

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

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[nl](#) [fr](#) [en](#)

DOUBLE EXHIBITION: "LIBERATION! BELGIANS IN GERMAN CAMPS"

CegeSoma, Kazerne Dossin and the National Memorial of the Fortress of Breendonk have joined forces to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi camps. The double exhibition 'Liberation! Belgians in German Camps' opened on 2 April 2015 in the Kazerne Dossin museum and in the Fortress of Breendonk. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2918)

SOVIET FILM PRODUCTION AND BABI YAR, 1943-1945: FEATURING THE HOLOCAUST

The Babi Yar site near Kiev was the background of the second largest massacre of Soviet Jews (29-30 September 1941). The place became a gigantic mass grave, where also all whom the Nazis judged unwanted were left behind. How did Soviet cinema deal with this? Conference on 29 April. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2934)

SOURCE MATERIAL ON MILITARY JUSTICE ACKNOWLEDGED

The history of the Belgian military courts, abolished in 2004, has long been neglected. On Thursday 30 April 2015, a study day in the Royal Military Academy will acknowledge the importance of the sources of Belgian military justice. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2915)

YOUNG SKILLED HISTORIANS GATHERED AT CEGESOMA FOR THE 10TH TIME!

On Friday 24 April 2015, we will give the floor to young historians who wrote a remarkable master thesis. The themes will not surprise you, since once again we chose the First and the Second World War. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2921)

THE HOLOCAUST THROUGH ITS DOCUMENTS

On Tuesday 28 April 2015, CegeSoma, organizes a debate on a recently published volume dedicated to the persecution of the Jews of North and Eastern Europe. As Barbara Lambauer and Katja Happe, kingpins of this volume, will be in Brussels, we decided to also invite major Belgian experts to take part in the discussion. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=2927&pag0nbr=29&pagofs=0)

Double exhibition: Liberation! Belgians in German Camps

CegeSoma, Kazerne Dossin and the National Memorial of the Fortress of Breendonk have joined forces to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi camps. The double exhibition 'Liberation! Belgians in German Camps' will open on **2 April 2015** in the Kazerne Dossin museum and in the Fortress of Breendonk. It will exhibit photographs never shown before, presenting revelatory sights of the last months of the war.

In the Kazerne Dossin museum: mission "van Zeeland"

The exhibition in Kazerne Dossin is dedicated to the Belgian mission at the liberation of Buchenwald. The collection shows their journey through a devastated Germany, but also the life of perpetrators and victims at the camps, the torture, the liberation and the repatriation. The focus is set on the sixty liberated Belgians Kazerne Dossin was able to identify and of which the life stories were reconstructed. The dehumanized prisoners, who were a mere number in Buchenwald, have been given a face once more.

In the Fortress of Breendonk: Paul Lévy

In the Fortress of Breendonk, the visitor discovers the trajectory of the Belgian war correspondent Paul Lévy. With filmmaker and photographer Raphaël Algoet, he followed the allied troops through Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Lévy himself had been a prisoner in Breendonk and took a particular interest in the camps and the prisons. The exhibition follows his path by featuring photographs, objects and press articles.



Liberation of Buchenwald. (CegeSoma, Algoet Collection, nr. 96631)

[Introduction par Rudi Van Doorslaer](#) lors de l'inauguration de l'exposition à la Kazerne Dossin le 2 avril

More information: [Kazerne Dossin](#) and [Fortress of Breendonk](#).

19 / 3 / 2015 - 7 / 4 / 2015

◀ [Back](#) ▶

Soviet Film Production and Babi Yar, 1943-1945: Featuring the Holocaust

The Babi Yar site near Kiev was the background of the second largest massacre of Soviet Jews (29-30 September 1941). The place became a gigantic mass grave, where also all whom the Nazis judged unwanted were left behind. How did Soviet cinema deal with this? **Vanessa Voisin** will give a lecture on the subject on **29 April 2015**.

