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NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORY

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N° 34

DECEMBER 2020

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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

BUSINESS AS USUAL, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

An anecdote (on the authenticity of which I cannot swear) tells that during the battle of Britain, when London was targeted by heavy bombardments, visiting a borough which had suffered many damages, Prime Minister Winston Churchill spotted a barber shop which displayed the notice “Business as usual”. Then he approached the shopkeeper and discovered that he was of Italian origin.

As an Italian who has spent many years in different periods in the United Kingdom, as student, scholar, and tourist, I thought this might be the apt introduction to this *Newsletter*, which will reach you before a Christmas which will be soberer than usual. In the current difficult situation, ICMH can be proud of having met all his obligations with just one exception: the annual international Congress. We terribly regret that we could not meet in Poland. But as a Latin motto says, *Ad impossibilia nemo tenetur* (Nobody can be compelled to realize impossible things). In any case, our eyes are now fixed on Athens, where “We shall meet again” as Vera Lynn (who passed away last June) sang to entertain British soldiers. In her video message of last April, H. M. Queen Elizabeth II just quoted these words.

I just wish to recapitulate ICMH events of the last months, with one preliminary remark. On the basis of my personal experience in Italy and at the international level I can testify that some

other organizations or scientific associations also renewed through telematics their governing bodies, but others didn't and blocked their activities. Another consideration is that for a world organization as ICMH is more difficult to organize, for example, a webinar in streaming for all members: 2-5 p. m. London Time would be night in Tokyo and Beijing and early morning in San Francisco. We hope that emergency will terminate, but we will consider this issue.

Elections of the new Board for the term 2020-2025 took place routinely through telematics procedures. Most of the readers already know the electoral results, communicated to ICMH members by circular letters and published on the website. The holders of the key positions, President, Secretary General, and Treasurer were confirmed. In particular, the President will be directly responsible for the website, with the technical advice of the webmaster, Dr Davide Borsani, Academic Assistant to the President. The Secretary General will concentrate on the day-to-day contacts with the existing National Commissions and the prospective new National Commissions.

The Full Board had five members confirmed for a second term and five new entries: a balanced blend of new and old. One Vice President was confirmed and a new one appointed. Dr. Efpraxia S. Paschalidou is now the Senior Vice President and would therefore be the President's vicar, representing him whenever and wherever required. She is also delegated to keep contacts with other international organizations active in the field of Military History. Vice President Dr. Harold E. Raugh, Jr. is delegated to edit the ICMH *Newsletter* under the President's supervision. He will also collaborate with the Secretary General in the organization of the Corvisier Prize. For the first time, Art. 18c of our Statutes was activated, with the appointment of Col. Willard B. Snyder, as the President's special delegate for contacts with foundations and museums. All the pieces of the chessboard are in place: the officials and the new Board are quite eager to work for ICMH.

In any case, it must be remembered that in an organization like ICMH even the best leadership at the international level cannot obtain effective results without the indispensable action by the National Commissions.

We also implemented Art. 16k, which provides for a sign of appreciation to retired officials who performed quite well at National and International levels within ICMH. Therefore, Navy Captain José María Blanco Nuñez, Dr. Hans W. Pawlisch, and Lt. Gen. Alexandre de Sousa Pinto were appointed "honorary members of the Board."

Thanks to the Treasurer, statutory rules concerning the budget were duly complied with. Contacts with prospective new members were not interrupted.

The 2020 edition of the Corvisier Prize took place regularly with numerous candidatures of high scientific value. The Specialized Committees continued their activities and actually the Archives Committee started a new editorial project to be implemented next spring. It is my intention to overhaul the ICMH Website in order to facilitate the navigation.

As you can see from the article of Vice President Dr. Paschalidou, preparations for the XLVI Congress in Athens respect perfectly the time schedule. The ExBoard and the Organizing Committee agreed the list of sub-topics within the General Theme *Independence Wars since the XVIII Century*. The sub-topics appear quite coherent and excellent from the scientific point of view. To keep this scholarly level, the organizers were assured that the President and the Board will definitely support the rejection of papers lacking academic rigor and/or being outside the General Theme. In my personal opinion, shared by various colleagues, sometimes in the recent years there was too much leniency in this respect.

