



## MARS & JANUS



**International Newsletter  
for Military Archives No. 14  
(2009 / no. 2 – fall / winter edition)**



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## EDITORIAL:

Dear Colleagues,

The executive board of the Archives Committee of the International Commission of Military History is pleased to present the International Newsletter for Military Archives – MARS & JANUS No. 14 (2009 / no. 2 – fall / winter edition).

The newsletter at hand contains the minutes and papers of the last CAM meeting on Sunday, 30 August 2009 at the XXXV<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Military History in Porto (Portugal). The minutes of our meeting were taken by Robin Higham (USA) and Warren Sinclair (Canada). We discussed two different topics: *The national policies on archives and the military archives* and: *The growing importance of digitalization for military archives*. Papers were presented from Canada, Greece, Italy, and Turkey. The newsletter contains, in addition, a paper from the Czech Republic which could not be presented at our meeting because for lack of time. Many thanks for all your contributions!

Unfortunately, the Canadian contribution is not yet available, we will include it in a later edition of MARS & JANUS. The Greek paper was submitted as a PowerPoint presentation which we did not implement into the newsletter but submit separately as attachment.

The newsletter contains also a list of participants. Please check it and let us know if your data on it are missing or not correct!

We are still impressed by the great events at the congress in Porto: not only the CAM-meeting on Sunday but also the dinner on Wednesday evening in the Army Officers' Mess with our Portuguese friends, finally on Thursday the presentations of Portuguese archivists and the exciting tour to the local archives of Porto. Once more, many thanks to our Portuguese colleagues!

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, 29 August 2010 in Amsterdam (Netherlands). The elections for new President and Secretary General are on schedule. Besides that we will discuss: *Military archives on the Internet – how to improve or website*. So if you have a minute, please, give a thought already on what could be your contribution.

We hope you will have a little rest and peace at this special time of the year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2010!

Sincerely yours,

Col. Dr. Hans-Joachim HARDER  
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**The Minutes of the 2009 meeting of CAM in Porto  
at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, 30 August at the Sala Miraojala,  
the Customs House Conference Center,  
Porto, Portugal**

Taken by Robin HIGHAM (USA) and Warren SINCLAIR (Canada)

President Col. Hans-Joachim Harder presiding; Dr. Christoph Tepperberg, Secretary-General; Prof. Robin Higham and Mr. Warren Sinclair, Recording Secretaries.

In attendance (see attached list).

President Harder opened the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Newly represented were archivists from Brazil, Cameroon, Germany, Italy, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, and the USA as well as the Director of the Portuguese National Archives.

The President announced that there would be a full archival day on Thursday with papers in the morning and a tour of the archives in Porto in the afternoon together with a dinner Wednesday evening, paid for by a private party. He then requested a count for that affair. 21 responded affirmatively.

Col. Aniceto Afonso, Director of the Portuguese Military Archives in Lisbon, then welcomed the CAM and noted that the program had been circulated.

He was followed by the first paper on the Italian archives presented by Dr. Flavio Carbone. He noted that they were short of personnel and funds and that the military archives are open under the new law of 2004 and after 100 years the documents go automatically to the National Archives, etc. There were no questions.

The second paper was by Warren Sinclair of Canada. His proposed paper on the Canadian Aboriginal code talkers had not yet received clearance. So he gave the presentation on the growing importance of digitization and military records at Library and Archives Canada and at the Directorate of History and Heritage Archives.



11:12 a.m.: questions.

In reply to Colonel Harder, he noted that the WWI personnel files are open; but the WWII are closed until the person has been deceased 20 years; and that also applies to the medical files. Clearance can be obtained and is free, but there is a charge for photocopying. Library Canada controls access. The question of the impact of divorce remains moot.

10 min. coffee break.

11:28. Dr. Efpraxia Paschalidou then gave an illustrated talk on the structure of the Hellenic military, naval and air archives (as per attached).

She was followed at 11:38 by Dr. Serdar Demirtas of the Turkish General Staff Archives who gave a brief history of the Turkish War Archives and noted in passing that what the West calls the Gallipolis Campaign is the Turkish Chanak of 1915. In 2009 the Archives is part of the Department of Military History and Strategic Studies of the General Staff, open since 2002 to foreign scholars.

