

ICMH Newsletter, Issue 24

October 2015



The newly elected Board attaches great importance to good communication with all members of the ICMH and wants to continue the tradition of the Newsletter, started in 2003. This 24th edition was made up by the Secretary General in collaboration with the President. The French version will follow as soon as possible. We like to refer to our website where you can consult the latest news of the ICMH community.

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International Commission of Military History

The newly elected Board of the ICMH for the period 2015 – 2020

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

During the General Assembly in Beijing, elections were held on Friday September 4th 2015, for the composition of the new ICMH Board. The various national commissions could vote on several candidates. The number of voting members was 41, of which 35 have cast a valid vote. Below we provide an overview of the new composition of the Board for the period 2015-2020.

President

Prof. Dr. Massimo de Leonardis (ITA)
Direttore del Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Largo A. Gemelli, 1
I-20123 Milano
massimo.deleonardis@unicatt.it



Vice-presidents

Dr. Hans Pawlisch (USA)
Former Chief Joint Operational History Branch, Joint
History Office
121 West Lanvale Street Baltimore MD 21217
Baltimore
HansPawlisch@msn.com



Dr. Efpraxia Paschalidou (GRC)
Director Historical Archives Service
Hellenic Army General Staff/Army History
Directorate
10 Pittakou Str, 105 58
Athens
efpraxia2001@yahoo.com



Secretary General

Lieutenant Colonel (GS) Dr. Kris Quanten (BEL)
Head of Chair Military History
Royal Military Academy
Avenue de la Renaissance 30
1000 Brussels
kris.quanten@mil.be



Treasurer – Assistant Secretary General

Prof. Dr. Jan Hoffenaar (NLD)

Netherlands Institute of Military History
Head Research Department
Frederikkazerne, Van Alkemadelaan 76, building 35,
room H241, 90701, 2509 LS Den Haag
J.hoffenaar@mindef.nl



Members of the Board

Prof. Dr. Jean-David Avenel (FRA)

L'Université de Paris Est Créteil, Doyen de la Faculté
d'Administration et échanges internationaux
Avenue de Vaudagne 7, 1217 Meyrin, Suisse
jdavenel@hotmail.com



Captain (Navy, Ret.) José Maria Blanco Núñez (ESP)

Centro Superior de Estudios de la Defensa Nacional
Paseo de la Castellana 61
E-028071 Madrid
jmblanco45@telefonica.net



Kapitän zur See Dr. Jörg Hillmann (DEU)

Eppendorfer Baum 20
D-20249 Hamburg
Joerg.hillmann@web.de



Prof. Chiharu Inaba (JPN)

Faculty of Urban Science, Meijo University
Nijigaoka 4-3-3, Kani-shi, Gifu, 509-0261
chiharu@urban.meijo-u.ac.jp



Senior Colonel Ke Chunqiao (CHN)

kechunqiao666@sohu.com



Dr. Erwin A. Schmidl (AUT)

National Defence Academy Vienna
Director, Institute for Strategy & Security Policy
Stiftgasse 2a, Vienna, Austria
c/o BML VS/LV Ak/ISS, Rossauer Laende 1, A-1090
Vienna
erwin.schmidl@bmlvs.gv.at



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Carmen Sorina Rijnoveanu (ROU)

Institute for Political Studies of Defense and Military History

Ministry of National Defense

6 Constantin Mille, District 1

Zip 010142, Bucharest

carmen_sorina@yahoo.com

Colonel (Ret.) JD. Willard B. Snyder (BGR)

8014 State Line #203

Prairie Village KS

USA 66208

willardbsnyder@gmail.com



A toast between the new and the old President after the handover during the 41th Congress

Deliberations on the President of Honour and the Treasurer of Honour

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

During the General Assembly of the ICMH on September 4th 2015 in Beijing, it was unanimously decided to confer to Dr. Piet Kamphuis the title of President of Honour and to Brigadier-General Dr. Fritz Stoeckli the title of Treasurer of Honour for the services rendered to the ICMH. Below you find the text of the deliberations.

