

# ICMH Newsletter, Issue 28

## December 2017

---



With this Newsletter we want to keep you informed about the activities of the ICMH community. Last September, we had our 43<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Military History in Douala, Cameroon, which was a very interesting experience. In this issue you can read the reports about the academic presentations, the cultural program and the post-congress tour. Besides that, we also want to keep you informed about our future activities. Finally, we would like to wish you and your loved ones happy holidays and a wonderful 2018.

### CONTENTS

<b>The XLIII ICMH Congress in Douala</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
<b>The social and cultural program in Douala</b>	<b>p. 5</b>
<b>The Post-Congress Tour in Cameroon</b>	<b>p. 8</b>
<b>Report on the Board's and the General Assembly's meeting</b>	<b>p. 14</b>
<b>The XLIV ICMH Congress 2017 in Jerusalem – Israel</b>	<b>p. 16</b>
<b>The ICHS Congress in Poznan 2020</b>	<b>p. 18</b>
<b>Report on the IJMH</b>	<b>p. 18</b>
<b>The Corvisier Prize – Edition 2018</b>	<b>p. 19</b>
<b>News about conferences and events pertaining to military history</b>	<b>p. 21</b>
<b>News from the National Commissions</b>	<b>p. 23</b>

## International Commission of Military History

### The XLIII ICMH Congress in Douala

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

Our organization is called International Commission of Military History. Our international character is well demonstrated by our last Congresses. In 2015 we were in Beijing, Asia; last year we were in Plovdiv, Europe; in 2017 we were in Douala, Africa. In the history of our annual Congresses, started in 1969, this was the third time in Africa: in 2005 the Congress has been held in Rabat, Morocco; in 2005, in Cape Town, South Africa; in 2007, in Douala, Cameroon. After visiting either that part of Africa bordering the Mediterranean Sea or Southern Africa, we came to Black Africa, in a country considered as a sort of “Africa in miniature” because of its climatological, geographical, human and cultural diversity: beaches, mountains, rain forests and savannahs. We came with emotion and curiosity, convinced that Cameroon was the ideal country to host the discussions of our Congress for the reasons that I am going to explain.



Our general theme was World Wars and Colonies in History. Actually during contemporary history, before becoming an independent State, Cameroon experienced close relations with some of the main European colonial powers. Portuguese sailors reached the coast in 1472. They noted an abundance of the ghost shrimp *Lepidophthalmus turneranus* in the Wouri River and named it Rio dos Camarões (Shrimp River), which became Cameroon in English. The German Empire claimed the territory as the colony of Kamerun in 1884 and with the defeat of Germany in the First World War, Kamerun became a League of Nations’ mandate territory of type B and in 1919 was split into French Cameroun and British Cameroon. The League of Nations’ mandates were converted into United Nations’ Trusteeships in 1946, and the question of independence became a pressing issue in French Cameroun. On 1st January 1960 French Cameroun gained independence from France. On 1st October 1961, the formerly British Southern Cameroon united with French Cameroun to form the Federal Republic of Cameroon. As a heritage of its past, Cameroon is a member of both the

## International Commission of Military History

Commonwealth of Nations and of La Francophonie and French and English are both official languages. Therefore, Cameroon was actually the ideal place to discuss our general theme. The colonial period left a controversial inheritance, mixing good and bad memories. I would say that the case of Cameroon is an excellent example of the prevalence of an atmosphere of collaboration and friendship between the former colonizers and the former colonized.

There is a certain continuity between our Congresses of 2016 and 2017. Last year the general theme was Regional Wars from 17th Century to the Present, and Their Global Impacts. Actually wars in the colonies may fall in the category of regional war and some papers dealt with them. This year we went more deeply into the subject, while we concentrated on the XX century. A few papers dealt with the century's first decade, most of them focused on the period of the Great war and beyond. If we look to the last century, as we did this year, most historians would agree that the First World War of 1914-1918 originated in the European Continent and was focused on it. The German Weltpolitik annoyed the United Kingdom, but in my opinion Fritz Fisher's idea that Imperial Germany aimed to world domination is greatly exaggerated. However, the war was fought also in other continents and the peace conference had colonies as one of his problems. Germany was easily deprived of its colonial territories to the benefit of Britain, of the British Dominions, of France, of Japan, of the United States, even if Washington has always rejected the idea of having "colonies". Italy was annoyed for not receiving a fair share of the colonial booty, but it was not a prominent international issue. Much trickier was to divide the spoils of the Ottoman Empire establishing a new map of the Near and Middle East.

