

International Commission of Military History Newsletter



Issue 15, 2010 Welcome to the ICMH Newsletter

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Changing of the guard

Piet Kamphuis, President, ICMH

The XXXVIth ICMH Congress is completed and some weeks are behind us. From what we have heard from the participants and their partners, the Amsterdam Congress was a great success. The Congress organisation, led by Professor Jan Hoffenaar, is to be congratulated for its academic level, the flexible and friendly organisation and the varied and inviting social programme. The next challenge for the Dutch organisation is the difficult task of finding a place for the many papers in the Acta.

The Amsterdam Congress formed a worthy stage for some important changes in our worldwide organisation. In the General Assembly held on Friday 3 September 2010, the national commissions elected a new ICMH Board, which, during its immediately subsequent session, elected two vice presidents from among its members. I consider myself fortunate with this team that won the confidence of the General Assembly for the period 2010 - 2015. Dr Pat Harahan, United States, has been elected as Vice-President tasked with strategic communication (while continuing in that capacity as editor-in-chief of the Newsletter), and Prof Dr Massimo de Leonardis, Italy, is Vice-President with responsibility for Quality and Innovation. Finance remains in the trusted hands of Brigadier General Fritz Stoeckli, Switzerland, and Dr Erwin A. Schmidl, Austria, is the new Secretary-General. The five of us together form the Executive Board.

Other ICMH Board members are: Prof Dr Esat Arslan, Turkey, Prof Dr Jean Avenel, France, Captain (N) Jose Maria Blanco Nunez, Spain, Prof Dr Lars Ericson Wolke, Sweden, Prof Dr Abdessalem Ben Hamida, Tunisia, Major Gen Prof Solly Mollo, South Africa, Prof Dr Tadeusz Panecki, Poland, Prof Dr Reiner Pommerin, Germany, and Prof Dr Hisashi Takahashi, Japan. The changing of the guard meant that Prof Dr Luc de Vos, Prof Dr Allan Millett, Prof Dr H. Coutau Begarie, Dr Hugo O'Donnell, and Prof Dr Pietro del Negro retired as members of the Board. We owe them a debt of gratitude for the way they served our ICMH over many years. For Luc de Vos, who in the period 2000 - 2010 was the public face of our organization, the closing dinner in Amsterdam had a further surprise in store. He was appointed Honorary President.

There were a number of other changes as well. Col Dr Hans Joachim Harder, Germany, handed over responsibility for the Military Archives Committee to Dr Hans Pawlisch, United States, while in the case of the Bibliography Committee, Major Dr Dimitry Queloz, Switzerland, is expected to pass the baton to a successor in 2011. I am grateful that he was willing to take on the task of introducing the 'new style' Bibliography. The General Assembly agreed to the proposal for concluding an agreement with the Brill publishing house, which has assured the future of the ICMH Bibliography while at the same time, the transition to a digital version has allowed us to keep in step with modern technology. This provides the members of the national commissions with access to BMH On Line, which makes membership of the national commissions (even) more attractive.

The new Board is committed to the ICMH continuing its steady growth. Consequently, it sees in the 2011 congress in Rio de Janeiro the ideal opportunity - in close cooperation with the Brazilian Commission and the Argentine Commission - to enlarge our footprint in Latin America. There is now an informative text about the ICMH available to all national commissions for public relations purposes and for recruiting new members. The new Board has accepted with gratitude this parting gift from the retired Vice-President, Allan Millett.

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

New Leadership for ICMH

Erwin A. Schmidl, ICMH Secretary-general

When the ICMH held its General Assembly meeting at the conclusion of the XXCIV Congress in Amsterdam, the national commissions voted on a slate of new leaders for the international commission. All of those members elected will serve from 2010 to 2015.

