

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

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5 NOVEMBER : WORKSHOP ON BELGIAN MILITARY HISTORY

Military history is a very successful topic in public history, but remains a neglected field of study in academic historiography. With this workshop, we hope to encourage new research into the military history of Belgium. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2748)

11 NOVEMBER AT THE BELVUE MUSEUM

On 11 November, the BELvue Museum organises a day for discovery. There will be guided tours to the Albert and Elisabeth exhibition, and a conference by Chantal Kesteloot on the subject of the last days of WWI in Belgium and Brussels. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2815)

12 NOVEMBER: LAWRENCE VAN HAECKE WILL GIVE A LECTURE ON THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-WAR REPRESSION OF COLLABORATION

As collaboration continues to feed social and political debates, historian Lawrence Van Haecke will tackle the subject at Cegesoma. His lecture will embark upon the preparation of the repression of collaboration after WWII. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2821)

TWO HISTORIKERDIALOG SESSIONS IN NOVEMBER

Two Historikerdialog sessions will take place in November. Two conferences, one in Brussels and one in Namur, followed by comments and debates, will tackle the presence and consequences of military occupation during the First World War. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2824)

EUROPEANA COLLECTION DAYS AT THE ROYAL LIBRARY

Experts of the Royal Library will digitise your objects, letters, photographs and other documents of the First World War and introduce them to the online Europeana 14-18 archives. Be there on 5 and 6 December! [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.kbr.be/actualites/collectionDays/fr.html)

THE CEGESOMA COLLECTIONS, EVER EASIER TO CONSULT

Our website was modified last summer. The main target was to allow easier access to our documentation. Learn how. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2817)

Military History under Debate

The Army in Belgian History: innovative perspectives, contemporary challenges

On **Wednesday 5 November 2014**, **Josephine Hoegaerts** (KULeuven) and **Nel de Mûelenaere** (UA) organize a workshop on Belgium's military history in collaboration with CEGESOMA.

Military history is a very successful topic in public history, but remains a neglected field of study in academic historiographies. With this workshop, we hope to encourage new research into the military history of Belgium.

We will do this first and foremost by reflecting on the role of military history in an international research context.

Benjamin Ziemann (University of Sheffield), author of *'What is military history?'* (2000) and a pioneer of new military history, will give a lecture entitled *'Military History between War and Peace: Reflections on the Place of a Historical Field'*.

Dirk Martin (CEGESOMA), **Piet Veldeman** & **Pierre Lierneux** (KLM) and **Gertjan Debie** (KMS) will provide an overview of the military archives in Belgium.

Joost Vaesen closes the day (VUB and Brussels Studies Institute) with a reflection on the new state of the art of the field, seven years after his contribution to Belgian military historiography in *De Tuin van Heden* (2007).



Programme:

2.00 p.m. : Welcome by Rudi Van Doorslaer, director of CEGESOMA

2.15 p.m. : Benjamin Ziemann (University of Sheffield): Military History between War and Peace: Reflections on the Place of a Historical Field

3.30 p.m. : Dirk Martin (CEGESOMA), Piet Veldeman & Pierre Lierneux (KLM) and Gertjan Debie (KMS): military archives in Belgium

4.30 p.m. : Coffee break

5.00 p.m. Joost Vaesen (VUB): Belgian military historiography – state of the art

5.30 p.m. : Nel de Mûelenaere (UA): conclusion

We would be happy to welcome you on wednesday 5 November 2014, at **2 p.m.** in the conference-hall on the second floor of CEGESOMA, Luchtvaartsquare 29 1070 Brussels.

Lectures will be held in English and Dutch.

Attendance is free, but please RSVP to 02/556.92.11 or cegesoma@cegesoma.be.

Ambar geerts

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11 November 2014. The Great War at the BELvue Museum

On 11 November, the BELvue Museum organises a day for discovery. This means it will be the perfect day to visit the exhibitions *Albert and Elisabeth. Filming the Life of a Royal Couple* and *Notre Congo. La propagande coloniale belge dévoilée*.

Researchers from CEGESOMA will be present and offer guided visits of the exhibition on Albert and Elisabeth. For those who have not seen it yet, this will be the opportunity to discover the lives of the Monarchs through film footage of multiple significant moments from 1909 to 1934.

For those who wish to learn more about the liberation of Brussels, **Chantal Kesteloot** will give a lecture (in French) on the Joyous Entry of the Royal Family on 22 November 1918. Indeed, this symbolic gesture marked the end of the conflict: their return to the city left four years earlier was more triumphal than joyous, this becoming a meaningful historical day. Consequently, the journey was abundantly commented upon, filmed and photographed. For Brussels, it meant the end of a long occupation; for Belgium, it was the entry into a more democratic era. This conference will tackle the circumstances of the end of WWI, which durably marked the history of the 20th century.



Programme :

11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

guided visits in French

2 p.m.

Lecture by Chantal Kesteloot: "11-22 November 1918. Ten days that shook Brussel's and Belgium's lives"

4 p.m.

guided visits in Dutch

These activities are organised in collaboration with the BELvue Museum. Other activities will be taking place the same day, related to the *Notre Congo. La propagande coloniale belge dévoilée* exhibition. For the entire programme, please refer to <http://www.belvue.be/fr/news/programme-du-11-novembre-au-belvue>.

