

International Commission of Military History Newsletter

Issue 3 (Spring 2004)

Welcome to the ICMH Newsletter

Piet Kamphuis, Secretary-General,
International Commission of Military History

When it's spring again, I'll bring again, tulips from Amsterdam. These are the opening lines of the famous song about the beautiful flowers in spring. Our International Commission of Military History (ICMH) has also begun a new year. This newsletter is intended to inform you of the main outlines of the key developments currently taking place in and around the ICMH. There are many and they are of a very diverse nature. Together, however, they form a colourful bouquet, which I am delighted to present to you. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to consult our website (www.cidhm.org) or to e-mail me (ph.kamphuis@mindef.nl).

The XXXth International Congress of the ICMH will, considering the efforts of the Moroccan Commission of Military History (CMHM), definitely be one of the highlights of 2004. The CMHM has succeeded in offering a diverse and well-organised programme, for both the participants in the academic congress and the accompanying persons. I therefore strongly recommend attending the Congress. Not only will it provide the opportunity for the familiar academic discussions and networking, it also offers a unique opportunity for us to familiarise ourselves (further) with the rich culture, the diverse landscape and the great hospitality so characteristic of the Kingdom of Morocco. For me it goes without saying that the participants will appreciate the latter and will treat the traditions and customs of our hosts respectfully. In this respect, I would particularly ask you to take note of the dress code for the opening ceremony, closing ceremony, visit of the Mohammed V Mausoleum and the Philharmonic Concert: lounge suit with tie. The CMHM is making great efforts to have representatives from the United Arab Emirates, Senegal, Tunisia and Jordan present as observers. I sincerely hope that their efforts will bear fruit, because this could provide a great impetus for our global organisation. More information on the XXXth Congress can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In preparation for the XXXth Congress of Military History in Rabat, the Executive Board of the ICMH will convene in Washington on 21 and 22 May. The final version of the new text of the Statutes, the election regulations and the guidelines for organising congresses will then be adopted. The proposed changes will be discussed in Rabat, first by the entire Board and then in a separate meeting with the presidents of the national commissions. The content of the military-historical round table during the ICHS Congress in Sydney in 2005 will also be discussed in Washington. Lastly, the Executive Board will need to consider a location for the XXXIInd Congress, since the Italian Commission has recently had to retract its offer to host the Congress in 2006.

I hope very much that you will enjoy reading this third issue of the Newsletter, which is published thanks to our editor Dr Pat Harahan and also appears in French and German translations thanks to the efforts of the Royal Netherlands Army Translation Service

Scope and Purpose of the ICMH Newsletter

Joseph P. Harahan, editor

The objective of this ICMH electronic newsletter is to provide a forum for scholars to read, learn, and communicate their activities in the field of international military history and to provide them with information about the activities of the International Commission of Military History. Please disseminate this entire newsletter, or any of the articles, to the members of the national commissions. We intend to publish it two times a year, once in the spring, and then in the fall.

In future issues, you may submit articles or announcements for publication in this newsletter. Periodically, officers of the national commissions may wish to communicate with the larger international community of military historians, military archivists, and museum specialists. If there are announcements or notices that would be of

interest to scholars, then this ICMH Newsletter can be the forum. If there are announcements of bilateral or regional conferences, sponsored by the national commissions, these conferences and themes can be published in this newsletter. Please send the articles and announcements to the Secretary-General electronically (ph.kamphuis@mindef.nl).

XXXth International Congress of Military History, Rabat, Morocco, August 1-7, 2004

General Bouchaib Arroub, President of the Moroccan Commission of Military History invites all members of the national commissions, interested scholars, and accompanying persons to participate in the XXXth International Congress of Military History Congress in Rabat, Morocco from August 1-7, 2004.

Professor Dr. Bahija Simou, Vice President of the Moroccan Commission of Military History, is the 2004 ICMH Program Chairman. For questions concerning the 2004 ICMH Congress, please contact Professor Dr. Simou at CMHM2002@Yahoo.Fr or Colonel Mohammed Achour at cmhm@menara.ma

Scientific Program

The 2004 ICMH Congress theme is: **The Economic Aspects of Defense through Major World Conflicts.** Under this broad theme, scholars will examine the relationships between war and the economy and the military's contribution to the evolution of the economy. Further, scholars at the conference will explore the nature of the relationship between the military and the economy, and how defense strategies have been developed and used, based on these two parameters.

