



Editor: Dr. Harold Raugh
Vice President, ICMH
Email: INFFAOHER7@aol.com

NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORY

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Prof. Dr. Massimo de Leonardis
President of the International Commission of Military History /
Président de la Commission Internationale d'Histoire Militaire

Polonia Restituta

The Order of *Polonia Restituta* (Order of the Rebirth of Poland, or of the Restoration of Poland) was created in February 1921, when the country regained its rightful place among independent nations. It is a high level State order, conferred on both military and civilians as well as on foreigners for outstanding achievements in the fields of education, science, sport, culture, art, economics, national defense, social work, civil service, or for furthering good relations among countries.

We might say that the International Commission of Military History is going to have its annual Congress in Poland restored. In 2020 the Congress was scheduled in Poznań in succession to the quinquennial Congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences, as our traditions require. Both Congresses had to be cancelled owing to the pandemic. The dedication and the commitment of the Polish institutions organizing both Congresses allows now to have them in 2022. It should be noted that ICMH already resumed in 2021 its international activities in presence with the outstanding Congress in Athens.

Therefore, the ICHS Congress will take place in Poznań on 21st→27th August, followed by the ICMH Congress in Wrocław (one day in Opole) on 28th August→2nd September. As an affiliated organization of the ICHS, ICMH will participate to the Congress in Poznań with a panel organized jointly with the Commission of History of International Relations, on the subject *Rearmaments and Disarmaments between the two World Wars*. I will co-chair the panel and our participants will be Dr. Marcel Berni, Ph.D.; Dr. Davide Borsani, Ph.D.; and Brigadier General Dr. Christian Ortner, Ph.D.

All information about our own Congress can be found on ICMH website at the address <https://www.icmh-cihm.org/en/116-xxvii-icmh-congress-in-poland> and on the Congress' website <http://icmh-mmxxii.wns.uni.opole.pl/>. The general theme will be Defence of the *Borders in Military History*. I warmly invite to register and participate to this event sponsored by important scientific institutions: The Polish Commission of Military History of the Polish Committee of Historical Science; the Department of History, University of Wrocław; the Department of History, University of Opole; the General Tadeusz Kościuszko Military University of Land Forces in Wrocław; and The Polish Historical Society.

In the meantime, all other institutional activities of ICMH, never interrupted, return to total normality. We study all aspects of Military History, we cherish peace, but as scholars we know that weapons and military force are a component of any international system. Certainly, as individuals we are distraught to see war ravaging in the heart of Europe.



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Update: XLVII ICMH Congress in Poland, 28 August-2 September 2022

The XLVII ICMH Congress will be held 28 August-2 September 2022 in Poland, organized by the Polish Commission of Military History of the Polish Committee of Historical Science; the Department of History; University of Wrocław; the Department of History; University of Opole; the General Tadeusz Kościuszko Military University of Land Forces in Wrocław; and the Polish Historical Society. The Marshal of the Opolskie Voivodeship, Mr. Andrzej Buła, will be the patron of the Congress.

The theme of the Congress will be “The Defense of Borders in Military History, from the Middle Ages to the Present Day.” The following topics are suitable for further examination and paper presentations during the Congress:

- Military doctrines concerning the protection and defense of borders.
- Structures to defend borders: forts, castles, fortresses, fortress systems, defensive lines.
- The great defensive lines, from the Roman limes to the Maginot, Siegfried, and Stalin Lines.
- Special armed forces units that were created to protect the borders.
- Border protection in international law.
- Alliances and agreements created for the purpose of border protection and defense.
- The importance of border protection in the policies of states.
- Border wars.

As of 18 June 2022, nearly 40 papers have been submitted. The organizers are waiting for additional paper proposals.

After completing the registration process, a detailed academic program will be developed.

