

# CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

## NO 43 - JANUARY 2019

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### CALL FOR PHOTOS

Help us to illustrate our next two publications and send us your unpublished photos of Brussels and Walloon cities at the end of the occupation (1944-1945). [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (<http://www.cegesoma.be>

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### INVITATION

In the framework of our 'Encounters in Public History' CegeSoma invites you on 20 February 2019 between 12.30u and 14.00u for a conference and debate with Antoon Vrints and Martin Schoups, authors of the first synthesis about the Belgian veterans of 1914-18. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (<http://www.cegesoma.be>

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### ORAL HISTORY

Oral history and research about collective memory? Participate tot the study day organized by IHOES in Liège on 27 February 2019. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) ([http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index\\_en.php?article=3827](http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3827))

### PUBLICATION

'*Drang naar het Oosten*' : A new book from Frank Seberechts (associated researcher CegeSoma) about the war crimes of Flemish Eastern Front volunteers. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (<http://www.cegesoma.be>

[/cms/index\\_en.php?article=3834&pag0nbr=76&pagofs=0](/cms/index_en.php?article=3834&pag0nbr=76&pagofs=0))

### END OF THE INSPECTION OF THE COLLECTION

Our reading room is open for visitors again since 22 January 2019 [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (<http://www.cegesoma.be>

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Welcome



Welcome

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## "Wallonia liberated", "Brussels, liberated city": photos wanted !



In view of the 75 anniversary of the Liberation and the end of the Second World War, two works will be published in the series "Villes en guerre" of Renaissance du Livre.

As for previous editions, these works rely heavily on photographs.

Which representation of the events is given through this medium? What do we learn from it? How to use it? Is it possible to write the history of cities at war by relying heavily on photographs?



These are all kinds of questions that have been raised and adressed, and guided our work in previous editions about the First and the Second World War.

This time, the focus is on the period from D-Day to V-Day. There are certainly plenty of photographs to be found in the collections of the State Archives among others. But we are convinced that there still more photographic "treasures" to be discovered, which is why we call on you all to send us your photos...

Dear readers, do you indeed have "interesting photographs" of 1944-1945 in your private collections... or stowed away in the attic, that is to say moving, tragic or funny photographs of the cities your cities at the end of the occupation period?

For the edition about the Walloon cities, we are especially looking for photographs about the "Battle of the Bulge", both in small town directly involved (*Malmedy, La Roche, Houffalize, Saint-Hubert, Saint-Vith...* and *Bastogne*) and in larger cities close to the front (*Liège, Verviers, Namur*). We are also looking for illustrating the destructiveness of V1 and V2 rockets. Other subjects adressed will be the return of prisoners – war prisoners or political prisoners – in April and May 1945 and the commemorations (balls, historic and folkloristic parades, etc.) organised on the first anniversary of the Liberation, in September 1945.

For the edition about the capital, we would like to foreground all municipalities of the Brussels region, not only Brussels-City. subject matters can be family photos – marriages, Communions, class photos, etc. – taken at the end of the conflict, and pictures about cultural and sports events and activities, the re-opening of Brussels Free University (*ULB*), demonstrations, the presence of Allied forces in the capital, and official visits.

We are sure you can help us! Feel free to contact us!

For Brussels : [Chantal.kestelot@arch.be](mailto:Chantal.kestelot@arch.be)

For cities in Wallonia: [alain.colignon@arch.be](mailto:alain.colignon@arch.be)

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### Last articles

[The Belgian War Press: a User-Friendly Access to the Digitised War Press](#)

[Military History Museum WWI Press Retrievable Online](#)

[Third Public History Encounter at the CegeSoma](#)

[Double invitation CegeSoma by CIVA](#)

[FWO – 'Research Grant' for research about the civic purge](#)

BELGIUM

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From Tuesday to Friday  
**without interruption** from 9 a.m.  
to 4.30 p.m.