Documentary Cinema and the Holocaust

Babi Yar, discovered by the Red Army during the liberation of Kiev, was repeatedly filmed by newsreels operators. Strangely, the fate of Ukrainian Jews is mentioned in none of the two important documentary films on wartime Ukraine by Soviet film producer Alexander Dovzhenko. The subject was also absent from most films and newsreels of the time. Yet, in 1945, Mark Donskoy explicitly featured the Babi Yar massacre of the Jews in his film *"The Unvanquished"*. On the basis of this example, we will reflect on the specificity of films (particularly documentary films) in the ambiguity of the Soviet discourse on the Holocaust during WWII. We will tackle the conditions in which the Babi Yar images were produced, and reflect upon the issues of their broadcasting, as compared with written press.

Vanessa Voisin is a French historian. She wrote a PhD thesis on Epuration in the Soviet Union (1941-1953), and subsequently joined a project on Soviet newsreels and cinema in relation to the war, covering the years from the mid-thirties to the regime's fall. Together with Valérie Pozner and Alexander Sumpf, she organized the current exhibition *"Filmer la guerre: les Soviétiques face à la Shoah, 1941-1946"*.

Practical details:

- Conference in French
- **Wednesday 29 April 2015**, at **2:30** p.m.
- In the CegeSoma conference room, 29 Square de l'Aviation, 1070 Brussels.
- Attendance is free, please **register before 27 April** at cegesoma@cegesoma.be or 02/556.92.11

10 / 4 / 2015



Russian Archives Online, RGAKFD.

◀ Back ▶

Source Material on Military Justice Acknowledged

The history of the Belgian military courts, abolished in 2004, has long been neglected. On **Thursday 30 April 2015**, a **study day** in the Royal Military Academy will acknowledge the importance of the sources of Belgian military justice. Register now!

Inventorisation promises interesting research perspectives

Since 1 January 2004, Belgian military courts in peacetime have been abolished. Until then, this hybrid institution had functioned as special court. Its history has long been neglected, but there has recently been a renewed interest. 19th and 20th century archive fonds of the Military Court, the Court Martials and their Military Prosecutor's Offices have been made accessible in the State Archives. These sources promise interesting research perspectives and could also provide answers to a number of current debates.

Study day on sources and current research

On 30 April, in the context of the [IJAP "Justice & Populations"](#), the Royal Military Academy, the General State Archives, the UCL (CHDJ) and CegeSoma organise a study day on these archive sources. It will be a unique opportunity to bring together archivists, researchers and an interested audience around these sources and how they are used. Available archives and research instruments will be scrutinized. These sources are of course presented in the context of current historical and juridical research, widening the knowledge on military justice.

A few of the themes are the relation between the military justice and the civilian population, military delinquency in garrison cities, the rehabilitation of executed persons and the German and Belgian repression during and after the Second World War.

You will find the complete [programme](#) here.

Registration is free but necessary, **by 22 April 2015 at the latest**, via the website: www.rma.ac.be/30apr15.

10/ 4 / 2015



*Conseil de guerre en campagne de l'armée belge en 1914-1918.
(Collection privée)*

◀ [Back](#) ▶

Young Skilled Historians gathered at CegeSoma for the 10th time!

On **Friday 24 April 2015**, we will give the floor to young historians who wrote a remarkable master thesis. The themes will not surprise you, since once again we chose the First and the Second World War.

Each year, we look for one or several topics which were specially relevant for Belgian research during the last academic year. On the basis of these topics we contact a number of young historians and give them the opportunity to present their research to a wider audience. This allows to display the results of the students' hard work, which unfortunately often land in the darker corners of the libraries.

This year, the two world wars form again the core of the event. Among the presentations that will take place, we may already mention several: *La Belgique et les Belges face à la question arménienne (1915-1923)*, *Le cinquantenaire de la Grande Guerre vu par la RTB*, *Een discoursanalyse van Vlaams-nationalistische genderconstructies in herdenkingen van de Eerste Wereldoorlog*, and also *Van epuratie tot re-integratie: Het herstelbeleid van de burgerlijke rechtbank inzake epuratie in het arrondissement Dendermonde*. Definitely an exciting day!