11:55. Col Harder, the President, summed up, and he and the Secretary-General then noted that the 2010 CAM in Amsterdam would open with a discussion of how to improve the website, but suggestions for other presentations would be welcome.

All CAM members were asked to check their country's entry on the website for accuracy. The webmaster of the website hosted by the Swiss Army will now be the Secretary-General.

The CAM will meet on Thursday in Sale Dardis at 0900 to hear more papers and then after lunch would walk to the local archives.

On Wednesday evening we would be dining on the Army Officers' Mess at 2045 hours as the guests of an anonymous Portuguese donor.

1210. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Higham, USA  
Recording Secretary



Note: Warren Sinclair of Canada will in future be the Recording Secretary.

Future CAM's:

2010 Amsterdam

2011 Rio de Janeiro

2012 Paris



## Italian national policy on archives and the military archives. Reality and myth

By Flavio CARBONE (Rome)

### *Foreword*

When I proposed the title of my short presentation to the President of the Military Archives Committee, strongly I thought the need to clarify a neglected problem, from my point of view: the Italian national policy on archives and the military archives.

Why my reflection? Because during the last about ten years, when I started to study and write about military history and military archives, I found a lack of knowledge by many historians shouting the problems in terms of research inside the military archives, particularly declaring the lack of personnel, of funds and the closure policy for non military researchers.

Which is the real situation? I don't think so and I will try to follow a tiny red line to describe both the topics of my title.

First of all I want to define some words: particularly, on one hand, when I speak about State Archive, it means the State Archival Organisation that belongs to Heritage Ministry; on the other hand military archives are all the archives that belongs to the Defense Ministry and particularly, the archives inside the historical offices of Defense, Army, Navy and Air Force General staff as well as the Carabinieri Headquarters. In my presentation I will not speak about the situation of archives of the Guardia di Finanza (id est Finance Guard Corps) because there is a more complex situation and the Corps belongs to the Finance Ministry.

What can we say about the Military Historical Offices (and their Archives)? According to the general evolution of the research in the historical field starting to the end of sixties, day by day, the Offices opened their doors to researchers. Nowadays, the majority of the Offices are inside departments in which the first mission is communication, public relations and promotion of Armed Forces image.

I must stress the point that military archives are wide open. For instance, you can verify just surfing the net and tapping the URL of the Italian army [http://www.esercito.difesa.it/root/Storico/uff\\_archivi.asp](http://www.esercito.difesa.it/root/Storico/uff_archivi.asp) and also for the other historical offices.

### *the Italian national policy on archives*

In present days, the Cultural heritage and environment code (legislative decree n. 42 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004 ex article 10 of July 6<sup>th</sup> 2002 law, n. 137" is the basic law on Cultural heritage.

Specifically, we can see that article 41 named "Deposit obligation to States Archives of the documents kept by Government offices" speaks about the deposit obligation of archives by judiciary courts and government office to State Central Archive and State Archives for all the files worked after forty years together with the consultation instruments.



For instance, speaking of military documents preserved in State Archives, the conscription and the drawing list must be deposited seventy years after the birth year of the national service class (i.e. class of 1900 must be deposited not before 1980 et cetera).

The State Archives must receive also files by notarial archives related to notaries that finished their activities before one hundred years.

The State Central Archive and the State Archives must accept the archives of abolished State offices and of extinguished public institutions if a full or partial transfer to other administration is not needed.

In every local State organisation must be established mixed commissions with personnel of the government office, of the Cultural Heritage Ministry and of the Interior Ministry to verify the right management and administration of the current and intermediate repository and so forth.

Ok. That's it. But what about Military Archives?

The sub-section six of the article speaks of military archives. Particularly "the present article is not applied to the Foreign Affairs Ministry. It doesn't apply to the Army, Navy and Air Force General staff also for what is defined military and operational files".

In 2008, the code was emended (legislative decree march 26<sup>th</sup> 2008, n. 62) and for what is the subject today, the article 41 was emended with the insertion of two words: the first one was **Defence** before the word Army, and after General staff was inserted the word **Carabinieri Headquarters**.

