

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

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MULTIANNUAL PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT

Realistic yet ambitious : read the multiannual plan 2018-2021 of CegeSoma and discover what happened last year in our annual report of 2017 [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3706&pag0nbr=47&pagofs=0)

PUBLICATION

The most recent thematic issue of the Journal of Belgian History (2017-4) invites you to discover the unexplored history of psychiatry in Belgium. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3709&pag0nbr=47&pagofs=0)

'HISTORICAL' AGREEMENT

On the eve of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Europe from Nazism, CegeSoma and the War Heritage Institute reach a 'historical' agreement [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3712&pag0nbr=47&pagofs=0)

ARCHIVES

CegeSoma receives the archives of the Service Hotton : a real treasure trove for information about guerrilla actions of the resistance against the occupier during the final months of occupation. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3718)

ACTIVITY

Monday 11 June 2018 - CegeSoma: Afternoon of the Cercles d'histoire locale de Belgique francophone. [\[MORE INFO\]](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/agenda_en.php)

CegeSoma presents its multiannual plan and its annual report for 2017

For the first time in its history, CegeSoma presents a multiannual plan (2017-2021).

It is the result of various meetings with stakeholders, of which our specialized scientific committee, renewed in 2017, is the most important one.



The plan combines realism with ambition. In the coming three years, CegeSoma particularly wishes to consolidate a strong foundation as the fourth operational department (directorate) in the Belgian State Archives.

The plan will serve as an internal guideline to set priorities. It will be brought up to date every six months.

You will find the [Dutch](#) and [French](#) versions of this document here.

You can also find the annual report here ([Dutch - French](#)), with an overview of the activities of CegeSoma for 2017.

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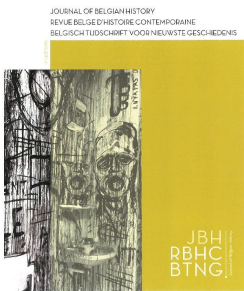
The Journal of Belgian History publishes a thematic issue on the history of psychiatry in Belgium

The new issue (number four, 2017) of the Journal of Belgian History is a thematic issue on the history of psychiatry in Belgium, edited by Benoît Majerus (Université de Luxembourg) and Anne Roekens (Université de Namur).

The issue contains an introduction by the guest editors and five articles on this highly underdeveloped field within contemporary Belgium historiography.

The digital content of this issue will be available from January 2019.

For access to the complete digital archive of the journal, please visit : www.journalbelgianhistory.be



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2019-2020: CegeSoma and War Heritage Institute join forces

In 2019-2020, it is exactly seventy five years since the liberation of Belgium and Europe from Nazism.

In the context of this anniversary, CegeSoma and the War Heritage Institute concluded an agreement to promote further collaboration between the institutes.



Cooperation between both institutions already took shape at the conference on local projects concerning the Second World War, where Erik Janssen and Wannas Devos participated in the panel of experts. Also pictured are Paul Drossens (State Archives Gent), Gert De Prins (Archives Service for War Victims), Bruno De Wever (Ghent University) and Nico Wouters (CegeSoma).

A 'historical agreement' therefore, in more than one sense.

With this agreement, the institutions wish to fully use their expert knowledge, research and heritage on the Second World War, as well as aim for better public service.

The first specific projects include the further development of the digital platform 'Belgium WWII' (<http://www.belgiumwwii.be/>) and the completion of a brand new permanent exhibition in the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History.

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Acquisition – Archives of the Fraternelle du service Hotton

An valuable fonds for the history of the armed resistance in Wallonia at the eve of the Liberation

The service Hotton was a resistance organisation created in 1943 on the initiative of the Belgian and British authorities. Its mission: to harass the occupying forces militarily by attacking their communication channels and telecommunications. Operational from early 1944 onwards, the group made its mark on the forested area of Chimay-Couvin owing to the dynamism of its group D. Its archives, bequeathed in April 2018, document this remarkable activity.



The maquis emerges from the forest on September 3rd, 1944: first picture of finally free men. From left to right: A. Bruniau (Gérard), quartermaster of the Chimay District; A. Van Glabeke (Stan), deputy of Groupe D ; J. Lejour (Mickey), head of the Section Spéciale; F. Delporte (Albert), head of the Chimay District; L. White (Lonnie), American pilot and resistance fighter; M. Hannesson (Marino), American pilot and resistance fighter; M. Franckson (Martial), head of Groupe D. © CegeSoma/State Archives

An ambitious plan, a partial success

Launched in the summer of 1943 by the British Special Operations Executive with the approval of the Belgian national defence ministry, the Hotton mission only really took shape following the nomination, at its head, of civil engineer Albéric Maistriau. Given the necessity to act swiftly, he rallied existing groups already well-versed in sabotage and capable of integrating in a global harassment plan. With the help of his immediate collaborators and three air-dropped agents, he was able to assemble, in just a few weeks, teams in Morlanwelz, in the Chimay-Mariembourg region, in Ottignies, Fosses, Eghezée, Namur, Melreux, Vielsalm, Liège and Brussels – totalling around 350 resistance fighters. The arrests, from the end of May 1944, of major actors of the new service (notably the head of the future group D, and two of the three parachuted agents) weakened the organisation considerably; its action would thereafter be mainly concentrated in the south of the Hainaut and Namur provinces.

The subversive war in Thiérache *

The group present in the forests of Thiérache, composed of a few dozen members around a nucleus of technicians and intellectuals from Brussels, and enjoying the support of the local population, started to deploy its activities in the fall of 1943. Its integration in the service Hotton and the encroaching Liberation accelerated the increase of its actions. From June to September 1944, the group executed around 60 operations: sabotage, ambushes, confiscation of military equipment, confrontations with the enemy, elimination of its agents. Concretely, Wehrmacht communication cables were regularly sabotaged, ten locomotives of the SNCFB damaged, ten enemy trucks, three armoured cars and one tank destroyed, and almost 150 German soldiers put out of action. Eight members of the group lost their lives in these engagements. Furthermore, 61

others were apprehended by German police services: 23 of them died, by execution or exhaustion in the Nazi concentration camps.

The archives

Although relatively limited in size (around two linear metres), the archives of the Fraternelle du service Hotton are very valuable, precisely because they include a mass of documents detailing the activities of the service (and in particular of its group D) during the occupation.

Indeed we find activity reports, documentation of a technical nature and around 350 individual files concerning agents of the service (for the most part dating from the immediate post-war period), but also a series of notes, messages, leaflets, instructions and forged documents from the underground. The fonds also contains several files related to cases of denunciation. As the personal data they contain could still be considered sensitive to this day, the donors have demanded that the archives can only be consulted by students and professional researchers. Lastly, a number of files deal with the activity of the Fraternelle since its gradual implementation from 1946 until the 2000s. The ensemble is registered under call number AA 2512.

* Title (translated in English) of the excellent work written by two of the major figures of the service Hotton (and on which this text is based): Marcel Franckson & Jacques Burniat, *Chronique de la guerre subversive. Le service Hotton en Thiérache*, Bruxelles, FDM edition, 1996. A digital version of this work can be consulted through its description in the Pallas-catalogue, accessible via this website.

Fabrice Maerten

9.5.2018

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