Beijing, the 4th of September 2015

In accordance with article 18, comma 6 of the Statutes, the General Assembly of the International Commission of Military History, convened in Beijing, the 4th of September 2015, decided by acclamation to appoint Dr. Pieter Hendrik Kamphuis, born on 6 February 1953 in Groningen, The Netherlands, President of Honour of the ICMH.

With this decision the General Assembly wishes to express its full appreciation for the professionalism and dedication displayed by Dr. Pieter Hendrik Kamphuis during three periods of five years each discharging the most important offices at the summit of ICMH. During the years 2000-2010 he was a Secretary General always attentive to the perfect functioning of our complex organisation; in particular in 2003 he started the «Newsletter» of CIHM. Elected President at the Congress of Amsterdam in 2010, he led the ICMH during a period which saw a lot challenges and many positive developments.

His Presidency was carried out with prudence, wisdom, and effectiveness, being always concerned about the cohesion and the scientific reputation of our organisation. He gave an important impulse to the enlargement of our Commission.

Dr. Kamphuis deserves our warm congratulations for his constructive leadership in many years during which he was a real pillar of ICMH.

The General Assembly bestows to Piet Kamphuis the title of President of Honour for his long service to ICMH, deployed with full dedication to our organisation, correctness and perfect integrity.

Massimo de Leonardis

President of ICMH

Kris Quanten

Secretary General of ICMH

Beijing, the 4th of September 2015

The General Assembly of the International Commission of Military History, held in Beijing on September 4 2015, has decided by acclamation to appoint Brigadier-General (retired) Dr. Hermann Friedrich ("Fritz") Stoeckli, born May 3, 1942 in Basel (Switzerland), honorary treasurer of the ICMH.

The General Assembly expresses its great appreciation for the dedication and the professionalism with which Dr. Stoeckli executed his function of treasurer during two periods of five years. Due to his meticulous management, he succeeded to preserve the capital of the ICMH during the years of heavy financial crisis. He always did everything possible to maintain the level of income of the ICMH, deploying to that end an extraordinary perseverance. No effort was too great for him to ensure the soundness of the ICMH.

The General Assembly notes with great satisfaction that for Dr. Stoeckli, the capital reserves were not an end in itself, but an essential condition to ensure the continuity of the ICMH. She greatly appreciates that Dr. Stoeckli was always ready to allocate funds for strategic initiatives, provided that these were well founded. Dr. Stoeckli deserves our congratulations for his transparent and constructive action throughout the many years during which he has been a real pillar for the ICMH.

The General Assembly assigns Fritz Stoeckli the title of Honorary Treasurer for his integrity, meticulousness and perseverance.

Piet Kamphuis

President of ICMH

Erwin Schmidl

Secretary General of ICMH

The XLI Congress of ICMH in Beijing

Prof. Dr. Massimo de Leonardis – President

From Sunday 30th August to Friday 4th September 2015 the International Commission of Military History held in Beijing its XLI Congress on the general theme World War Two and the Development of Warfare in the 20th Century. After Teheran in 1976, ICMH held for the second time its international Congress in Asia. Actually I am not considering Turkey, where we held the XIX Congress in Istanbul in 1993, as only Asiatic. I believe this is a good sign of our international outreach.