Adolf Hitler was not interested in regaining a colonial empire for Germany beyond Europe. He wanted a living space (*Lebensraum*) in Eastern Europe for economic and strategic reasons. Moreover, his racist ideology regarded the Slavs as inferior people. The Second World War began in Europe on September 1, 1939 for reasons concerning the European balance of power. But a Chinese man would say that this is a Eurocentric vision, and that the war – which he would call as the Global Antifascist War – indeed began earlier, on July 7, 1937, when the Japanese Empire unleashed total war against China. The Europeans fought outside Europe and employed colonial troops on the Old Continent: Africans for the French, Indians and Nepalis – the famous and terrible Gurkhas – for the British. This participation favored the awakening of colonized peoples, which was already taking place. The defeat suffered by Britain in Singapore due to the Japanese sounded the death knell for the British Empire. Europe completed its suicide as the dominant world power, a process begun with the Great War. The real shots of the third world war of the XX century were fired outside Europe. A good history of the Cold War written by an Italian scholar bears the subtitle The Last Conflict for Europe. This is correct, but incomplete, since the Cold War involved the entire world. Actually the period between 1945 and 1989 saw peace in Europe, but not outside. The two blocks clashed in the so called "wars by proxy", from Korea to Vietnam to the many Communist guerrillas, which were also wars of liberation from colonialism.



## International Commission of Military History

Looking to the Congress's sixteen panels and to the PhD candidates' seminar we can surely state that the General theme and the sub-themes were widely addressed. Many papers were based on original researches. In particular, it was interesting to compare European perceptions to those of the indigenous peoples. Reading the Acta will be a rewarding experience for professional historians and general readers.



Particular praise deserves the keen interest demonstrated for the Congress by Cameroonian authorities at all levels, both civilian and military. Another reason for satisfaction was the presence of many new scholars, most of them young. At the same time, regret must be expressed for the rather low participation or the absence of some National Commissions traditionally active within ICMH, even some which expressed their strong feelings in favour of a Congress in Douala.



**The social and cultural program in Douala**

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

Besides the academic program, the Cameroonian Commission proposed a very tentative cultural and social program. The Congress itself took place in the center of Douala, the greatest harbor of the country, with the majestic delta of the Wouri river which flows into the Gulf of Guinea. The estuary contains extensive mangrove forests, which was a particular experience to visit by pirogue. From a military historical point of view, the city was very interesting, as several relicts still refer to its colonial past as to its role during the two World Wars.



Not only in Douala, but also in the wider area around there were plenty of interesting sites to visit, such as the Doual'Art Museum, the colonial Governor's palace in Buea, the Special Forces Rapid Reaction Unit, the Limbe Wild Life Centre, the banana and rubber plantations and of course the numerous lively local markets. Most visits were animated with live music and dance which are part of the African hospitality.



In the evening we had the pleasure of discovering the excellent African cuisine and especially the delicious Cameroon ghost shrimp. For many participants this was the appropriate moment to deepen mutual contacts and discuss more in depth historical issues. The excellent local '33 beer favored without doubt the discussions. In short, the cultural program was a successful outing, with a balanced historical, cultural and culinary program. Congratulations to the organizers!



## International Commission of Military History

At the end of the Congress the hostesses who accompanied the participants hosted a small market with some typical local souvenirs. The proceeds of this sale were intended for the children of the local orphanage. On December 2 the hostesses organized a ceremony and a special meal for the orphans during which the goods they bought with the revenues were handed over. Both the hostesses and the orphans would like to thank all the ICMH-participants whole-heartedly for their sincere charity!





International Commission of Military History





## International Commission of Military History

### The Post-Congress Tour in Cameroon 9- 14 September 2017

Dr. Hans Pawlisch

Following a very successful ICMH conference in Douala, our Cameroon hosts staged a six-day tour carrying thirty passengers. Six of our colleagues came from the Netherlands, three from the United Arab Emirates, and two from the USA. In addition we were joined by nineteen of our Cameroon colleagues who acted as escorts and guides accompanying us from Douala to the national capital of Yaoundé and points beyond. The tour focused mainly on the Southwest and Southern parts of the country featuring visits with reigning potentates in Foumban, Bafoussam, and the Ekom-Nikam Falls area to include all cultural sites and museums. Throughout we had French and English-speaking guides to explain and interpret a well-planned itinerary that included excellent hotel accommodations.

