

ICMH Newsletter, Issue 27

July 2017



With this first Newsletter of 2017, we want to keep you informed about what's going on in the ICMH community. First of all, the Executive Board had a meeting on 11th and 12th May in Milan. The most important decisions taken during this reunion will be presented by the President. Of course we also have the XLIII Congress which will be organized this year in Douala (Cameroon). The Vice President and Secretary General already traveled in May to Douala for a staff visit. You can read their impressions concerning the preparations of the congress. From August on, the new ICMH website will be operational. In a brief article it will be presented. Finally, there is the Corvisier Prize, some reports on conferences and the latest news on publications.

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The Meeting of the ICMH ExBoard in Milan

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis – President

The ICMH ExBoard met in Milan on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th May, all members being present.

The ExBoard took note with satisfaction that some projects have been successfully accomplished: the new official gift and the Corvisier Prize. Others are on the way of being accomplished as the new Statute and the new website. The *International Journal of Military History and Historiography* is making good progresses as recognized also by the Publisher Brill. The Educational Committee performs well with the panel of PhD candidates.

The new official gift, produced by the Johnson s.r.l. is a bronze medal of a diameter of mm 55 which is presented in a blue case. On the recto it features the ICMH logo, on the verso the name in English and French.



The ExBoard reviewed the situation of future Congresses. Since Russia stepped down, Israel was the only candidate and the ExBoard recommended assigning the 44th Congress to this country; the decision was ratified by a telematics vote of the Full Board. The outline of the Congress in Tel Aviv was already given in Plovdiv by the Israeli Commission, which will make in Douala the final presentation. The title should be on lines similar to these: “*Consequences of wars: disappearance or fragmentation of old states and creation of new ones*”.

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Vice President Hans Pawlisch reported on the preparations' progress for the Congress in Baltimore in 2019. A more detailed presentation will be made in Douala at the ExBoard, Full Board and General Assembly.

For the Congress in 2020 the President will approach the President and the Secretary General of the Polish Commission to enquire if it is feasible a Congress in Poznan, where the quinquennial Congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences will take place. If the answer is negative, the candidature of Hamburg in Germany will be considered. The President will also consider having an ICMH panel at the ICHS Congress, maybe in collaboration with the Commission of History of International Relations. The Treasurer expressed his readiness to consider financing the necessary expenses.

For the Congress in 2021 Bulgaria and Greece announced their interest to host it.

In respect of the Acta of Congresses, the President proposed to abolish the possibility of having them only in electronic format. The ExBoard unanimously agreed.

Dr. Davide Borsani, academic assistant to the President, presented the outline of the new website, which found unanimous approval and should be operational in August.

The Treasurer Prof. Dr. Jan Hoffenaar presented the draft budgets to be approved in Douala.

The meeting was very productive, while it was stressed the necessity that all members of ICMH, in particular those holding offices at international and national level, take an active and constructive part in the Commission's life. The President and the Secretary General are always ready to exchange views and consider proposals.

ICMH staff visit to Cameroon, 28 May – 2 June 2017

Dr. Hans Pawlisch – Vice President

At the request of the Cameroon Commission on Military History, Secretary General Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Kris Quanten and I travelled to Douala and Yaoundé, Cameroon, to review and assist preparations for the 2017 ICMH Congress scheduled 2nd-8th September 2017.

During our stay in Douala we met with the Provincial Governor, the mayor, the commander and military/civilian staff of Military Region 2, the Chief of Staff, General Meka, and the President and Secretary-General of the Cameroon Commission. Discussion topics addressed the security situation, conference accommodation, payment options, academic programs and medical support. In a subsequent visit to

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Yaoundé we met with the Scientific Committee to review the academic program and publication of the Acta.

Throughout we received assurances that the Cameroon government will do everything within its power to make a successful Congress. Chief of Staff General Meka himself declared that he and the Cameroon Minister of Defense will attend the official opening and closing of the Congress. We also reviewed social activities to include the post-conference tour scheduled from Sunday 10th September until Friday 15th September.

On 30th May we received a thorough security briefing from the Commander and staff of Military Region 2. Also present were civilian security staff and uniformed members of the national police. We were informed that the threat level is low, and that there is no evidence of Boko Haram activity anywhere near the military sector where the meeting will be held. We received further assurance that the government will assign the full resources of the military and the police to protect congress participants and all related venues.

