

â€™Grenzeloos verzetâ€™™ (Boundless Resistance), a unique case study on the cross-border resistance during the Second World War

On 16 October 2018, Paul De Jongh, who is an associated researcher of CegeSoma, will present his book '*Grenzeloos verzet. Over spionerende monniken, ontsnappingslijnen en het Hannibalspiel, 1940-1943*', Turnhout, Brepols, 2018, 344 p.

March 1943. The German secret police surrounded the abbey of Val-Dieu and two of its monks were arrested for participating in resistance activities: H. Jacobs of Antwerp and E. Muhren of Bergen op Zoom.

A short time later, 80 arrests were made in Belgium and in the Netherlands.

On 9 October, 9 members of the resistance were executed in Rhijnauwen, near Utrecht. Among them, the two monks.

The author has consulted the archives of CegeSoma, the NIOD, the Nationaal Archief at The Hague, the State Archives of Liège and Brussels, as well as several local archives, and tells us the story of the emergence and development of the first resistance groups.

By retracing the trajectory of these two monks, he tries to give an answer to the questions relating to the role of the Church and the abbey in this case, to the treatment of the resistance fighters after their arrest, the manner in which they were tried etc ?

In short, a passionate cross-border spy story involving evacuation of pilots, aid to Jewish persons, German infiltration in the resistance groups ?

Paul De Jongh is a lawyer and leads an academic editing company. For some years, he has been doing research on the resistance (espionage and escape lines) in the border region of Herve-Fourons-Eijsden (the Netherlands), including infiltrations, arrests, juridical procedures and executions.

This presentation (in Dutch) will take place in the conference room of Cegesoma, on Tuesday 16 October at 2 p.m. (29, square de l'Aviation in 1070 Brussels).

We thank you for confirming your presence by telephone (02/556.92.11) or by email to : isabelle.ponteville@arch.be.

Do not hesitate to bring a friend !