Our initial stop in the national capital of Yaoundé yielded special insights into the cultural and recent political history of Cameroon. Our hosts took us first to the Monument de Reunification, a spiral memorial commemorating the unification of Anglophone and Francophone areas that occurred following a 1972 referendum. Thereafter a tour through the French built National Museum, which served first as the colonial governor's palace and later as the Presidential Palace, carried us through centuries of ethnographic and art history to include political events before and after independence from French colonial rule in 1960. The newly created exhibition on the trans-Atlantic slave trade focusing on Cameroon and neighboring countries was especially interesting. Our itinerary also encompassed a visit to Ebogo, an eco-tourist site featuring a dugout canoe journey across a still lake to visit the adjacent rain forest and a one thousand year old tree.







The next leg of our journey took us northwest toward Fouban, a predominantly Muslim town and home to Sultan Ibrahim Mbombo Njoya, King of the Bamoun people. His Royal Highness (HRH) received us with great pomp replete with ceremonial musicians and dancers. In turn the Sultan was presented with the ICMH medal. Following a tour through the Sultan's museum featuring masks, weapons, thrones and other artifacts of Bamoun culture, the King hosted a splendid luncheon in the royal quarters. Thereafter we returned to our hotel, and after a quiet night's repose embarked on the next day's journey to Bafoussam and the nearby palace of the paramount Chieftain or King of the Bandjoun people HRH Dr. Djomo Kanga.









## International Commission of Military History

Here we visited the King's palace, now a museum, featuring tall thin totem carved columns, bamboo walls and thatched roofing. Displayed artifacts included significant objects of cultural and artistic heritage crafted by the Bandjoun people—intricately carved statues and furniture, musical instruments and jewelry. Today the King lives in a modern palace adjacent to the museum structure that formerly served as the royal residence. Once again we were formally received by the King, who was also presented with the ICMH medal, and treated to a sumptuous feast before embarking on our next destination of Dschang.



## International Commission of Military History

Dschang was a colonial outpost created by the Germans in 1903 at an elevation of 4,600 feet. Passing through coffee and cocoa plantations, our itinerary took us to the Bamendjinda Museum. Built in 2011, the museum featured an archaeological, ethnographic and cultural history of the region from Neolithic times to the present. The museum boasts an impressive but also controversial display illustrating how local collaboration with the slave trade enabled coastal chieftains and European slave traders to supply the trans-Atlantic slave market. From Dschang we journeyed to Ekom-Nkam Falls, a site used in the famous 1984 film 'Greystoke', a modern adaptation of the Edgar Rice Burrough's book Tarzan of the Apes.



At Ekom-Nkam Falls, our hosts included not one, but three local Kings, one of whom was our friend, Commander Blaise Mbue Ngappe, Chief of the Manjo Subdivision. At the base of the falls, those intrepid enough to descend and later ascend the stone stairs to and from the falls were invited to participate in a ritual dance to propitiate the water gods. After an exhausting climb we were received by King Ndoumbe Epanio Theodore, Chief of Ekol-Nkam village adjacent to the waterfall. We were then hosted to a formal luncheon compliments of Paramount King Pandong, Chief of the Mbo clan in the Mounjo Division. Those who attended this tour will long remember the rainbow-mist- covered falls and the generous hospitality shown to our party. Fatigued



## International Commission of Military History

but with full bellies, we then boarded our tour bus, returning to Douala and the airline terminal for the departure home. The post-Congress tour of Cameroon was interesting and enjoyable.



## International Commission of Military History

### Report on the Board's and the General Assembly's meeting

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

As usual, the ICMH ExBoard, the Full Board and the General Assembly met on the occasion of the annual Congress. The President was glad to report that the ExBoard is working as a very cohesive and productive team. Here follows a summary of the conclusions, updated with developments following the meetings.

The situation of future Congresses is at the moment as follows. Congress in Israel will take place near Jerusalem from 2 until 7 September 2018 on the general theme: 'The Creation of New States and the Collapse of Old Empires in the XXth Century'. Following the renunciation of the U.S. Commission to host the Congress, close contacts are developed with the Russian Commission, which had advanced and then renounced its candidature for 2018 in favour of Israel, in order to organize the 2019 Congress in Moscow. The Polish Commission confirmed its intention to host the Congress of 2020 in Poznan, where the ICHS quinquennial Congress will take place. For 2021 Greece has already advanced her candidature, while also Bulgaria is prepared to host a Congress in 2021 or 2022. Gen. Clemmessen, President of the Danish Commission, has advanced a joint Danish and Swedish proposal for organizing in the future a "mini Congress" in Copenhagen, which, according to the General Assembly's deliberation in Plovdiv, might be adopted if a Congress on the usual pattern proves impossible to realize. A revision of the guidelines for organizing Congresses was approved and is published on the website. A wide consultation will be made within the ICMH community to solicit ideas for improving our Congresses, particularly on the scientific side.

