



The Flanders Fields Conference of Military Law and the Law of War

12 – 15 October 2014

Organised in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and

The Royal Higher Institute for Defence

With the support of the City of Ypres, the British Army Legal Services, the Institute for International Affairs at the University of Hamburg, Melbourne University School of Law, and

the 'Centre d'Etude de Droit Militaire et de Droit de la Guerre' (Belgian Group of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War)

Program (ISMLLW 652 N E 28)

Sunday

- 12.00 h – 17.30 h : Registration of participants (lobby of the Novotel)
- 14.00 h – 17.00 h : Meeting of the boards of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* (by invitation – Novotel)
- 14.00 h – 17.00 h : Guided tour of the ramparts (departure at the lobby of Novotel)
- 18.15 h – 19.45 h : Welcome reception offered by the City of Ypres (*Museum Café* of the city), with speeches by
Mr. Jef VERSCHOORE, First Alderman of the City of Ypres & President of the *In Flanders Fields Museum*, and by
Brigadier General (ret.) Jan Peter SPIJK, President of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War*, followed by
The official opening of the exhibition on *World War I and the Red Cross: then and now* by
Mr. François BUGNION, Member of the *International Committee of the Red Cross*, and
Professor Philippe VANDEKERCKHOVE, Chief Executive Officer of the *Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)*

Monday

- 8.15 h – 9.15 h : Registration of participants (City Theatre)
- 9.30 h – 10.30 h : Official Opening of the Conference (City Theatre)

Opening speeches by:

Mr. Ludwig VAN DER VEKEN, Secretary-General of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War*

Mr. François BUGNION, Member of the *International Committee of the Red Cross*

The Director-General of the *Royal Higher Institute for Defence*,
Colonel Guido MAENE

Mr. Paul BREYNE, *Commissar-General for the Federal Ceremonies to Commemorate World War I*, Belgium

10.30 h – 11.00 h : Coffee break (Vleeshuis)

11.00 h – 12.15 h : Keynote Discussion on legal and policy issues associated with chemical weapons (City Theatre)

Chair: Colonel Jean-Albert LEGROS, Director of the Center for Security and Defence Studies, *Royal Higher Institute for Defence*, Belgium

Confirmed panelists:

Mr. Robert G. BELL, *Senior Civilian Representative of the US Secretary of Defense in Europe*

Mr. Daniel FEAKES, Strategy and Policy Adviser, Office of Strategy and Policy, *Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)*

Group photo

Lunch at Novotel

14.30 h – 16.00 h : Conference (City Theatre)

Contemporary challenges of international humanitarian law in the conduct of hostilities

Chair: Professor Stefan OETER, *University of Hamburg*, Germany

Confirmed speakers:

Professor W. Hays PARKS, Distinguished Fellow, *Center for National Security Law, University of Virginia*, United States

Mr. David TURNS, Senior Lecturer, *Cranfield Defence and Security, Defence Academy of the United Kingdom*

16.00 h – 16.30 h : Coffee break (Vleeshuis)

16.30 h – 17.00 h : Extraordinary General Assembly (by invitation – City Theatre)

17.15 h – 18.00 h : Spare for another Extraordinary General Assembly (if needed)

20.00 h: Attendance of *the Last Post* at the Menin Gate, ceremony with wreath laying by the President of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War*, the Director-General of the British Army Legal Services, and the Director-General Legal Support & Mediation of the Belgian Ministry of Defence

Tuesday

9.00 h – 10.30 h : Conference (City Theatre)

Contemporary challenges of international humanitarian law in the protection of specific groups in armed conflict (1st session – The protection of medical personnel)

Chair: Mr. Stéphane KOLANOWSKI, Senior Legal Advisor, ICRC Delegation to the EU and NATO

The evolution of the medical work on the battlefield

Confirmed speaker: Colonel Wynand KORTERINK, Military Doctor, Msc., The Netherlands Armed Forces

The loss of protection for medical personnel

Confirmed speaker: Dr. Vaios KOUTROULIS, *Université Libre de Bruxelles*, Belgium

10.30 h – 11.00 h : Coffee break (Vleeshuis)

11.00 h – 12.15 h : Conference (City Theatre)

Contemporary challenges of international humanitarian law in the protection of specific groups in armed conflict (2nd session – Humanitarian access: what are the rights, what are the obligations)

Chair: Dr. Florika FINK-HOOIJER, Director for Strategy, Policy and International Cooperation, *Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department*, European Commission

Confirmed speakers:

Mr. Stéphane KOLANOWSKI, Senior Legal Advisor, ICRC Delegation to the EU and NATO

Mrs. Emanuela Chiara GILLARD, *UN OCHA* Officer and Senior Research Fellow at the *Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict*

Mrs. Martina GHELARDUCCI, Legal Advisor, *Médecins sans Frontières*

Lunch at Novotel

14.30 h – 16.00 h : Conference (City Theatre)

Military Justice in difficult circumstances (1st session)

Chair: Dr. Alison DUXBURY, Associate Professor and Associate Dean (JD), *Melbourne Law School*, Australia

Confirmed speakers:

Dr. Lawrence VAN HAECKE, Researcher, *Royal Military Academy*, Belgium

Dr. Yutaka ARAI, Professor of International Law and International Human Rights Law, and Deputy Director in Law, *University of Kent in Brussels*, Belgium

Dr. Elizabeth L. HILLMAN, Professor of Law and Provost & Academic Dean, *University of California Hastings College of the Law*, United States

16.00 h – 16.30 h : Coffee break (Vleeshuis)

16.30 h – 18.00 h : Conference (City Theatre)

Military Justice in difficult circumstances (2nd session)

Chair: Dr. Rain LIIVOJA, Senior Lecturer and Branco Weiss Fellow, *Melbourne Law School*, Australia

Confirmed speakers:

Brigadier Stuart LYTHGOE, Deputy Director Service Prosecutions, *British Army*, United Kingdom

Dr. U. C. JHA, Wing Commander (ret.) *Air Force*, India

Major Patrick VERMETTE, Deputy Judge Advocate, *Office of the Assistant Judge Advocate General (Europe)*, Canada

18.45 h : Evening visit of the *In Flanders Fields Museum*

20.15 h - ... Standing dinner with Belgian beers and specialties, closing speech and live music at the *Kazematten*

Wednesday (by bus)

Morning Guided tour of the *Kemmelberg bunker* as a remnant of the Cold War, and visit to the *Tyne Cot Cemetery* at Passchendaele

Lunch at the *Old Cheese Factory* in Passchendaele

Afternoon Visit to the *Trenches of Death* in Dixmude

Evening Busride to Bruges, Brussel Central Railway Station and Brussels Airport

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THIS BUS RIDE (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY):

First stop of bus 1 = Bruges, where participants can be dropped off at the *College of Europe* if they attend the Colloquium organized by the *International Committee of the Red Cross* and the *College of Europe* from 16 through 17 October 2014;

First stop of bus 2 = Ypres, where participants can be dropped off at the Novotel Ieper Flanders Fields if they wish to stay longer in Ypres;

Second stop = Brussels Central Railway Station in the City Centre, where participants can be dropped off as well;

Last stop = Brussels Airport late in the evening;

It is strongly recommended that participants who want to return home immediately after the Ypres conference do not book their return rides or flights for Wednesday as the hour of arrival in Brussels is uncertain. We suggest that they spend their last night in Belgium at one of the hotels at Brussels Airport or in the City Centre of Brussels. The organizing partners cannot guarantee that the bus will reach Brussels in time to catch any planes or trains on Wednesday evening.