With this modification the law defined clearly that Defence and all Armed Forces General staff must not deposit military archives in State archival organisation.

I want to underline another point about files preserved by military: the law mentions only military and operational files. What does it mean? For a general point of view, if in military historical archives there are some administrative papers must they deposit in State archives? The right answer is NOT!

Many administrative papers were sent to the military historical archives after the most important war periods like the Independence wars (second part of XIX century), the First and the Second World War and other military operations in Italy and abroad. It is a non-sense the classification of paper based on the role of them.

Another point about this topic is related to personal files. Once, the Military Personnel Administrative General Department of the Defense Ministry deposited the majority part of the papers related on Army officers that served till 1900 in the Central State Archive, as other Ministries did for their administrative general departments.

In reality, according with the expired regulation on personal papers in armed forces dated 1966, the Air Force Historical Office was authorized to keep personal records of officers that



“will have remarkable titles so that their names can be strictly connected with the history of the Air Force”.

To come back to the previous question, we can say:

is it normal that a captious and not so scientific specification in the Code doesn't take care of the everyday reality? This is one point that I want to stress. In a historical perspective, the military archives have collected all the papers as tools of the evaluation of military doctrine and organisation. In many cases it was normal and it is still normal that military personnel like generals or simply non-commissioned officers want to give their private papers to the historical archive of their armed forces.

The question is if in military archives there are some private records must they deposit in State archives? The right answer is NOT!

The military archives received during their history many papers by military personnel as private person documents and the archives will continue on that route to collect the invaluable testimonies of the military and private life.

#### *Some reflections on military archives*

What I describe till now is quite positive without shadows. Is it possible? Are the military archives in the golden era? I'll try to reply to that last question.

The world economic situation is not so good. Everyone knows how many problems are on the carpet to re-start public and private economy. All public departments and the agencies in Italy have suffered many money reduction so that we work every day with new problems in budget restriction. But, I want to specify one point: there is a “golden era” for military archives. New replacement of military and civilian personnel inside military archives bring with them a new culture and a new policy in military archival sector.

There are some reflections in order to:

- increase the number of deposit in the archive;
- establish common lines on the main for common type of papers sent to military archives.
- Elaborate new tools reorganizing all the movement of historical papers from all the units to the center.

I want to finish my short presentation with a positive approach:

- the birth of the Defense General staff Historical Office in 2006 is a strong point in Defense policy on military archives (Colonel Paesano is both the President of the Italian Commission of Military History and Defense Historical Office Chief);
- the cooperative approach between Armed Forces and not military organisation (as Cultural Heritage Ministry and other Cultural Organisation like the Museum of Italian



Risorgimento) with the possibility to use know-how in terms of training of military personnel;

To finish, there are very important initiatives in preservation of military archives. I want to remind only one: the Army Historical Office action to the former military districts to avoid the destruction of many kilometers of records.

#### *Conclusions*

I am confident that, even if budget problems are very well-known in all organisations, the general behavior in military archives organisation is to serve who wants search in the military archives. On the same time, many efforts are going on to preserve papers to the fire of destruction and to deposit them in military archives.

The way up the hill is difficult and tortuous, there are many problems along the way but I really trust in the possibility to re-organise all the matter of military archives.



**The growing importance of digitization and military records at Library and Archives Canada and at the Directorate of History and Heritage Archives**

By Warren SINCLAIR, Chief Archivist, Directorate of History and Heritage (Ottawa)

The paper did not arrive yet and will be published in Mars & Janus No. 15.



**The Hellenic Army History Directorate, the Navy History Service and the History Museum of the Hellenic Air force: general tasks, co-operations, infrastructure and the challenges of digitalization**

By Efpraxia PASCHALIDOU (Athens)

The PowerPoint presentation is attached as a separate file!



