



USCMH

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON MILITARY HISTORY

Newsletter

Foreword

The USCMH is affiliated with the International Commission of Military History and takes part in its international projects, including contributing to its publications, the International Bibliography of Military History, and participating in the annual international military history congresses.

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President's Column

Richard Stewart
President, *USCMH*

“May you live in interesting times.” (Purported old Chinese curse)

Well, the U.S. Commission is living in interesting times, and I for one see that as a good thing! A lot has happened with your Commission since the last newsletter and I think you will agree that this is a good thing for our long term prospects.

First, the ICMH Congress in Turin (1-6 Sep) was excellent even though the Italian Commission only had a few months to put it all together after Japan had to drop out. They put together a great “scientific” program (academic panels and papers) and a fun social program. The USCMH was well represented, as always, with 26 participants (including our German and Australian members!) and six members delivering papers. Those papers were: Philipp Fraund on the German Bundeswehr at “Year Zero” of their creation; Rhys Crawley, Combined and Joint Operations at Gallipoli; Eric Setzkorn on the U.S. Military Advisory Assistance Group on Taiwan in the Cold War; Rhys Crawley (again) reading Nancy Collin’s paper on NATO Special Operations (she was unexpectedly called away and Rhys jumped into the breach); Fred Borch on the legal aspects of the destruction of Monte Cassino in WW II; and yours truly on the failure of international operations in Somalia, 1992-1994. Thanks to all for excellent papers that were well received. We also enjoyed visiting the Italian auto and film museums in Turin, both highlighting famous products of Italy in the 20th century, as well as traveling to the Italian naval base at La Spezia. All in all a great Congress that sets a high bar for future Congresses, including our own plans for 2019 (see later entry on the status of those plans).

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Back home, the Commission was busy holding elections to elect the President, Vice President, and four trustees. (Many thanks to Janice McKinney, Nick Schlosser, and Martin Gordon, members of the nominating committee, for helping out on this important task!) You entrusted me to be your President for two more years (thanks for the vote of confidence) and Randy was returned as Vice President. Our four new or re-elected trustees are: Jim Hogue (former VP of the Commission), Dale Floyd, Charles Niemeyer, and Graham Cosmas (returned for a second term of four years). Congratulations to all of them and thanks for serving your Commission! They will join Bianka Adams, Ann von Luttichau, and Rick Dinardo as trustees. In addition, because Rick Herrera decided to resign in mid-term from the Board of Trustees, the Officers and Trustees appointed Hans Pawlisch, former President of the Commission, to fill out the remainder of his term (until 2015). The departing Trustees are David Crist, Rick Herrera (see above), Bart Hacker, and Willard Snyder. I extend to each of you the gratitude of the Officers, Trustees, and Members of the Commission for your service and hope that you will each stay engaged in the Commission for years to come. Our next elections will be in 2015 when we will again elect a new President and Vice President and four Trustees.

Finally, we held our annual business meeting and luncheon on 16 November at the Center of Military History and the Channel Inn, respectively. At the business meeting the Officers and Trustees confirmed the election results and also confirmed the passing of a new addition to the bylaws permitting selected use of proxy votes to vote on specific issues before the Board of Trustees. We also received a report from Hans Pawlisch on plans for the US Commission to sponsor the 2019 ICMH Congress in Baltimore, reviewed plans to upgrade the website, discussed membership and financial issues, and received a report from Pat Harahan, one of the Vice Presidents of the ICMH, that revealed that the 2014 Congress site was to be Varna, Bulgaria, rather than Paris. In addition, we passed an increase in dues from \$30 to \$40 for regular members with graduate students staying at the lower rate. The new dues schedule will be effect starting next year. The Officers and Trustees were reluctant to raise dues, but looking ahead to the expenses of the proposed hosting of the 2019 ICMH Congress, we felt that a modest increase now would preclude a major hike in contributions as we grew closer to that event. The expenses of hosting a Congress are substantial, most notably in the area of simultaneous translation. Most of our operating expenses come from dues and we need to start saving now! Just remember, for that modest fee (still modest even at \$40), you gain access to an international military history organization, archives, bibliographic products, international Congresses, and scholarly contacts throughout the world. We also hope to improve the means by which you can gain access to these contacts by gradual but steady improvement of our website. (See: <http://clas-pages.uncc.edu/uscmh/>) So watch that space!