The new leaders are:

P.H. Kamphuis	Netherlands	President
P. Harahan	United States	Vice-President
M. De Leonardis	Italy	Vice-President
F. Stoeckli	Switzerland	Treasurer
E.A. Schmidl	Austria	Secretary-General
E. Arslan	Turkey	Member
J.D. Avenel	France	Member
A. Ben Hamida	Tunisia	Member
J.M. Blanco Núñez	Spain	Member
L. Ericson Wolke	Sweden	Member
L.S. Mollo	South Africa	Member
T. Panecki	Poland	Member
R. Pommerin	Germany	Member
H. Takahashi	Japan	Member

An executive committee consisting of the president, treasurer, secretary-general, and vice-presidents was established to handle the activities of the ICMH between annual board meetings. The president asked specific board members to encourage new commissions of military history in Africa, South America, and the Balkans.

Future ICMH congresses are being planned and announced. The 2011 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil has been announced and is being prepared. Bulgaria presented a proposal for the ICMH Congress in 2012. The following year, 2013, the ICMH conference will be held in Japan. Then in 2014, France has offered to host the international commission. China will probably want to host the Congress in 2015, as the next International Historians' Congress will take place in Jinan, the capital of the Province Shandong. There are other nations who may propose hosting the international meeting.

In the attachments to the newsletter are two important documents for the national commissions, and the leaders of the organization. They are: ICMH Address list; and ICMH Report on Organizing a Congress. Please save and use them.

Report on ICMH Congress, Amsterdam, 28 August - 3 September 2010

Pat Harahan, Vice President

At the opening session of XXXVI ICMH Congress, Dr. Piet Kamphuis explained that the theme "Insurrection and Counterinsurgency: Irregular Warfare from 1800 to the Present" should be "relevant and stimulating" to the 271 scholars and military professionals attending the conference. The participants arrived for the week-long congress from 40 nations. They attended a special opening panel, 34 sessions with papers from 80 scholars and military officers, and two book roundtables. The ICMH's national commissions had invited eight graduate students in military history to attend the congress and present papers on their research. A program for accompanying persons provided the opportunity to tour and visit historical and cultural sights in Amsterdam and The Netherlands.

The Netherlands' Minister of Defence Eimert van Middelkoop welcomed the international historians and military officers to the conference, city, and nation. The theme, he said, was in the "international spotlight" due to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dutch forces had been involved in Afghanistan, and the ministry had followed the deployment of the Dutch army closely, especially its operations, training and education, and development of its counterinsurgency doctrine. In Afghanistan, the army drew upon the history of the Dutch colonial experiences in developing its modern population-centered tactics. To accomplish the Dutch army's mission in Afghanistan, Minister Middelkoop explained that it required patience by the military, public, and politicians. In the end, the politicians and the public rejected Dutch participation; the army withdrew from the NATO forces fighting in Afghanistan.

Professor Jan Hoffenaar, President of the Netherlands Commission of Military History, introduced the members of the special opening panel. Professor Douglas Porch, United States, explained that the term COIN - counterinsurgency operations, was an old concept, with at least two hundred years of use. Scholars saw it as a European concept, and throughout its historical development every counterinsurgency had been fought in a particular historical setting, one which influenced both its conduct and conclusion. Porch stressed the different developments of the French military, which after 1870 stressed preparations for an all-European war, and the British which fought numerous small colonial wars against insurgents during the expansion of their empire. British military intellectuals developed the COIN doctrine, emphasizing specialized forces, training, and tactics. After the 9/11 attacks on the United States, the American army, fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, adopted many of the doctrines and practices derived from the British experience. In the end, Porch rejected the military concept of COIN as the work of "romantic" military thinkers who developed a concept of "separate" wars that were difficult, if not impossible, to practice.