From the cultural and social points of views, Athens, the cradle of Western Civilization, will be an excellent location. I attended the Congress in the Hellenic capital in 2001 and I remember well that wonderful experience, which certainly will be repeated.

Finally, contradicting the rule that newspapers should not talk about themselves, I wish to point out that this issue of the *Newsletter* has a new editorial format. Serious organizations proceed by evolution, not revolution, therefore we build on previous experiences. As I mentioned above, Vice President Dr. Raugh takes over from Col. Prof. Quanten the responsibility to edit the *Newsletter*, which with this issue increases very significantly its circulation.



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The Finances of the ICMH

Prof. Dr. Jan Hoffenaar
Treasurer, ICMH

In 2015, the General Assembly in Beijing elected me as ICMH Treasurer, as the successor of Brigadier Fritz Stoeckli, who exercised this function in an excellent way for ten years. Since then, the ICMH portfolio and savings account(s) have seen an upward trend and the reserves have increased considerably. The value of the portfolio fell in the period March-April 2020 as a result of the corona crisis, but now (early November 2020) it has recovered completely.

The budgets have always shown a surplus up to and including 2018. As of 2019, the budgeted amount (income minus expenditure) was more balanced. A new structural cost item since 2017 is the Corvisier Prize. From 2018, in consultation with the new board of the Bibliography Committee, the finances of this committee and the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography* have been arranged in a more transparent manner and have come under the direct supervision of the ICMH Treasurer. In the years 2017-2020, the ICMH received a generous grant from The Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation Inc. every year.

In short, the ICMH's finances continue to be healthy. It has a solid buffer of reserves to finance unexpected expenditures and to potentially use it partly for new projects.

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Update: **The XLVI Congress of the International Commission of Military History 29th August-3rd September 2021, Athens, Greece**



Dr. Efpraxia Paschalidou Vice President, ICMH

The XLVI Congress of the International Commission of Military History will be held in Athens, from 29th August to 3rd September 2021, organized by the Hellenic Commission of Military History. The General theme of the Congress will be “Independence Wars since the XVIII Century”.

Here is the **letter of invitation** from Major General Georgios Rachmanidis, President of the Hellenic Commission of Military History:

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Dear Members of the National Commissions,

The year 2021 coincides with the bicentenary of the Hellenic War of Independence which constituted the culmination of a wave of national revolutions and resulted in the establishment of the modern Hellenic State.

The entire country and the sizeable Hellenic diaspora celebrate this milestone of European history with a wide range of memorable events. In this context, the Hellenic Commission of Military History has the honour to host the XLVI International Congress of Military History, which is to be held in Athens from 29th August to 3rd September 2021.

The main theme of the Congress is “Independence Wars since the XVIII Century”.

The Hellenic National Defence General Staff is proudly and fully committed to providing effective support to the successful issue of this prestigious Congress following the guidelines of the ICMH.

The XLVI International Congress of Military History aspires to make an original contribution to the historical framework, the causes of Independence Wars, their relationship with strategic theory and the road to their victory or defeat. All scholarly facets of the historical phenomenon of Independence Wars will be touched upon in an innovative, interdisciplinary manner.

We would like to assure you that the forthcoming event will set a standard for future ICMH conferences, which will utilize and expand gained experience. It will also offer you, with the cultural program of parallel events, a wide view of the strengths and accomplishments of Hellenism throughout history.

We are looking forward to your participation in the XLVI International Congress of Military History.

Sincerely,

Major General Georgios Rachmanidis
President of the Hellenic Commission of Military History

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The detailed **conference program** is:

PARTICIPANTS' PROGRAMME

Saturday, August 28

12:00-18:00

Registration of participants and accompanying persons

Sunday, August 29

10:00-18:00

Registration of participants and accompanying persons

10:00-12:00

Meetings of the:
Executive Board
Bibliography Committee
Military Archives Committee
Educational Committee