After the annual meeting, we gathered at the Channel Inn for a very good luncheon and a great guest speaker. We were able to welcome the first winner of the BG James L. Collins, Jr. Book Prize in Military History, Dr. Stephen Fritz. Dr. Fritz is a professor of History at East Tennessee State University and received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois. Dr. Fritz book, *Ostkrieg: Hitler's War of Extermination in the East* published in 2011 by the University Press of Kentucky combines descriptions of the battles and operations on the Eastern Front in World War II, but also integrates and incorporates what seems at times to be Hitler's main motives for the entire operation: kill the Jews, exploit the Slavs, and rip off all the resources. It was a war focused on the extermination of a people, and all aspects of the German Army and society were complicit. It was an excellent presentation and the Commission can take considerable pride in this support to scholarship through the Collins' prize, the first of many such awards. Many thanks to Ed Marolda, Jeff Clarke, and Kelly DeVries for their work on the prize committee that selected this book. And you should know that they all volunteered to do it again this year! Thanks guys.

Please put 15 Nov 2014 on your calendar for next year's annual meeting. And I hope that you can join us in Varna, Bulgaria, for the next Congress. For those of you who missed Bulgaria in 2012, here is another chance to see a surprisingly lovely country. Varna is a particular beautiful town on the Black Sea coast and you should plan to come to the Congress. You'll be surprised!

So, in conclusion, as I start my second term, I would like to re-emphasize two critical issues that should be in the minds of all commission members: the endowment for the future and bringing in new members. We must grow and attract new members. As we get new members, we will be providing them more contacts and value for their membership, and that will attract even more members and provide more contacts. Join me and resolve to bring at least one new member in this year! Secondly, if we are to have the financial wherewithal to continue to award travel grants to young scholars and graduate students and to award the Collins Prize to future scholars, we need to build up our endowment for the future. Consider giving to the Endowment (just send your checks to Geoff Megargee, our treasurer) this year. Even a small amount will go a long way to help the future of your Commission, and it's tax deductible! The Trustees have joined me in the past in such contributions and I hope you will consider doing so as well. Thanks for your support and I look forward to another great year and another great Congress next summer!

USCMH Secretary General

Donald Bittner
Secretary General, *USCMH*

USCMH in Brief

As 2013 rapidly becomes history, a reflection on this past year is appropriate. Overall, it has been a good one, ranging from the U.S. delegation at the ICMH congress in Turin and our general meeting at the Channel Inn in Washington to our membership status and our newly updated website. With regard to the above, our members presented well received papers at Turin and everyone enjoyed the results of the endeavors of our hosts, the Italian Commission. At our annual meeting last month (attended by 38 USCMH members), Stephen Fritz received the initial award of the Collins book prize for his book *Ostkrieg: Hitler's War of Extermination in the East* (2011), followed by a most meaningful presentation on aspects associated with his research, analysis, and interpretation; after his remarks, an exemplary discussion period ensued. I am also pleased to note that seven new members attended our November meeting.

USCMH 2013 Election Results

In the election for officers and trustees of the USCMH conducted this year, the results are:

President: Richard Stewart
Vice President: Randy Papadopolous
Trustees Elected: James Hogue
 Graham Cosmas
 Charles Niemeyer
 Dale Floyd

The Trustees also approved the nomination of Hans Pawlisch to fill the term of a trustee who had to resign.

By-Laws Constitutional Amendment

The membership of the USCMH overwhelmingly approved an amendment to our by-laws permitting a proxy vote to be granted by a trustee to another trustee, in writing and for only the meeting to be missed, on a specific issues or issues to be considered by the trustees for that one specified meeting. The vote: 27-Yes, 2-No.

Membership

I am pleased to report that our active membership strength now is 100. This means that the Secretary General has names and addresses for each member. Of these 100, 97 are fully paid and in communication with the Secretary General; there are also three honorary life members as proposed to and granted by the Board of Trustees: Dr. Phil Lundeborg, Dr. Robin Higham, and Dr. Edward "Mac" Coffman.

I also note that the U.S. Commission is an open and eclectic one. The key is an interest in military history (or national security affairs), especially with regard to the international aspects of the profession of arms and related association with aspects of military history. Thus, our membership now consists of academic and government historians, active duty and retired offices, and others who have an informed interest in our work and that of scholars from other lands. We also have members from Australia (1), Estonia (1), Finland (1), and Germany (4).