Next, Major General (Ret.) Solly Mollo, South Africa, emphasized how important it was to listen to the "African voice" in discussing insurgency and counterinsurgency. The South African anti-colonial struggle was long, complex, and filled with protests, massacres, violence, arrests, imprisonments, international pressures, and finally government and insurgent negotiations on the final terms for national resolution. As a young officer in the insurgency, Mollo saw the conflict against the government as a continuous struggle, punctuated with long stalemates and difficult times. Then, the balance of forces in South Africa changed with the liberation of Angola and Mozambique. In the end, victory did not come from a military battle; instead the South African government and the insurgents, led by Nelson Mandela, negotiated terms and conditions for a new constitution and new government.

Lt. General Dr. Jonathan Riley, United Kingdom, the final keynote panellist, thought that military forces could be decisive in a counterinsurgency. With a long experience with the British army in Africa and Asia, General Riley explained that the decisive phase was not the battle but the campaign. One must use tactics and strategies of persuasion and coercion which would lead to negotiations with the insurgents. Diplomacy should be part of the strategy, leading to negotiations on reconciliation. Riley thought that the tempo during counterinsurgency operations was different from a general war, especially in planning and executing smaller, targeted operations.

This excellent opening panel provided concepts which were discussed throughout the congress. Scholars presented 80 papers in 34 sessions, covering insurgent and counterinsurgent conflicts on every continent, except Australia. Most, but not all, historians explained the particular situations and conditions associated with a past insurgency or counterinsurgency. The underlying assumption at this conference was that historical case studies of a particular conflict, set in time and place, would lead at some point to a theory of insurgency and counterinsurgency. Then, that theory would lead to definitions, clarifications, and possibly solutions. However historiography, unlike medicine, rejects the search for a unifying theory. Consequently, researchers presenting their papers explained the patterns of insurgencies, the assumptions and strategies of counterinsurgency operations, and the complexities associated with each situation. All of the papers will be revised and published in 2011 by the Netherlands Commission of Military History in the conference ACTA.

Two interesting book roundtables were held, one covered new and significant books on the conference's theme and the other the "Military Revolution at Sea" in early modern Europe. In the first session, three historians - Martin Burgin, Switzerland, Dr. James Corum, NATO's Baltic Defense College, and Professor Jan Geert Siccama, the Netherlands, discussed significant books which defined insurgencies, developed counterinsurgency strategies and tactics, and provided critiques of recent operations. Well attended, historians in the audience from different nations contributed by explaining what new books on insurgency and counterinsurgency were being read and studied by professional military officers and students.

The roundtable on the military revolution at sea began with a question: Did this revolution in fact occur? Was naval warfare connected, as many naval historians have suggested, to state formation in Europe, to new developments in science and technologies, to the globalization of the world economy, and to the dynamics of international European politics in the 16th and 17th centuries? Led by Professor Jaap Bruijn, emeritus professor at Leiden University, four eminent scholars examined the topic. Dr. Gijs Rommelse, Netherlands Institute of Military History, Professor Joseph Guilmartin, United States, Professor Michel Verge-Franceschi, France, and Professor Nicholas Rogers, Great Britain, discussed multiple aspects of the military revolution at sea in an interesting and stimulating panel.

In the middle of the five-day congress, all participants were treated to a day-long battlefield tour of a World War II battle: Operation Market Garden. Using busses, historians, military officers, and accompanying persons were transported from Amsterdam to Arnhem, site of the British-American allied forces airborne operation to land in the Netherlands and capture the bridges across the rivers, the Maas, the Waal, and the Rhine. British Field Marshal Montgomery planned for three airborne divisions to achieve surprise by using glider airplanes and parachute operations. Launched on 17 September 1944, the British operation met with several setbacks. German resistance was strong, and they counterattacked quickly. Only one British battalion reached the bridge at Arnhem, but it had to surrender after three days of heavy fighting. The tour was organized and conducted by military historians from the Netherlands Institute of Military History, Ministry of Defence. At times throughout the day, conference participants toured battlefield museums, battle sites, and then in late afternoon participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek. In the evening, the entire conference and support people dined at an Indonesian rice table at the Bronbeek Royal Home for Retired Military Personnel.

