

Welcome to the ICMH Newsletter

“The workload of the Secretary-General has increased manifold since 2000. On the one hand, that is the result of using the Internet, which is a low-threshold means of communication, and, on the other hand, it is the result of the fact that the ICMH is flourishing. The latter reason is highly satisfying, but therein lies also a challenge: how to ensure that the workload remains manageable”. With these words, I concluded my report for the period 2000 – 2005 during the General Assembly of 26 August 2005, held in Madrid.

In retrospect, these appear to have been prophetic words. This Newsletter is published later than planned, even though preparations for this edition were made with Pat Harahan immediately upon returning from the, in many respects, fascinating Congress in Madrid. The cause lies in the fact that, in the last few months, the Dutch Armed Forces have undergone a far-reaching transformation process to become a 'joint' structure. I myself was assigned with the task of amalgamating the existing military history services, the oldest of which dates from 1891, to a new and joint Netherlands Institute of Military History. As the first director, I put all of my energy into ensuring a successful start for the new institute and into the most important ICMH matters. For these reasons, I have had to test the patience of the readers of the Newsletter.

In this edition, Pat Harahan pays extensive attention to the Congress week in Spain. From my hand and for your general information, please find the report of the General Assembly. The admittance of five new national commissions, namely those of Cameroon, Cyprus, Jordan, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates was a highlight. In the meantime, two new candidates for membership have come forward. The other side of the coin is that we have had to say farewell to two national commissions, namely those of Australia and the Russian Federation. The latter case, in particular, has a high 'soap' content. After the General Assembly's decision had been communicated to Moscow, the treasurer received the unpaid membership fees after all. However, what's done is done and the Russian commission will have to request readmittance in accordance with the statutes. Herve de Weck, who was treasurer to the ICMH from 1980 to 2005 and, on the grounds of his many merits, was appointed as honorary treasurer by the General Assembly, has completed the formalities with the banks, allowing Brigadier Prof. Dr Fritz Stoeckli to take up his duties as from 1 January. This Newsletter also contains an overview of the current members of and the most important changes within the various national commissions. Finally, please find information on the fast-approaching Potsdam Congress and please note down South Africa in your Agenda for 2007.

It only remains for me to wish you a prosperous 2006,

Piet Kamphuis

Secretary-General



Joseph P. Harahan, editor

The 2005 ICMH Fall Newsletter contains a report on the XXXIth ICMH Congress, held in Madrid, Spain in August 2005. It begins with an article on the ICMH General Assembly of 2005 which constituted the five-year official meeting of the constituent national commissions. The agenda for this important General Assembly meeting included votes on 1) revision of the Governing Statutes, 2) admission of new national military history commissions, 3) exclusion of non-participating national commissions, and 4) the election of ICMH officers and ICMH board members. In another article, the presidents of two national commissions announced their intentions to host future congress in Germany and South Africa, respectively. They explained the themes and provided information on registration and hotel accommodations.

If your national commission has an announcement or information that would be of interest to scholars in other nations, then this ICMH Newsletter can be the forum. If there are announcements of bilateral or regional conferences, sponsored by the national military history commissions, then that information can be communicated through this newsletter. Send the articles and announcements electronically to the ICMH Secretary-General (ph.kamphuis@mindef.nl).

Joseph P. Harahan

Every five years the International Commission on Military History (ICMH) holds a General Assembly of all national military history commissions to consider constitutional changes and conduct elections for new officers and board members. At the beginning of this General Assembly, Dr. Piet Kamphuis, Secretary-general reviewed the commission's activities during 2000-2005. In the past five years, there were five major international congresses: Athens (2001), Norfolk (2002), Bucharest (2003), Rabat (2004), and Madrid (2005). During the same years, the national commissions who organized the ICMH Congresses compiled and published volumes on

the Congress' proceedings, the ACTAs. The ICMH Bibliography Committee published 5 volumes from 2000-2005. The Military Archives Committee was revitalized with new leadership, adding new members, and publishing an informative newsletter. The Military Archives Committee also created and posted a website, listing the national military archives, names, addresses, and web links.

