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CEGESOMA - State Archives

NEWSLETTER

No 69 - October 2021



NEWS

WIKIBASE RESISTANCE

A new large-scale project launched by CegeSoma/State Archives to develop a research instrument about members of the resistance in Belgium during the Second World War.

► [Read more](#)



MOVING THE ARCHIVES

Stay informed about the moving of our archival collections.

► [Read more](#)

FOCUS ON THE COLLECTIONS

WOMEN AND WAR IN THE CEGESOMA LIBRARY

Discover the progress of historiography on this topic in our vast collections.

► [Read more and watch the video](#)



AGENDA



PUBLIC HISTORY MEETINGS

Join us on 17 November for a conference-debate (in French) about the new book 'Interférences : Radios, collaborations et répressions en Belgique (1939-1949)'. Author Céline Rase will be interviewed by Jean-Philippe Schreiber.



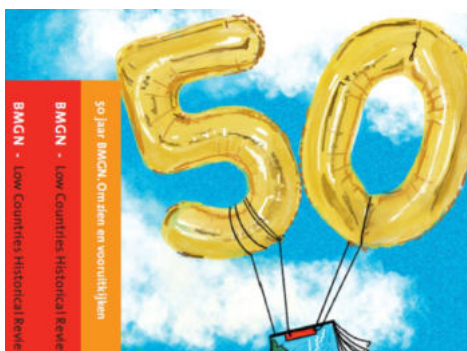
[▶ Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN THE JBH

Dozens of articles from the Journal of Belgian History, with innovative research on WWI, now fully accessible in digital format.

[▶ Read more](#)



WWII- HISTORIOGRAPHY IN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the journal 'Bijdragen en Mededelingen betreffende de Geschiedenis der Nederlanden', discover a comparative study by Nico Wouters on the different trends in the historiography of World War II in the Low Countries.

[▶ Read more](#)



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[Home](#) » [News](#) » Everything you want to know about Belgian resistance fighters ? Discover Wikibase Resistance

Everything you want to know about Belgian resistance fighters ? Discover Wikibase Resistance



Initiated by Cegesoma in Spring 2021, the project *Wikibase Resistance* aims at providing a **research tool** about persons involved in resistance activities in Belgium during the Second World War. This tool is a **collaborative knowledge base** destined for the **collection and publication of information** from personal forms and files conserved at CegeSoma and other State Archives repositories. The database contains **structured, multilingual, human and machine-readable data** and allows search queries based on name, date of birth, and place of residence.

Wikibase Resistance serves multiple purposes: on the one hand the project aims at **centralising data** that is dispersed among various physical repositories and digital files so as to improve **access to the collections of Cegesoma** and their visibility. On the other hand, this optimisation allows to **better take into consideration the demands from users with regard to persons** while exploring new ways to exploit data.

Finally, this knowledge base also serves the purpose of **linking these persons to external databases**, in order to provide additional context information and to open up the collections. By transitioning from an approach based on data silos towards a logic of opening up data, Cegesoma is fully in line with the digital transition under way in the archives sector.

In practice, **over 150,000 resistance fighters** active during the Second World War in Belgium will ultimately be

identified via this platform. The descriptions of these thousands of “combatants of the shadows” will enable researchers to find, among others, the precise references of their individual files, whether they originate from the State Security, the Resistance Office, the resistance movements themselves - such as Groupe G of *Witte Brigade* - or are conserved by the Archives Service for War Victims.

For more information and news updates about this project supported by the daily work of some fifteen volunteers, of personnel members, and of trainees, please [visit the webpage dedicated to the project](#).