When the academic session resumed in Amsterdam, a special session was scheduled to allow the graduate students to present their research. The call for papers resulted in eight students from eight different countries: Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States. The ICMH academic committee, consisting of Professor Jan Hoffenaar, the Netherlands, Colonel Dr. Winfried Heinemann, Germany, Professor Jean D. Avenel, France, Dr. Erwin A. Schmidl, Austria, Dr. Ciro Paoletti, Italy, reviewed and approved the proposals. Prof. Hoffenaar arranged for the Dutch commission to cover the congress fees and to provide accommodations for all of the graduate students.

The following graduate students presented papers at the ICMH Congress in Amsterdam: Mario Muigg, Security Academy, Austria, "Police in International Peace Operations"; Alexandrou Charalambos, University of Cyprus, "The Role of Information and Propaganda during the Insurgency, 1955-1959, in Cyprus"; Daniel Whittingham, King's College London, "Charles E. Callwell and the art of irregular warfare"; Zsolt Tóth, National Defence University of Hungary, "The Insurgency in West Hungary in 1921"; Martijn Kitzen, Netherlands Defence Academy, "Collaboration with Local Power Structures in Counterinsurgency: Insights from the Dutch Colonial Past"; Lt. Colonel Janne Mäkitalo, Finnish Army, "The Development of the Yugoslav Art of War after the Second World War"; Major John Ringquist, U.S. Army Military Academy, "Bandit or Patriot: Somali Irredentism, Kenyan Counterinsurgency, and the Shifa War (1963-1967)"; Franklin Monama, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, "Government and Wartime Insurgency in the Union of South Africa, 1939-1943."

At the closing session of the congress' academic session Professor Herman Amersfoort, The Netherlands, gave a lecture which reviewed all of the presentations and commented on the status of the field of historical studies on insurgency and counterinsurgency. This ICMH Congress concluded with its traditional dinner for all conference participants and staff, held at the Koepelkerk (Koepel Church). Over dinner and afterward, everyone agreed the long, interesting congress in Amsterdam had been a success.

ICMH General Assembly, 2010

Pat Harahan, Vice president

At every ICMH Congress, the organization holds a general meeting during which the officers and the committee presidents review the organization's activities. Then once every five years, elections of new officers and board members are held. In 2010 the ICMH General Assembly conducted the elections.

The meeting began as Luc de Vos, president, stating his appreciation for ten years, 2000-2010, of serving the organization. He insisted that the ICMH must continue its multi-lateral, language diversified congresses in the future. Later, Professor De Vos was appointed to be Honorary President of the ICMH.

Piet Kamphuis, secretary-general, presented a report on the organization's achievements and developments during past five years. The ICMH has 41 national commissions, with 3 new commissions in the past five years. Following annual congresses in Spain, Germany, South Africa, Italy, and Portugal, national commissions published 5 ACTAs. New reviews on international military history were published, with the total now at 88 ICMH Reviews. The Bibliography Committee published four reviews and a comprehensive index. The Military Archive Committee held annual meetings and set up an electronic website. A new ICMH committee, the Military Education Committee was established, with officers and committee members selected. The ICMH Newsletter, containing information on the organization's activities, committee work, and the national commissions was published twice a year. The Secretary's ICMH correspondence was approximately 500 letters and e-mails annually.

Fritz Stoeckli, Treasurer, reported that the organization has a good financial status. The record shows that the annual balance has been consistent from year to year. The Treasurer explained the negotiations with the Brill Publishing firm, based in the Netherlands, to publish the ICMH Bibliography, starting in 2012. Peter Mulready, Ireland, presented the Auditing Committee's report.

Lieutenant General Alexandre de Sousa Pinto, president of the Portuguese Commission presented the ACTA of the 35th ICMH Congress, held in Oporto, Portugal in 2009. The two volume set will be mailed to the national commissions. Next, Colonel Matteo Paesano, president of the Italian Commission of Military History, explained that the organization will be publishing papers on an international military history book in 2012. The new ICMH Review book will be titled, *Airpower in the Twentieth Century: Doctrines and Employment*.