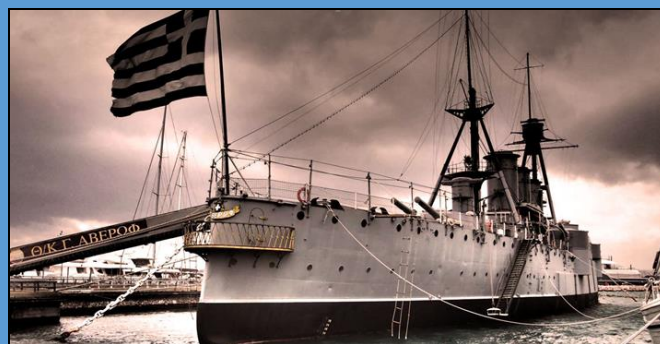
14:00-18:00

Bus tour Athens City centre
Acropolis Museum - Old Parliament House of Athens



20:00-12:00

Reception - Museum, Battleship *Georgios Averof*



Monday, August 30

09:00-10:30 -Opening Session
 -Welcome Addresses by the Minister of National Defence, the President of the International Commission of Military History, and the President of the Hellenic Commission of Military History
 -Award ceremony of the Corvisier Prize editions 2020 and 2021
 -Keynote Speech

10:30-11:00 Coffee/Tea

11:00-12:30 Working Sessions

12:30-14:00 Lunch at the Conference Venue

14:00-15:30 Working Sessions

15:30-16:00 Coffee/Tea

16:00-17:30 Working Sessions

18:00-22:00 Visit to the Marathon Tomb Warriors - Reception at the Air Force Detachment Centre

Tuesday, August 31

09:00-12:30 *Meeting of the ICMH Full Board*

09:00-10:30 Working Sessions

10:30-11:00 Coffee/Tea

11:00-12:30 Working Sessions

12:30-14:00 Lunch at the Conference Venue

14:00-15:30 Working Sessions/Lectures by the Corvisier Prize Laureates

15:30-16:00 Coffee/Tea

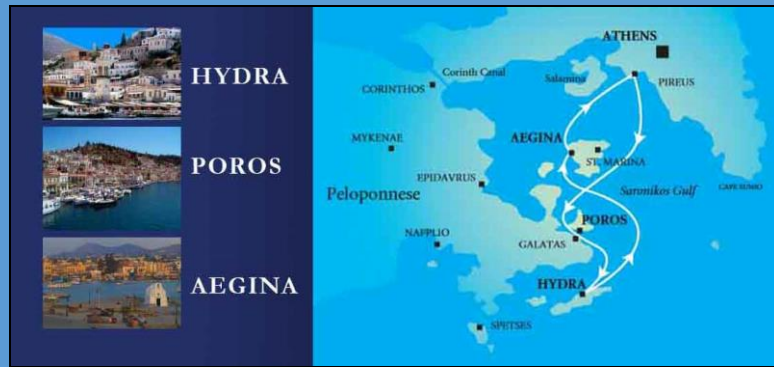
16:00-17:30 Working Sessions/Workshop for PhD Candidates

18:00-22:00 Visit to the 747 Special Engineer Battalion – Reception



Wednesday, September 1

09:00-20:00 All Day Cruise to the islands of the Argosaronic Gulf



Thursday, September 2

09:00-10:30
 10:30-11:00
 11:00-12:30
 12:30-14:00
 14:00-15:30
 15:30-16:00
 16:00-17:30
 18:00-22:00

Working Sessions
 Coffee/Tea
 Working Sessions
 Lunch at the Conference Venue
 Working Sessions
 Coffee/Tea
 Working Sessions
 Visit to the War Museum – Reception



Friday, September 3

09:00-10:30
 10:30-11:00
 11:00-12:30
 12:30-14:00
 14:00-14:30
 14:30-17:00
 20:00

Working Sessions
 Coffee/Tea
 Working Sessions
 Lunch at the Conference Venue
 Closing Address
 General Assembly
 Farewell Dinner

Saturday, September 4

Post Congress Tour (Tour of Peloponnese)

Accompanying Persons Programme

Monday, August 30

11:00-12:30

Visit to the Benaki Museum

12:30-14:00

Lunch at the Hellenic Armed Forces Officers' Club

14:00-17:00

Visit to the Museum of Cycladic Art



Tuesday, August 31

09:30-14:00

Guided tour at the Acropolis and the Ancient Agora -
Lunch

Thursday, September 2

09:00-16:00

Guided tour at the Sounion Archaeological site - Lunch

Friday, September 3

09:30-14:00

Visit to the National Archaeological Museum of Athens
- Lunch

“Independence Wars since the XVIII Century”

The year 2021 is the 200th anniversary of the Hellenic War of Independence which resulted in the establishment of an independent Hellenic State.