The framework of the program is:

- Saturday, 27 August 2022: WROCŁAW
-16:00-20:00: Registration of participants and accompanying persons
- Sunday, 28 August 2022: WROCŁAW
-10:00-19:00: Registration of participants and accompanying persons
-10:00-12:00: Meeting of the ICMH Executive Board

-14:00-18:00: Cultural tour of Wrocław's Old Town and National Museum (with Panorama of the Battle of Raclawice)

-19:00-22:00: Reception

- Monday, 29 August 2022: WROCLAW

-10:00-11:30: Opening Session (Oratorium Marianum University of Wrocław main building)

-12:00-13:30, 15:00-16:30, and 17:00-18:00: Working Sessions

-14:30-16:00: Session in State Archive in Wrocław (for Military Archives Committee)

- Tuesday, 30 August 2022: WROCLAW

-10:00-11:30: Meeting of the ICMH Full Board

-10:00-11:30: Meetings of Bibliography Committee, Military Archives Committee, and Educational Committee

-10:00-11:30, 12:00-13:00, 14:30-16:00, and 16:30-18:00: Working Sessions

- Wednesday, 31 August 2022

-07:00-20:30: All-Day Trip through Dolnośląskie and Opolskie voivodships (the program includes visiting fortifications from the Middle and Modern Ages)

- Thursday, 1 September 2022: OPOLE

-10:00-12:30, 10:30-12:30, 14:00-15:30: Working Sessions

-Special program for Military Archives Committee: Visit to State Archives in Opole

-Sightseeing Opole and region (this adventure, "Multicultural Heritage of the Opole Region: Exchange of Experiences within the International Cooperation Network of Military Historians," is co-financed by the Self-Government of Opolskie Voivodeships)

- Friday, 2 September 2022: WROCLAW

-10:00-11:30, 12:00-13:00: Working Sessions

-14:30-17:00: General Assembly of the ICMH (Oratorium Marianum University of Wrocław main building)

-18:30-23:00 Farewell Dinner



Moszna Castle

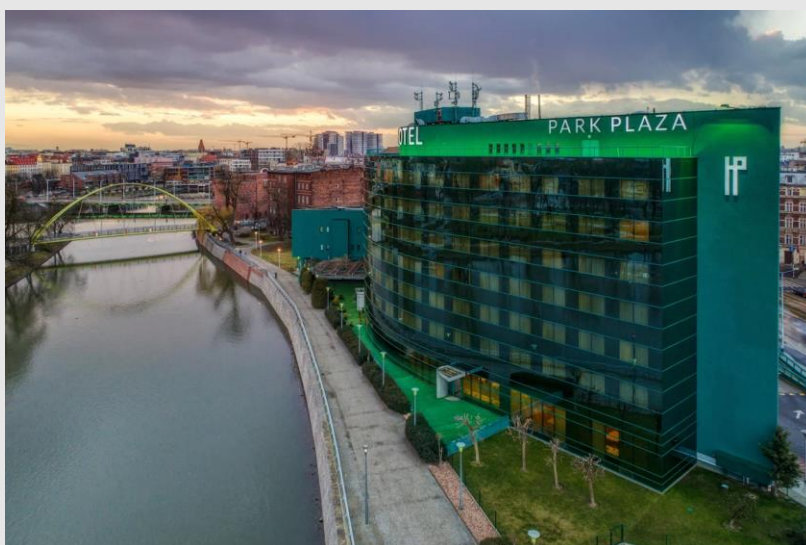


Opole Old Town

Cultural Program -- Accompanying Persons

- Monday, 29 August 2022
-11:30-18:00: Sightseeing in Wrocław
- Tuesday, 30 August 2022
-10:00-16:00: Sightseeing region of Wrocław
- Wednesday, 31 August 2022
-07:00-20:30: All-Day Trip: Ząbkowice Śląskie, Kłodzko, Otmuchów, Paczków, Brzeg
- Thursday, 1 September 2022
-10:00-13:00: Sightseeing Opole with Muzeum Wsi Opolskiej (Museum of the Opole Countryside), Muzeum Śląska Opolskiego (Museum Opole Silesian).
- Friday, 2 September 2022
-09:00-14:00: Sightseeing in Wrocław

Accommodation



The official hotel during the congress, where conference sessions will also take place, is Hotel HP Park Plaza 4-star in Wrocław (<https://hotelepark.pl/wroclaw>).

We have reserved there a certain number of rooms for the congress participants. This is managed by Exciting Poland/Almatur Opole; contact person is Mrs. Daria Ogon (dogon@almatur.pl). The hotel itself does not have access to the reservation of these rooms.