Reports on future congresses were presented by delegates from Brazil (2011) and Bulgaria (2012). Lieutenant General Dr. Aureliano Pinto de Moura, president of the Brazilian Commission of Military History, explained that the 37th ICMH Congress would be held in Rio de Janeiro from 28 August to 2 September 2011. The congress' theme will be "Decolonization: colonial and independence wars from the 18th to the 21st century." They have set up a web site, with information on the congress' fee, hotels, facilities, and post-congress tours of Brazil. The website for this information is www.militariahelvetica.ch.

Dr. Dimitre Minchev, president, Bulgarian Commission of Military History, explained that the 2012 ICMH Congress could be held from 18-25 August in Sofia, Bulgaria. The theme "Technology and Warfare" will have a worldwide appeal to military historians and scholars.

International Bibliography of Military History

Dimitry Queloz, President

During the last year, the focus lay on the negotiations with the Dutch publisher Brill, which were undertaken in cooperation with the Office of the International Commission of Military History and, to be more specifically, with Dr. Piet Kamphuis and Dr. Fritz Stöckli. The result of these negotiations was a draft agreement, which was then submitted to the Bibliographical Committee at the conference in Amsterdam. The responsible editor, Mr. Julian Deahl, was

present to answer all the questions. At the end of the meeting, the Bibliographical Committee approved the final draft of the agreement.

The cooperation with a renowned publisher will guarantee the *Bibliography's* future. It will also be published online, and thus more widely read. The International commission will not anymore be responsible for printing and distributing the *Bibliography*. Therefore, we will now be able to focus on the content, of which we remain entirely responsible.

Unlike the previous years, we did not publish a volume of the *Bibliography* this year. We preferred to use the report cards, which we had received, for the first volume of the *Bibliography* under its new format. We will be working on this volume during the coming months. In addition, to facilitate the cooperation with our new publisher, we will have to put new structures into place.

The Bibliographical Committee would like to thank all the persons and institutions that cooperate in the making of the Bibliography. Firstly, we are profoundly grateful to the International Commission of Military History for its cooperation and precious institutional and financial support. Then, we would like to thank the national commissions, as well as the correspondents, without whom this publication would not be possible. We are also grateful to our faithful and efficient team, which is composed by Messrs Wyss and Bourneuf, as well as our secretary Madame Corinne Owens. Finally, we would like to thank all other persons and institution that work for and support us in one way or another. Thank you everybody!

ICMH Military Archives Committee Report

Hans Pawlisch, President

The ICMH Military Archives Committee (CAM) convened on 29 August 2010 in Amsterdam. The meeting was attended by representatives of 12 of the member nations. Some national commissions proved unable to attend on account of funding problems. President Dr. Hans Joachim Harder called the meeting to order and welcomed new delegates from Cyprus, Finland and Brazil. Archives Committee Secretary General Dr. Christoph Tepperberg delivered a 20th anniversary presentation outlining CAM's many accomplishments. He traced the committee's origins to an informal working group of Military Archives within the International Council on Archives in 1984. In 1990 the Working Group organized as the Military Archives Committee within the framework of the ICMH. Dr. Tepperberg also noted the revival of the CAM newsletter, *Mars and Janus* published twice a year since 2002.

The presentation was followed by election of a new CAM president, Dr. Hans Pawlisch, United States Commission of Military History (USCMH), who will serve a five-year term from 2010 to 2015. Dr. Chris Tepperberg from the Austrian Commission, was re-elected Secretary General for the same period. Election of new officers was followed by a presentation from Dr. Jan Dahlstrom from Stockholm, Sweden entitled "The Enigmatic Silence of the Official Documents" relating to the absence of official documentation concerning military unrest in Stockholm during the summer of 1810.

