academic sessions and panels. The hosting Italian Military History Commission organized an interesting program for accompanying persons.

Following the opening day's academic sessions, a reception was held at the Army Application School of the Italian Armed Forces in Turin. Each night of the week, a different reception was held in Turin, one at the cinema museum, another at the automobile museum, another at a music conservatory. On Wednesday, all of the Congress' participants went by bus on a historical and cultural tour of the La Spezia Naval Base. There they visited the Technical Naval Museum, saw the active shipyard, and toured a modern Italian Navy destroyer, "Ciao Duilio." The conference concluded with a banquet, with military music and numerous speeches, at the Royal Palace of Venaria, summer home of the House of Savoy.

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The Congress was very successful. Turin is one of Italy's university cities, with a historic and cultural center, and many scientific institutes. It is a wonderful city. Located in northern Italy at the base of the Alps, it has an interesting city plan, sophisticated architecture, and many, many historical museums, palaces, and piazzas. The hotels were located within the city and were in walking distance to the conference center. In the morning as you walked through the city, one was tempted to stop at a local coffee shop for a cappuccino and brioche. Viva la Italia!

### ICMH Congress to be held in Bulgaria in 2014

Pat Harahan, *Vice-president, ICMH*

Next year the International Commission of Military History has selected Varna, Bulgaria as the site for the international congress. Sponsored by the Bulgarian Commission of Military History, the theme will be the "First World War, 1914 – 1918." The congress will be held in the city of Varna, Bulgaria from August 31st to September 6th, 2014. Interested historians and scholars who want to participate in this international congress will find information concerning the subthemes, languages, registration fees, and hotels on the Congress website, <http://www.bcmh140.com/en/>, or the ICMH website <http://www.icmh.info/>.

Note that graduate students in military or diplomatic history are welcome to attend. For graduate students, some national commissions have special travel grants. The Bulgarian Military History Commission will reduce fees for graduate student's registration and accommodations for the Congress. Usually, historians and scholars from more the 35 nations attend these international conferences. So, if you are interested, consider joining us.

### China Commission of Military History to host ICMH Congress 2015

At the General Assembly of the 39th ICMH Congress in Turin Italy, it was decided that the China Commission of Military History will host the 41<sup>st</sup> ICMH Congress in Beijing, China. The China commission, also known as Branch of China Military History, is a subcommittee of China Association for Military Science. The China Commission of Military History is run by Department of Military History and Encyclopedia Studies at the Academy of Military Science, PLA. The main sponsor of the 2015 congress in China will be Academy of Military Science, PLA.

The 41<sup>st</sup> ICMH Congress will be held from August 30 to September 4, 2015. The congress topic will be "Development and Evolution of the conduct of warfare since 1900". A congress website will be set up in due time to release relevant information.

Please note that there will also be an ICMH Panel at the quinquennial CISH Congress of Historical Sciences, held in Jinan from 23 through 29 August 2015. For details, see: <http://www.cish.org/>

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### The ICMH Bibliography Committee

Mauro Mantovani

*President, Bibliographical Committee of the ICMH*

*Editor-in-Chief, International Bibliography of Military History*

On 27 September 2013, Brigadier Jean Langenberger passed away, aged 81. Jean Langenberger had served, with great enthusiasm and commitment, the cause of the Bibliography as the President of the Bibliographical Committee from 1991 to 2006. The IBMH will honor and cherish the memory of our Honorary President, colleague, and friend.

On 22 November, the IBMH welcomed Dr Max Schiavon as a new member. We are happy to have the French Commission on board again! The past six months saw the publication of issue 33/1 and the preparations for issue 33/2. **Issue 33/1** appeared in August 2013, just in time for our Congress at Torino. It contains two historiographical articles that were peer-reviewed, one by the distinguished member of our committee, Dr. Ricardo A. Herrera, entitled “A People and its Soldiers: The American Citizen as Soldier, 1775-1861”. The other article authored by the Swedish scholar Dr. Mikael Nilsson, gives an authoritative survey of the historiography on Sweden during the Cold War.