Prof. Dr. Jan Hoffenaar reported that the transition from a Swiss to a Dutch Treasurer has been completed and the ICMH's financial situation is healthy. The budgets for 2016 and 2017, certified by the verifiers, and the proposed budget for 2018 were approved.





## International Commission of Military History

No member of the Archives Committee was present in Douala. Vice President Dr. Hans Pawlisch made a presentation of the Committee's activities to the General Assembly. A call will be circulated to the National Commissions' Presidents for designating new members of the Committee, which at the moment numbers only three. Dr. Michael Olsansky, President of the Educational Committee reported on the activities, which saw a good improvement in the participation of PhD candidates in the annual Congress. The governing bodies ratified the transition in the leadership of the Bibliographic Committee and in the Editorship of the International Journal of Military History and Historiography.

The Acta of the Plovdiv Congress are not ready yet. This is regretted but should not cause too much concern; it happened also in the past.

The Secretary General presented the new website (<http://www.icmh-cihm.org/en/>) managed by Dr. Davide Borsani, Academic assistant to the President. The new website, much more performant, was greatly appreciated.

The General Assembly approved the new Statute, which came immediately into force. According to Art. 17.i of this new Statute the General Assembly approved the proposal to appoint Col. Prof. Dimitar Minchev, President of the Bulgarian Commission of Military History, «Honorary member of the Board». The General Assembly also approved the proposal to the Bibliographic Committee to appoint Dr. Mauro Mantovani as its «Honorary President», after the completion of the transition process to the same Committee and to the Editorship of the International Journal of Military and Historiography. with his full cooperation.

The General Assembly was followed by the Award ceremony of the *André Corvisier* Prize.



## International Commission of Military History

### The XLIV ICMH Congress 2017 in Jerusalem – Israel

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

The XLIV ICMH Congress will be hosted by the Israeli Commission in Jerusalem from Sunday 2 until Friday 7 September 2018. The central theme of the Congress is ***'The creation of New States and the collapse of Old Empires in the XX<sup>th</sup> century'***. The year 2018 coincides with two important events : the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel and the end of the WWI Centenary. This double anniversary offers a good opportunity to discuss both the end of WWI and the large number of new states which have been created afterwards as also the birth of new states in the context of wars of liberation and independence.

The Congress will take place in the Ye'arim Hotel which is situated near Jerusalem on one of the highest peaks fully immersed in nature's charm. For the accommodation of the participants, different types of rooms with different kinds of prices will be proposed. For the PhD candidates a special PhD-Workshop will be elaborated in cooperation with the Education Commission. Especially for these young historians, convenient accommodation opportunities at lower prices will be provided.



The Israeli Commission will develop a website with all the relevant information concerning the academic program, the venue, the hotels and the pre-congress tour. All registration has to be done on this website which will be operational from 7 January 2018 on. Those who would like to present a paper must keep in mind that the deadline for the submission of the abstract is 1 March 2018. The conference languages are Hebrew, English and French.



## International Commission of Military History

Besides the academic program, the Israeli Commission also proposes an attractive social program, which includes visits to the Old Jaffa, the Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv, the Dead Sea, Caesarea, the Latrun AFV Museum, Haifa, Acre, ...

For those who want to discover more of Israel, there is the Pre-Congress Cultural Tour which starts on 28 August and takes until 31 August. The proposed itinerary is mainly concentrated around the historical and scenic Galilee Region with the Bahai Gardens-Haifa, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Mary's Well Nazareth, the Kibutz Ramat Yochanan, ... Participants will finally return to their respective countries from Ben-Gurion International Airport.

Personal visa can be issued by the Israeli Commission upon request for delegates from countries without diplomatic relations with Israel.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Jerusalem!