Conference Topics

The Congress will invite all participants to discuss the following, but not exclusive, sub-topics: *or* (the following sub-topics, but not exclusively)

1. Nationalism, the self-determination concept and the birth of new States.
2. Causes and results of independence wars. The interrelation of revolutionary warfare in the society, economy, diplomacy, culture and religious beliefs.
3. Strategic theory and wars of independence.
4. Wars of independence, the road to victory and major battles.
5. Insurgency, counterinsurgency and the transformation of revolutionary armies.
6. The influence of national identity in the selection and formation of civil-military alliances during national liberation struggles.
7. The shaping of national military strategies combining the local resources and the geopolitical balance of power.
8. Women and underage in revolutionary warfare.
9. The Age of Revolution: the rise of nation-States and the societies' evolution.
10. Wars of independence in the Balkans and in the Middle East before and after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.
11. Wars of independence in the era of the Cold War and its aftermath.

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Update:

The XLVII Congress of the International Commission of Military History 28th August-2nd September 2022, Seoul, ROK

The XLVII Congress of the International Commission of Military History will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 28th August to 2nd September 2022. The Congress' General Theme will be "Military Conflicts during the Cold War (1945-1991)." A Power Point presentation with preliminary information including backgrounds for hosting on the 69th year of the Korean Armistice Agreement of the Korean War was shown in Sofia, Bulgaria, at the XLV Congress in 2019. The South Korean Military History Commission remains concerned about the pandemic situation and is examining additional conference participation courses of action. A virtual, on-line Congress is a possible option if COVID-19 quarantine requirements will not allow the in-person Congress. Nevertheless, we are closely watching the situation and taking actions to reflect budgets and plans to prepare the XLVII Congress in Seoul. We will develop and post on-line the dedicated Webpage for the XLVII Congress in the second half of 2021 and run a test around December 2021, which will provide additional information on conference preparations, the program, and participant instructions.

Lt. Col. Jeong Ki Kim, Ph.D., ROK Army, pakjisan@naver.com



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The XXIII International Congress of Historical Sciences Poznań, 22nd-28th August 2021

As Affiliated Commission, at beginning of December 2020 ICMH received the following information from the Board of the International Commission of Historical Sciences:

“We are happy to inform you that the Board of ICHS and the Organizing Committee have agreed that the XXIII Congress in Poznań will indeed be held on this date regardless of the circumstances. Every effort will be made to hold it in a traditional “face to face” form, in compliance with recommended health protocols and with the utmost care for the safety of participants. The content of the program therefore remains the responsibility of the panel organizers, whom we thank in advance for their efforts. We are aware that moving the Congress into the virtual sphere would be a big loss for all of us. However, in the face of the pandemic spread of Covid-19, the Organizing Committee, in close contact with the ICHS Board, is considering the possibility of offering participation in some Congress events also on a virtual basis. This may include both General Assemblies and the Award Ceremony, which we still hope will take place in normal form.

We would like to remind you that with the decision to postpone the Congress, the Early Bird registration has been extended to March 31, 2021. There is also still possibility to apply for support within the Solidarity Fund. All final decisions regarding the Congress, especially its form, will be announced in January 2021”.

An ICMH panel, already included in the programme of the ICHS Congress in 2020, will be confirmed for next year.