Accommodations for the conference are impressive. The main conference hotel will be the four-star Hotel Akwa Palace. The hotel manager agreed to provide fifty-five rooms available at a charge of 115 Euros to include breakfast. Another fifty-five rooms will be available at the nearby Residence la Falaise, a three star hotel charging 100 euros a night to include breakfast. For PhD students, rooms have been reserved at the Hotel La Falaise for 75 Euros to include breakfast. Daily transportation between hotels will be provided. All hotel payments and registration fees to include the post-conference tour, may be made by cash or credit card.



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The conference theme, *“World Wars and Colonies in History”*, promises to attract a wide variety of interests and specialties. We met with the Academic Commission which is finalizing the academic program. There will be two parallel sessions during the morning and afternoon. Academic sessions are well-planned and nearing completion. Simultaneous translation for all sessions will be available in French and English.

Medical support will be provided by military personnel and facilities. A medical team will be present during all activities. Participants are reminded that yellow fever and poliomyelitis vaccination is required for entry into Cameroon and that malaria preventive measures are strongly advised. Consult your health care provider for further information.

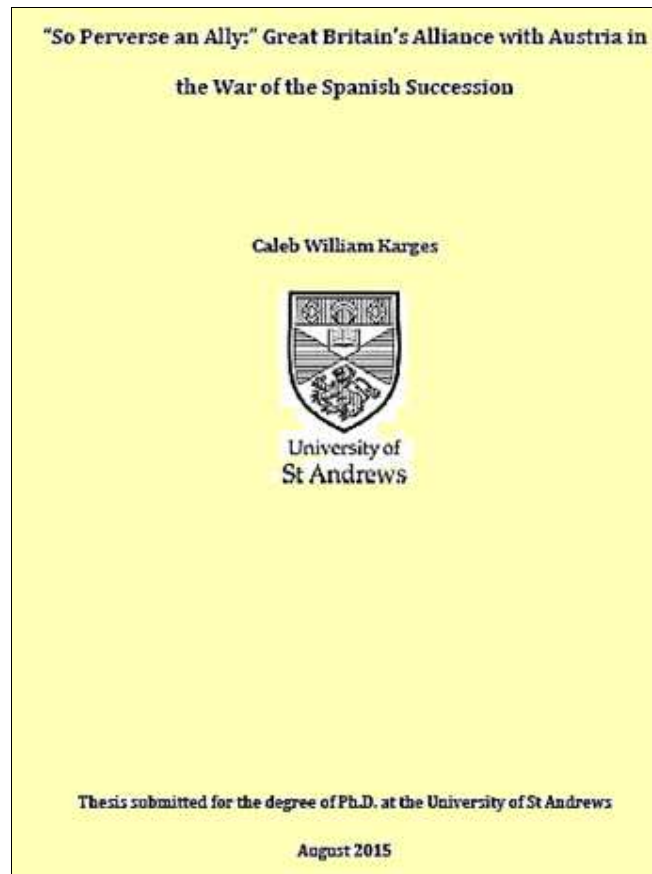
A post-conference tour has been organized for the congress and I urge participants to consult the conference website for details at <http://icmhdouala2017.cm/>. After a gala organized by the Minister of Defense for closing the Congress on Friday 8 September, there will be a one-day respite to relax and enjoy Doula. The tour will commence on 9 September from Douala to Yaoundé- Bafoussam-Foumban-Dschang-Nkongsamba and return to Douala on Friday 15 September to enable departure from Douala International Airport.

The Corvisier Prize

Prof. Massimo de Leonardis

The Jury of the 1st edition of the André Corvisier Prize, met in Milan on 12th May 2017. The Jury was composed by the ExBoard's members and by Dr. Niels Bo Poulsen, delegated by the President of the Educational Committee. The Secretary General of the same Committee was unable to attend and send no delegate.

The President remarked the great success of the first edition, which saw 26 candidatures from 10 countries. Following agreed guidelines and after a lengthy discussion the Jury prepared a shortlist of candidatures. The final vote awarded the prize to Dr Caleb William Carges for his dissertation in Modern History *“So Perverse an Ally”: Great Britain's Alliance with Austria in the War of the Spanish Succession*, passed viva with no corrections at St. Andrews' University in the United Kingdom having Prof. Guy Rowlands as Supervisor.



The motivation reads: "Dr Karges' thesis is an excellent model of PhD dissertation, dealing with a subject not too narrow and not too wide, which is examined with great competence and balance between diplomacy and military strategy. It is well written and clear, based on extensive literature in English and German and documents from Austrian and British archives. The dissertation represents a straightforward analysis of the Austro-British alliance guided by the methodological approach of studying strategic decisions from the perspective of what was «thinkable, agreeable and possible». The investigation of the alliance at the diplomatic, strategic, logistical and operational levels provides new insights into the practice of alliance warfare and the ways to reconcile independent war strategies in order to achieve common goals. The discussion of the British fiscal-military system and its Austrian counterpart is deserves particular consideration".