For booking a hotel room, please fill in the Google questionnaire:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPySGxoXccmTVq5tZk5LpHoNkX7p0aPugQx0xRNYF0ZhAzJg/viewform?usp=sf_link

You will receive a confirmation at your e-mail address with information about possible payments by credit card/bank transfer. In reply you can also send your invoice data.

Sometimes the e-mail may get into SPAM, so please check it.

Post-Congress Tour

The Post-Congress Tour is scheduled from 3 September (Saturday) to 5 September (Monday) 2022. During the tour participants will visit Krakow and attractions in southern Poland, such as Pszczyna or Ojcowski Park Narodowy, Wieliczka with salt mine, and Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum. The detailed programme can also be found in the questionnaire.

If you would like to take part in the trip, please contact Mrs. Daria Ogon (dogon@almatur.pl) or mark an affirmative answer in your questionnaire concerning accommodation in the question if you are interested in taking part in the post-congress circuit. We will contact you to arrange the details. The required minimum number of participants for the Post-Congress Tour is 15.

Point of contact for the 2022 Congress is Prof. Dr. Tomasz Ciesielski: ciesielski2@wp.pl



University of Wrocław (top);
Oratorium Marianum
(below).





**International Commission of Military History
Commission Internationale d'Histoire Militaire**

**The President
Le Président**

14th June 2022

Dear Members of the ICMH Community and Fellow Military Historians,

I wish to draw your attention on our XLVII Annual Congress, which will take place in Poland, in Wrocław (and one day in Opole) from 28th August to 2nd September 2022. The General Theme is *Defence of the Borders in Military History* and sub-topics are the following:

- Military doctrines concerning the protection and defence of borders.
- Structures to defend borders: forts, castles, fortresses, fortresses' systems, defensive lines.
- The great defensive lines, from the Roman limes to the Maginot, Siegfried, and Stalin lines.
- Special armed forces units that were created to protect the borders.
- Border protection in international law.
- Alliances and agreements created for the purpose of border protection and defence.
- The importance of border protection in the policies of states.
- Border wars.

All information on the Congress can be found at the address: <http://icmh-mmxxii.wns.uni.opole.pl/>. I earnestly invite you to visit the Congress's website and seriously consider your participation. Many of you are familiar with our Congresses and will not miss this opportunity to meet again; new participants will discover a kind of event which will remain impressed in their memories and enhance the knowledge of military history. Registration for the congress is still possible until July 5th. After that date, the organizers cannot guarantee any longer the same favourable prices for the hotel.

The Polish Commission of Military History and the ICMH ExBoard are ready to answer any question you might have on the Congress's organization.

Hoping to see you in Poland, I remain yours sincerely

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis

Wrocław



Left to right: Piasek Island and Ostrów Tumski with Wrocław Cathedral • Old Town Hall • Puppet Theater • Market Square and St. Elizabeth's Church • Monopol Hotel • Wrocław Główny railway station • University of Wrocław

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ICMH André Corvisier Prize for Ph.D. Theses in Military History

VI edition – 2022

A number of excellent theses were submitted in 2022 for consideration of selection as the most outstanding “André Corvisier Prize for Ph.D. theses in Military History,” named after the distinguished French scholar who served for ten years as President and later as President of Honour of ICMH (<http://www.icmh-cihm.org/en/>). The ICMH Corvisier Prize Jury is continuing to evaluate these submissions and will select the Laureate by the end of June 2022, at which time the winner will be notified.

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Bibliography Committee Update

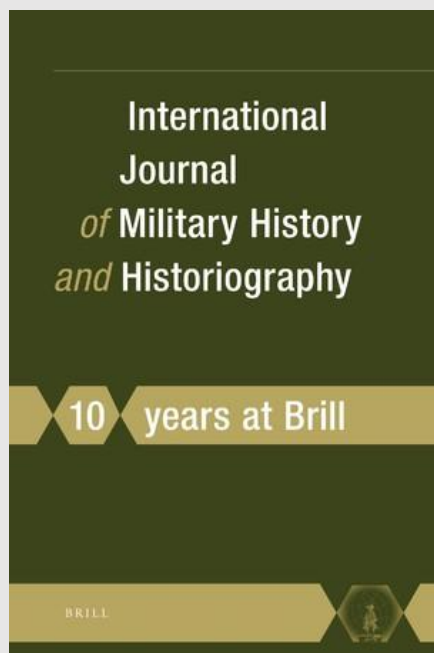
Bibliography Committee (BC) of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH)
International Journal of Military History and Historiography (IJMH)

Dr Marco Wyss, President of the BC of the ICMH and Editor-in-Chief of the IJMH
Col. Prof. Dr Winfried Heinemann, Secretary General of the BC of the ICMH and Associate and Reviews
Editor of the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography*

The most important news about the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography* is that it is going from strength to strength – so much so that the ICMH and Brill Publishers have agreed to publish three issues instead of only two as of 2023.