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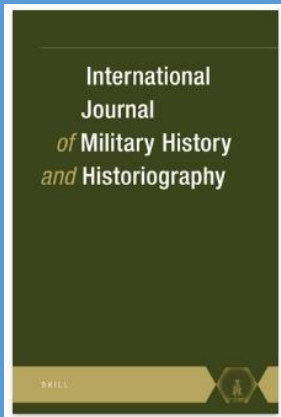
Bibliographical Committee Update

Bibliographical 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 IJMH continues its successful trajectory and can now definitely be considered an established academic journal in Military History. The ICMH’s flagship publication consistently attracts high quality submissions from around the world, and we have thus again been able to publish two outstanding issues in this year’s volume. The first issue of 2020 clearly illustrates the IJMH’s chronological breadth in that it

features two articles on Ancient Military History, with both Greece and Rome being represented. The issue also contains the article by the 2019 Early Career Prize winner, Hosub Shim, on “The Battle of An Khe Pass (1972): The Implications of the South Korean Army’s Pyrrhic Victory in the Vietnamization Phase of the Vietnam War”. This is complemented by a historiographical article on military innovation. The second issue, which is fresh off the press, is again more modern in character, and features excellent contributions on the Russo-British submarine flotilla in the Baltic during the First World War, Jewish partisans in the Second World War, the U.S. decision to use nuclear weapons against Japan, and the “Deep Battle” concept in the late Cold War. Meanwhile, both these issues contain excellent book review sections (“Bibliographical Records”), produced with a large number of contributions from members of the Bibliographical Committee.



The excellent working relationship within the IJMH’s editorial team continues to be a major asset to the journal, and we are thankful for being able to continue to count on the ICMH leadership’s backing. Also, while we are grateful for the academic support of our distinguished Advisory Board, the Bibliographical Committee remains the IJMH’s pillar, and numerous members consistently contribute excellent book reviews. There are, however, a number of inactive members, from whom we would also like to receive reviews on books published in, on, or in relation to their country. This would give the journal a broader, more international historiographical relevance. Finally, the working relationship with Brill remains excellent and productive. In light of the IJMH’s success, we have notably agreed with our Brill editor, Kate Hammond, to increase the page number of the yearly volumes.

We will very much continue in our endeavour to make the IJMH one of the leading journals in Military History and are confident that we are now safely on that trajectory. We would thus like to invite you to read this year’s issues and, if you have not already done so, recommend to your institutions to purchase a subscription.

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ICMH 2021 André Corvisier Prize for Ph.D. Theses on Military History

1. The International Commission of Military History awards the “André Corvisier Prize for PhD theses on 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/>).

2. The PhD degree can be awarded in any academic discipline and is not restricted to Military History only. However, the thesis must deal with Military History in the broadest sense: the history of warfare, of military campaigns, of the armed forces, of military thought and philosophy, diplomatic aspects of conflicts, causes and effects of wars, defence economics, civil-military relations, military technology, military leadership, and demographics of military forces.

3. For the 2021 edition, the prize will be awarded for a PhD thesis discussed and approved in 2020 in a recognized University.
4. The amount of the Prize is fixed at € 3,000 plus a maximum of € 1,500 to cover the recipient's expenses for participation at the award ceremony during the XLVI ICMH Congress in Athens in September 2021.
5. Candidates must send a scanned certificate of their PhD degree, a *curriculum vitae*, & a Pdf copy of their thesis to the Vice President of ICMH, Dr Harold Raugh (INFFAOHER7@aol.com) before 31 Jan 2021.
6. The thesis may be in any language; however, a translation in any of the ICMH official languages (English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish) is required if the language employed is different. This applies also to the scanned certification of the PhD title and to the curriculum vitae
7. The Prize will be awarded by a Jury of seven persons, chaired by the President of ICMH and including the members of the ICMH Executive Board and the President and the Secretary of the ICMH Educational Committee. With the approval of the President of ICMH, members of the Jury unable to participate may designate a substitute. The Jury may decide not to award the Prize if no thesis is considered worthy or may decide to award it ex aequo to two doctors, dividing the amount of money. The Jury's decisions are taken by simple majority.
8. The winner will be required to write an article drawn from his thesis to be published in the International Journal of Military History and Historiography, after peer review.
9. Requests for any further information should be addressed to Dr. Harold Raugh.

The President of the International Commission of Military History
 Massimo de Leonardis
 Professor (ret.) of History of International Relations and Institutions
 Department of Political Sciences of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan (Italy)

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ICMH NEWSLETTER CHANGE OF EDITOR

Dr. Harold Raugh, Vice President, ICMH, is now the editor of the *ICMH Newsletter*. He takes over the *Newsletter* editorship from Dr. Kris Quanten, Secretary-General, and we offer Kris our sincerest gratitude and congratulations for having accomplished this task in such an excellent manner.