New Members

Having said this, there is also a need for new members, regardless of chronological age or stages of their respective careers. I would ask our active members to solicit interest in the U.S. Commission and encourage those who respond positively to contact me (preferable at my e-mail address below, although the post office address can be used as it is checked regularly). A basic question will arise, of course, in such discussions: "What benefit is the USCMH to me?" Amongst the possible responses are:

- (a) The USCMH is a small and personable organization.
- (b) Our members are responsive to each other.
- (c) The commission is an open membership, as noted above.
- (d) There is definitely an international perspective to the work of and interest in military history beyond that of the U.S.
- (e) Annual international congresses hosted by a national commission of one of the recognized bodies of the International Commission on Military History, the benefits of which span the spectrum from papers presented and colleagues met to the host countries and cities in which the congress is held annually.
- (f) And, as the U.S. delegation is well presented and the U.S. Commission has a number of presentation slots at each ICMH annual congress, an opportunity is available for USCMH members to present papers before international peers and receive responses to each presenter's scholarly endeavors.
- (g) And, for younger members in the profession, the possibility of a travel stipend to an annual congress.

To reinforce some of the above, yours truly received an immediate response last spring from a new member, Captain Tom Snyder, MD, USNR, to a medical query respective to a wound received by a British officer at the battle of New Orleans that by 1818 still had not healed. My query to Dr. Snyder resulted in a series of communications which explained medically how and why this could occur, thus placing in proper context a key aspect of this officer's life and career.

Another USCMH member, Dr. Nancy Collins of Columbia University, commented on the value associated with attendance at the annual ICMH congress and the camaraderie and association at this annual event. As she wrote with respect to that of Turin: “An Austrian, who is the director of their national military museum, solved a puzzle for me about pre-WWII special operations forces, which provides the perfect bridge to my writings on WWII and post-WWII spec-ops. And a Spaniard, JAG, is undertaking a comparative European study on contemporary drone warfare, and has provided terrific readings for me, which offers the ideal balance to my writings on U.S. drone warfare.”*

Succinctly stated: Responsiveness to colleagues queries, exchanges of information, support of each other’s work, personal associations, and camaraderie: The essence of what we are.

List of members, e-mail addresses, and fields of interest

To assist and enhance current and future new members’ contacts within the USCMH, I would like to solicit responses from our members reference the following: A membership list, to include names, e-mail addresses, and fields of interest that could be posted on the USCMH website. This could be of value in many ways, from the above noted example to assistance for scholars going abroad and seeking advice and counsel about working in foreign archives. [Please send me your ideas with regard to this.](#)

Archival Notes

In general discussion with some members, discussion has focused on having a brief commentary on working in foreign archives. Even for those in which members have worked in foreign archives and manuscript collections, if time has elapsed between a past and future visit, changes occur. This can range from reader’s ticket procedures and hours, to use of technology in research and how such changes can effect the research endeavors. This column could be labeled Archival Notes or words to that effect. Considering the international perspective of much of what we do, this might be of general and specific interest to our members. [Your views?](#)

Other Suggestions

Oral conversations with members have produced some ideas for the USCMH which could be raised with our President and Vice President. Before the next leadership meeting, [if you have any suggestions on the USCMH can better serve its members or events we can do, please send to me.](#) All suggestions will be carefully considered and discussed.

Membership Renewals – 2014

In January for those members who did not pay a two year membership renewal in 2013, I shall be sending out reminder letters to them. Please look out for these communications which will come via the U.S. postal service.

Trustees Approval of Effecting Membership

The Board of Trustees at their November 2013 meeting approved two changes in member procedures, commencing in 2014:

(a) Annual member dues will be \$40.00 per annum. (NOTE: This will not affect members who paid for 2013 in 2012 nor will it affect graduate students whose dues will remain at \$30.00).

(b) Membership will be an annual one, i.e., the former option of paying for one or two years has been abandoned. Hence, annually the Secretary General commencing in 2015 will be contacting all members with an annual reminder for USCMH dues as well as updating on addresses (e-mail and U.S. Post Office).

*Dr. Nancy Collins quoted with permission.

From all of the leadership of the USCMH, thank you for your continued membership in and support of the U.S. Commission on Military History as our organization continues to evolve. And, as we approach late December and early January, best wishes for an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

Donald F. Bittner
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XXXIX ICMH Congress held in Turin, Italy

Pat Harahan
Vice President, *ICMH*

The International Commission of Military History held its 39th annual international congress in Turin, Italy from August 31 to September 5, 2013. Hosted by the Italian Commission of Military History, led by Colonel Matteo Paesano and Professor Massimo de Leonardis, the congress's theme was, "Joint and Multilateral Operations in Military History. More than 197 historians, archivists, museum specialists, and graduate students participated in the congress. They represented 36 national commissions of military history and came to Italy from four continents. In addition, there were more than 63 accompanying persons at the conference.