## The Past and the Present of the Turkish General Staff ATASE Archives

by Y. Serdar DEMIRTAS (Ankara)

As the First World War waged on with its most dreadful state, the Deputy Commander in Chief and the Minister of War Enver Pasha issued an order for the founding of War History Department on April 11, 1916.<sup>1</sup>

Following the founding of the “War History” department an archive began to be formed by gathering the documents pertaining to the military history. The aim was to write the history of the First World War, beginning with the Çanakkale Battles, based upon the reliable sources and documents. To this end, the War History Department asks for the immediate sending of the war journals, and war document files kept by the units forming the Turkish Army by March 1916; and requests the sending of the war journals and war documents kept after this date in every three months.<sup>2</sup>

The War History Department, believing in the necessity of writing of the histories of the wars preceding the Çanakkale Battles and the First World War took up initiatives to gather the documents of those wars. At the end of numerous correspondences, war documents, war journals, and war reports pertaining to the 1853-1856 Crimean War; 1876-1877 Serbia-Monte Negro War; 1877-1878 Ottoman-Russian War; 1897 Turkish-Greek War; 1911 Turkish-Italian War; 1912-1913 Balkan War started to flock into the archives of the War History Department in masses. Meanwhile, in 1917, “Regulations Governing the War Journals and War Documents” was issued to standardize the writing of war journals.<sup>3</sup>

Until the end of the First World War, Department of War History while striving to gather all the files containing journals of war that were not sent to the General Staff was trying to classify the disorganized documents at hand and to keep the records of the files to prevent them from disappearing.<sup>4</sup>

On November 1919 the Department of War History becomes the 8<sup>th</sup> Department of the General Staff. A very important change takes place under his chairmanship. While classification process continued, the present documents were catalogued in accordance with the periods they belonged. Thus, the military history documents are catalogued under the following headings:

- a) Wars preceding the Balkan War
- b) Balkan War
- c) First World War
- d) Health Services War History
- e) Veterinarian Services War History
- f) Archives

Following the inauguration of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, on April 23, 1920, the 4<sup>th</sup> Division affiliated to the 1<sup>st</sup> Department of the Turkish General Staff, found in Ankara, was given the task of writing “War Journals.” This division continues its work until the end of the Turkish War of Independence.

<sup>1</sup> ATASE Archives, Brief History of TGS Department of War History, Folder (F): 1, Dossier (D): 5, Index (I): 1-14

<sup>2</sup> ATASE Archives, First World War Collection (BDH), F: 1486, D: 17, I: 1

<sup>3</sup> ATASE Archives, Turkish War of Independence Collection (ISH), Box (B): 111, Sleeve (S): 92, Document (D): 97-1

<sup>4</sup> ATASE Archives, History Collection, F: 1; D: 7; I: 1-7



While General Staff Department of War History continued its studies under the name of Harp Tarihi Tahrir Heyeti [Commission for Recording War History] the “Archives Division” parted from the Commission and joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division affiliated to Training and Instruction Department<sup>5</sup> under the name of Erkân-ı Harbiye-i Umumiye Vesâik-i Arşiv-i Harbiye [General Staff War Documents Archive].<sup>6</sup> Commission for Recording War History continued its studies under the name of Tarih-i Askerî Encümeni [Military History Commission] in 1921, and in 1922 first as Genelkurmay Encümeni [General Staff Committee] then as Harp Tarihi Şubesi [War History Branch].

In 1923, moving of all the documents at the Department of War History to Konya was decided.<sup>7</sup> While in Konya the documents were primarily numbered in accordance with their topics and units in order to be able to write war history.<sup>8</sup> The task earnestly undertaken was carried to the extremes in collecting the missing documents pertaining to the First World War, Turkish War of Independence, and other wars; the addresses of the unit commanders were asked from the Ministry of National Defense, letters were written to those people and the missing documents were complemented.<sup>9</sup>

Classification studies continued in Konya until the department’s moving to Ankara in 1926. The branch took its place as the Harp Tarihi Dairesi Riyaseti [Section of War History] within the new organization of the Turkish General Staff (TGS). In 1928 it conducted its studies under the name of Genelkurmay Harp Tarihi Encümeni [TGS War History Commission].<sup>10</sup> The department that undertook its studies under various names in accordance with the changes in the structure of the organization was named as the Genelkurmay Askeri Tarih ve Stratejik Etüt Başkanlığı [ATASE; TGS Directorate of Military History and Strategic Studies] in 1978, and as the Genelkurmay ATASE ve Denetleme Başkanlığı [ATASE ve Dent.; TGS Directorate of Military History and Strategic Studies, and Inspection] in 2004.