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 35	submission deadline 20 May 2021	publication date 10 June 2021
Issue 36	submission deadline 20 Nov 2021	publication date 10 Dec 2021
Issue 37	submission deadline 20 May 2022	publication date 10 June 2022
Issue 38	submission deadline 20 Nov 2022	publication date 10 Dec 2022

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 NEWS ROUND-UP

- Grant to ICMH from the Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation. For the fifth time the Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation accorded to ICMH a generous grant of \$ 2,000. Very special thanks are due to the Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation's President, Col. Willard B. Snyder, J.D., USAR (Ret.), member of the ICMH Full Board and President's special delegate for contacts with foundations and museums.

- Dr. Jordan Baev, Bulgarian Commission of Military History, recently submitted the digital version of the ACTA from the 2019 ICMH Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, to the ICMH. It is now posted on the ICMH website. The paper copies of the 2019 ICMH Sofia Conference ACTA will be presented at the 2021 Conference in Athens.
- Mr. Norberto Traub Gainsborg, President, Research Institute, Historical Aeronautics of Chile, recently announced the publication of the October 2020 issue of the excellent journal AEROHISTORIA. This can be accessed, along with other previous bulletins and special monographs, from their website www.historiaaeronauticadechile.cl.

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NEWS FROM NATIONAL COMMISSIONS



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

The French Commission is actively engaged in many historical projects and activities:

- We participated in conferences on the 1870-1871 Franco-Prussian War, where some of our members made relevant presentations.
- Our President, M. Jean-David AVENEL, participated in a conference, related to the famous battle of Bazeilles near Sedan, at the *Colloque des troupes de Marine* at Ecole Militaire in Paris.
- General Jean-Philippe GANASCIA, a member of CFHM and President of the Military Studies Society "la Sabretache," launched an article anthology about this war (with 19 contributions from French and Swiss authors). I am Editor-in-Chief of this publication.
- I am also responsible for the organization of, and will make presentations at three congresses: one about the siege of Paris, another about the war near and inside the town of Sedan, and the last about the life of residents during the occupation by the Prussian troops in Eastern France. I spoke recently about the battle of Sedan at the Ossuary of Douaumont on the Verdun battlefield.

Other activities:

- We publish different conference presentations of CFHM members in our Commission bulletin.
- M. José MAIGRE, member of the full board, wrote a book about Ecole Militaire de Saint Cyr; that will be published soon.
- Our Secretary General, M. Michel LOUSTAU, writes brief accounts of books that can be translated into English.

Submitted by Dr Francine SAINT-RAMOND

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Germany / Allemagne / Deutschland / Germania / Alemania

GERMAN COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORY / DEUTSCHE KOMMISSION FÜR MILITÄRGESCHICHTE

Due to Covid-19 the German commission has ceased all of its public activities since March. The annual meeting and conference scheduled for April were hence cancelled. The Centre for Military History and Social Sciences, i.e. the core of the German commission, has continued its work though. Between mid-March and mid-May the researchers worked from home followed by a transition phase with weekly alternating work shifts until early September (work at home, work in the office). During this period, the Centre created new outreach activities such as producing podcasts on military history topics. The Centre is currently running again under normal working conditions but the current situation with rising infection numbers puts a big question mark behind it.

Submitted by Dr. Peter Lieb, Secretary-General

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Italy / Italie / Italien / Italia / Italia

ITALIAN COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORY / COMMISSIONE ITALIANA DI STORIA MILITARE

The Italian Commission of Military History/Historical Office of the Defence Staff has published in print and on line the volume of Acta of the International Congress, sponsored by ICMH, organized in Rome in November 2019: Aa. Vv., *Il 1919. Un'Italia vittoriosa e provata in un'Europa in trasformazione. Problemi e prospettive*, Ministero della Difesa, Roma, 2020. The volume can be downloaded at: https://www.difesa.it/Area_Storica_HTML/editoria/2019/Il_1919_Italia_vittoriosa_problematrice_prospettive/Pagine/default.aspx