One of the largest delegations came from the United States. Twenty-eight USCMH members attended the congress and six historians presented papers. They were: Philipp Fraund, Nancy Collins, Rhys Crawley, Fred Borch, Richard Stewart, and Eric Setzekorn, a recent PhD graduate. Several USCMH members led academic panels during the conference. In addition, Pat Harahan served as the ICMH's vice president, and Hans Pawlisch led the ICMH Military Archives Committee. Other USCMH members served on one of the ICMH's three committees: Bibliography, Military Archive, and Military Education.

As in many international military history congresses, the Italian military forces participated in many aspects. Senator Professor Mario Mauro, Minister of Defense and Admiral Luigi Binelli Mantelli, Chief of the Defense Staff, and the Mayor of Turin participated in the opening session. Following that day's academic sessions, a reception was held at the Army College in Turin. Each night of the week, a different reception was held in Turin, one at the cinema museum, another at the automobile museum, another at a music conservatory. The conference ended with a banquet, with military music and numerous speeches, at the Royal Palace of Venaria, summer home of the House of Savoy.

Turin is a wonderful city. Located in northern Italy at the base of the Alps, it has an interesting city plan, sophisticated architecture, and many, many historical museums, palaces, and piazzas. The hotels were located within the city and were in walking distance to the conference center. In the morning when you walked through the city, one was tempted to stop at a local coffee shop for a cappuccino and brioche. *Via la Italia!*

XL ICMH Congress to be held in Varna, Bulgaria

Pat Harahan
Vice President, *ICMH*

Next year the International Commission of Military History will be sponsored by the Bulgarian Commission of Military History. The theme will be: **“The First World War, 1914 – 1918”**

The congress will be held in the city of Varna, Bulgaria from August 31st to September 6th, 2014. Interested historians and scholars who want to participate in this international congress will find information concerning the subthemes, languages, registration fees, and hotels on the Congress website, www.bcmhll38.com or the ICMH website www.histmil.info.

Members of the U.S. commission who would like to present a paper please consult the article in this newsletter by Randy Papadopoulos, “Call for Papers, ICMH Congress, Bulgaria.” Note that American graduate students are welcome to attend. For graduate students, we have special competitive travel grants and reduced fares for accommodations and fees during the congress. Usually, historians and scholars from more the 35 nations attend these international conferences. So, if you are interested, consider joining us.

Congress 2019: The U.S. Commission proposes Baltimore

Hans Pawlisch
Trustee and Former President, *USCMH*

Last year the USCMH officers and trustees voted to host the 2019 ICMH Congress in Baltimore, MD. The proposed conference theme will be "Beyond Versailles-War, War Termination, and the Challenges of Making Peace in the 20th Century'. Pat Harahan and Hans Pawlisch met with Dee Morales, the Special Events Coordinator for the City of Baltimore, to explore potential venues for the conference. Six hotels have been visited ranging from three to four stars, all in the vicinity of the Inner Harbor. As of this writing, the Royal Sonesta Hotel, an elegant four-star facility directly adjacent to the Inner Harbor, has emerged as a favorite, though we are also considering the Lord Baltimore Hotel, a historic Grand Hotel built in the 1920s. This hotel is currently undergoing extensive renovations scheduled for completion one year from now. Costs for both are reasonable. The Royal Sonesta offers group rates of about 170 dollars a night, while the Lord Baltimore estimates room charges of about \$90-120 per night. When meals and coffee services are added the total conference costs, separate from individual room charges, comes to approximately \$100,000 for each hotel.

The other major expense to consider is simultaneous translation. Two vendors have been contacted: Estimates for French and German from a California based agency, Cummunicaid, comes to \$147,000. For French only, around \$68,255. This figure does not include per diem and travel costs. The Comprehensive Language Center, a Washington DC firm that supported the 2002 Norfolk Conference has quoted \$55,485 for French only--double that figure for two languages. Since they are local, per diem and travel are not an issue. These estimates are approximate and not firm.

Baltimore offers an attractive array of social venues that can be contracted for general receptions and accompanying persons' visits. These include the Baltimore Museum of Art, Fort McHenry and the Walthers Gallery. Accompanying persons' venues include, Evergreen House, Hampton Mansion, Carroll Mansion, B & O Museum and the privately held Wallis Simpson Museum. Costs for these venues have not yet been fully calculated but could be factored into the general registration fee.

As for the conference travel day, the Inner Harbor located across the street from the Royal Sonesta Hotel, offers possible group rates, for the National Aquarium, the U.S.S. Constellation, U.S.S. Torsk and other venues. It is also possible to schedule a final banquet on the Chesapeake aboard the Spirit of Baltimore.