The most important activity of the Department of War History pertaining to the publication of the archive documents was the publication of the *Harp Tarihi Vesikaları Dergisi* [Journal of War History Documents] in September 1952. The aim of the journal was to set a concrete source for scientific researches, analyses, and studies on the war history. The journal continues its life as one of the primary sources of scientific sources under the name of *Askeri Tarih Belgeleri Dergisi* [Journal of Military History Documents].

In 1972 the *Harp Tarihi Başkanlığı Görev ve Sorumlulukları Yönergesi* [Regulations Governing the Duties and Responsibilities of the Department of Military History] was issued. Accordingly, three study groups were formed to undertake the archive studies: Archive Specialists Preliminary Classification Group, Archive Specialists Detailed Classification Group, and Archive Specialists Filing Group.

In 1973 studies were undertaken to transliterate the existing documents into new Turkish alphabet. However, as it was soon realized that this task would take too much time the project was abandoned. Microfilming of the archive documents began in 1975. In 1985 a new technology – microfiche – was brought into the archives. With the introduction of the new classification system, the summaries of the documents started to be recorded in the card catalogues. As this method proved to be inefficient in meeting the needs, a classification

<sup>5</sup> ATASE Archives, History Collection, F: 1, D: 7, I: 1-11

<sup>6</sup> ATASE Archives, History Collection, F: 1, D: 7, I: 1-12

<sup>7</sup> ATASE Archives, İSH, B: 164, S: 58, D: 58-1

<sup>8</sup> ATASE Archives, İSH, B: 164, S: 58, D: 58-1

<sup>9</sup> *Genelkurmay Başkanlığı Harp Tarihi Dairesi Tarihçesi (1916-1962)* [The History of the TGS Department of War History (1916-1962)]. Ankara: Gnkur. Basımevi, 1963, p. 5

<sup>10</sup> ATASE Archives, *Harp Tarihi Başkanlığı Tarihçesi (1916-1978)* [The History of the Department of War History (1916-1978)]. F: 1, D: 7, I: 1-15



system based on analyses of the documents was adopted for the drawing of the catalogues as of 1997.

In time, in order to be able to carry out improved archive studies, a new archives building was built within the premises of Directorate of Military History and Strategic Studies, and Inspection, where the state-of-the-art technology is employed. The scientific protection of ATASE Archives containing unique documents of the Turkish Military History, prompt classification of the documents are but two of the important steps in presenting them to the thorough exploitation of the academia.

The Archives Division – taking place within the structure of the Directorate of Military History and Strategic Studies, and Inspection (ATASE ve Dent.) – continues its studies with its four specialized branches: Document Research and Preliminary Classification, Document Restoration and Maintenance, Document Protection and Service, and Document Reproduction.

The activities, such as classifying the newly acquired and the existing documents at the archives, and drawing up of the catalogues fall under the responsibility of Document Research and Preliminary Classification branch.

Document Restoration and Maintenance branch is responsible from restoring and maintaining the documents through chemical processes.

Document Protection and Service branch is in charge of keeping the records of the documents and presenting the documents to the use of the researchers. The Document Reproduction branch undertakes the tasks of transferring the archive documents into digital media, keeping the records in the digital media, and putting the documents to the service of the researchers on a digital platform.

The most frequently asked question is “How can we make use of the ATASE Archives, what kind of services do they offer?” The rules governing the procedures to be applied to the researchers are enunciated in the Governmental Decree validated on January 31, 2002 – “The Principles Governing the Turkish and Foreign Real Persons or Legal Entities Applying for Research and Study at the State Archives.” All the native and foreign researchers undertaking scientific studies, and who meet the requirements of the decree, are mostly welcomed.

Turkish General Staff ATASE Archives, being a specialist archive, requires an academic study at least at the level of a Master’s Degree, and a good knowledge of Ottoman Turkish.