**Issue 33/2**, now in print, consists again of two sections: The first provides two peer-reviewed historiographical articles. One has been composed by Pasi Tuunainen, Adjunct Professor and Senior Lecturer in Military History, at the University of Eastern Finland. The author discusses the various narratives and analyses of “Motti” or encirclement tactics, which are widely perceived as the acme of the Finnish way of war. The author of the second bibliographical essay on the historiography of the U.S. occupation of (Western) Germany is Alexander G. Lovelace, Adjunct Professor of History at Anne Arundel Community College and Howard Community College, Maryland USA. The second section of this issue is made up by the traditional short reviews or “notices” on newly published scholarly books of major importance. Once again, a number of members of the Bibliographical Committee, along with national correspondents, have contributed to the selection. This time, the U.S. and South African contributions stand out.

For **issue 34/1**, the deadline for contributions is March 15, 2014. I am looking forward to all sorts of contributions: bibliographical notices, historiographical articles and review articles (see “authors instructions” online: <http://www.brill.com/international-bibliography-military-history>).

### ICMH Committee on Archives (CAM)

Hans Pawlisch, *President, Archives Committee of the ICMH*

Lynn Jones Stewart, *Recording Secretary*

The *Comité des Archives Militaires* (CAM) convened its annual meeting in Turin, Italy on 1 September 2013. Eleven member nations were represented. Those present included Hans Pawlisch, United States, President of the Archives Committee; Flavio Carbone,

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Italy, Secretary General of the Archives Committee; Michael Steidel of Germany; Aniceto Afonso, Portugal; Warren Sinclair, Canada; Saif al Bedwawi, UAE; John Peaty, England; Kathleen Van Acker, Belgium; Jan Dahlstrom and Ann Horsell, Sweden; Alejandro Amendolaro Argentina; and Lynn Jones Stewart, United States. Warren Sinclair and Lynn Jones Stewart acted as recording secretaries. The minutes of the Archives Committee meeting at Sofia, Bulgaria were approved. Hans Pawlisch, United States, President of the Archives Committee presided. Flavio Carbone, Italy continues as Secretary General of the Archives Committee and Dr. Christoph Tepperberg as editor of the CAM newsletter *Mars & Janus*. □

Of immediate concern is the CAM webpage on the new ICMH website. The goal is to provide a portal to Commission websites and to those of archival institutions, as well as to provide links to the newsletters and CAM presentations. President Pawlisch reported that Rudy Jaun has agreed to supply materials with links to various national commissions. Update and maintenance of the CAM page and national pages will be a challenge.

Two successful sessions concerning Italian military archives were presented as regular sessions of the Congress, though simultaneous translation was not provided.

The visit to the Turin State Archive for CAM members and graduate students was highly successful. The Turin State Archive is a repository for all papers relating to the history of Savoy and Sardinia.

**The session included two presentations:** Dr. Hans Pawlisch of the United States Commission on Military History discussed the documentation of current United States joint military operations. Mr. Aniceto Afonso, Portuguese Commission on Military History, discussed current developments in the Portuguese Military Archives.

It is the intent of CAM to continue to support the inclusion of at least one general session on military archives in the annual Congress, in addition to presentations at the CAM meeting itself, and that a visit to an archive be attempted at each Congress.

## ICMH Military Education Committee

### 40th Congress of the International Commission of Military History Varna 2014: PhD Workshop - Call for proposals

The Bulgarian Commission of Military History invites you to take part in the 40th Congress of the International Commission of Military History to be held in Varna, Bulgaria, 30 August – 6 September 2014. Like in former years the Educational Committee of the International Commission of Military History invites young Ph.D. students to take part in a workshop for young scholars who are still working or have just finished their Ph.D. thesis on a subject dealing with Socio-economic and cultural Aspects of world War I.

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The purpose of the workshop is to give young scholars the opportunity of discussing their projects with young as well as experienced colleagues from more than 40 countries. We expect a talk of 30 Minutes. A printed version may be published in the conference proceedings to be published in 2015. In return we offer a reduced congress fee (150 €) and reduced student accommodation (40 €) as well as an allowance of 150 €.

### Applicants should offer papers dealing with

- The experience of war in letters, carnets, diaries and memoirs
- The debate on consent or coercion of the servicemen
- Resistance, mutinies, discipline, and court-martial law
- Gender and War
- War economy
- Home front problems: e.g. Nutrition and Food Crises
- Peace movements and strikes
- Propaganda
- Science, Humanities, and War
- Memory and Commemoration and their Impact upon the Politics of National Identity,
- Memory and Commemoration in War Museums, War Memorials, Public History, Art and Literature,

Applicants should send their proposals to the Secretary General of the Educational Committee, Prof. Dr. Michael Epkenhans (Center for Military History and Social Sciences, Potsdam, Germany). Email: [michaelepkenhans@bundeswehr.org](mailto:michaelepkenhans@bundeswehr.org). **The Deadline for submitting proposals ends 1 March 2014.**

The Educational Committee will inform all applicants about the acceptance of their proposals no later than 1 May 2014.

