



The Arbeitskreis Militärgeschichte e.V. (Military History Study Group) was founded in 1995 with the aim of promoting research and scholarly exchange within the field of military history, and the history of war and conflict in general. It seeks to encourage approaches and methodologies from political and institutional history, as well as economic, social, cultural and gender history. The Arbeitskreis works energetically to encourage the further development of this vibrant and important field of historiography, particularly within German universities.

At the same time, the Arbeitskreis also strives to offer a forum for information and communication to all those interested in the historical aspects of war and the military from antiquity to the twenty-first century. This forum consists of regular workshops and conferences, the annual general meeting, as well as a newsletter published three times a year, a website and a mailing list. The annual membership fee is currently 25.00 Euros, with a reduced rate of 10.00 Euros for students and the unemployed. The membership fee for corporate members (i.e. organisations and institutions) is 50.00 Euros annually.

## Conferences

The Arbeitskreis holds an annual conference; in addition, it also co-organises conferences on the history of war and specific aspects of military history, supplementing these activities with the newsletter, its website and mailing list as further sources of information.

- In 1997 the theme of the conference held in Freiburg was the "History of Prisoners of War".
- In 1998 a large group of international experts met in Bochum to discuss the central question, "What is military history?"
- In 1999 the Düsseldorf conference focussed on the Treaty of Versailles, while another meeting in Berlin examined the history of the military, war and gender in the twentieth century.
- In 2001, the question "Operations history and Modern Historiography: A Contradiction?" was discussed in Potsdam.
- In 2002 the Augsburg conference dealt with the issue of "Occupation: The Function and Form of Military Foreign Rule".
- In 2003, in Reinbek near Hamburg, the annual conference addressed the subject of "The Soldier and Society: The Biography and Autobiography in Military History".
- In 2004 the annual conference examined various aspects of the issue of "Military Heroes – Heroes in War".
- In 2005 "atrocities" was the subject under discussion at the Mainz conference.

Individual members of the Arbeitskreis are usually involved in the organisation of the conferences, but they do also co-operate with other organisations in the staging of conferences and workshops.

## Wilhelm Deist Prize for Military History

In 2006 the Arbeitskreis launched the Wilhelm Deist Prize for distinguished exam papers in military history (Bachelor, Master, Magister, state examination and comparable international degrees). The Prize, which is valued at 500 Euros, commemorates the work and achievements of the German military historian, Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Deist (1931-2003), who was one of the founders of the Arbeitskreis in 1995 and its president until

2002. As the chief historian at the Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt, and honorary professor of history at the University of Freiburg, one of Prof. Deist's special concerns was the support of young scholars.

## Workshops

The Arbeitskreis is also able to make available some modest funds annually for the organisation of workshops. The funds provided are intended to encourage individual members to pursue more specific themes from military history within the framework of a workshop. It is intended that the workshops take up innovative topics, address a wider circle of scholars than those already involved in study groups; they usually last one or one and a half days. The Committee adjudicates on the allocation of funding on the basis of how innovative a topic is, and the quality of the workshop concept. The papers from a workshop can be published in a special issue of the newsletter.

## Annual General Meeting

As of late 2005, 400 scholars from fifteen countries were registered as members of the Arbeitskreis. Members can make suggestions on the running of the Arbeitskreis, or propose future conference topics, at the AGM. The AGM usually takes place during the annual conference.

## The newsletter

The Arbeitskreis newsletter has appeared as a journal since the fifth number in 1997. It is available in many libraries in Germany and abroad. Members receive the three issues per year as part of the benefits of membership; corporate members receive three copies of each issue; other interested parties can order individual issues at 10.00 Euros each. Each issue contains:

- Essays on various aspects of military history;

- Reports on national and international archives, museums and research institutions of interest to military historians;
- Special features on new research projects;
- Analyses of new developments and trends in research within the field of military history.

The newsletter also presents the programmes of planned conferences and workshops, accepts "Calls for Papers" and publishes reports on forthcoming events. There are also regular reports on internet sites, and other new media relevant to military historical research.

## Website

The Arbeitskreis Militärgeschichte e.V. has been represented by its website since April 1998. The website presents the Arbeitskreis' projects in detail in both German and English. A text version of the current newsletter is also available for download, in addition to numerous conference announcements and links to military history websites. Members can also showcase their own research projects.

## Mailing List

Since October 2001, the Arbeitskreis has offered its members a closed mailing list (named: information list) in order to facilitate the swift internal exchange of information. Information and queries on the following areas can be sent out via this list:

- Topics and dates of lectures, workshops, lecture series and courses;
- Calls for Papers;
- Announcements of grants, projects and positions in the field of military history;
- Queries regarding research co-operation;
- Queries regarding sources and archives;
- Queries on terminology and other military history research problems.



## The Committee

Prof. Dr. Stig Förster (Chairman)  
 Prof. Dr. Sönke Neitzel (Vice Chairman)  
 PD Dr. Christian Koller (Treasurer)  
 Dr. Gundula Bavendamm (Secretary)  
 Daniel Hohrath M.A.  
 Dr. Markus Pöhlmann  
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