The Secretariat also created during these years a new website, www.landmacht.nl. The Secretariat began publication of this ICMH Newsletter. It is published biennially and contains information on the national commission's activities, future and past congresses, and the work of the standing committees. In addition, in these years the ICMH accepted as members two new national military history commissions, South Africa and Morocco. Another commission, South Korea, underwent a leadership change, one which revitalized that commission. Finally, President de Vos worked to expand the commission, encouraging new national commissions in African and Middle Eastern nations. This new endeavor was assisted and furthered by the leadership of the Moroccan Commission of Military History.

At the General Assembly session President De Vos presented five new national military history commissions for admission into the international commission of military history. They were: Cameroon, Cyprus, Jordan, Senegal, and the United Arab Emirates. Shortly thereafter, the assembled national commission presidents voted to exclude two nations, Russia and Australia, due to nonpayment of dues.

Next, Colonel Hans G. Ehlert, President of the German Commission of Military History, announced that the 2006 Congress would be held in Potsdam and Berlin, Germany from August 20-26. The theme is "The Nation State, Nationalism, and the Military." The German Commission has created a webpage, explaining the theme, cultural events, registration fees, and hotel charges. It is excellent. For specific information go to www.cihm2006.de

Major General L.S. Mollo, President of the South African Commission of Military History, announced that the 2007 Congress would be held in Capetown, South Africa. The theme for that congress, which should attract many historians from Africa, South America, and the Middle East, would be "Regions, Regional Organizations, and Military Power." President De Vos said that he was encouraged that other national commissions were considering organizing and hosting congresses in the future.

Finally at the end of a long and interesting meeting, several important votes were taken. First, the national commissions voted to accept the ICMH's revised statutes. These statutes will govern the organization for the next five years, 2005-2010. In another important vote, the national commission presidents voted to retain as working languages for future congresses, English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. Russian was eliminated as required language. A motion to accept Arabic as a working language was not accepted.

The ICMH officers for 2005-2010 were selected by a vote of the 37 national military history commissions at the Madrid Congress.

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Minutes of the General Assembly of the ICMH, 26 August 2005 in Madrid.

Representatives of the national commissions of the following countries were present:
Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Great

Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of South Korea, Rumania, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey and the USA.

1. Opening.
President L. de Vos opened the General Assembly at 15:35 hrs. The Secretary-General announced that 31 national commissions were represented.
2. President's report.
The President thanked the Spanish Commission of Military History, led by Major-General P. Bernal Gutierrez, for the hospitality and the organisation of the General Assembly. He praised the efforts of Captain (N) J.M. Blanco Nunez, who was a huge help in answering everybody's questions. He asked for applause for the interpreters for their professional support and summarized the most important developments during the congress.
3. Secretary-General's report.
The Secretary-General gave a brief description of the development of the ICMH during the period of 2000 – 2005. He drew attention to the passing of Lieutenant-General M.F.T.Barata, to the congresses held in Athens, Norfolk, Bucharest, Rabat and Madrid and the related Acta. He observed that both the Bibliography Committee and the Military Archives Committee are extremely active, and that with the introduction of an own website and newsletter, the ICMH has new communication channels at its disposal. He was delighted to observe that the two new commissions, the Moroccan and the South African, approach their membership duties with zest and that the efforts to further globalise the ICMH are beginning to bear fruit. The increased workload that resulted as a consequence of all of the activities and developments was carried with the support of Mrs Elisabeth Cuperus.
4. Treasurer's report.
 - a) The treasurer reported that the financial position is healthy. He does expect a negative balance for 2006 due to the release of a special international issue of the International Review of Military History.
 - b) After examining the accounts, the auditors, with Captain A. Rakoto as intermediary, gave a positive judgement on the financial policy during the 2000-2005 period.
 - c) The treasurer was subsequently discharged of his duties and received a tiepin with an inscription as a mark of appreciation for the conscientious manner in which he fulfilled his duties for 25 years.
5. Report of the President of the Bibliography Committee.
The President of the Bibliography Committee asked for attention to the position of his committee in the (proposed) statutes and requests representation on the Board. President De Vos considered discussions of these matters to be outside the scope of the meeting and requested further discussions at a later date.
6. Report of the President of the Military Archives Committee.
The President of the Military Archives Committee outlined the importance and the set-up of the Internet Guide for Military Archives. Dr. R. Jaun also introduced his successor, Colonel Dr. H.J. Harder, Director of the Federal Archives/Military Archives in Germany.
7. Presentation of the Acta 2004.
The President of the Moroccan Commission of Military History, General B.Arroub, presented the Acta of 2004 as the conclusion of the Rabat Congress. The findings of the organisation committee of the congress have also been evaluated. In closing, General