There ensued a general discussion on the status of the CAM website. From 2002 until 2009, the Swiss Army hosted the website. Since discontinuation by the Swiss last year, there has been no web page. Finding a new agency to host the website will be a major challenge. But other issues have been raised: the need for updates particularly to the electronic Guide to Military Archives, and a need to encourage a greater range, standardization and quality of information. The general consensus was that such a site would be expensive and require substantial effort and coordination. Dr. Pawlisch expressed regrets on behalf of Dr. Robin Higham who will no longer be able to record the committee minutes due to ill health. Dr. Lynn Jones Stewart from the USCMH has kindly agreed to take the minutes. There being no further business, the new President thanked Dr. Harder for his service as president and adjourned the meeting.

Information on 37th ICMH Congress in 2011, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Lt. General Dr Aureliano Pinto de Moura, President Brazilian Commission of Military History

For the first time, the ICMH will hold a congress in Latin America. The Brazilian Commission welcomes participants to the 37th ICMH Congress in Rio de Janeiro.

From 28 August to 2 September 2011, the meeting will take place in the historic facilities of the Army Command and General Staff College, located in Praia Vermelha at the bottom of Sugar Loaf Hills.

The congress' theme is "Decolonization: colonial and independence wars from the 18th to the 21st century." There are five sub-themes: the fragmentation of the colonial empires; the genesis of native sentiment; the territorial preservation after independence; new nations, new armed forces, formation and consolidation; and written history and theoretical-methodological approaches. These topics are important in examining key aspects of the military's role in the decolonization and independence wars and processes in Europe, Americas, Africa, and Asia.

Use the internet to see the 37th ICMH Congress' Invitation, Theme, Call for Papers, and Interim Academic Program. Go to the website www.militariahelvetica.ch

The ICMH Participates in the International Congress of Historical Sciences, Amsterdam, 2010

Pat Harahan, Vice president

Professor Hans Blom, The Netherlands, welcomed the 21st International Congress of Historical Science (ICHS) to Amsterdam on August 22, 2010. The week-long meeting of several thousand historians from more than 50 nations took place at the University of Amsterdam. The ICHS is an umbrella organization consisting of 53 national committees, 29 affiliated international organizations, and 12 international commissions. The International Commission of Military History (ICMH) is a member organization.

The ICHS has three central objectives. It is a generalist organization, not identified with any period of history, place, or methodology. It promotes a comparative approach to studying the past; and it seeks to stimulate the growth and development of history in nations across the globe. At the Amsterdam Congress, there were sessions on the fall of empires, the city as culture, religion and power, war and occupation, humanism in history, and water throughout history.

President Luc de Vos, ICMH organized a roundtable session: "Military History, Current trends and perspectives. Four national military historians presented papers on how military history has been defined in their nations, how it is organized, and how it is currently being developed. Dr. Winfried Heinemann, Germany, Professor Massimo de Leonardis, Italy, Professor Jean-Nicholas Corvisier, France, and Professor Allan Millett, United States, explained the context and recent developments in military history in their respective nations.

Professor de Vos moderated a lively question and answer period. Copies of the scholar's presentations will be available in the next ICMH Bibliography, to be published in 2011.

Stoeckli awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa!

During a ceremony in the Royal Military School in Brussels, Belgium, on Thursday 28 October, ICMH Treasurer Fritz Stoeckli was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa. The laudation discussed in detail his great contributions to military history as well as his military activities in the field of chemistry. Mention was also made of his exemplary career as a reservist in the Swiss army.

In this ceremony, the title of Doctor Honoris Causa was also conferred on International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge, and Professor of Mathematics Mitchell J. Feigenbaum.