WIKIBASE RESISTANCE

Other news

[Historiography in Belgium and the Netherlands](#)

[Results of the ADOCHS project](#)

[Call for papers](#)

[Marie Curie fellowship for Adina Babeş-Fruchter](#)

[ADOCHS study day: Register now!](#)

[The Resistance in Belgium: a debate](#)

[Belgium WWII, from governors to post-war justice](#)

[The CegeSoma photo library is back in the Square de l'Aviation](#)

[New reservation system for the reading room \(as from 15 june\)](#)

[A Belgian researcher in the archives of Pius XII, the wartime pope](#)

[Special issue of 'De Leiegouw' about resistance and collaboration](#)

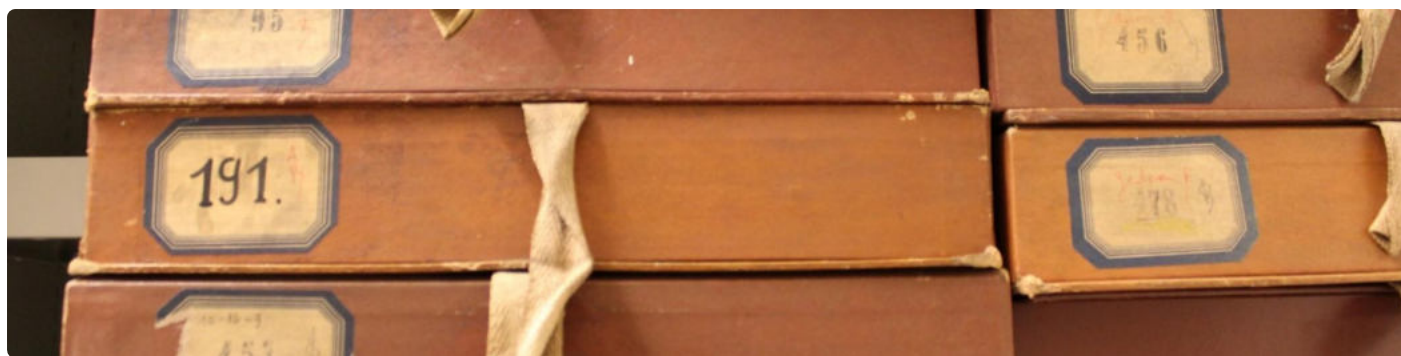
[The censored and underground press of the two world wars now accessible via the Abraham online catalog](#)

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Moving of archive collections: important message for visitors

Because of the closure of our repository in the Belgrade Street (Forest), some important removal operations will gradually take place in 2021. Large parts of CegeSoma's archives collections will move to other repositories of the State Archives in Brussels. The public law archives of government administrations (including the archives of the Intelligence and Action Services) will move to the General State Archives in the Ruisbroek Street. Archives formed by the military courts (including records of convictions) as well as private archives (personal archives, archives of resistance groups) are transferred to the National Archives 2 - Joseph Cuvelier repository (AGR2) in the Hopstraat/Rue du Houlblon. The exact timing will be communicated gradually.

This will of course have consequences for consultation and accessibility. We will evolve towards a situation where eventually only the library (books, magazines, brochures, newspapers, illegal press, newspaper clippings), the photo and audiovisual collections, and the archives formed by CegeSoma will be available for consultation in our reading room at the Aviation Square. CegeSoma will continue to manage its archives collections stored in the AGR2. It is therefore very important to consult our website before your visit to see where and when which archives can be consulted.

Please note - in order to consult these documents, please follow these steps:

1. Send a message to cegesoma@arch.be mentioning the fonds/inventory numbers you wish to consult.
2. You will receive an e-mail confirmation when the documents are reserved for you. Reservations will be retrieved twice a week.
3. Make an appointment in the reading room of [AGR2](#) by sending a message to agr_ar_2@arch.be.

! Due to their relocation, AA1-AA1332 will be temporarily unavailable from August to October.

! The fonds AA1334-AA2518 have been moved and are available for consultation in the reading room of [AGR2](#).

Due to processing (e.g. in the context of the Wikibase project) some files will have to remain in the Aviation Square for the time being, partially or fully.