This will allow the editors to publish more papers, create more thematic issues, and also permit them to publish the flow of book reviews which continue to come in from national delegations.

A case in point will be issue 2/2022, another “special issue.” It is entitled “The Long Fight for Fighting with Pride: LGBT Soldiers in the Military History of Australia, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, and the United States,” and is guest edited by Klaus Storkmann and Jacqueline Whitt. Articles will include:



- Jacqueline E. Whitt: Introduction: LGBT Soldiers in Military History
- Jaus Müller: How a “Hunt for Homosexuals” in 1987 Ultimately Contributed to a Real Change in Emancipation for Gay Men Serving in the Armed Forces of the Netherlands
- Noah Riseman: The Royal Australian Navy and Courts Martial for Homosexuality
- Klaus Storkmann: The “Most Liberal in NATO”? How the (West) German Ministry of Defence Looked to Other Armed Forces’ Regulations Concerning Homosexuality (1966 to 1999)
- Jacqueline E. Whitt: Queering American Military History
- Yuval P. Yonay and Yoav Zaritsky: Gay Identity, Same-Sex Relationships, and Military Service: Elderly Gay Men in Israel Recall Their Experiences in the IDF, 1948–1977

The journal continues to attract readers as well, in particular online. Members of national commissions who feel they have a sound proposal for a thematic issue should contact the editor-in-chief, Dr Marco Wyss.

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Military Archives Committee Update

The “Open Door” Policy of the Committee of Military Archives

The XLVII Congress of the International Commission of Military History will be held in Poland very soon, from 28 August to 2 September 2022.

Thanks to the great support of the Polish Commission of Military History, there are new opportunities to discover the work and the initiatives of the Committee of Military Archives.

According to the program, the Committee of Military Archives will hold its standard meeting in an “open door” format, inviting all participants of the Congress to attend our internal meeting in order to enlarge the community of scholars, students, and researchers who are interested in the world of Military Archives. The same invitation is open to everyone interested in discovering the Polish Archives organisation. Thanks to the huge effort of the Polish National Commission of Military History, there will be the great opportunity to visit three different archives and among them, the military archives.

The CAM thinks that the efforts led by the Polish National Commission and the Committee should be enlarged offering new interactions among the attendees of the Congress and the Archives.

For further information, please feel free to contact the CAM Board; the point of contact information is listed below.

The Military Archives Committee

President Flavio Carbone: presidency.CAM@gmail.com

Secretary-General Kathleen Van Acker: secretarygeneral.cam@gmail.com

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ICMH NEWSLETTER UPDATE

The *ICMH Newsletter* is an excellent means of communications between all components of the International Commission of Military History -- the leadership and Executive Board, the three specialized committees, national commissions, and individual military historians. This digital platform will permit us to transcend distance and language barriers, to enhance the continued relevance and viability of the International Commission of Military History, to further engender worldwide the spirit of military history professionalism and cooperation, and the sharing of best practices.

The national commissions serve as the building blocks of the ICMH, and they and their members make unique contributions to accomplishing the ICMH mission. We wholeheartedly encourage each national commission to share the news of its past activities, events, and conferences; current projects; future conferences and workshops; and the achievements of individual members, to include new positions, academic degrees attained, accomplishments, books published, etc. -- as well as obituaries of members. To do this, I invite and encourage you, each national commission, to provide input for each issue of the *ICMH Newsletter*. This will help us learn more about each other and what we can do to advance the ICMH agenda even more.