More than 180 persons from 34 countries of five continents attended the Congress, which took place at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel and was co-organized by the Chinese Commission of Military History and the Department of Military History and Encyclopaedia Studies of the Academy of Military Science, both chaired by Major General Qu Aiguo. The opening session saw the introductory speeches of Admiral Sun Jianguo, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, on behalf of the Chinese Ministry of Defense, Lt. general Gao Jin, President of the Academy of Military Science and the Deputy Mayor of Beijing. Col. Dr. Winfried Heinemann, Secretary General of the German Commission delivered a keynote speech on The German Military Resistance against Hitler in East and West German Military Tradition After 1945

About 50 papers were presented in the main sessions and 12 in the workshop of PhD candidates. The general theme was fairly large, extended over an entire century and therefore required a comparison among quite different conflicts. It was a particularly stimulating task to organize coherently the various sessions; the Chinese organizers accomplished their task in an excellent way. Different perspectives were presented, even in the definition of major wars. For example what Westerners call the Second World War, for the Chinese is known as "The Great anti-Fascist War" and for the Russians as "The Great Patriotic War". This is not the place to enter into more detailed comments on the scientific programme. I am sure that the volume of the Acta will be quite interesting and will offer many new insights in the history of warfare in the XX century. The Chinese Commission is already working to prepare the Acta, which will appear in an electronic version and in a printed volume, in two editions, in Chinese and in English and French. I would take the opportunity of this Newsletter to invite all speakers to respect the deadline for submitting their texts.

As usual, the Congress was also the occasion to get acquainted or to refresh the knowledge both of an ancient civilization and of a modern country which is today at the centre of the international stage. Certainly Beijing, a city of about 22 million inhabitants, looks quite different from the descriptions we find in the books of travellers, diplomats and military of past times. However the flavour of old times remains and participants to the Congress had the opportunity to savour famous monuments as the Forbidden City, the Imperial Summer Palace, the old borough of the Hutongs, the Temple of Heaven (10 times larger than the Forbidden City) and, of

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course, the Great Wall. The visits to the China Aviation Museum and the Military Museum, both impressive, were the highlights of our approach to Chinese military history.

Actually, from this point of view, we went to Beijing on a very special occasion: the great military parade to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Asia. I watched the DVD given to me and I may say that it was really a big event, which saw also a little but significant episode: for the first time veterans of the war from the Nationalist Army were present alongside veterans of the People's Liberation Army. The parade had also a very welcomed side effect: thanks to some measures taken by the authorities we enjoyed several days of blue sky.

The usual business of our Congresses took regularly place: meetings of the ExBoard, of the Full Board, and of the General Assembly, with the reports of the outgoing Board and of the Specialized Committees. The General Assembly elected the new leadership of ICMH for the term 2015-2020. The new Board has a much renewed composition and for the first time ever includes two ladies, one of them being elected Vice President. I would stress that she was elected not on the basis of "pink quotas", but only for her scientific merits and dedication to ICMH. The appreciation for the good work done in the last five years was expressed through the nomination of Piet Kamphuis as President of Honour and of Fritz Stoeckli as Treasurer of Honour. They join Dr. Schulten, Prof. De Vos, and Col. De Weck in the reserve, which is not a retirement but a precious resource of competence and wisdom for the ICMH. I am sure I will be able to rely on them during my mandate as President.

And now we move from an imperial town to another, looking forward to our next Congress in Istanbul in September 2016.



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The Post Congress Tour in China (5-8 September 2015)

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

After the successful Congress in Beijing, there was still a four-day post-conference tour for the interested, from Saturday 5th until Tuesday 8th September. The program as proposed by the Chinese Commission looked very promising: from Beijing by high-speed train to the historic city of Xi'an and then further from there to Shanghai by plane. A total of 55 people participated in the program (32 participants and 23 accompanying people). The whole was expertly led by the China Travel Depot travel agency (with guides in both English and in French).