Military History Conference Announcements

Conference on Armed Forces and African Societies to be held at the University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon. 18-19 January 2011

The failure of the armed forces of states to provide sufficient security for its citizens and the existence of a wide variety of non-state forces which provide and/or undermine security in many parts of Africa today are issues which require urgent attention. Academics, policy-makers, NGO employees, security specialists, UN officials and any others who are willing to share their perspectives about this serious problem and suggest ways to improve security for threatened populations are invited to present their views at this conference.

A wide variety of armed forces with numerous labels are active in Africa today. The armed forces of states, peacekeeping forces, private security forces, civil militias, ethnic vanguards, rebels, counterinsurgents, presidential bodyguards, predatory bands, highway robbers, conscripted or volunteer child soldiers, drug-trafficking gangs, street gangs, organized crime henchmen, anti-gangs, vigilante groups, terrorists, pirates, bootleggers, protection racketeers, troops of non-African states stationed in Africa, members of military training missions, local and state police forces, prison gangs, and mercenaries, are some examples. For information contact the Conference Secretariat: Ibrahim Ndzesop, University of Paris 1 and Centre d'Études des mondes africains, France.

E-mail Ibrahim. Ndzesop@malix.univ-paris1.fr or ibndzesop@gmail.com

Terrorism and International Politics: Past, Present, and Future, Geneva, Switzerland 29-30 September 2011

On the tenth anniversary of 9/11, this conference will assess the impact of terrorism on international politics from a historical perspective. To be held in Geneva from 29-30 September 2011, it is organised under the auspices of the Fondation Pierre du Bois pour l'histoire du temps présent and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.

This thought-provoking and stimulating conference will offer scholars the possibility to address, discuss and exchange views on a variety of issues related to terrorism in different eras and places, as well as to examine the changing and diverging nature of this phenomenon. The tenth anniversary of the tragic and traumatic events of 9/11 in New York and Washington shall serve as a moment of reflection on the evolution of terrorism, its challenges and the responses of states and the international community.

The conference will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 29-30 September 2011. It is co-organised by the Fondation Pierre du Bois and the Graduate Institute and led by Prof Jussi Hanhimäki. The proposals of a maximum of 500 words should include a schematic description of the paper and a brief CV of the author. The original deadline for the submission of the proposals was 15 December 2010, so hurry to submit any proposals via e-mail by writing to Mr. Bernhard Blumenau (bernhard.blumenau@graduateinstitute.ch).

War in a Gender Context, Topics and Perspectives within Women's and Gender History of the First World War, Vienna, Austria, 29 September - 1 October 2011

This international conference, "War in a Gender Context – Topics and Perspectives within Women's and Gender History of the First World War", will take place from 29th September until 1st October 2011 in Vienna/Austria. It intends to reflect on four selected topics that appear to be central: front line/home front, violence, citizenship, and peace efforts. It takes the upcoming centenary of the war in 2014 as an occasion for detailed discussion, to review previous results and to conceptualize future research perspectives – including contributions to historical peace research, which has been particularly involved in aspects of social militarization and the criticism of militarism.

Historians conducting relevant research are invited to submit their suggestion for a contribution to this conference in the form of an abstract on one of the four following closely connected topic areas by 31 December 2010 at the latest. Those interested in participating are kindly asked to send an abstract of a presentation proposal written in English or German, approx. one page in length and a vita by 31 December 2010 to neuverortung.geschlechtergeschichte@univie.ac.

International Conference Balkans in the Cold War, 27-29 May 2011, Greece

The objective of the conference is to examine comprehensively political, economic, ideological and cultural affairs in the Balkans between the end of the Second World War and the end of the Cold War (1945-1990). For information contact, Eirini Karamouzi LSE IDEAS, Balkan International Affairs Programme, ideas.balkans@lse.ac.uk.