The documents requested from the researchers are:

1. A letter of intent outlining the premises of the research,
2. Academic reference to be obtained from the institution affiliated,
3. Copy of National Identification Card, or of their passports,
4. Two passport size photographs.

The oldest documents to be found at the TGS Archives belong to the Crimean War (1853-1836). Archives hold collections of documents pertaining to battles, operations, reconnaissance, and logistic supports. These collections are:

1. Ottoman-Russian War [Crimean War] (1853-1856)
2. Ottoman-Serbian-Montenegro War (1875-1877)
3. Ottoman-Russian War (1877-1878)
4. Ottoman-Greek War (1897)
5. Ottoman Era Internal Affairs (1896-1914)



6. Ottoman-Italian War (1911-1912)
7. Balkan War (1912-1913)
8. First World War (1914-1918)
9. Turkish War of Independence (1919-1922)
10. Republican Era Internal Affairs (1923-1938)
11. Korean War (1950-1953)
12. Cyprus Peace Operation (1974)
13. ATATÜRK Collection
14. CENTO Special Archives
15. Gulf War (1991)
16. War Journals
17. Maps and Photographs

Collections hold ten million documents. Collections are made available to scholars and academic researchers following the completion of the classification of the documents. The catalogues available for the exploitation of the researchers are:

#### **1. Ottoman-Russian War [Crimean War] (1853-1856)**

There are 18.400 documents in the collection. The catalogue covers the dates between April 14, 1849 and August 18, 1870. The documents contain correspondences about the organization, public order, supplies, and victuals, information on fortifications, along with reconnaissance and war reports.

#### **2. Ottoman-Serbian-Montenegro War (1875-1877)**

The collection consists of 5.877 documents. The oldest document in the collection dates back to July 29, 1870. These documents contain correspondences between the Office of the *Serasker*<sup>11</sup> and armies, as well as the correspondences between the Office of the *Serasker* and other command posts. The collection also holds documents pertaining to issues ranging from military service, administration, civilian administration, judicial, to educational affairs.

#### **3. Ottoman-Russian War (1877-1878)**

37.019 documents, catalogued in seven volumes, make the body of the collection. Catalogue is comprised of the documents dating between May 17, 1833 and March 24, 1885. The documents contain information on settlement, victuals, supply, and war reports.

#### **4. Ottoman-Greek War (1897)**

Collection holds 48.548 documents. The catalogue covers the dates between September 26, 1885 and February 22, 1912. The documents in the collection contain information about the general strength of the Ottoman Army units, units dispatched, equipment, and war reports. In addition there are also documents pertaining to mobilization, security of the units, newspaper articles on the position the foreign countries, rebellion on Crete, and personnel affairs (appointments, promotions, rewards etc.).

#### **5. Ottoman-Italian War (1911-1912)**

There are 41.591 documents in the collection. The documents in the catalogue cover the issues extending from 1905 to July 1, 1922. The documents reveal information on the general strength of the Ottoman and Italian forces, reconnaissance reports on the general situation in Italy and its military strength, correspondences on mobilization, sending of supplies, equipment, personnel, victuals, arms and ammunition to the Ottoman Forces.

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<sup>11</sup> *Serasker: Commander-in-Chief*



## 6. Balkan War (1912-1913)

The 902.800 documents in the catalogue cover the dates between December 21, 1909 and November 25, 1922. The reports bring information on the organization of the forces of the Balkan states to light; in addition, general strength charts, correspondences pertaining to supplies, victuals, reconnaissance, mobilization, dispatches, shipping, health services, various administrative orders, and war journals.

## 7. First World War (1914-1918)

There are 3.671.470 documents in this catalogue. The catalogue covers the events between March 20, 1913 and April 5, 1923. The catalogue embraces various orders and correspondences pertaining to supplies, health, personnel affairs, war journals, mobilization, victuals, settlement and administrative issues, unit deployments, various land and naval campaign reports, as well as foreign press reviews on the political and military developments, and the positioning and organization of the armies.