The *Newsletter* will be published two times a year, in June and December. Please provide your national commission input to Harold Raugh (please not to exceed 250 words) by 20 May of each year for the June issues of the Newsletter, and by 20 November of each year for each December issue:

Issue 38	submission deadline 20 Nov 2022	publication date 10 Dec 2022
Issue 39	submission deadline 20 May 2023	publication date 10 June 2023
Issue 40	submission deadline 20 Nov 2023	publication date 10 Dec 2023

This will also be an outstanding way to highlight and share the achievements and contributions of your national commission to the ICMH and professional study of military history.

In addition, if you know of other military historians who may want to learn of our many international activities, please send me (Harold Raugh) their names, positions, and email addresses, and we will add them to the ICMH Newsletter distribution list.

Please send your national commission input, plus any questions or suggestions you may have, to me at email INFFAOHER7@aol.com. I very much look forward to working with you, and together we can continue to enhance military history professionalism and service around the globe. Thank you very much!

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ICMH HISTORIAN IN THE NEWS

Dr. Joseph P. “Pat” Harahan

The Society for History in the Federal Government (United States) has bestowed its 2022 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award, its most prestigious service award which recognizes outstanding contributions to the study the history of the federal government, to Joseph P. Harahan. “Pat” Harahan served as a Vice President of the International Commission of Military History.

Harahan retired in 2010 after 35 years of federal service, serving from 1998 to 2010 as Senior Historian at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), and from 1990 to 1998 as Senior Historian at the Department of Defense On-Site Inspection Agency, special assistant to the Historian of the Air Force, and staff historian at the Air Force's Strategic Air Command. Harahan's DTRA histories and writings about inspection regimes for the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) and Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaties, as well his 2015 book on Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction, are methodical and intensely-researched narratives of complex bilateral and multilateral arms control regimes. They are essential for historians working on the topics of nuclear arms control, non-proliferation, threat reduction, and nuclear policy. They are also indispensable to any policymaker seeking to replicate the successes -- and avoid the pitfalls -- of the inspection regimes associated with these landmark Cold War agreements.

Congratulations to Pat for this well-deserved recognition and award!

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NEWS FROM NATIONAL COMMISSIONS



Brazil / Brésil / Brasilien / Brasile / Brasil

BRAZILIAN COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORY

BRAZIL - 200 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE -- On 7 September 2022, Brazil celebrates 200 Years of Independence. The Institute will promote, in partnership with other entities, a commemorative project consisting of a Cycle of Lectures; commemorative book, "Brasil 200 Years," medallion, Virtual Hall of Arts, and International Conferences,

South American Committee on Military History (COSAHM). The Committee was formed with representatives from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. Among other decisions, support for the Iberoamerican Congress of History, Genealogy and Culture, Corrientes, Argentina, 26-29 October, and the XIII International Meeting of History on War Operations in the War of the Triple Alliance (XIII EIHOBGTA).

Weekly Sessions on Tuesdays. In 2022, there have been six Ordinary Sessions so far.

Six lectures were given at the sessions on Tuesdays, covering relevant topics such as The War of Independence and the formation of the Brazilian Army -- Dom Pedro de Alcântara de Bragança and Bourbon: The Man, The King-Soldier, The Liberator and Consolidator of Independence.

International Seminar 200 years of Independence of Brazil, 28-29 April 2022, in Lisbon. The seminar highlighted the process of Brazil's Independence, as well as the strengthening of mutual values that unite the armies of both countries.

Brazilian Expeditionary Force (FEB) was remembered in a seminar in Italy -- The Ninth National Seminar on the Participation of Brazil in the Second World War (SENAB) was held from 21-27 April 2022, covering sites of FEB combats in Italy, 1944/45. The event was attended by the confreres Coronel Claudio Rosty -- and Colonel Luiz Carlos de Oliveira.

Submitted by Prof. Israel Blajberg, Director of Historical and Cultural Information -- IGHMB -- Brazilian Institute of Geography and Military History

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COMMISSION FRANCAISE D'HISTOIRE MILITAIRE / FRENCH COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORY

The main activities of the CFHM during the first half of 2022 were:

-The organization of monthly conferences on diverse topics: for example Kawashima Oshito, une princesse mandchoue et espionne japonaise ? (Patricia Batki, February 2022); 1870, une défaite intellectuelle (colonel Faudais, March 2022); or L'exploitation et le contrôle du bois et du fer dans les comtés de Roussillon et de Cerdagne (M.Vidal, April 2022).