The files that will remain integral in the Aviation Square for the time being are:

- AA585 Archives Devisenschutzkommando
- AA616 Archives of Hervé Close, 'liquidator' of the Mill group (MNB)
- AA1089 Archives linked to the liquidation of the intelligence service Portemine and its escape affiliate Eva (1941-1944)
- AA1134 Partial archives of and about the Nola action service (1942-1944)
- AA1217 Church and clergy survey during the occupation. 1st part.
- AA1218 Church and clergy survey during the occupation. 2nd part.
- AA1553 Archives of the Union nationale des mères et femmes de fusillés et prisonniers politiques décédés

- AA1673 Archives of the Amicale des Prisonniers Politiques, survivors of the September 3, 1944 convoy (the so-called 'ghost train'). 1st part.
- AA1853 Archives of the National Union of the Clandestine Press. 2nd part.
- AA1859 Recognition files of the National Royalist Movement (MNR)
- AA1881 OMBR recognition files
- AA2006 Personal files of members of the armed resistance movement Les Insoumis
- AA2512 Records of the Hotton service and its fraternity
- 3120 SGRS-S/A. Independence Front (FI) 40/44. Patriotic Militias
- 3121 Records of the resistance movement Les Affranchis. Recognition files

The following files will remain at Aviation Square only partially for the time being. These are mainly series of individual files, member lists and the like:

- AA976 Archives related to the 'liquidation' of the resistance movement Les Affranchis in the immediate post-war period
- AA977 Archives related to the 'liquidation' of the so-called Group G (Groupe général de Sabotage de Belgique) after World War II
- AA1048 Archives related to the liquidation of the D service
- AA1056 Archives of the National Union of the Clandestine Press (UNPC). Part 1.
- AA1105 Partial archives of the Tégal intelligence service (1940-1944)
- AA1135 Archives of and about the Luc-Marc intelligence service, "couriers »
- AA1333 Files of the Intelligence and Action Services (SRA) of the State Security Service
- AA2127 Archives of Independence Front
- AA2495 Records of the armed resistance movement Witte Brigade (Fidelio)

The archives formed by CegeSoma itself, such as AA2268 fund (CegeSoma. Interviews conducted by the researchers. Transcriptions), remain as mentioned in the Aviation Square and can therefore be consulted there.

[The list here](#) provides an overview of the archives that have been moved and where they are currently located. It will be updated after each transfer. Via their title and former call number in Pallas, you can see which collections have been transferred to the Archives générales du Royaume 1 (AGR1) or to the Archives générales du Royaume 2 - Dépôt Joseph Cuvelier (AGR2). Documents can be provisionally requested from AGR1 and AGR2 on the basis of their Pallas "call number" (number "AA").

For specific questions about accessibility : cegesoma@arch.be

Needless to say, we remain very happy to answer all your historical and archival-related questions. And, of course, you can still contact us [if you wish to donate archival materials to CegeSoma](#).

Also check Facebook, YouTube and the newsletter for updates!



Women and war...Women of war...in the CegeSoma Library

'Women and war in the CegeSoma Library'. Under this title, we invite you to discover the seventh theme of our series 'The Librarian's talks'. Each theme will be the occasion to dive into our collections and will be illustrated by a video and a text to complete the information contained therein.

Watch the seventh episode of our video series 'The Librarian's Talks: 7. 'Women and war in the CegeSoma Library'.

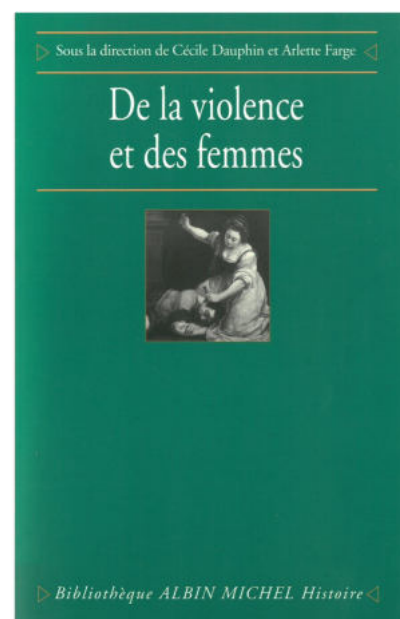


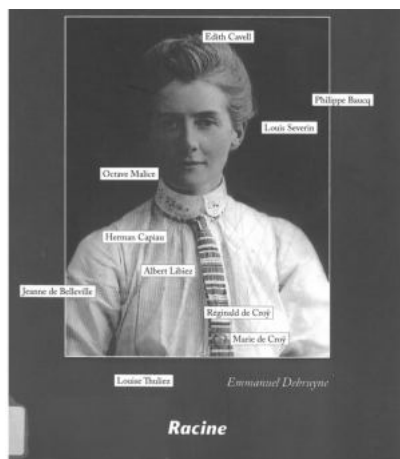
Do we have to say it? For a long time, women occupied only a minor part in the book production about the Second World War. And the same was true for the other warlike confrontations that, periodically, plagued our poor humanity: at this level, the "war-phenomenon" seemed to be eternally a men's affair, as much at the level of decision-makers as at the level of cannon fodder, and Joan of Arc seemed definitely alone in this field ...