Arroub introduced four candidate commissions.

8. Future Congresses.

- a) 2006: Potsdam. The President and the Secretary-General of the German Commission informed the General Assembly on the theme, costs, accommodation, receptions, programmes for partners and the post congress tour.
- b) 2007: Cape Town. The President and the Secretary-General of the South African Commission invited everybody present to Cape Town in 2007.

9. Revision of the Statutes.

The President explained that in the past five years hard work has been put into the modernisation of the statutes. Extensive discussions on the amendment proposals took place during the consultative President's meeting in Rabat. The Board assimilated the observations in a revised proposal that was discussed at the President's meeting on 23 August. The language issue in particular appeared to give rise to different viewpoints. The Executive Board wanted to complete the revision and proposed – after all opinions had been exchanged and after an appeal from honorary chairman Dr C.M. Schulten to respect each other's viewpoints – to conduct a ballot over three rounds:

- a) Approval of revision, with the exception of article 1, paragraph 4. Result: 31 for, carried.
- b) Approval for cancelling Russian as an official language. Result: 28 votes for, 3 against. Carried.
- c) Proposal to introduce Arabic as new official language. Result: 12 for, 18 against, 1 abstention. Rejected.

The revision of the statutes was herewith approved.

10. Membership.

- a) Suspension/exclusion of national commissions.

The Russian and Australian commissions were expelled on the grounds of non-payment.

- b) Admission of new national commissions.

The General Assembly accepted by acclamation the national commissions of Cameroon, Jordan, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates as members. Cyprus was also accepted, with Turkey voting against. The chairman congratulated the five new commissions on their new status and expressed the wish for a fruitful cooperation.

11. Preparations for the elections.

- a) The General Assembly agreed to the proposal to restrict the number of members of the Board to twelve.
- b) The General Assembly agreed to the proposal to leave the management of the election to the electoral committee, consisting of honorary chairman Dr. C.M. Schulten, Colonel Dr. J.E. Kronlund and Colonel D. O'Carroll.

12. Any other business.

President De Vos thanked the members resigning from the Board for the amicable cooperation. Colonel Dr. H. de Weck, who served the ICMH as treasurer from 1980 until 2005, was appointed by acclamation as honorary treasurer. President de Vos subsequently gave the floor to the electoral committee.

13. Elections

- a) Dr. C.M. Schulten observed that there were 36 countries with the right to vote present.
- b) Professor Dr. L. de Vos (Belgium) was appointed as Chairman for 2005-2010 by a vote of 24 to 12.

- c) Drs. P.H. Kamphuis (the Netherlands) was appointed as Secretary-General for 2005 – 2010 by a vote of 30 to 6.
 - d) Brigadier Prof. Dr. F. Stoeckli (Switzerland) was appointed as Treasurer and also Deputy Secretary General by a vote of 32 to 4.
 - e) Elected to members of the Board were:

Prof. Dr. H. Coutau – Begarie (France)	with 26 votes,
Prof. Dr. I. Loucas (Greece)	with 23 votes,
Prof. Dr. R. Pommerin (Germany)	with 23 votes,
Prof. Dr. A.R. Millett (USA)	with 22 votes,
Prof. Dr. P. del Negro (Italy)	with 22 votes,
Prof. Dr. T. Panecki (Poland)	with 22 votes,
Dr. H.O. Donnell (Spain)	with 21 votes,
Prof. Dr. H. Takahashi (Japan)	with 20 votes,
Prof. Dr. L. Ericson (Sweden)	with 19 votes.
14. Dr. C.M. Schulten proclaimed the election results and gave the floor to the re-elected Chairman, who closed the 2005 General Assembly.

