



XLIIIrd International Congress of Military History

“World Wars and Colonies in History”

From 2 - 8 September 2017 Douala, Cameroon



Context and justification

At the beginning of the 20th Century, Europe was at its peak and dominated the world, but it was bedevilled by contradictions linked to disparities in the economic and social development that characterized these countries, on the one hand, and to the ambitions and rivalries, sources of tensions across the world, thus multiplying the risks of wars, on the other hand. In 1914, these rivalries could be formulated at three levels:

- At the level of nationalities, irredentisms linked to the mosaic of peoples of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, issues of non-indigenous peoples in the Russian Empire and threats of Pan-Slavism of orthodox Russia protector of Serbia, trying to take over control of Straits held by the Muslim-Turks, without losing sight of the pan-Germanism of the German Empire, inclined to attaining the integration of German lands;
- At the colonial level, one observes rivalries between Anglo-French- in Sudan, Anglo-German in Eastern and Southern Africa, Franco-German in Morocco, Franco-Italian in Tunisia, etc.;
- At the geostrategic level, around the zones of influence, rivalries between Anglo-German on the seas and Austro-Russian in the Balkans are emerging.

Within this context, the formation of contradictory defence alliances through the use of financial weapon in the major stock exchange markets has triggered a real arms race and inexorably paved the way to the first main world confrontation in history. After this war, frustrations linked to its management are amongst the elements that led in the space of one generation to the Second World War. These Wars that started in Europe and which we did not imagine would engulf the whole world at the beginning quickly propagated themselves beyond European borders for many reasons.

The colonial Empires where “pacification” was not finished during the beginning of the Great War, thus took part in World Wars. At the time the centenary of the 1914 – 1918 war is being celebrated across the world, it was worthwhile that we came back on this aspect of our common history, by however giving priority to what history teaches us concerning colonies and their relationship with the major armed confrontations which the world has witnessed. In other words, the duty of remembrance calls on us to shed light not only on the circumstances of this historic participation of colonies in World Wars, but also the influence of this participation on the outcome of these Wars and on their own evolution.

The XLIIIrd International Congress of Military History will therefore be held in Douala – Cameroon from 2 to 8 September 2017 and will provide an ideal opportunity for us to discuss on such a fascinating topic. Moreover, this will be the very first meeting of its kind to be held in Black Sub-Saharan Africa. In this light, the fortuitous circumstance could not be better achieved



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by holding such a meeting at the centre of Africa, in a country commonly referred to as “Africa in miniature” and widely known for its legendary hospitality.

In fact, Cameroon as it currently stands is the fruit of two World Wars. Beyond its own past as a territory under German protectorate (1884 - 1916), a mandated territory of the League of Nations entrusted to England and France (1922 - 1945), and lastly as a territory under trusteeship of the United Nations Organization entrusted to the same powers (1946 – 1960/61), this country is proud to give to ICMH Douala 2017, organized on the following theme: “World Wars and Colonies in History”, a particular touch in line with the guidelines of the following sub-themes:

- Major Military figures of Colonies;
- Local Authorities and World Wars;
- War Efforts in Colonies;
- Colonial Possessions and World Wars;
- Women and World Wars in Colonies;
- Colonial Prisoners and the deported during World Wars;
- International Conventions and World Wars in Colonies;
- World Wars and Migrations in Colonies;
- World Wars and decolonization;
- The Cold War and Post Independence Revolutions;
- Inter allied Meetings during World Wars;
- Intervention Strategies during World Wars;
- World Wars and the Civil Society.

The website opened for the Congress is the following: <http://www.icmhdouala2017.cm>

It can already be visited and it will contain final information as from January 2017.

Proposal of papers

The various papers previously approved by the office of the National Commission of the country of origin of the authors, should be forwarded to the Cameroon Commission of Military History via the following email address: kmh2017@icmhdouala2017.cm where a Scientific Committee has been set up in view of selecting papers for the Congress. Each proposed paper drafted in one of the languages of the Congress, notably English, French or Spanish should include:

- The author’s full name;
- A short academic CV not exceeding half a page;
- The guideline chosen or the research sub-theme;
- A short summary of the topic dealt with and not exceeding 500 words.



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In case of multiple submissions by the same author, they should be presented in order of priority. Moreover, the presenters chosen as a result of the relevance of their subjects should prepare and present the oral version of their contributions which should not exceed 15 000 keystrokes and a presentation time-limit of twenty (20) minutes, on or before 30 May 2017.

Publication guidelines

The Cameroon Commission of Military History shall publish the proceedings of the XLIIIrd International Congress of Military History in printed format. To this end, it is necessary that all the papers should have the following characteristics:

- Page format: A4 (21 x 30cm) ;
- Character type : Times New Roman, font size 12, black colour and no background style should be applied;
- For longer quotations, footnotes, page numbers, sub-titles, photographs and tables, the font size should be 10;
- The parts of the development of the text, titles and sub-titles should be presented as follows:
 - 1. For the title of the first section;
 - 1.1. For the first sub-title of the first section;
 - 1.2. For the second sub-title of the first section;
 - 2. For the title of the second section;
 - 2.1. For the first sub-title of the second section, etc...
- Spacing: 1.0 for the entire text. There should be double spacing between references and the end of the publication. There should be single spacing for long quotations, notes, sub-titles of photographs, tables and bibliographic sheets.
- For titles of paragraphs, double spacing of 1.5 should be observed in-between the preceding and following texts.

Moreover, it is the responsibility of authors to obtain permission to reproduce illustrations and the latter should be provided at the same time with the article.

Commander Mbue Ngappe Blaise
Secretary General/CCMH