## 8. Turkish War of Independence (1919-1922)

Total number of the documents in the collection is 1.996.694. The 21-volume catalogue covers the years between 1913 and 1927. The documents in the Turkish War of Independence Catalogue contain information on the issues ranging from supplies, victuals, reconnaissance, dispatches, transfers, positioning and organization of the units, to war reports; in addition, national and foreign newspaper articles on the general military and political developments, and correspondences on personnel and health services do take place among the documents. Catalogue studies on the collection are still being carried out.

## 9. Korean War (1950-1953) & Cyprus Peace Operation (1974)

The still catalogued Korean War and Cyprus Peace Operation collections are expected to be presented to the service of the researchers soon.

## 10. ATATÜRK Collection

The collection holds 19.682 documents. It covers the documents spanning from 1897 to 1938. ATATÜRK Collection embraces – aside from ATATÜRK's notebooks – war journals, correspondences pertaining to the military and political developments at the fronts, and various letters sent to Mustafa Kemal ATATÜRK. He writes:

*This very land of ours has become an eminent stage at a time when the World unexpectedly witnessed the manifestation of a noble presence. This eminent stage has been a Turkish cradle for at least seven thousand years. This cradle was rocked by the winds of nature; the child in the cradle bathed by the showers of the nature; the child first feared the lightning, thunderbolt, and strong storms of the nature; took them as the fathers of nature; and became their son. In the due time child became lightning, thunder, and sun: the child became the Turk. Turk is: the Thunderbolt, the Tornado, and is the Sun illuminating the world.*

As is seen through the contents of the catalogues the TGS ATASE ve Dent. Archives is an important source for Turkish Military History. The documents pertaining to military history of the past ages and of our age are being collected the premises.

*Writing history is as important as making history. Should the writer ever yields in remaining true to the maker, the unchanging reality assumes a nature that shall eventually startle the humanity. (1931)*

*Mustafa Kemal ATATÜRK*

We are of the conviction that the more the scientific researchers exploit the archives, and the more they introduce the documents to the academia, TGS ATASE ve Dent. Archives will have had fulfilled its mission.



## **The digitalisation of fonds and collections in the Military Historical Archives (Section III of the Central Military Archives) in Prague**

By Zuzana PIVCOVÁ (Prague)

On 14 December 2006, new digitalisation equipment was put into operation in the MHA. At the beginning of the process was an idea of August 2002 to scan flooded archives and the decision of 2004 to digitalise frequently used archives and collections.

After 2 years of preparations an agreement about delivery of digitalisation equipment, including beside a server also 5 appliances (4 of them for digitalisation itself and a digital reading-room), was signed between the Central Military Archives and the firm NESS. Due to bad conditions in the existing archive building (former Invalid House) a takeover building in Prague - Vinohrady was chosen, where the equipment will keep installed until the whole archives is transferred to a new building complex.

The digitalisation equipment was bought especially for the purpose of producing study copies of processed archive fonds for readers. From about 3400 fonds and collections (almost 19 linear kilometres) in total, about 30 thousand boxes have been chosen, e.g. about 30 million scanned pages. In all probability it will cause enormously much work for a couple of decades. With full achievement of the digitalization appliance, several tens of boxes per month are digitalized, which is dependent on the quality and character of paper, script etc. The next step should be the establishment of a digital reading-room, which, however, will be put into operation after the removal of the archives into the new residence first. Together with fonds and collections the finding aids (about 500 pieces) are scanned, which will be available to public online. Readers will have the opportunity to make orders online, but the research will happen only in the reading-room.

For scanning of archives 4 appliances were delivered - a digital camera, a book scanner and 2 paper scanners. The unique digital camera ULTIMA with a vacuum table can scan originals up to the size A0, bigger originals must be put on the wall, the book scanner MINOLTA makes black-and-white copies up to the size A2 and the paper scanners are used for scanning of color originals up to the size A3. In August 2007 the complex was supplemented with a book scanner BOOK2NET for color copies up to A2. The existing capacity should be sufficient for the next couple of years.

The testing operations passed in January - February 2007. The delivery firm secured the training of operators and the necessary information and technical service. Since March 2007 the facility has been in full traffic. At the beginning 4 part-time operators were taken on, who became full-time archive employees later.