This historiographic view, which corresponded to an undeniable reality on the ground... and which reflected mezzo voce the scarce involvement of women in the deployment of the military apparatus or in the battles (as well as, moreover, their minorization in the social body...) deserves, however, some slight corrections.



Ever since the "Great War", historians have shown an interest in their role in espionage networks (these were not yet called "resistance movements") as





"brilliant seconds" of their companions in charge of logistics or as dominant figures with a more or less iconic character - either on a positive level (Gabrielle Petit, Edith Cavell, Louise de Bettignies...) or on a negative one (Mata-Hari, Fraulein Doktor,...). Better still, in the inter-war period, specialists in economic history examined their involvement in the industrial mobilization of the various belligerent countries in WWI.

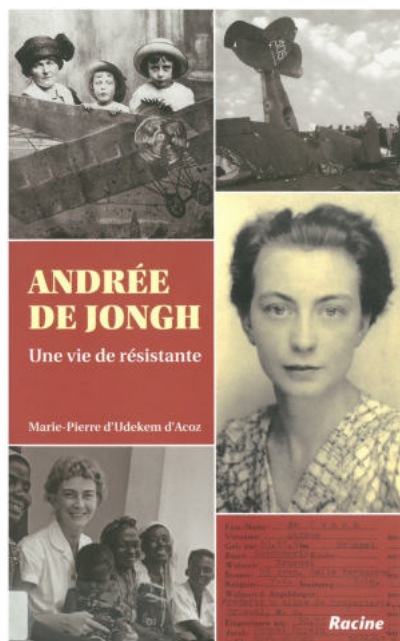
Finally, enthusiasts of "militaria", whether or not in uniform, envisaged a greater participation of women in future conflicts, either as uniformed auxiliaries in the rear, or as combatants at the front. This reflection was theoretically more elaborate in the

Protestant states, Great Britain in the first place, than in the Latin countries, while the young "Red Army" had already moved on to practical realizations in the 1930s by injecting a certain number of female elements into its future fighting units with great propaganda efforts.



1914-1918: combats de femmes
Les femmes, pilier de l'effort de guerre

If the Second World War forced women to play an even greater role in the course of events, both in civil society and in resistance organizations, they generally remained largely absent from the battlefield, except in the Soviet Union (500,000 women soldiers!) and to a lesser extent in Finland. And as we have said, they would remain so for a long time in the historiography of war.

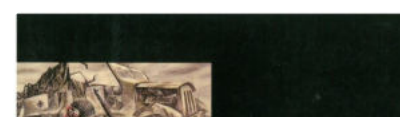


The situation changed from the 1970s onwards, with the growing success of gender studies in the Anglo-Saxon world, as historians in these regions became more and more interested in the forgotten, the historically marginalized. At the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries, the French and Dutch-speaking world were gradually won over by this "new" field of investigation, in a climate of "postmodernism" that is becoming more and more widespread. The library of our institution has captured this great shift in historiographical modes and made a good harvest in this area.

Remarkably enough, if studies on the female gender in war have multiplied, the "classic" themes (women and resistance, women in the socio-economic life, women in the collaboration) have been maintained by expanding in all directions, and the research has largely turned to the "wearers of uniforms" in Soviet or Nazi style. Basically, the most truly innovative problematic, unknown in previous eras, is that of sexuality. This is now approached from all angles, from rape to venal love affairs, including emotional relationships with the occupier... of the moment. Curiously, this historiographic genre was preceded on the literary level, or rather para-literary, by a whole production of an erotic or even pornographic nature, very widespread in the 1960s and 1970s "Nazisplotation" literature and film genre (one of the most famous characters being the scantily dressed "Ilsa, She Wolf of the SS") which deserves to be revisited with a critical eye as a reflection of a certain catharsis for a fringe of the post-war generation.