 **DISCLAIMER**

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## PUBLIC HISTORY MEETINGS @ CEGESOMA

**A new offer of CegeSoma/State Archives.  
The history of the 20th century and current events adressed through conferences, debates, interviews, film screenings, etc.  
Events organised at or by CegeSoma.  
Our goal: exchanging ideas with the public!**

**At CegeSoma, on 20 February 2019 (12.30 pm – 2.00 pm)**

***'De overlevenden: de oorlog van de Belgische oud-strijders tijdens het interbellum'.***

**Conference and debate on the occasion of the publication of a first synthesis about Belgian veterans. Guests: Antoon Vrints and Martin Schoups, authors of the publication.**



Roughly 320,000 of the 360,000 Belgian soldiers who were mobilised during the First World War have survived.

After four years of violence, they finally were allowed to return home in late 1918. However, the veterans did not simply go back to their old lives.

They were convinced that they had the right to be recognised for their involvement in the war and that they had an important role to play in Belgian society.

As survivors they felt they had a moral debt towards their comrade-in-arms killed in action.

Upon their return, these veterans formed a strong social movement that would regularly challenge the Belgian establishment, both in campaigns and in government.

### About the authors:



**Martin Schoups** is a historian and currently FWO fellow at Ghent University (Research Unit Social History after 1750). Among others he has published works about the Belgian food policy after the First World War. In his doctoral thesis he examined street protests in an urban context and within the framework of the democratisation process of Belgian society from 1880 to 1940.



**Antoon Vrints** is lecturer in history at Ghent University (Research Unit Social History after 1750). He has published works about the social history of the First World War and about long-term conflict regulation. He is the author of 'Het theater van de straat. Publiek geweld in Antwerpen tijdens de eerste helft van de twintigste eeuw' (2011) about public violence in Antwerp in the first half of the 20th century and co-author, together with Maarten Van Ginderachter and Koen Aerts, of 'Het land dat nooit was. Een tegenfeitelijke geschiedenis van België' (2014) about the history of Belgium.

The conference will take place at the conference hall of CegeSoma (Square de l'Aviation/Luchtvaartsquare 29 – 1070 Brussels) and will be followed by a debate with the authors. **Both will take place in Dutch.**

The publication is on sale on site for € 22.50.

Please register for this event via [isabelle.ponteville@arch.be](mailto:isabelle.ponteville@arch.be) or 02.556.92.11 and indicate your choice of sandwich if applicable\* (5 Euros to be paid on site). \* 2 types of sandwich (ham or cheese, or both) + softdrink (Cola, Fanta, water).

Feel free to come accompanied!

### Save the date!

**The next Public History Meeting will take place Wednesday 20 March at 12.30 pm.**

**At this meeting it will be our pleasure to welcome Anne Cornet and Enika Ngongo who will address the impact of the First World War in its colonial context.**

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## New publication of associated researcher Frank Seberechts

After several recent book publications authored by some of our associated researchers - 'Grenzeloos verzet' from Paul de Jongh, 'De gebroken arm der wet' from Marc Verschooris and 'La valise oubliée' van Gerlinda Swillen – Frank Seberechts now also publishes his new book : 'Drang naar het Oosten'.

The book focuses on the war crimes and crimes against humanity to which Flemish Eastern Front volunteers participated, or which they witnessed.

Based on new archival research, Frank Seberechts sheds light on a piece of hidden history.

The book deconstructs the myth of the 'idealistic' Flemish Eastern Front volunteer who fought Communism but was not at all involved in the racially inspired mass violence against civilians of the German SS and Wehrmacht.

You can find the brochure with more information [here](#).



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## Inventorying days at CegeSoma!

From 8 to 18 January all CegeSoma staff will be busy carrying out a general and thorough inventorying of our collections held at the Square de l'Aviation/Luchtvaartsquare site.



The last detailed inventorying of our collections took place in 2014 (library) and in 2006 (archives). It is high time to have a close look at our collections again!



While the reception desk was handed over to our very competent colleagues of the Archives Service for War Victims, we are busy combing through the caves, high-density storage system and shelves, to make sure each book, thesis, brochure, archive document and holding is still present and at its right place.

Also, many books and archives had piled up through the years in our offices and were now duly classified.



This year's inventorying operation was carried out with a view to the future implementation of the new archives management system (SAM).



The data collected in the course of the last weeks allow us to export metadata of over 2,800 (!) individual archival fonds to the new system.

This is indeed a huge undertaking, but it is a vital task in order to ensure an improved service to our readers.



Our reading room is now open to the public again!

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