## **International Commission of Military History**

### **The International Congress on Historical Sciences in Poznan in 2020**

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

The ICMH will participate to the Congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences, to which is affiliated, in Poznan in August 2020. Close contacts with the International Commission of History of International Relations produced the proposal, accepted by ICHS, of joint panels of six scholars for each Commission on the general subject Disarmament and Rearmament after the World Wars in the XX century. Within ICMH six scholars answered the President's call for papers: Andrew Orr, Ph.D., Marcel Berni, MA, Davide Borsani, Ph.D, Prof. Massimo de Leonardis, Col. Dr. M. Christian Ortner, Prof. Gianluca Pastori.

---

### **Report on the International Journal of Military History and Historiography**

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

In late May, Publisher Brill announced its decision not to renew Dr. Mantovani's contract as Editor of the International Journal of Military History and Historiography, expiring next 15th December. After an extensive consultation within the ExBoard, the President nominated as Editor the former Scientific Editor Dr. Marco Wyss and Publisher Brill appointed him. The procedure strictly complied with the existing rules agreed by ICMH and Brill.

Since their mandate expired in September 2017, it was also necessary to appoint a new President and a new Secretary General of the Bibliographic Committee. According to Art. 4c of the statutes of the BC: «The President and the Secretary-General are appointed by agreement between the BC, the Executive Board of the ICMH and the Publisher». Again after an extensive consultation, the ExBoard and the Publisher agreed to the appointment of Dr. Marco Wyss as President and Dr. Winfried Heinemann as Secretary General.

This proposal had then to be endorsed by the BC's members. Since it was impossible to have a BC's meeting in Douala, where only one member was present, the ExBoard decided to have a telematics vote of all members, through a procedure assuring a secret ballot. This kind of procedure had already been used within the Full Board and is explicitly mentioned in the new Statute. The result was that nine members over eighteen casted their votes, all in favour of the proposal. Moreover, it had been stipulated that no vote would have been considered tacit assent. Therefore, Dr. Marco Wyss and Dr. Winfried Heinemann have been appointed respectively as President and Secretary General of the Bibliographic Committee for the quinquennium 2017-2022.

---



## International Commission of Military History

### The Corvisier Prize – Edition 2018

Dr. Davide Borsani

After the great success of the first edition, which saw twenty-six candidatures from ten countries, the International Commission of Military History launched the 2018 edition of the “André Corvisier Prize for PhD Theses on Military History”. The award is named after the distinguished French scholar who was for ten years President of ICMH and then President of Honour. The ICMH is very honoured of receiving from Mrs Micheline Corvisier her warm appreciation for the institution of the prize.

Like last year, the award will go to a PhD thesis dealing with military history in the broadest sense: the history of warfare and military campaigns, the evolution of military doctrines and technology, the diplomatic dimensions of wars, the economics of defence, the relationship between civil and military apparatus and so on.

The prize will be awarded by a distinguished jury of seven persons, chaired by the President of the ICMH, Prof. Massimo de Leonardis, and including the members of the Executive Board and the President and the Secretary of the Education Committee, Dr. Michael Olsansky and Prof. Michael Epkenhans. The winner will be required to participate to the award ceremony during the XLIV ICMH Congress in Jerusalem next year and write an article to be published on the International Journal of Military History and Historiography, after peer review.

For any further information, visit our new website [www.icmh-cihm.org](http://www.icmh-cihm.org).



**The Corvisier Prize in 2017 was awarded to Dr Caleb William Carges**

## International Commission of Military History

Honorary President Dr. Kees Schulten had contact with the widow of André Corvisier. She was delighted to learn that we created an academic prize named after her husband. Hereafter is published the letter she wrote to express her gratitude to ICMH.

**Madame Micheline CORVISIER**  
LE BREMIEN NOTRE-DAME

*Le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2017*

*Maison de Retraite pour personnes âgées*  
2, rue de l'orée du bois  
27770 ILLIERS L'EVEQUE  
TEL : 02 37 62 81 22

À **Kees SCHULTEN**  
**Anna Paulownastraat 117 flat 15**  
**2518 BD Den Haag**  
**PAYS - BAS**

Chers amis,

Je vous remercie pour votre lettre. C'est avec un grand plaisir que je vois que l'amitié que nous avons contractée au sein de la Commission Internationale d'Histoire Militaire a persisté de nombreuses années.

C'est aussi une très bonne nouvelle que votre lettre m'a apportée : la création d'un prix **André CORVISIER**, lors de votre dernière réunion à Douala!

C'est là un honneur dont mon mari aurait été très fier.

Vous savez, mon cher Kees, vous qui avez été son « secrétaire général », combien dévoué durant dix ans, combien il était heureux lors des nombreuses réunions qui se déroulèrent alors.