The theme is subdivided into four parts:

Part 1: Conceptual. This part of the program will define the two basic concepts, namely the economy and war. Scholars presenting papers in this section will highlight the areas where the two, economy and war, interact, using comparative analysis of different theories in the light of major conflicts.

Part 2: War Economy. This part of the program will examine the historical dimensions of the war economy, such as taxation, administration, ownership, and specific military issues, such as military management, armaments, and equipment.

Part 3: Armies and Economic Change. In this section scholars will address the contribution of military institutions to economic changes in society and in stimulating scientific and technological developments.

Part 4: Economy and Military Alliances. This section will examine the role of economic interests in setting up military alliances. Scholars will also examine how a nation's involvement in war or conflict can be limited to the economic role.

At the 2003 ICMH Congress in Bucharest, Romania, General Arroub issued a call to the national commissions to nominate scholars who would prepare and present communications (papers) at the ICMH Congress at Rabat. Subsequently, the ICMH Newsletter published the Moroccan Commission on Military History's announcement for the scientific papers. That announcement in the newsletter was sent by e-mail and by post to every national commission, ICMH director, ICMH committee chairmen, and officers. In Rabat 42 papers will be presented

To date, the Moroccan Commission has received 267 inscriptions from 31 national commissions, and from the following countries represented by 'observers': Albania, United Arab Emirates, Senegal Tunisia, Jordan.

Registration

The Moroccan Commission of Military History published a Congress Registration Form. It listed the Congress fee, hotel reservation charges, and information on the post-Congress tours. If you would like to register using this form, please contact the Moroccan Commission of Military History, Colonel Achour at cmhm@menara.ma To reach Colonel Achour and the Moroccan Commission directly by telephone, call 00212 37 66 07 04.

The Hilton Hotel is the venue for the ICMH Congress in Rabat. It is a modern, five-star hotel with a large hall for scientific meetings. In addition, there are meeting rooms for the ICMH Board of Directors, the ICMH Bibliographic Committee, and the ICMH Committee on Military Archives. These meeting rooms may accommodate parallel sessions. The hotel will provide computers, telephones, and fax machines for use by the delegates of the national commissions. The hotel has three restaurants, serving Italian, Lebanese, and Moroccan food. The Hamilton Traveler's bar has a jazz and blues band performing late into the evening. The hotel has a swimming pool. Best of all, the Hilton Hotel in Rabat is located adjacent to a large park surrounding the Royal Palace.

Weather and Dress

The Moroccan Commission recommends that delegates and accompanying persons bring light clothes to the Congress. The temperature in Rabat in August is hot, averaging 35 Celsius. For the scientific sessions, receptions, and dinners a light jacket is recommended for men and appropriate dress for women. Morocco is a Muslim nation, Islam is the state religion, and the King of Morocco is the leader of the faithful. Certain conventions should be observed to avoid inadvertently causing offense. When touring museums, traditional quarters of cities, and venturing into the country, women should dress appropriately. Moroccans are a very friendly people, they honor their hospitality greatly. Respect for their customs and values will facilitate your time at the congress in Rabat and in touring the cultural and historic sites in Morocco.

Arrival in Morocco

The Moroccan Commission of Military History has made advance arrangements to meet all delegates arriving at the international airports. If you have not done so, please send your travel plans, with the arrival and departure times to the Moroccan Commission of Military History. (Electronic address and faxes are listed below.) There are two international airports in Morocco: the Mohammed V Airport is located in Casablanca, and the Rabat-Salle Airport is located near Rabat. When you arrive at the airport, look for the signs identifying the 2004 ICMH Congress - Rabat.

Cultural Program for Delegates

Apart from the scientific sessions at the congress, the Moroccan Commission has prepared an interesting cultural program for the Congress delegates. The program contains receptions, events, and visits that include:

- Guided tour of Rabat, with a visit to the Chellah Necropolis, the magnificent gate to the Merinid necropolis and the remains of the Roman town of Sala Colonia.
- Visit and tour of the Mohamed V Mausoleum and Museum in Rabat.
- Philharmonic Concert by the Royal Gendarmerie Orchestra.
- A one-day- collective tour with all Congress delegates and accompanying persons to Fez, one of the oldest imperial cities in Morocco. A guided tour of the Old Medina of Fez, will be followed by a bus trip to the archeological site of Volubilis, a large 2nd - 3rd century Roman walled town that has been extensively reconstructed.
- Visit to the Moroccan Army's Airborne Infantry Unit in Maamora
- Trip to Casablanca and tour of Hassan II Mosque. Dinner with the Royal Moroccan Navy.
- Final banquet at Moroccan Army's Officer Mess.