-Participation in conferences: Mrs. Saint Ramond participated in the conferences organized by Service historique de la Défense (SHD) in March (Combat et cérémonial) and May (Défendre, contrôler et représenter le territoire pour Napoléon).

-The publication by M. José Maigre, chief editor of the CFHM, of the Lettre d'information n°14 (74 pages) and a review of military history

Submitted by Dr Francine SAINT-RAMOND

books published in France (68 pages).

Colonel Arbaretier, Deputy General Secretary of the CFHM, retired from the Army in April.

The CFHM is strengthening its cooperation with the *Revue d'Histoire militaire* (RHM) and with the association La Sabretache in order to promote the activities of the three associations and allow a larger audience to have access to military history through their different websites.

The CFHM will be pleased to participate in the Wroclaw conference. It will propose two speakers to give lectures:

-Mrs Sandrine Picaud, member of the CFHM: La défense de la frontière Est de la France pendant la guerre de Succession d'Autriche (été 1744)

-M. Cyril Blanchard, chief editor of the RHM, La non-bataille.

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Great Britain / Grande Bretagne / Großbritannien / Gran Bretagna / Gran Bretaña

BRITISH COMMISSION FOR MILITARY HISTORY

Since November 2021, the BCMH has continued its normal activities while the Covid restrictions in the UK were slowly being lifted. This allowed us to hold our first AGM in two years where members were able to attend in person. The AGM at the national Army Museum was well attended and the meeting included, in addition to commission business, an afternoon speech by Dr Jonathan Boff.

Richard Grayson and his team have continued to produce copies of the British Journal for Military History (BJMH). www.bjmh.org.uk. The first Sir Michael Howard Prize for the best article in the BJMH during the last year was awarded to Graeme Callister for his article on Napoleonic conscription, with the runner-up

being Stephen Moore for his article on RAF Fighter Command.

The Commission is supporting an event celebrating the work of Professor Christopher Duffy arranged by Helion Publishing, which includes the presentation of a Festschrift, edited by Dr Alexander S. Burns, at the Cavalry and Guards Club in July.

The Commission will also be holding a New Researchers Conference in October at Salford. We are now actively preparing our events for 2023, which we hope will be the year that sees a return to the normal business of the Commission.

Submitted by Dr. Tim Gale, Secretary General, BCMH

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Portugal / Portugal / Portugal / Portogallo / Portugal

PORTUGUESE COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORY

Summary of News of the Portuguese Commission: 20 November 2021 to 20 May 2022

On 4 April 2022, the CPHM held the solemn session of evocation of its 33rd anniversary, with the presence of the Minister of National Defence. The session ended with a lecture given by Professor João Gouveia Monteiro of the University of Coimbra and of the CPHM Scientific Council, on the theme "The Teaching of Military History in Portuguese Universities."

On 5 April 2022, the conference cycle *Visões do Tempo da Guerra e das Independências* (1961-

1975) started, organized by CPHM, with the support of Associação 25 de Abril, Instituto da Defesa Nacional and Liga dos Combatentes, and the seal of the Commemorative Commission of the 50th Anniversary of 25th April 1974. The first conference had the helpful collaboration of Major-General Pizarat Correia, and the second, which took place on 17 May 2022 with the illustrious presence of Lieutenant-General Joaquim Chito Rodrigues, president of the League of Combatants.

On 12 May 2022, a protocol was signed between the School of Arts and Humanities of the

University of Lisbon (UL) and the CPHM, with the UL History Centre as the executing unit, aimed at strengthening the cooperation between the two institutions in research and dissemination of military history.

The CPHM conferences continued to take place (22 February and 26 April 2022) and the National

Defence Prize Talks (29 March 2022) during the period.

Different activities are taking place at the CPHM, namely: the National Defence Prize contest, Military History and Youth contest, Research War of Africa (1961-1975) contest, and the General Themudo Barata Programme.