The new ICMH website

Dr. Davide Borsani

After months of intense work, we are pleased to announce that the new website of the International Commission of Military History is going to be operative in August.

We aimed at restyling the ICMH virtual platform and improving its presence in the digital world through versatility and interactivity. As you will see, we renewed the old structure through a fresh layout, a modern look and making it more user-friendly. The website will work on five languages (English, French, Spanish, German and Italian). However, the news contents will be updated in English only.

We kept most of the information already published: news on Congresses, the vademecum, newsletters, etc. We aimed at granting a quicker and easier access to those sources, the galleries and downloadable files. The visitor experience will be facilitated in both the desktop and mobile versions.

We hope that you will enjoy the brand-new website and we look forward to receiving from you any suggestions or criticism you would like to make.

The new issue of the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography*

The *International Journal of Military History and Historiography* on behalf of the International Commission of Military History traditionally offers an editorial platform that includes original research articles on any military historical topic from antiquity to the contemporary period that can appeal to an international readership. The essays in the first issue of 2017 cover three different topics concerning military history in the XXth century.

In his essay, William Westerman explores officer capability and culture of the Australian army before the First World War, in particular those officers who held infantry battalion commands. Although the men who served in Australia's part-time citizen army as infantry battalion commanders showed dedication and enthusiasm for soldiering, they were under-developed as infantry commanders, owing to time constraints and general under-investment in officer education and training. Officers who became battalion commanders were also relatively old, and their rise through the ranks was facilitated more by social position, rather than competence or experience. As a result, those Citizen Forces battalion commanders who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force largely failed to carry out commands effectively in wartime, an indictment on the state of the Australian Army before the First World War.

Moreover, Toh Boon Ho and Toh Boon Kwan analyze the remarkable recovery and successful transformation between 1942 and 1945 in Burma of the British-led 14th Army, which was the Indian Army's principal formation fighting against the Imperial Japanese Army in Burma from 1942 to 1945. Successive defeats in the Far East made the Indian Army the object of disdain, ridicule and scorn expressed by the senior political and military leadership in London. This leadership dismissed their socially inferior Indian Army counterparts as a "second XI", commanding a second-rate organization comprising "black" troops. The Indian Army, however, had learnt from its earlier mistakes and had undergone a remarkable recovery and successful organizational transformation amidst bitter combat against their Japanese foe. Improvements in leadership, training and morale, tactical innovations, and the brilliant execution of operational strategy helped resolve London's strategic impasse over the war against Japan. The end result was the greatest Japanese military defeat in history until it was eclipsed by the Red Army's decisive blow against Japanese forces in Manchuria in August 1945.

The last essay, written by Richard W. Stewart, is the second of two parts of a review article on some of the key historical books written in English on military operations in the Persian Gulf from 1990 to 1991. Where the first part focused on the important operations and technological developments surrounding the air war, this second part discusses those works on the operations of ground (army and marines) and naval forces, professional studies, memoirs, some books on non-U.S. military operations, and finally some general or popular works on the war. The Gulf War was viewed at the time as an important test of U.S. political resolve after the retreat from the wars in Southeast Asia in the 1960s and 70s, and an equally important test of the rebirth of the American military. It is more than merely a prequel to later operations in Iraq starting in 2003.

The issue of the journal concludes with a final section in which short reviews discuss newly published books of historiographical relevance either for the international military history community or for one of ICMH's national commissions.

Celebrations in Bulgaria

The President performed a very successful mission to Sofia last 4th-7th May, marked by the following activities in chronological order.

Thursday 4th

- A. Laying of a wreath to the monument to Bulgarian soldiers by Prof. de Leonardis and Col. Prof. Minchev, President of the Bulgarian Commission of Military History.
- B. Delivering of an address and participation to a conference on the 30th anniversary of the BCMH.
- C. Interview to a local television.

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Friday 5th.

D. Audience of about 30 minutes with the President of the Republic, General Rumen Radev (to whom it was presented an ICMH plate).

E. Two radio and newspaper interviews.

F. Attendance to the concert of the Presidential Guard Military Band and to a folk show in the National Theatre.

Saturday 6th.