In Xi'an, the program included a visit to the Ancient City Wall, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda and the impressive Shaanxi History Museum. The highlight, however, was undoubtedly the Terra Cotta Army : for anybody who is interested in Chinese history and culture, this is an impressive experience. In the evening we enjoyed a beautiful spectacle: the Tang Dynasty Show that immersed us in dance, music and spectacle. On Monday morning we got up early for our flight to Shanghai, one of the fastest growing cities in Asia with no less than 24 million inhabitants and above all, crowned with some of the tallest and most eccentric skyscrapers. The visit to the World Trade Center (the famous bottle-opener : 492 meters and 101 floors high) was breathtaking. Of course there was also the visit to the historic Bund with its magnificent colonial facades. For the fanciers, there was still an evening cruise on the beautifully lit Huangpu River ... Times Square absolutely pales in comparison. For the artistic leg of the trip we ventured to the China Art Museum, the largest art museum in Asia. Especially the animated painting "*Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival*" struck the audience. This electronic painting is 49 meters large and vividly depicts the prosperous city life in ancient China. More than a 1,000 figures appear in day and night scenes, which was fascinating. We finished our tour in beauty with a visit to the picturesque Zhujiajiao Water Village, which the Chinese proudly call the Venice of China. From their gondola the romantic souls among us could indulge themselves again. Especially the Dutch delegation proved to have a natural talent for singing!

In short, the post-congress tour was a successful outing, with a balanced historical, cultural and culinary program, very nice hotels and a perfect tour guide. Congratulations to the organizers.



ICMH Congress in Istanbul – 2016

Brigadier General Necdet Tuna – President of the Turkish Commission of Military History



The Turkish Commission of Military History has the honor and pleasure of hosting the XLII International Military History Congress in 2016. The Congress will convene under the title “Regional Wars and Global Impacts : XVIIth Century to Present” from 3 September 2016, until 11 September 2016, in Istanbul.

The Turkish Commission is continuing its efforts to arrange the Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel, on the European side, overlooking the İstanbul Strait, as the venue for the XLII ICMH Congress. Accommodation of the participants will be at the Conrad Hotel, further, at the Four Seasons, Shangri-La İstanbul, and/or Hilton located in the same vicinity. As far as the Ph.D. candidates attending the congress are concerned, they will be provided with convenient accommodation opportunities in the same vicinity. Timely shuttle services will be provided to the Congress Venue.

A day-long İstanbul Strait tour is planned for all the participants and their companions during the congress. Dinner will be held at the Esma Sultan Mansion. Moreover, a cultural tour to the world heritage sites, historical places, museums and seraglios in İstanbul has been organized; time will be allocated for shopping as well. The İstanbul Program will end with a performance of the *Anadolu Ateşi* dance group.

The itinerary of the Post-Congress Cultural Tour to be held is composed of two significant places: Nevsehir [Cappadocia] and Antalya. Our guests will be entertained in Nevsehir for two nights. During the visit world heritage sites in Ürgüp, Göreme, and Avanos will be visited. Following a two-night stay in Cappadocia, we will visit Kemer, Antalya, where our guests will have the opportunity of visiting the remains of the antique Likya Civilization in the Mediterranean during a boat trip from Kemer to Kas. During the day-long boat tour, the towns of Kas, Kekova, and Üçağız will also be visited. Our distinguished guests will return to their countries from the Antalya International Airport.

ICMH Congress in Cameroon – 2017

Commander Blaise Mbué Ngappé – Secretary General of the Cameroonian Commission of Military History



The Full Board and the General Assembly of the ICMH approved the CCMH proposal to host the 2017 ICMH conference in Douala, Cameroon from the 27th August until the 3th September. Douala is easily accessible by air. It is situated on the Cameroonian west coast and constitutes the economical capital of the country. The theme of the congress will be : ‘The world wars and the former colonies in history’. Conference languages will be English and French. Participants will stay in the international hotels Sawa, le Méridien or the Akwa Palace. A program for the accompanying persons is in preparation and will include a visit to the major surrounding tourist sites, the large plantations of tropical products and the young industry of the economical capital.

We look forward to welcoming you numerously in Cameroon.

ICMH Congress in Baltimore – 2019

Dr. Hans Pawlisch – Vice President



The Full Board and the General Assembly of the ICMH approved the USCMH proposal to host the 2019 ICMH conference in Baltimore, Maryland to be held from 1st to 7th September 2019. The proposed conference theme, “Beyond Versailles-War, War Termination and the Challenges of Making Peace in the 20th Century” will examine issues of war and peace that impacted not only Europe but also the rest of the world in the twentieth century. Subjects will include the last year of the war, the Paris Peace Conference, the collapse of empires, the creation of trust territories, the new nationalism, war reparations, and the continuing challenges of armament and disarmament during the interwar years. It will be the capstone event of the international centennial commemorations for the Great War.