We are confident in Baltimore's ability to host this conference. That said we still need to get a more detailed cost-estimate, especially for language support, to see if USCMH resources are sufficient to meet the challenge. I remain confident in our capacity to do this.

Upcoming Events of Interest

Annual George C. Marshall Lecture in Military History January 4, 2014

The Annual George C. Marshall Lecture in Military History, sponsored by the George C. Marshall Foundation and the Society for Military History will be delivered by James M. McPherson, George Henry Davis 1886 Professor Emeritus of American History at Princeton University. Professor McPherson's subject will be "The Rewards of Risk Taking: Two Civil War Admirals."

At the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM. Thurgood Marshall Ballroom West, Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC. Reception to follow.

81st Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History April 3-6, 2014

Theme: "Transformational Conflicts: War and its Legacy Through History"
Kansas City, MO

Hosted by Command and General Staff College Foundation, Inc., Liberty Memorial - National World War I Museum, Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum and Library, and the Department of History, University of Kansas.

Call for Papers

The United States Commission on Military History invites proposals for the 2014 Congress of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH) at Varna, Bulgaria, 30 August- 6 September 2014

The United States Commission on Military History invites its members to submit papers for the 2014 congress of the ICMH to be held at Varna, Bulgaria, 30 August- 6 September 2014. The theme of the congress will be "The First World War, 1914-1918." The Bulgarian Commission on Military History welcomes a variety of subthemes including, but not limited to:

- Technological development on the eve of WWI
- Economic considerations and reasons for war
- Nationalism and nationalistic feelings in Europe before the war
- Art and cultural developments on the eve of and during war
- Political and diplomatic activities to prevent or prepare for start of war
- The pretext for war: the beginning of WWI in the Balkans 1914
- WWI in national memory: museums and museum activities on the war and armaments
- Archives and their use for writing the history of WWI events
- Sea and air power
- Non-conventional weapons used in war

- Peace Treaties and aftermaths: end of confrontations, or start of new ones?

Papers for regular sessions will be selected by the U.S. Commission. In order to promote the participation of junior scholars new to the ICMH, the US Commission is offering a travel subvention of up to \$1,500. Those historians selected will present their papers before an international audience of military historians from around the world and their papers will be published as part of the conference proceedings. Send a two page draft proposal and a CV by email not later than 15 February 2014 to Randy Papadopoulos, Vice President of the US Commission, at randy.papadopoulos@navy.mil.

CALL FOR GRADUATE STUDENT PAPERS:

The United States Commission on Military History invites U.S. graduate students (those enrolled in graduate school but not yet awarded the Ph.D.) to submit papers for the 2014 congress of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH) to be held at Varna, Bulgaria. The subjects can address the same issues as those in the general call for papers, above.

In order to promote the participation of emerging scholars, the US Commission is offering a travel subvention of up to \$1,500, and the hosting Bulgarian Commission has agreed to offer substantially lower registration and lodging expenses to those graduate students selected for the congress. The successful candidate will submit an original piece of research, such as a seminar paper. Selected students will present their papers before an international audience of military historians from around the world and their papers will be published as part of the conference proceedings. Send copies of a one page description of the project, draft copy of the paper, and a CV by email not later than 15 February 2014 to Randy Papadopoulos, Vice President of the US Commission, at randy.papadopoulos@navy.mil.

Military Classics Seminar

January 21, 2014

Max Boot, *Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present*. New York : Liveright Pub. Corporation, 2012.

Speaker: Will Blythe, U.S. Army

February 18, 2014

D.M. Giangreco, *Hell to Pay: Operation DOWNFALL and the Invasion of Japan, 1945-1947*. Annapolis, Md. : Naval Institute Press, c2009.

Speaker: Richard Frank, Independent Scholar

March 18, 2014

Peter H. Wilson, *The Thirty Years War: Europe's Tragedy*. Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2009.

Speaker: Richard Stewart, U.S. Army Center of Military History

April 15, 2014

BG Oscar W. Koch, Robert G. Hays, *G-2: Intelligence for Patton*. Philadelphia, Distributed by Whitmore Pub. Co., [1971]

Speaker: Mike Bigelow, U.S. Army

May 20, 2014

Geoffrey Megargee, *Inside Hitler's High Command*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2000.

Speaker: Rob Citino, U.S. Army War College

June 17, 2014

Edwin Coddington, *The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command*. New York, Scribner's [1968]

Speaker: Perry Jamieson, former Air Force Senior Historian

Officers, Trustees, and Key Committee Members 2013-2015

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