The equipment is used for digitalisation of processed fonds and collections in the MHA. Already during the first months the service was presented to the representatives of Czech and foreign institutions. Digitalised must be documents, where the duty is given by a special archive law, then the documents on the basis of international agreements, documents containing so-called national cultural heritage, frequently used documents, which are threatened by physical damage, documents, which are just to be transferred to other archives and at last, parts of collections for the purpose of other offices within the Ministry of Defence and various events including exhibitions.

On the basis of the archive law 499/2004 on archives and record service the digitalisation of the collection of military personal registers (2 100 books in total) was passing the last 2 years. Within the international co-operation, lists of war graves of Russian soldiers or records of the 2 Czechoslovak independent paratroops brigade in the SU or the 1 Czechoslovak division in Italy were digitalised for Slovak authorities.



The personal collection of the Communist minister of defence Alex Čepička was handed over to the National Archives and the collection 308 (resistance) will be transferred to the Archives of Security Authorities, so that they had to be digitalised, too. As frequently used materials Plans of fortifications Olomouc, Prague and Terezín and the collection 37 (Czech military intelligence service in London) and war posters were chosen.

Beside the digitalisation, the appliances are used for scanning of single parts of fonds for the purpose of some defence departments or for scanning of part-collections of the Military Historical Institute, e. g. a register of killed and died Czech legionnaires in Russia, photographs of publications and maps of the Military Historical Institute, then death certificates of Italian POWs from the military camp in Milovice in the WWI for Italian Embassy. Not least, records and photographs were scanned for exhibitions in the co-operation with the Military Historical Institute, for example the exhibition about Army general Sergej Ingr, or about one of the assassins on Heydrich Jan Kubiš, about 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle at Zborov in Russia etc.

About 150 thousand scans are made per year.



## How to Improve our Website? Proposals for the CAM Meeting 2010 in Amsterdam

By Christoph TEPPERBERG (Vienna)

At the CAM Meeting next year in Amsterdam we want to discuss – among others – the growing importance of the Internet for military archives, and especially: How to improve our CAM-Website?

The title of our website is: “Military Archives International”  
The current URL (Uniform Resource Locator) of our website:

<http://www.military-archives.org> respectively  
<http://wwwa2.vbs.admin.ch/internet/applications/gq/milarchiv/start.asp>

The website is implemented on the homepage of the Swiss Army,  
Or, to be more precise, on the domain of the

Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport DDPS (General Secretariat):  
<http://www.vbs.admin.ch/>

Currently the website contains – for the main – a guide to military archives, arranged alphabetically according to countries. The entries contain basic information on individual military archives or national archives:

- Archive name (English), Archive name (native)
- Country, Address
- Organization affiliation
- Website, E-Mail, Phone, Fax
- General description of contents, Categories
- Linear measurement, Period covered
- Access conditions (opening hours)
- Conditions of use (legal conditions)
- Publications/Guides of the archive
- Finding aids accessible to the public (printed/electronic)

In the preface of the website our President explains:

*Military Archives International MAI offers world-wide the most important information on contacting and using military archives. MAI replaces herewith the Guide to Military Archives published last in Stockholm in 1989.*

*The Comité des Archives Militaires CAM of the International Commission of Military History wishes to thus provide the international community of military history with a rapid overview of military archives and also to establish a portal to the web sites of the individual archives containing the updated details on their use.*

*Archiving agencies that would like to register are requested to ask for a user ID and a password under [h.harder@barch.bund.de](mailto:h.harder@barch.bund.de) [Now: [christoph.tepperberg@oesta.gv.at](mailto:christoph.tepperberg@oesta.gv.at)].*

*Dr. Hans-Joachim Harder  
President of CAM*



### **What could we discuss to improve or change?**

- Update of the entries of the individual military archives (by reports to the executive board of CAM or by user ID and password)
- Update of the individual user IDs and passwords
- Implementation of Mars & Janus as PDF downloads
- Implementation of news (by the executive board and/or by individual military archives)
- Improvement of the members area and the public area
- What are we able to do within the current domain?
- Content management possible by the executive board of CAM, or by the Swiss webmaster only?
- Change of domain?
- Expenses?
- .....

**So, if you do have some proposals or ideas, please let us know!!!**

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