Voices of Freedom or Western Provocation? 60 Years of Radio Free Europe in Munich and Prague, April 28-30, 2011

The central idea of the conference is that in the analysis of the phenomenon of RFE as a whole, we need to put stronger emphasis on the ideological and political categories of the time. While the prevailing view at RFE itself was that their mission was democracy and freedom, in East European countries RFE programs were often perceived as interference in domestic affairs or as Western propaganda. The research of the phenomenon of RFE needs to take into account this wide range of different views. Given the special position of RFE, which was based in Munich and broadcasting predominantly for the audience behind the "Iron Curtain", the conference focuses both on its role as broadcasting agent in the target countries and on the RFE as a pan-European phenomenon. The station's significance for Western Europe in general and for West Germany in particular requires closer attention and a re-evaluation. The conference welcomes papers from various fields of study: history, politics, media and cultural studies, literature, and other disciplines.

The program of the conference will include both scientific discussions as well as round tables and podium discussions with former RFE journalists and other contemporary witnesses. The languages of the conference are English, German and Czech. Academic presentations will be published in conference proceedings. For information contact Anna Bischof, Collegium Carolinum, Hochstraße 8, D-81669 München, Deutschland. E-mail: Anna.Bischof@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

Military occupation of maritime and coastal spaces in Europe from the early modern period to the present, 16-18 March 2011, Paris, France

Sponsored by the Ecole militaire, Paris CESM et Château de Vincennes, SHD. The French Agence Nationale de la Recherche has been funding since 2007, in the context of its thematic programme: Conflicts, War and Violence, a research project on Military Occupations in Europe since the early modern period, run by the Maison Européenne des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société - Lille-Nord-de-France (MESHS) and the Institut de Recherches Historiques du Septentrion, based at the University Charles-de-Gaulle-Lille 3. This two and a half day conference, organized in partnership with the Service Historique de la Défense and the Center for European Security at the University of Salford in Manchester with the support of the Centre d'enseignement supérieur de la Marine (CESM) and the sponsorship of the Groupement d'intérêt scientifique-Histoire maritime, aims at furthering reflection on military occupation by also considering the maritime and coastal areas of the European peninsula and measuring the impact of this environment on processes of military occupations.

For information contact Jonathan Vouters, Domaine Universitaire du Pont de Bois, Rue du Barreau, BP. 60149, 59653 VILLENEUVE D'ASCQ Cedex.
Email: jonathan.vouters@univ-lille3.fr

Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Lisle, Illinois, 9-12 June 2011

The Society for Military History announces its call for papers for its 78th annual meeting, hosted by the First Division Museum at Cantigny in Wheaton, Illinois, and held at the Lisle Hilton Hotel in nearby Lisle, Illinois, on June 9-12, 2011. The conference theme is "Ways of War" - whether there are national, cultural and ethnic ways of war in history; whether conflicts can be understood in light of ways of war; and the impact of ways of war on society, technology, policy and so forth. We especially encourage junior scholars to present their work and to serve on panels.

Panel proposals must include a one-page panel abstract (working title, a brief description of the purpose, theme, organization, argument, sources and historical value of the panel); a one-page abstract for each paper; contact information for all participants; and a one-two page CV for all participants, including panel commentators and chairs. Proposals for individual papers are welcome, and must include all of the above except the panel abstract. Proposals must be submitted electronically to the Program Committee at smh@firstdivisionmuseum.org. Hard copy proposals will not be accepted. Submissions will be acknowledged by email. The program will be announced in January 2011.

International Military History News

Sandrine Picaud-Monnerat, France, a participant in the ICMH Congress in Amsterdam, has published a book, ***La petite guerre au XVIII^e siècle***. According to the author, the book puts into perspective French thinking about the "petite guerre" in the 18th century with what was written during the same period in Great-Britain and North America. The book analyzes the use of irregular warfare in the form of the "petite guerre" with a case study of the campaigns of Flanders during the War of the Austrian Succession (1744-1748). It shows for the first time how using light troops at operational level multiplied the overall effects of the conventional armies; in addition, it shows the use of the irregular warfare by the British troops during these campaigns. Some aspects of the book can be found at <http://www.stratisc.org/84-Picaud.htm>.

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 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.