On the occasion of the centenary of the establishment of the Royal Italian Air Force as an independent Armed Force on 28 March 1923, the Italian Air Force General Staff intends to take an initiative to publish a series of historical works analysing the main events which have had an impact on the Royal Italian Air Force and the Italian Air Force over these hundred years, both in relation to Italy's national history and the global evolution of military aviation. The call for papers can be found at <http://www.icmh-cihm.org/en/89-call-for-papers-italian-air-force>

Submitted by Captain (Navy) Michele Spezzano, President

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ROMANIAN COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORY

Board Changes

In June 2020, the Board of the Romanian Commission of Military History adopted a series of decisions regarding the composition of its leadership. Dr. Maria Georgescu decided to retire from her position as Secretary General of the RCMH, a function that she held successfully for the last 20 years. Dr. Alesandru Dutu informed that, due to his health problems, he would not be able to continue in his capacity as vice-president of the RCMH.

Given these developments, the RCMH's board decided to appoint Dr. Carmen Sorina Rijnoveanu as Secretary General of the Romanian Commission.

Therefore, the leadership structure of the RCMH is as follows:

- President: Colonel (r) Prof. Petre Otu
- Vice-president: Colonel (r) Prof. Alexandru Osea
- Secretary General: Dr. Carmen Sorina Rijnoveanu
- Members: Commander (ret) Gheorghe Vartic, Prof. Maria Georgescu, Prof. Dumitru Preda, Col (ret) Dr. Ilie Schipor

In July 2020, Dr. Carmen Sorina Rijnoveanu was appointed Acting Director of the Institute for Political Studies of Defence and Military History, Ministry of National Defence. The Institute hosts and coordinates the Secretariat of the Romanian Commission of Military History.

Scientific Activities

The Romanian Commission of Military History has finalized the latest issue of the Review of Military History (no. 5-6/2020) which will be published in December 2020. The general topic of the issue is focused on the political and military dynamics during the inter-war period from integration (1918) to territorial collapse (1940).

Submitted by Dr. Carmen Sorina Rijnoveanu, Secretary-General

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SLOVAK COMMISSION FOR MILITARY HISTORY

The Slovak Commission for Military History reports that Slovak military historians continue to be engaged both in scientific activities and in the popularisation of their military past as well.

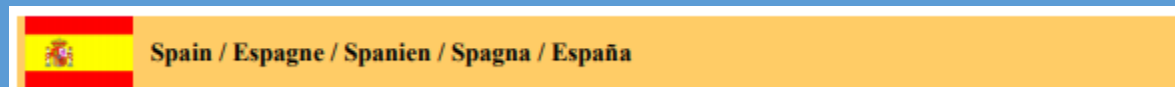
In 2020, Slovak military historians prepared four publications: Matej Medvecký wrote a book on Czechoslovak military intelligence in the post-WW2 period; Peter Chorvát prepared an edition of archival sources on the Austro-Hungarian Army and its relations with society; Peter Šumichrast edited a collection of studies in honour of colleague Jozef Bystrický (in honour of his 70th birthday); and Imrich Purdek edited a collection of studies in honour of colleague Vladimír Segeš (to recognize his 70th birthday).

Our colleagues prepared or participated on preparation of several exhibitions: an exhibition dedicated to fights in Slovakia in 1919 and the French military mission (May 2019-February 2020, Košice, Bratislava); an exhibition dedicated to the role of the army in the Slovak National Uprising in 1944 (September 2019-April 2020, Prague; June-November 2020, Bratislava); an exhibition dedicated to Czechoslovak legions (opened in July 2020, Svidník); and finally, an exhibition dedicated to the most significant figure in modern Slovak history, General Milan Rastislav Štefánik (October 2019-May 2020, Bratislava; July-August 2020, Prague). The last mentioned exhibition received a special award for its role enhancing awareness of Slovak cultural heritage.

Our colleagues-archivists actively participated in the digitalisation of military record books to provide information to the worldwide project “World Remembers” (organized by Military History Museum Ottawa), dedicated to the victims of World War I.

