

# CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

## NO 17 - NOVEMBER 2015

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

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### CEGESOMA INFO: THE BULLETIN'S SECOND LIFE

To better meet the readers' expectations and needs, this year we decided to transform the traditional Bulletin into CegeSoma Info. Our yearly publication is henceforward a 12-pages long newspaper.

[\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=1843)

### THE BELGIAN MILITARY SECURITY UNVEILED

CegeSoma is a partner of the "Classified" exhibition, organized by the General Intelligence and Security Service (GISS) to commemorate a century of military intelligence. The GISS was established during WWI to counter enemy espionage. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3030)

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "DOING JUSTICE IN WARTIME": 3 AND 4 DECEMBER 2015

In the framework of the PAI "Justice and Populations", CegeSoma organises an international conference on 3 and 4 December 2015. The conference is titled "Doing Justice in Wartime. Multiple Interplays Between Justice & Populations During the Two World Wars". [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3040)

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### DE ONTMOETING: WWI HERITAGE AND RESEARCH

The "Ontmoeting" will take place for the first time on 9 December 2015. The idea is to organise an interactive seminar which gathers history researchers with people from the Flemish cultural heritage sector. The central topic will be WWI. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3041)

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## CegeSoma Info: the Bulletin's Second Life

To better meet the readers' expectations and needs, this year we decided to transform the traditional *Bulletin* into *CegeSoma Info* ([available here](#)). Our yearly publication is henceforward a 12-pages long newspaper containing around 50 short and richly illustrated articles about our activities. But there's more....



An important new feature of the *CegeSoma Info* is the intention to better convey our activities into the topics treated in the journal. In this sense, it is divided into sections about the Cold War (and more specifically the assassination of Julien Lahaut), the Great War, WWII, international cooperation, digitization and, last but not least, the departments/the research. The last article describes the successful petition launched to save CegeSoma and the list of the upcoming events.

This new communication channel will certainly surprise you. Please tell us what you think. Have a nice reading!

**Fabrice Maerten**  
Editor-in-chief

23 / 10 / 2015

◀ [Back](#) ▶

## The Belgian Military Security Unveiled

*An Exhibition Open from November 7 until December 5*

CegeSoma is a partner of the "Classified" exhibition, organized by the General Intelligence and Security Service (GISS) to commemorate a century of military intelligence. The GISS was established during WWI to counter enemy espionage.

### Operating Discreetly

The exhibition aims to present the historical milestones as well as the contemporary and the future challenges the GISS is facing in these global times. It is seen as an opportunity to highlight the methods and knowhow of the service by presenting an overview of what it stands for, its successes and its failures. Specific persistent myths regarding espionage are also thoroughly deconstructed. Finally, "Classified" invites the visitor to reflect on the ethical issues linked with the existence of an organization compelled to operate discreetly.

### Multiple Visiting Paths

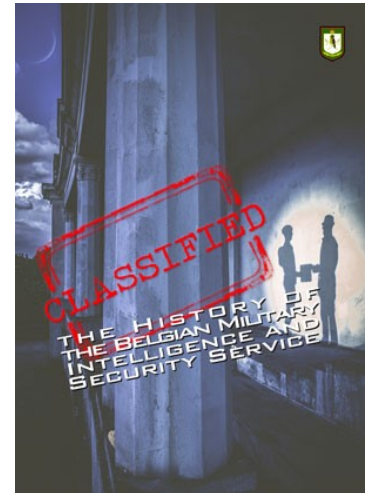
One part of the exhibition is dedicated to the origins of the service, to the role of women in intelligence and to representations of espionage in popular culture. The Cold War is tackled through two of its topics: the "stay behind" network, secretly set up with the support of the Belgian intelligence to prepare the country for a possible Soviet invasion, and the "Binet affair", in which the eponymous Belgian officer sold military documents to Eastern agents and was ferreted out in the late 1980s. In its last part, "Classified" sheds light on the technical aspects and the present-day challenges of the GISS.