G. Participation alongside civilian authorities to the blessing of the soldiers by the Patriarch of Sofia and to the laying of a wreath by the President of the Republic and attendance to the military parade of about 1,200 soldiers on St. George's day which is the Army's day.

H. Participation to the official reception at Lozenets Palace, with a brief exchange of view with Minister of Defence.

I. Cultural visit to the Trojan Monastery.

Col. Willard Snyder, member for Bulgaria of the ICMH Full Board attended most of these events. It is evident that the BCMH has an excellent standing with the local political and military leadership.



Conference in Rome on United States' participation to the First World War

On 19th-20th April the *Società Italiana di Storia Militare* (SISM), on the occasion of the centennial anniversary of United States' intervention in the First World War, organized in Rome an international conference on the topic *1917: "Over there in Italy"*, focusing in particular on Italo-American relations and the American troops on the Italian front. Prof. de Leonardis presented a paper on *"The Italian Diplomacy and American Intervention in the Great War"* and also chaired one of the sessions. The Acta will be published by SISM, which is a private scientific association with a wide membership and should not be confused with the Italian Commission of Military History (CISM), with which it collaborates frequently.

Conference in Milan on the History of the Atlantic Alliance

On 2nd-3rd May the Department of Political Sciences of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart organized its 10th annual international conference on NATO on the topic *"The Transatlantic Relationship from History to Present: Phases and Tasks of NATO"*. The Conference was sponsored by various organization, including NATO Public Diplomacy Division, the Atlantic Treaty Association, the NATO Rapid Deployment Corps-Italy, the ICMH, whose President, Prof. Massimo de Leonardis, is also Director of the Department of Political Sciences since 2005. The more than twenty speakers included historians, diplomats and military. The Acta will be published in the *Quaderni di Scienze Politiche*.



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The annual conference of the Conflict Studies Working Group of the PfP Consortium of Defense academies and Security Studies Institutes: May 29th–June 2nd 2017

Dr. Carmen Rijnoveanu – member of the Romanian Commission and of the ICMH Board

The Conflict Studies Working Group (CSWG) of the PfP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes organized its 17th annual conference in Bucharest, Romania, between May 29th and June 2nd, 2017. The conference was organized in partnership by the Institute for Political Studies of Defense and Military History, Romanian Ministry of National Defense and the Institute of Military History and War Studies of the Royal Danish Defence College. The topic of the conference was focused on: *“The use of military forces in domestic affairs: Lessons of history, current issues and future developments”*.



The event was attended by 39 participants (military historians, security experts, academics and researchers) from 20 NATO and PfP countries.

The main focus of the conference was to analyze and decipher patterns of military engagements in domestic affairs by mixing historically relevant-related topics with current security developments as to show in what extend and under which conditions the use of the armed forces can be considered an instrument of managing internal crises/threats/challenges. The conference volume will be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

The Conflict Studies Working Group has elected a new leadership, namely Dr. Carmen Rijnoveanu (Romania) as chair and Jakob Brink Rasmussen (Denmark) as co-chair of the group.

The conference was completed by a cultural program that included a visit at the Mountain Troops Brigade HQ in Predeal, a military exercise conducted by the 2nd Mountain Troops Brigade, as well as visits at Risnov Fortress and Bran Castel.

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Conference in Tartu at the Baltic Defence College: 23rd–24th March 2017 – Estonia

The Baltic Defence College hosted in Tartu, Estonia, the 2017 Annual Baltic Military History Conference on 23rd and 24th March. This year's conference coincided with the centenary of the Russian Revolution, and the theme was *"From Narva to NATO: 100 Years of Russia versus the West, 1917-2017"*. The presentations covered a broad chronological and geographic timeframe, including the Baltic independence wars, the Eastern Front of the Second World War, various theatres of the Cold War, and the more recent events related to Russia's revisionist policies.

A total of 19 guest speakers, representing 13 nations, including the three Baltic states, Finland, Poland, Ukraine, Denmark, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Canada, Israel, Japan and the United States participated in the event. In addition, over 30 participants,

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including students from the Joint Command and General Staff Course of the Baltic Defence College, students from Tartu University, and military professionals and civil servants from Lithuania, Estonia, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States European Command contributed to the discussions.

The main purpose of the Annual Baltic Military History Conference is to explore how lessons from the past can offer a guideline to develop a viable defence policy for the wider Baltic region. The exchange of ideas is meant to improve our perception of military history in a broader framework, and provide an opportunity to discuss this during the follow-on panel sessions.