## ICMH Announcements

**ACTA 38: “Technology and Warfare”, Proceedings of the 38th International Congress of Military History, 25 August to 1 September 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria, Sofia University Press, 631pp, 2013.**

This excellent volume represents the program, speeches, and scholarly papers presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> ICMH Congress, held in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2013. Attended by nearly 250 scholars and guests from 35 nations from Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa, and North and South America, the program of the Congress included the presentation of 90 scientific papers and reports. This volume represents the publication of the scholarly papers, round table presentations, and a few speeches.

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Topics include the development and role of military technology from Ancient times to the Middle Ages and to the Industrial Era, including the Cold War. Special articles were on the development of military technologies in the Balkan Wars and the First World War. Separate articles explore the use of technology in the Navies and Air Forces around the world. Other articles examine the role of technology in the construction of military fortifications, development in military communications, and reconnaissance and operations.

To obtain a copy of this volume, consult the ICMH Website at [www.histmil.info](http://www.histmil.info).

### **ACTA 36: “Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: Irregular Warfare from 1800 to the Present”, Proceedings of the 36th ICMH Congress, Amsterdam 2010.**

Jan Hoffenaar, *President, Netherlands Commission for Military History*

The 2010 *Acta* contains 71 essays and articles by military historians from 35 nations. It also includes transcripts of various speeches delivered during the congress. The book is a uniquely broad selection of some familiar, and many less familiar, case studies from all parts of the world. They give us an insight into both the differences and the similarities between insurgencies and counterinsurgencies separated by geography and time. Some of the contributions concentrated on a single aspect of irregular warfare, such as the role of air power, special forces, propaganda, or civil-military cooperation. Other papers raised broader issues, ranging from the existence of national approaches, to the degree to which the experiences, lessons and doctrines from the past are still applicable today. The 2010 *ACTA* was edited by Thijs Brocades Zaalberg, Jan Hoffenaar and Alan Lemmers. Published in a single volume, the book has 681 pages (ISBN 978-90-71957-00-0). For information and copies, contact Ilse Cuperus at [ec.cuperus@mindef.nl](mailto:ec.cuperus@mindef.nl)

### **International Intelligence History Association (IIHA):**

**2014 Annual Conference: Intelligence Services and Democracy, 2-4 May 2014**

**Akademie für Politische Bildung, Tutzing (near Munich), Germany**

Intelligence services and their activities present unique challenges for democracies all over the world: on the one hand, these services serve a key role in national security and foreign policy and provide decision-makers with crucial information and assessments, while on the other hand, clandestine intelligence means and methods as well as the wide investigative and intrusive powers vested in intelligence services require effective democratic oversight and control mechanisms. The inherent conflict between intelligence secrecy and government transparency highlights the importance of intelligence accountability, parliamentary oversight and legal compliance. Recent revelations over the global collection activities of the NSA, as well as controversies over the roles of intelligence in countering terrorism, increase the need for informed research and debate over intelligence and democracy.

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We are seeking original papers on issues relating to intelligence services and democracy in their widest meaning, including but not limited to papers examining specific intelligence services, activities, operations, accountability, oversight, investigations or developments. Papers can cover any time period, from the antique world to the present day, and are not limited geographically.

The conference theme this year is broad, both in terms of the periods covered and of the focus of papers. This will ensure a wide discussion and comparison of a variety of themes relating to intelligence and democracy in many different countries. We encourage paper proposals from young researchers and doctoral students as well as from more established scholars.

Please submit your paper proposal abstract of 150-300 words and your CV by email to Anna Abelmann, the IIHA Executive Director, at: [a\\_abelmann@yahoo.com](mailto:a_abelmann@yahoo.com).

The **deadline** for proposal submissions is **20<sup>th</sup> February 2014**. Acceptance notifications will go out by early March. Conference presenters are encouraged to submit their revised paper in the form of an article to the Association's *Journal of Intelligence History* within two months after the conference.

## Final Announcement

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 the more than 40 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).