Je vous demande donc, d'être mon interprète et celui de mes enfants, pour remercier, en notre nom, le président, le « bureau » et tous les membres proches ou lointains de la C.I.H.M. pour l'honneur qu'ils ont fait à toute notre famille.

Chers amis, comme vous le voyez, je suis toujours là où vous nous aviez visités (si mes souvenirs sont exacts, c'était en 2013).

Vous serez toujours bien accueillis ici.

J'espère que votre santé et celle de Mike sont bonnes.

Je vous adresse mes très très affectueuses pensées.

Micheline CORVISIER





## International Commission of Military History

### News about conferences and events pertaining to military history

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

#### Conference in Rome on the Great War

On 24th and 25th October 2017 the *Ufficio Storico Stato Maggiore Difesa* (Italian Commission of Military History) organized in Rome its annual international conference. Continuing the series on the Great War, this year conference' theme was 1917. The Year of the turning point. Papers addressed various topics: The American intervention, the Russian revolutions, Pope Benedict XV's Peace Note, the political evolution in France, the Central Empires and the British Commonwealth, the developing Airpower, the rise of elite assault troops, the war propaganda, the military situation on the various fronts.



The conference had the sponsorship of ICMH, of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, the “*Sapienza*” University of Rome, the Italian Society of Military History, the Historical Offices of the different services of the Italian Armed Forces. Thirty papers by scholars from 4 countries were presented. The participation of members of ICMH as panelists was significant: The President Prof. de Leonardis, Col. Massimo Bettini, President of the Italian Commission, Lt. Col. Flavio Carbone, Secretary of the Archives Committee, Col. Mario Christian Ortner, of the Austrian Commission, Dr. Davide Borsani, Academic Assistant to the President, Prof. Gianluca Pastori, member of the Bibliographic Committee. The Acta will be published in Spring 2018.

#### A book on Military History wins an important Prize

The Jury (9 members, including the President of ICMH, Prof. de Leonardis) of the Scientific Section of the “*Premio Acqui Storia*”, the oldest and most important prize in Italy in the field of Contemporary History, choose as winner of the 50th Edition a book on Military History: *Italia 1866. Storia di una guerra perduta e vinta*, il Mulino, Bologna

## International Commission of Military History

2016. The volume tells the story of the Italian front during the war between the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Prussia, allied with Kingdom of Italy. The author, Prof. Hubert Heyriès (University of Montpellier 3 - France), is a leading French Military Historian who, in recent years, regularly presented papers to the annual conferences of the Italian Commission of Military History.

### **Route Liberation Project**

Route Liberation Project (<https://liberationroute.com/>) is an initiative of the Liberation Route Europe Foundation (<https://routesofliberation.com/liberation-route-europe-foundation>), created by a consortium of leading European Museums on the Second World War museums and other partners, with the support of the Dutch Foundation of Peace, Freedom and Veteran Support and of the European Union.

The Liberation Route Europe focuses on the liberation of continental Europe from National Socialist occupation, specifically the long-lasting consequences of the Second World War. The Liberation Route Europe links the main regions along the advance of the Western Allied Forces, from southern England, to the beaches of Normandy, the Belgium Ardennes, the Netherlands, the Hürtgenwald and on to Berlin. The route continues to the Polish city of Gdańsk, where a democratic revolution to overcome the division of Europe was launched nearly two generations later. The Campaign in Italy 1943-45 will be soon added to the Project. Through a website, tourist routes and exhibitions the Liberation Route Europe seeks to connect this history with the lives of today's Europeans, underscoring the role of international reconciliation in promoting reflection on the value of our hard-won freedoms.

Among the eight members of the Historical Advisory Committee are the Honorary President of ICMH, Prof. Em. Luc de Vos, and the current President, Prof. Massimo de Leonardis.

### ***The Instituto de Investigaciones Histórico Aeronauticas de Chile***

*The Instituto de Investigaciones Histórico Aeronauticas de Chile* manages a quite interesting website (<https://iihach.wixsite.com/historiaaeronautica>) and publishes a very rich and long monthly Bulletin on its activities. We invite all members of ICMH, in particularly those interested in the history of Aviation, to look into the website and ask to be included in the Bulletin's mailing list.



## International Commission of Military History

### News from the National Commissions

Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

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

- French Commission  
President  
Général Dominique **Cambournac**
  - Indonesian Commission  
President  
Brigadier General Darwin **Haroen**
  - United States Commission  
President  
Dr. Randy **Papadopoulos**
-