According to the Moroccan Commission, the Congress will conclude with "a great evening party at the final banquet in Rabat." General Arroub explained that at the banquet, "You will have the opportunity to sample special dishes worthy of the pure Moroccan traditions, along with the notes and colors of Andalusian music. A special decoration, typical of Moroccan authenticity, will add to the embellishment of the scenery." He advised that for this evening banquet, it is recommended that the delegates and companions wear dark costumes. However, military officers on active service may wear their mess dresses.

Cultural Program for Companions

An interesting touring program has been prepared for the companions. This program includes, in addition to the participation in the cultural program of the ICMH Congress, a series of parallel activities, including:

- A visit to the Kasbah of Oudayas, a walled section of the city dating from the 17th & 18th centuries and a tour of the Museum of Oudayas, with its collection of Moroccan folk art and crafts.
- Tour of the archaeological site at the Chellah Necropolis.
- Visit and tour of Mohammed V Mausoleum and Museum.
- Philharmonic Concert by Royal Gendarmerie Orchestra.
- Tour of currency museum, visit to Handcrafts Center in El Qualja.
- Tea and Henna ceremony and participation in a show of Caftan costumes, the traditional dress of Moroccan women.

Medical Issues

The Moroccan Commission of Military History will assist and make special arrangements for handicapped persons. They request that persons concerned notify the Moroccan Commission in advance of their requirements. Moreover, the Moroccan Commission should be advised of all persons who have particular allergies, or who have clearly defined medical prescriptions, in order to take the appropriate precautionary measures.

Communications with the Moroccan Commission of Military History

To communicate with the Moroccan Commission of Military History, please contact:

Secretary-General Colonel Mohammed Achour

Tele: 00212 - 37 66 07 40

Fax: 00212 - 37 66 17 06

E-mail: cmhm@menara.ma

To communicate with the Hilton Hotel, please contact:

Hilton Hotel Rabat

B.P. 450 RABAT, MOROCCO

Tele: 212 37 67 56 56

Fax: 212 37 67 40 39

E-mail: rabathilton@mtds.com

WEB Site: www.hilton.com

XXXI International Commission of Military History, Madrid, Spain

The Spanish Commission of Military History has issued a proposal to the ICMH Board to organize and host a congress in Madrid, Spain from 20 to 28 August 2005. For those interested, the Spanish Commission will have information on the congress and the city at the ICMH Congress in Rabat. In addition, the Fall 2004 ICMH Newsletter will contain an article on the forthcoming XXXI ICMH Congress in Madrid, Spain.

2003 ICMH Congress ACTA

In August 2003, the Romanian Commission of Military History hosted 260 military historians, archivists, museum directors, and military officers at the XXIX ICMH Congress in Bucharest, Romania. The Congress' theme, "WAR, MILITARY AND THE MEDIA FROM GUTENBERG TO TODAY," was very expansive, allowing scholars and journalists from 33 nations to present papers and/or comments on the changing relationships between the military, media, governments, and the public over the past five hundred years. The Congress was organized and sponsored by the Romanian Institute for Political Studies of Defense and Military History and the Romanian Commission of Military History.

The theme, "War, Military and the Media from Gutenberg to Today," was explored in 17 sessions, with 54 scholars presenting papers. In addition, Congress organizers interspersed throughout the academic sessions, roundtables on special topics: new books, journalists and the Iraq War, and historic films. Finally, there was a concluding session that examined the theme, sessions, and made some summary judgments.

Following the Congress, scholars revised their papers and submitted them to the Romanian Commission. The papers, together with the formal opening remarks, were compiled by the Romanian Commission. The published volume is entitled: **WAR, MILITARY AND THE MEDIA FROM GUTENBERG TO TODAY, the ACTA of the 29th Congress of the International Commission of Military History, Bucharest, Romania.** Copies will be available in Rabat at the 30th ICMH Congress.