Drs. P.H. Kamphuis
Secretary-General ICMH

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The XXXI ICMH Congress in Madrid, Spain, August 21-27, 2005: A Report

Joseph P. Harahan

Madrid, Spain was the site for the 31st International Congress of Military History. Held during the week of August 21-27, 2005, the Congress was hosted by the Spanish Commission of Military History. Organized and led by Captain Jose Maria Blanco Nunez and Professor Hugo O'Donnell, the Congress examined the theme, "Naval and Terrestrial Power in the Age of Trafalgar." This meeting coincided with the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Military and naval historians, military archivists, and museum specialists gathered from 37 nations to participate in the scholarly sessions, museum visits, receptions, and a day-long cultural excursion.

The Congress had 278 registered delegates and accompanying persons. This year, ICMH President Luc de Vos invited representatives from five new nations to participate in the Congress. Historians from Cameroon, Cypress, Jordan, Senegal, and United Arab Emirates joined the meeting, participating in all of the week-long activities. For Congress' scholarly program, there were 42 thematic sessions and one book roundtable.

All of the scholarly sessions were held at the Centro Superior de Estudios de la Defensa Nacional, CESEDEN, located in the center of the city of Madrid. Sessions were held on four days, followed in the evening or late afternoon with visits to Madrid's military museums and parks. Due to the tragic deaths of Spanish soldiers serving in Afghanistan the Congress' opening reception at the Palacio Buenavista was cancelled. All of the other scheduled events for the accompanying persons and delegates were held amidst a week of pleasant weather and fine Spanish hospitality. The traditional "touring" day took the Congress delegates to Segovia and La Granja, the summer palace of the Spanish monarchy. In Segovia, the group visited the city, witnessing the Roman aqueduct, and touring the Academy of the Artillery, Alcazar, and Cathedral. Following dinner, the group traveled by bus to La Granja for a tour and photograph of the entire assembled Congress. The 31st International Congress of Military History ended with a sumptuous banquet, held at the

Casino de Madrid. President de Vos expressed the organization's appreciation to Captain Blanco Nunez and the Spanish Commission of Military History for their contributions and work in making the Congress a success.

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XXXII International Congress of Military History, Potsdam, Germany, August 20-27, 2006
Winfried Heinemann

The International Commission for Military History (ICMH) and the German Commission of Military History invite the national commissions as well as all military historians interested in our conference, together with their partners, to Potsdam for the XXXII. International Congress of Military History, to be held from August 20-25, 2006.

The Congress will discuss the theme of **"Nation State, Nationalism, and the Military."** National commissions are invited propose a wide range of interesting papers, especially ones that open up new insights and research perspectives.

The Congress theme will be divided into sub-topics:

Early Forms of Nationalism Before 1789

The Long 19th Century (1789-1918): Revolutions, Movements of Liberation, Nation Building

Colonialism, Imperialism, and non-European States

The Age of the World Wars: Nationalism, Class Struggle, and Totalitarianism

The Cold War and the Rise of New Nations

Nationalism and "New Wars"

Transcending the Nation: Hired Soldiers, Alliances, Supra-National Forces

The Congress organizers suggest some major aspects to be considered:

- **Is the military the driving force behind state building, or do states generate military forces?**
- **To what extent do states get militarized, and to what extent does the military come under the influence of nationalism?**
- **What is the role of military protagonists beyond traditional nation states?**
- **History of military thought: how does contemporary thinking reflect the relationship between the military and nationalism?**
- **To what extent does the military serve to secure internal stability?**
- **How do the concepts of Nation, Religion, or Ideology serve to legitimize the military?**
- **What are the myths, propaganda, and self-perception of the military within the nation state.**