Discover the [programme](#).

Practical information:

- CegeSoma conference room, Square de l'Aviation 29, 1070 Brussels
- from 9:30 to 17:00
- Entrance is free, please subscribe before 22 April via mail ([Karel Strobbe](mailto:Karel.Strobbe)) or phone:02/556 92 11

7 / 4 / 2015

◀ [Back](#) ▶



The Holocaust Through its Documents

On **Tuesday 28 April 2015**, CegeSoma, organizes a debate on a recently published volume dedicated to the persecution of the Jews of North and Eastern Europe. As Barbara Lambauer and Katja Happe, kingpins of this volume, will be in Brussels, we decided to also invite major Belgian experts to take part in the discussion.

A very detailed account

The recently released German volume is part of a series of 16 volumes, financed by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*. The project is carried out by the German Federal Archives, the *Institut für Zeitgeschichte* and the universities of Freiburg and Berlin. The project is coordinated in Berlin by historian Susan Heim.

In a sense, the goal is to build a paper monument to the victims of the Holocaust, while also offering easy, fast and commented access to the key documents of the persecution of Jews. Every volume contains around 300 documents, selected to feature the particularities of a region or a time span, hereby covering a wide range of themes. Footnotes referring to the latest historiographical research place the documents in their specific historical context. The selection of the documents was carried out by experts, who collected them in archive centres around the world.

The documents themselves are preceded by a comprehensive introduction. The idea is to offer a working tool to researchers, which is also accessible and useful for a larger audience. By evoking the holocaust through documents drafted at the time of the events, the reader is immediately plunged in the reality of the persecution.

Two representatives and several Belgian experts

Katja Happe and Barbara Lambauer will not only present the project, but will also focus on the latest volume in particular, and of course on the Belgian case specifically. Six Belgian experts will comment on their remarks and upon two documents selected from the volume.

The volume (*Die Verfolgung und Ermordung der europäischen Juden durch das nationalsozialistische Deutschland 1933-1945. Band 12. West- und Nordeuropa Juni 1942-1945*, bearbeitet von Katja Happe, Barbara Lambauer und Clemens Maier-Wolthausen, Oldenbourg, De Gruyter, 2015, <http://www.edition-judenverfolgung.de/>) covers 6 countries: Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, France, Luxemburg and of course Belgium.

Mrs. Florence Lamand and Mr. Hiltermann will represent the German Embassy in Belgium.

The programme

◦ 14:00-14:15

Welcome words by Rudi Van Doorslaer, director of CegeSoma.

◦ 14:15-14:45

Presentation of the series and the volume by Katje Happe and Barbara Lambauer

◦ 14:45-15:30

Reflection and analysis by Pascale Falek (Jewish Museum of Belgium), Lieven Saerens (CegeSoma), Veerle Vanden Daelen (CegeSoma), Rudi Van Doorslaer (CegeSoma), Herman Van Goethem (Kazerne Dossin) and Nico Wouters (CegeSoma) and reactions by Katje Happe and Barbara Lambauer

◦ 15:30-15:45 – Coffee break

◦ 15:45-16:00

Reflection and analysis by Pascale Falek (Jewish Museum of Belgium), Lieven Saerens (CegeSoma), Veerle Vanden Daelen (CegeSoma), Rudi Van Doorslaer (CegeSoma), Herman Van Goethem (Kazerne Dossin) and Nico Wouters (CegeSoma) and reactions by Katje Happe and Barbara Lambauer

◦ 16:00-16:30 – Questions & Answers

◦ 16:30-16:45 – Conclusions

Practical Information

- Date: Tuesday 28 April 2015 from 14:00 to 16:45

- Venue: CegeSoma conference room, Square de l'Aviation 29, 1070 Brussels

- Entrance: free. Please subscribe before 24 April by email ([Karel Strobbbe](mailto:Karel.Strobbbe)) or by phone(02/556 92 11)

- Language: the event will take place in English.



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