If you or your national commission are not able to attend the Congress in Rabat, please contact Colonel dr. Peter Otu, President Rumanian Commission of Military History at rcmhro@yahoo.com

National Military History Conferences - Announcements

Bulgarian Commission of Military History

The Bulgarian Commission of Military History in association with the Center of Military History of the G.S. Rakovsky Defense and Staff College of Bulgaria announces an international conference, "90 Years of Military History Research in Bulgaria." The conference will be held in Skopia, Bulgaria from October 13-15, 2004.

Colonel dr. Dmitri Minchev, President of the Bulgarian Commission, invites foreign scholars to participate in the conference. Dr. Minchev advises those scholars who wish to prepare a paper that the Bulgarian Commission will consider proposals that are "connected with the organization and achievements of military history and strategic research, military museums, military libraries, and archives in their own nations." The conference will last for two days, with a third day devoted to a cultural and educational program in Veliko Tirnov City. The conference fee is 50 euros.

If interested, please contact Colonel dr. Minchev at drminchev2004@yahoo.com

State Archive of Rome

The State Archive of Rome and the Society for Historical and Military Studies announces the **Third International Conference on the War for the Spanish Succession**. This year is the tercentennial year of the war and the international conference aims to investigate the state of historical research on the Spanish Succession in the fields of diplomatic, military, and economic history. The conference will be held in Rome, Italy from 18-19 November 2004.

For information on this conference, please consult webmaster@assostoria.it or contact the Society for History and Military Studies in Italy, direttore@assostoria.it.

Colloquium in honour of Prof. Dr J. Rohwer

The German Society of Maritime and Naval History, together with the Library of Contemporary History and the German Naval Institute, is to organise a festive colloquium in honour of the 80th birthday of Juergen Rohwer, who served – *inter alia* – as Vice President of the ICMH from 1985 to 2000. The lectures will deal with traditions and the public image of the German navy, the controversial tension between judicial and historical investigations and the breaking of a Soviet cipher during the Cold War. A commemorative publication with all the lectures of the colloquium, several biographical essays and an index of all of Juergen Rohwer's publications will be presented.

News from the ICMH Board

The Composition of the Executive Board is as follows:

President	:	Prof. Dr L. de Vos
Senior Vice President	:	Dr D.S. Allard
Second Vice President	:	Dr H. O'Donnell
Secretary-General	:	Drs. P.H. Kamphuis
Treasurer	:	Colonel H. de Weck

The Executive Board will meet in the Cosmos Club, Washington, on 21-22 May 2004.

The other members of the ICMH Board are:

Colonel prof. Dr. T. Panecki
Dr. E. Norberg
Prof. dr. J.C Allain
Prof. dr. I. Loucas
Prof. dr. B.R. Kroener
Dr. M. Mayzel
Prof. dr. P del Negro

Dr B.R. Kroener has informed us that for health reasons he will unfortunately not be able to attend the meetings of the Board. We have agreed with him that he will send us his comments on the texts in writing.

Contact information for the board members can be found on our website: www.cidhm.org.

National Commission Changes

The Portuguese Commission for Military History has found a worthy successor to Lieutenant-General M.F.T. Barata, who passed away last year: Lieutenant General Alexandre de Sousa Pinto. The Executive Board would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the best.

The same goes for the new president of the Polish Commission of Military History, Prof. Dr Karol Olejnik. He is assisted by Secretary-General Prof. Dr Tadeusz Panecki, who is also a member of the Board of the ICMH.

The Norwegian Commission of Military History mourned the passing of its honorary president, Prof. Dr Magne Skodvin, who died at the age of 86. Prof. Dr Olav Riste, who was a board member of the ICMH for many years, was appointed honorary president of the Norwegian Commission for his outstanding contribution to Norwegian military historiography. The presidency was taken over by Dr Rolf Hobson, with Dr Tom Kristiansen as secretary-general.

The South African Commission, a relative newcomer, is bursting with energy. In just a few months it has succeeded in transforming into a regional commission: the Southern Africa Commission of Military History. In addition, this commission is preparing to host the 2007 ICMG Congress in Cape Town. The American Commission has a new Vice President, Mr D. (Dale) E. Floyd.

All contact information can be found on our website: www.cidhm.org

Finally, best regards and we hope to see you at the XXXth ICMH Congress in Rabat, Morocco, 1-7 August, 2004.