National commissions should propose papers on sub-topics 1-7 by March 1, 2006. The German commission will then attempt to select from the proposals and to organize them into a final conference program. Proposals should contain:

- **Author's name and a brief academic CV.**
- **The proposed subject, and under which sub-topic it should be considered.**
- **Papers must not exceed 20 minutes.**

- A manuscript of every paper accepted, not exceeding 15,000 characters, should be submitted in one of the three conference languages (German, English, or French) to facilitate translation.

XXXIII International Congress of Military History, Capetown, South Africa, August 1-8, 2007

ICMH *International Bibliography of Military History*, Volume 26 (Zurich, 2005) published

In this edition of the ***International Bibliography of Military History***, Mme. Sandrine Picaud, a French historian, researched and wrote a thematic bibliographic essay, entitled "La Petite Guerre au XVIII siecle," or "The Little Wars of the Eighteenth Century in Europe." The essay discusses analytical histories of European wars that were, to use a modern term, "low intensity" conflicts. The essay which has extensive sub-sections is analytical and most interesting. Mme. Picaud received a doctorate in modern history from Nantes University. Professor Jean-Pierre Bois severed as her advisor and mentor. Mme. Picaud's bibliographic essay is preceded by a thematic report, published in French and English.

Sophie Emery, Mme. Corrine Owens, and Mme. Francine Kohler compile the bibliographic entries and, working with the president and secretary general, prepare the volume for publication. This annual bibliography is one of the ICMH's most effective programs in disseminating international military history.

The Bibliography Committee would like, by way of this newsletter, to take the opportunity of sending special thanks to all correspondents and contributors involved in this now 28 year-old project. This is also a good opportunity to invite the presidents of the commissions not yet directly involved with and wishing to contribute to the Bibliography, to contact the chairman of the Committee at the address below. May I extend my sincere thanks for your future cooperation.

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2004 ICMH Congress in Rabat, Morocco, ACTA published

The 2004 ACTA, ***The Economic aspects of defense through major world conflicts (Rabat, 2005)*** with illustrations, charts, appendices, has been published and distributed by the Moroccan Commission on Military History. General Bouchaib Arroub, president of the Moroccan Commission sponsored the publication. The 2004 ICMH Congress was held in Rabat from August 1-8, 2004. This volume is the publication of the congress. It contains King Mohammed VI's Message to the Congress in Arabic, French, English, Spanish, and German. There 44 scholarly papers, representing research and analyses from the international military historians. Each of the papers is published in the author's language – Arabic, English, French, Spanish, or German. Following the conference, some author's chose to revise their papers for publication. The published volume contains an appendix, documents, and photographs of the participants during the week-long congress in Rabat, Morocco.

General Arroub and his colleagues from the Moroccan Commission of Military History distributed copies of the ACTA at the Congress in Madrid, Spain. The general announced at the ICMH General Assembly that copies would be sent to all of the national commissions of military history. If you would like additional copies for your members, please contact General Arroub at cmhm@menera.ma

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ICMH Committee on Military Archives: A Report

The Archives Committee had a very lively meeting in Madrid, Spain with eight scholars presenting papers on appraisal in military archives. These scholars showed different approaches either by records, inventory, by functions and activities, by documentation of a theme, territory, or institution, or even by risk assessment. Timing, operating, decision, and controlling during the process of appraisal were explained. Special focus was given to the procedures in the military archives of Switzerland, Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, Canada, Italy, Portugal and France.

The Committee on Military Archives has a new president. Rudolf Jaun was nominated to be the chair of military history at the Swiss Military Academy in Zürich, consequently, he stepped down from the presidency. Unanimously elected as his successor was the director of the German Military Archives in Freiburg, Hans-Joachim Harder. Christoph Tepperberg, head of the Austrian War Archives, will stay on as Secretary general.

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