The next Annual Conference on Baltic Military History is scheduled to take place in 2018. In commemoration of the centenary of the Baltic States' achieving their independence, the theme of the conference will be *"Independence Wars from an International Perspective"*.

Liberation Route Europe Foundation

Liberation Route Europe (<https://liberationroute.com/liberation-route-europe>) is an international project aiming to discover and experience the route that the Allied Forces took during the final phase of the Second World War. It focuses on the liberation of continental Europe from the German occupation, and specifically, the long-lasting consequences of the Second World War. It receives financial support also from the European Union and is constantly developing its activities in eight countries. ICMH President of Honour Prof. Dr. Luc de Vos is a member of the Historical Advisory Board, which has been recently joined also by ICMH President Prof. de Leonardis.

News from the National Commissions

Lt. Col. Dr. Kris Quanten – Secretary General

The American Commission informed us of the sad news that two of their leading members passed away: Ann von Luttichau (1944-2017) and Tony Loezere (1920-2016).

The U.S. Commission lost one of its most valuable members, **Ann von Luttichau**, on 12 March 2017 after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Born in Washington, D.C., Ann graduated from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School and Newton College in Newton, Massachusetts. She was later awarded a Master's degree in International Law from Georgetown University and a law degree from Catholic University Law School.

Ann became involved with the U.S. Commission through her husband, Charles von Luttichau, the organization's first Secretary-General. She soon took on the role as unofficial treasurer for the Commission and after earning her law degree its legal

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counsel. Her expertise served her well, as parliamentarian, chair of the By-laws Committee, and as the organization's registered agent for the District of Columbia. Ann also served more than one term as a trustee. She took meticulous care in preserving Commission records, becoming its de facto archivist. For many years she traveled to participate in International Commission meetings, first accompanying Charles and later solo. Ann loved being active—traveling, dancing, and walking were favorite pastimes.

In addition to her private legal practice, Ann was passionate about helping those in need and devoted her seemingly boundless energy to her church and to many volunteer organizations: Meals on Wheels, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, So Others Might Eat, Friendship Place, and IONA Senior Services. She also gave time to the Trust for Museum Exhibitions and served as president of her condo association for several years. Her most charitable acts, however, were focused on her family, taking care of Charles; his former wife, son, brother, and sister; and her own sister before their eventual deaths. Indeed, her last trip to Europe in the fall of 2016 was to deal with her sister-in-law's estate in Austria.

Many will miss her knowledge, intelligence, organizational skills, vivacity, and compassion for others, especially members of the U.S. and International Commissions on Military History.

Tony Loezere (1920-2016), a long-time member of the U.S. Commission, died at her retirement residence on 9 October 2016 at the age of 96. The youngest of four sisters, one of whom survives her, Tony was born in New York City on 30 March 1920. While still a child, her family moved to France and traveled extensively throughout Europe. She returned to New York City to attend Barnard College and after graduating summa cum laude in 1941 was awarded a scholarship to the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston. When the war broke out Tony became one of the first members of the Women's Army Corps (WACs) with the rank of 2d Lieutenant. Following the war she began a career as an intelligence specialist in Middle Eastern and African affairs, retiring with the rank of major.

Fluent in French and Spanish, Tony spent her retirement years as an interpreter with the State Department and the Meridian International Center. It was through her language fluency that Commission members met her. The first international meeting sponsored by the U.S. Commission was held in Washington, D.C., in 1975, and the organizers wanted someone fluent in French to interpret for the accompanying personnel, as well as for attendees at various social events when the official conference interpreters were unavailable. Tony volunteered and, because of her military background, became interested in joining the organization as a full-fledged member. She had a passion for people and travel, and over the next few decades, Tony participated in many of the annual meetings of the International Commission. She will be greatly missed by those who remember her intelligence, energy, and zest for life.

In the name of the ICMH community, we present our sincere condolences to the American Commission as well as to the family of the deceased.

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

- British Commission
President
Prof **Charles Esdaile** of Liverpool University
- Tunisian Commission
Vice President
Colonel-Major **Salem Trigui**
- German Commission
Secretary General
Dr. **Peter Lieb**
- Hellenic Commission
President
Brigadier General **Georgios Rahmanidis**
Vice-President
Colonel (HAF) **Andreas Andreadis**
- Slovak Commission
Secretary General
Dr. **Matej Medvecký**
- Turkish Commission
Secretary General
Colonel **Ali CEM**

Finally, Lieutenant-Colonel Dr Samir Chemi of the Tunisian Commission informed us that he has defended successfully his doctoral thesis.