Baltimore is the perfect city for the ICMH 2019 conference. As a transportation hub, Baltimore is easily accessed by air, road and rail transport. The Royal Sonesta Hotel, a five star hotel located in Baltimore’s famous Inner Harbor, will serve as the main conference venue. Conference languages will be English and French with simultaneous translation provided for all academic sessions. Conference registration will include an Inner Harbor Pass allowing entry into the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, the Top of the World observation Level, the American Visionary Art museum, Port Discovery Children’s Museum, the Sports Legends at Camden Yards Museum, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African-American History and Culture. Other points of interest not included in the pass are the USS Constellation, the USS Torsk and the Coast Guard Cutter Taney. All venues are accessible by water taxi from the conference hotel.

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Baltimore offers an attractive variety of social venues for general receptions and accompanying persons' events. An opening tour will take place at Fort McHenry, the 1814 battle site that inspired Francis Scott Key to compose the American national anthem "The Star Spangled Banner". Thereafter participants will be transported to the Baltimore Museum of Art where an opening reception will allow a visit to the galleries that includes the famous Cone Collection of Impressionist and Modern European art. Refreshments will be provided accompanied by live jazz entertainment. On Wednesday, there will be a mid-week excursion to Annapolis visiting the state capital building followed by a tour and reception hosted by the US Naval Academy. Accompanying persons' venues include colonial venues such as the Hampton and Carroll Mansions, the B&O Museum and Evergreen House, the Walthers Art Gallery and the privately held Wallis Simpson Museum. A final banquet will take place at the Royal Sonesta Banquet Hall overlooking the Inner Harbor.

While there will be no post-conference tour, we hope that participants will join us at Camden Yards for a baseball game featuring our home team Baltimore Orioles. USCMH is confident in its ability to host this conference and looks forward to extending the finest hospitality Baltimore can offer.

Report on the 2015 CSWG Conference in Athens, Greece

Dr. Efpraxia Paschalidou – Vice President

The 15th Conference of the Conflict Studies Working Group of the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes was held in Athens, Greece, from 27th to 30th April 2015. The mission of the CSWG is to establish, maintain, and enhance a regular, multilateral and open exchange of information, viewpoints and ideas between official military history institutions, universities, as well as of other military academic and research organizations from NATO and PfP countries. This is done through annual thematic conferences that examine historical determinants of national military strategy, policy and objectives, as well as the historical context of current international and regional affairs.

The topic of this year's conference "The Warrior's Ethos the National Psyche and Soldierly" was of special significance not only in its historic context, but also with regard to challenges of our time. The conference was co-organized by the Army History Directorate of the Hellenic Army General Staff and the Museum of Military History/Historical Institute of the Military of Vienna, Austria. Both the President Dr. Piet Kamphuis (now President of Honour) and Vice President of the ICMH Prof. Dr. Massimo de Leonardis (now President), honoured the conference with their presence. The attendance of approximately forty distinguished researchers and officers from eighteen countries – Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and USA, as well as the 25 papers presented during eight sessions,

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created lively debates, with ethos and psyche, while defending the historical truth. The proceedings will soon be published. Following the academic sessions, receptions and visits of historical, cultural and military interest were organized in the Acropolis site and museum, the Marathon and the Hellenic Army Academy.