Karel Strobbe

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Conference by Lawrence Van Haecke

Repression after the Second World War: background and preparation

On **Wednesday 12 November 2014**, **Lawrence Van Haecke** will come to CEGESOMA to give a lecture (in Dutch) based on his recently completed research. The title of the conference reads "Repression after the Second World War : background and preparation". The subject is particularly important in the context of current political and social debates regarding the repression of collaboration with Nazi Germany during WWII. Van Haecke tackles the legislative elaboration rather than the repression itself.

The preparation to the actual repression of collaboration by the Belgian government in London has long been considered a one-man job. The "hard and rigorous" legislation which was allegedly applied, has been perceived as an attempt at personal clearing by the Minister of Justice Antoine Delfosse. This is at least the hypothesis drawn by, among others, Luc Schepens and Luc Huyse. In the framework of his thesis on the repression of collaboration with the enemy after the Second World War, Lawrence van Haecke carried out a thorough and deep research in the legislative antecedents to the punishment of collaboration. His conclusions differ from those of Schepens and Huyse.

Lawrence Van Haecke is a historian and an archivist. Between 2007 and 2013, he held a doctoral scholarship at CEGESOMA. In May 2014, he achieved a PhD at the Gent University with his work: "Repression and Purge. The Protection of External State Security as a Political and Juridic Problem during the Regime Crisis (1932-1948)". He is currently working at the Military School as research assistant.



This activity will take place (in Dutch) at 14:30 in the conference room of CEGESOMA, Square de l'Aviation 29, 1070 Bruxelles.

The entrance is free.

You are kindly requested to subscribe by phone or email : 02/556.92.11 - cegesoma@cegesoma.be.

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Two sessions of Historikerdialog in November

Scarcity and occupation regimes

Two *Historikerdialog* sessions will take place in **November 2014**, the first on **the 6th** in Brussel, and the second on **the 7th** in Namur. Two conferences, followed by comments and debates, that will tackle the presence and consequences of military occupation during the First World War.

The *Historikerdialog* is a series of public debates between Belgian and German historians on a wide range of WWI-related topics. The initiative was launched in 2012, at the KU Leuven, by the German ambassador in Brussels. The Belgian universities act as local organizers and the Cegesoma as central coordinator. While the debates themselves have a scholarly character, they arrive at a timely moment in a context of large public commemorative interest for WWI.

Two lectures will take place:

- The first **on 6 November 2014 (15:45)** in Brussels, in the siege of the *Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles*, with the title: **"Expériences et représentations de la pénurie alimentaire durant la Guerre 14-18. Allemagne-Belgique"**.

During WWI, occupied Belgium was, like Germany, caught in the Allies' economic blockade. Consequently, these populations underwent severe food shortages, which would leave their mark on the people's consciousness. The Belgian population managed to avoid famine thanks to international humanitarian relief, whereas hundreds of thousands of Germans actually starved to death. This dialogue between **Gerd Krumeich**, professor at the University of Dusseldorf, and **Laurence van Ypersele** (UCL) strives to confront both realities lived by the populations, and the way in which they were interpreted during and after the war.

- The second will take place **on 7 November 2014 (at 19:00)** at the Palais Provincial of Namur, under the title **"Occupation Regimes: the First World War in Perspective"**.

Jörn Leonhard, professor of modern European history at the University of Freiburg and author of *Die Büchse der Pandora. Geschichte des Ersten Weltkriegs* (Munich, 5th ed. 2014) (Pandora's Box. History of the First World War) will dialogue with **Axel Tixhon** (Unamur).

Prof. Leonhard's lecture will consider the particular realities of the home front in occupied zones, thereby comparing experiences of violence, forced labour and collaboration in Belgium, Eastern European territories and Serbia. Axel Tixhon, professor at the University of Namur and expert in institutions and in the Great War, will comment on Prof. Leonhard's lecture from a Belgian perspective.

Informations et inscription: www.historikerdialog.eu

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Janine Binon Collection, WWI: Nurses, Hôpital de l'Océan in La Panne; Queen Elisabeth Schools.

The CEGESOMA Collections, ever Easier to Consult

The CEGESOMA website was modified last summer, to allow among other things easier access to documentation. In this way, the new heading "find a document", allows, by clicking on the "catalogue" tab, to consult both our **general catalogue** and our **specialised catalogues**, which were more difficult to find in the past. These include posters, interviews, broadcasts of *Jours de guerre*, audio material concerning daily life under the Occupation and audio material from *Radio Bruxelles*, video and DVD collections and *VRT De Nieuwe Orde* programmes. The same tab leads to collective search tools such as the common catalogue of the federal libraries.

In the same vein, all **digitized documents** are now directly accessible via the "digitized documents" tab of the same "find a document" heading. Access to posters, pictures, interviews, archives, tracts and personal diaries is now much easier. The digitized archives can be searched via a new, more practical search tool. The same tab "digitized documents" allows to consult the newspapers of both World Wars, digitized in the frame of *The Belgian War Press* website.

Last but not least, a new heading was created, "To Deposit your Documents", clearly explaining the procedure to be followed if you wish to donate, deposit or reproduce your documents for preservation. We receive documents on the history of the 20th century, particularly those linked to the conflicts in which Belgium has been engaged since 1914.

[Fabrice Maerten](#)

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