Submitted by Dr. Matej Medvecký

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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:

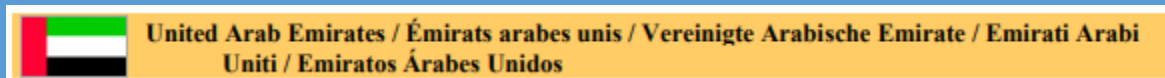
- Publication of the book *The Polish presence in the Spanish Military*, a research project directed by the Commission Member Dr. Enrique García. It can be obtained free of charge at <https://publicaciones.defensa.gob.es/the-polish-presence-in-the-spanish-military-libros-papel.html>. This is another volume in the prestigious ICMH *International Review of Military History* series.
- Participation in a seminar on “Human heritage in the Hispanic Monarchy,” at the University of Burgos.
- A virtual round table has been organized on the “Landing of Alhucemas (1925).” CESEDEN YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azsrvsWEwac>)
- 5 reviews have been published in the latest issue of the IJMH.

For the next few months, we are working to:

- Publication of a new research project: “The British presence in the Spanish Military,” directed by Colonel Benito Tauler, project involving authors from Italy, England, and Spain.
- Organization of four conferences to publicize the collection on the “Military History of Spain.”
- A new virtual round table about the “Black legend of Spain.”
- More reviews to the IJMH.

Submitted by Coronel Fernando Fontana de Grassa, Secretary-General

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Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the activities of the United Arab Emirates National Military History Commission have slowed down, with the exception of military history lectures to various military schools, including the Staff College.

One of our Commission’s members is writing a book about Trucial Oman Scouts during the period 1951-1971. This Force was established by the British during the British raj. It will be published in 2021.

The Centre of the Museum and Military History is sponsoring a book about Ramadan Canon. The fasting month of Ramadan is a special time in UAE, marked by traditions honouring the spiritual season. One especially significant custom is the ritual firing of cannons at sunset, known as *midfa al iftar*, which can be heard all around the city.

A group of military historians, associated with the Commission, are conducting research and collecting information about historical military camps.

There are also ongoing efforts to locate places of various air crashes and plane wrecks during WW2, particularly of British and American planes, in the UAE.

Submitted by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dr. Saif Albedwawi

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HONOURED HISTORIANS

- In recognition of their outstanding service to the ICMH and after the completion of the ICMH consultative process, Navy Captain José María Blanco Nuñez, Dr. Hans W. Pawlisch, and Lt. Gen. Alexandre de Sousa Pinto were awarded official Honorary Memberships of the ICMH Board on 11th October 2020.
- Dr. Kris Quanten, Secretary-General, ICMH, was recently recognized for his outstanding service and contributions to the Belgian Royal Military Academy by being elevated to the academic grade of full Professor and promotion to the Army rank of Colonel.

Congratulations to Kris, and this reflects great credit upon himself, his family, and the Belgian Armed Forces.

- Major General Dr. Joao Vieira Borges was recently appointed President of the Portuguese Commission of Military History.

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Obituary

The President, the Board, and the entire ICMH mourn Brigadier General Maurice Faivre, who passed away in Paris on the last 4th of November, aged 95.



After the Academy of St. Cyr, he attended the School of Armoured Cavalry in Saumur. He served in Algeria from 1955 to 1961 and was later admitted to the *Ecole Supérieure de Guerre* from 1964 to 1966.

His career continued in Baden, Germany, where in 1975 he directed the advanced centre of information, in the context of the Cold War.

As military historian he published various works on the war in Algeria, in particular on the *harkis*.

In 1999, he was elected Vice-President of the French Commission of Military History, of which he became President from to 2013 to 2015.

In 2016, he was appointed Commander of the *Légion d'Honneur*.

In 2019, he published the volume: *Les Armées dans la Guerre Froide en Centre-Europe 1945-1990. Forces, renseignement, plans d'opérations* (Paris, L'Harmattan).

Until recent years he was a familiar and active presence at our International Congresses.

The funeral was celebrated on the 6th of November at the St. Louis Chapel of *Ecole Militaire*. We join in the prayer for the eternal rest of his soul.

M. de L.

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The Christmas Truce, 1914

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ICMH Newsletter #34

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