International Conferences on the centennial commemorations of WWI Sofia, Bulgaria, 13-16 October 2015

The Bulgarian Commission of Military History was one of the co-organizers – along with the “G.S. Rakovski” National Defence College – of a scientific conference on the topic *The First World War in the Balkans and the Inclusion of Bulgaria (1914-1915)*, held from 13th to 16th October 2015 at “G.S. Rakovski” National Defence College, RHM – Vidin, RHM – Kyustendil, RHM – Stara Zagora and RHM – Kadzhali, in Bulgaria. The aims of the conference were to debate on interpretations of the First World War facts and events, to initiate new research achievements on the problems of the war and additionally, to increase the interest of the Bulgarian public opinion to the commemoration by carrying out the plenary sessions at the above mentioned, emblematic war regions. The conference was under the auspices of the Bulgarian National Committee for Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the First World War. The working languages were Bulgarian and English. The opening session was inaugurated by the addresses of the Deputy Minister of Defence, of the Permanent Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defence, of the Commandant of “G.S. Rakovski” National Defence College, and of the President of ICMH Prof. Massimo de Leonardis. More than 50 papers were presented by scholars from ten different countries.

www.rnda.armf.bg

Thessaloniki, Greece, 22-24 October 2015

On the occasion of the centennial commemorations of the outbreak of the First World War, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Macedonia and the Institute for Balkan Studies, with the cooperation of the Consulate-General of France in Thessaloniki, are organizing an international conference on: “The Salonika Front in World War I”, from 22nd to 24th October 2015, in Thessaloniki, Greece. The conference’s aim is to highlight the importance of the Salonika Front in the wider military context of the war. Distinguished historians, some of them internationally recognized for their publications on the First World War are participating. The conference will be held at the Ceremony Hall (University of Macedonia) and the Amphitheatre (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), under the aegis of the Municipality of Thessaloniki, in Greek, English and French language.

<https://www.auth.gr/news/conferences/19156>

Belgrade, Serbia, 2-6 November 2015

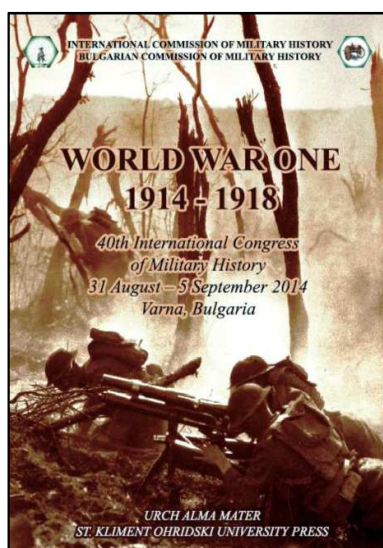
The Austrian Museum of Military History/Historical Institute of the Military of Vienna and the Strategic Research Institute of Belgrade are organizing an international conference under the title “The Great War in 1915” which will take place in Belgrade, Serbia, from 2nd to 6th November 2015. The conference is dedicated to commemoration of centennial anniversary of the First World War. Through

participation of experts in the field, the organizers are hoping to contribute to further clarification of issues which until now haven't been subject of analyses, as well as to point out new facts and present new interpretations. The conference will be held at the Central Military Club in Belgrade, in English language.

conference1915@gmail.com

ACTA of Varna, 2014: *World War One, 1914-1918*

Prof. Dr. Jordan Baev, Academic Program Director & Co-Editor of ACTA 2014



The 40th Congress of the International Commission of Military History brought together more than 160 delegates and guests from 32 countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, North and South America. It was organized by the Bulgarian Commission of Military History, and was held on 31st August – 5th September 2014 in Varna – the sea capital of Bulgaria.