### Practical Information:

Exhibition: "Classified. The History of the Belgian Military Intelligence and Security Service"  
Veterans Institute- INIG, Boulevard du Régent, 45-46, 1000 Brussels  
From **November 7 until December 5 2015**, from 10:00 to 18:00, except Sunday  
Free entrance  
Information: [classified@get.be](mailto:classified@get.be)

**Mélanie Bost**

23 / 10 / 2015



◀ [Back](#) ▶

## Conference “Doing Justice in Wartime”

In the framework of the [PAI “Justice and Populations”](#), CegeSoma organises an **international conference** on **3 and 4 December 2015**. The conference is titled “Doing Justice in Wartime. Multiple Interplays Between Justice & Populations During the Two World Wars”.

### **World Wars as key periods for the History of Justice**

Periods of wars and foreign domination are of crucial importance in the history of justice. They have led to important shifts in the expectations, practices and actors involved in the field of justice. As a result of the often sudden changes provoked by war, existing routines in the broad field of justice came under serious pressure. The disruption of predictable patterns stimulated inventiveness. The way in which the actors of the justice sector dealt with those sweeping changes is an important research question.

### **A Grassroots Perspective**

Although different aspects of the impact of armed conflict on justice have been studied, the dominant approach of most of this work is top-down and highly institutional. As a result of this bias, the actual actors involved in the justice sector and their practices and expectations in war settings have been largely neglected so far. Drawing from current trends in criminology and the social history of justice, this international conference adopts a grassroots perspective. It focuses on the impact of war on the complex interactions between the different actors (individuals and social groups on the one hand, 'the justice system' (police, judiciary and penitentiary professionals) on the other hand). The conference aims to highlight the emergence of new expectations of justice resulting from the war. It also tackles justice practices, strategies to cope with the changing circumstances, new forms of negotiation, interaction and relationships between populations and the formal justice system in this particular context, and the impact of this renegotiation in the long run. In order to reconstruct the complex landscape of the actors of the justice system in war time, and their expectations and practices, a grass-roots approach imposes itself.

### **Practice Archives as Research Basis**

For this approach to be feasible, it is essential to prioritize archives resulting from actual justice activities. Judicial archives form not only the main track, but also constitute an ideal observatory for the interactions between the different actors involved. Archives stemming from police operations, the prison system and administrative surveillance are equally suitable. The privileging of this kind of 'operational sources' of the criminal justice system in its broadest sense enables us to go beyond a top-down approach predominately based on policy sources.

### **The Field of Investigation: Belgium**

With two wars and two occupation experiences, but also as a colonial power during the two World Wars, Belgium is the field of investigation of the [IAP 7/22 \(“Justice & Populations : the Belgian Experience in International Perspective”\)](#) in which this conference takes place.

### **Practical Details:**

- Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December 2015
- You can find the programme [here](#)
- Attendance is free, please subscribe by email: [leah.kazar@cegesoma.be](mailto:leah.kazar@cegesoma.be)

[Mélanie Bost](#)

5 / 11 / 2015

◀ [Back](#) ▶



## De Ontmoeting: WWI Heritage and Research

The "**Ontmoeting**" was scheduled to take place for the first time on **9 December 2015**. The idea is to organise an interactive seminar which gathers history researchers with people from the Flemish cultural heritage sector. The central topic will be WWI. **This seminar has been postponed until the first half of 2016**. The exact date will be announced soon.

The first commemoration wave of the WWI centenary has now subsided. Many in the heritage sector are now asking themselves the same questions: what is there to be done in the two coming years regarding WWI? Which are the topics which have still to be tackled? What will happen after 2018?

These questions are at the core of the seminar we are organising in Brussels on 9 December. The idea is to bring together people from the heritage sector and researchers, as the rift between academic research and the heritage sector is a recurrent issue in the field.

On 9 December we will give an overview of the latest Belgian research regarding WWI, and of the European funding possibilities. There will be thematic workshops on common issues, on which both people active in the heritage sector as researchers can collaborate and exchange.

The programme will close with a discussion between Piet Chielens (In Flanders Fields Museum) and Antoon Vrints (professor at Ghent University). The seminar is organized with the support of the *Vlaamse projectsecretariaat 100 Jaar Grote Oorlog* and *Faro*, the *Vlaams Steunpunt voor Cultureel erfgoed*.

Find the programme [here](#).



5 / 11 / 2015

◀ [Back](#) ▶