Submitted by Dr. Jorge Silva Rocha

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Spain / Espagne / Spanien / Spagna / España

SPANISH COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORY / COMISIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE HISTORIA MILITAR

The most notable activities carried out by the Spanish Commission (SCMH) in the last months have been:

- One research work has been completed, “The French presence in the Spanish military”, which will be published in the coming months in Spanish and English. The project has been directed by Colonel Benito Tauler, involving authors from Italy and Spain.
- Another research work is ongoing “Spanish military in diplomatic missions” to be completed at the end of the year. 22 authors participate in the project writing about 22 characters from all periods of history. Directed by Dr Hugo O’Donnell
- A virtual round table about “the oldest marine in the world” to commemorate the 485th anniversary of the Spanish Marine Corps. You can find it in the CESEDEN YouTube channel at the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5hENs4K2Y0>

- 5 reviews by Spanish Commission members have been published in the 41-2 issue of the IJMH
- You can find more information on the website of the Spanish Commission <https://www.defensa.gob.es/ceseden/cehismi/>

For the next few months, we are working to:

- New research projects:
 - “Irish dynasty in the Spanish military”. Directed by Dr Enrique García Hernán
 - “Short Spanish Military History”. Directed by General Miguel Ballenilla
 - “Illustrious Women of the Military History of Spain”. Directed by Dr Guillermo Calleja
- A new virtual round table about the “Carlist wars” to remember General Concha (1874)
- Participation in the International Congress in Wroclaw with four papers

- More reviews to the IJMH.

Submitted by Coronel Fernando Fontana de Grassa, Secretary-General

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21st Annual Conference of the Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group: Special Operations Forces

From 23-26 May 2002, the Polish Naval Academy in Gdynia together with the Netherlands Institute of Military History organised a conference on Special Operations Forces (SOF). It was the 21st Annual Conference of the Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group (CSWG) of the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes. After a “setting the stage” keynote speech by Cdr (ret.) Dr Zbigniew Kolakowski, Head of the Department of Naval Operations, Command and Naval Operations Department of the Polish Naval Academy and former commander of several maritime SOF units, 34 participants from 17 countries listened and discussed papers on various aspects of SOF past and present.

Topics included: the changing definition of Special Forces over time; factors that make SOF deployment effective; “conventionalization” of earlier Special Forces and “SOF-ization” of conventional units; the qualities of the type of soldier best suited for SOF operations (including ethical competencies); image and self-image of SOF; lobbying for SOF unit deployment; covert operations versus political oversight; and the historian and classification of sources. The papers will be published. The publication will also reflect on the implications of the findings of this conference for current policy-making with regard to Special Operations Forces.

Submitted by Prof. Dr. Jan Hoffenaar, Netherlands Institute of Military History



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NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Congratulations to U.S. Commission member N.W. Collins, whose new book, *Grey Wars: A Contemporary History of U.S. Special Operations*, has been published by Yale University Press! According to the publisher, “US Special Operations Command trains and equips units to undertake select military activities, frequently high-risk missions, often for the purposes of counterterrorism and counterinsurgency. Since 9/11, impelled by an attack on U.S. soil, these forces have been a central instrument of America’s military campaign, operating in about one hundred countries on any given day. This fight—neither hot war nor cold peace—was launched and executed as a new type of global war in 2001 and has since splintered into a spectrum of regional conflicts. The result are our nation’s grey wars: hazy and lethal. This contemporary history, incorporating extensive interviews and archival research by security studies expert N.W. Collins, delves deeply into the transformation of these forces since 9/11.”
- Congratulations to Donald M. Bishop, U.S. Commission member, on the release of his new book, *Pacifist to Padre: The World War II Memoir of Chaplain Roland B. Gittelsohn, December 1941-January 1946* (Quantico, Va.: Marine Corps University Press, 2021). The publisher states: “Ronald B. Gittelsohn, the first Navy rabbi assigned with U.S. Marines, served in the Pacific during World War II. In this compelling book, written in 1946 but now published for the first time, he relates his odyssey from doctrinaire pacifist to ‘pacifist no more,’ his training, and his ministry to Marines and sailors on Iwo Jima. His sermon at the dedication of the 5th Marine Division cemetery riveted all Americans, though it would only be heard by a small gathering that day. Woven through his account are reflections on morale, service, leadership, and interfaith understanding. He illuminates the vital, influential, and uniquely American institution of our military chaplaincy. *Pacifist to Padre* is the story of a rabbi, deeply committed to peace and hope, who would be called ‘padre’ by Marines and sailors in a gruesome battle.”

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ICMH

Newsletter

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