The academic program comprised 25 parallel academic sessions, panels and seminars and seven sessions of the leading bodies and sub-committees of the International Commission of Military History. More than 80 scientific and informative papers were presented therein. In addition to more than ten geographic and geopolitical panels, the congress program offered as well several thematic sessions – on Theory and Art of War; Land, Air, and Naval Forces at War; Economic and Social Studies; Culture and Art; World War One Outcomes, Lessons Learned, and Historiography. The keynote speech *The Balkans in the First World War* was presented by Prof. Dr. Sc. Ivan Ilchev, Rector of Sofia University and Corresponding Member of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, while the closing address *The First World War and the fundamental problem of breaking through the front* – by the Honorary President of the International Commission of

Military History Prof. Dr. Luc De Vos. As tradition has it, two doctoral seminars were organized with seven young participants, as well as a specialized panel for the military archives. An exhibition with documental, scientific and periodical editions from the Military History Library in Sofia was set up to celebrate the 100th Anniversary since the establishment of the first military history academic institution in the Bulgarian Army in August 1914. The participants enjoyed a rich cultural program, which made them familiar with the millennial-old historical and intellectual heritage along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast.

The volume of congress materials (*ACTA 2014*) contains the final versions of 52 papers of the delegates from 25 countries, which were received by the Editorial Board according to the regulations. This is the first scientific international volume of such kind, devoted to the 100th Anniversary of the First World War. Different viewpoints and interpretations, as well as parallel historical events and facts related to the "Great War" were presented in a diversity of problematic and geographical thematic circles, which show the global, regional and national dimensions of the world military conflict from the second decade of the 20th century. The editing this volume of 800 pages at the *St Kliment Ohridski* University Press became possible thanks to the joint efforts of the Sofia University Research Complex in the Humanities and the *G. S. Rakovski* National Defense College, following the establishment of the Inter University academic consortium named "Civil dimensions of the security and defense". The online version is available at ...; printed copies will be circulated in a short time.

Various News

From 29th September to 10th October 2015 the Military History Society of Ireland organized a cultural tour in Central and Northern Italy, during which various artistic towns, battle sites and military museums were visited. These included Panicle and Argenta, where the 38th (Irish) Brigade in the British Army saw action during the Second World War, Lake Trasimeno, site of Hannibal's battle against the Romans during the 2nd Punic War, Spoleto, Ancona and Castelfidardo where the Irish Brigade in the Papal Army of Pius IX fought in 1860, Cremona (the Irish Brigade in the French Army).

On 1st October 2015 Prof. Massimo de Leonardis, President of ICMH, delivered a Guest Lecture at Webster University in Geneva on the subject: NATO after the Cold War: from "vigilant and prepared" to "deployed out of area" and back.

The Italian Commission of Military History/Ufficio Storico dello Stato Maggiore della Difesa, with the co-sponsorship of major universities, will organize its annual conference on 25th-26th November 2015. The Conference will be held at the Centro Alti Studi per la Difesa (Centre of High Defence Studies) in Rome on the subject *Le donne nel primo conflitto mondiale. Dalle zone di operazioni al fronte interno: la Grande Guerra delle Italiane* [Italian Women in the First World War. From the Areas of

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Operations to the Internal Front]. About 22 papers are expected by scholars from various countries.

The Association of American Geographers : 2016 Call for Papers. How do we “do” military studies? Critically engaging with methods and fieldwork. 29th March – 2nd April 2016, San Francisco, <http://www.criticalmilitarystudies.org/?p=393>

COLLEAGUES ARE INVITED TO SEND NEWS TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE AND E-MAIL ADRESSESS OF PERSONS INTERESTED TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER.

News from the National Commissions

We were informed of the following changes in the composition of the various National Commissions :

Belgian Commission
President
Prof. Dr. **Jean-Michel Sterkendries**

Norwegian Commission
President
Assistant Professor Dr. **Sigurd Sørle**

Swedish Commission
President
Senior Adviser **Tommy Akesson**

Greek Commission
Vice-President
Colonel (AF) **Dimitrios Myoteris**

Swedish Commission
Vice-President
Assistant Professor **Fredrik Eriksson**

Italian Commission
Secretary General
Commander **Fabio Serra**

Spanish Commission
Secretary General
Colonel (Res.) **Ignacio Matalobos González de la Vega**

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Swedish Commission
Secretary General
Professor **Kent Zetterberg**

United States of America Commission
Secretary General
Dr. **Donald Bittner**