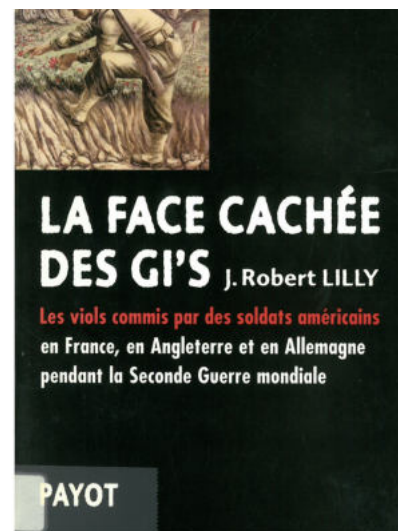


But is it necessary to specify that beside these conceptual elements





inspired by the " spirit of the times " or by the historiographic fashion of the moment, there remains the vast range of socio-economic history? Women now have their full place in all aspects of social life, whether it is the quest for subsistence to ensure the survival of the home, the education of children, the replacement of men in industry, commerce, agriculture when men are absent "because of war"... Without forgetting, of course, their presence, emphasized but in accordance with a certain tradition, in medical and health structures or works of charity/solidarity.



As a result, "our other halves" can perfectly well turn out to be "our doubles" when put to the test!

And the careful exploration of this part of the CegeSoma library dedicated to Women in War will certainly not contradict this versatility! Still, it is necessary to take the trouble to go and see it more closely.

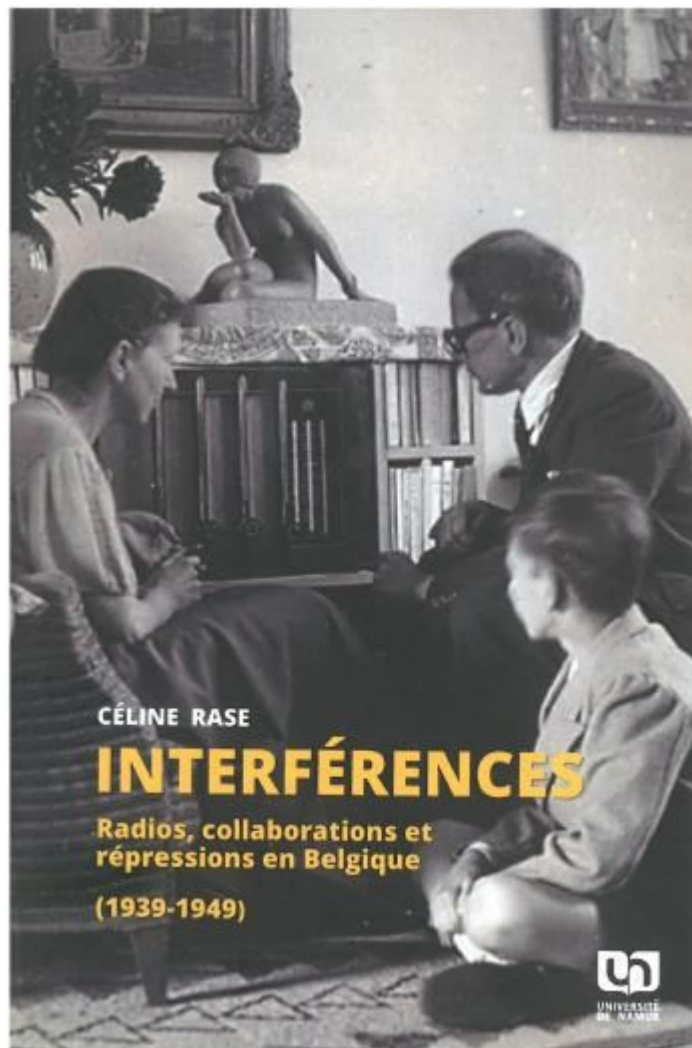
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Interférences : Radios, collaborations et répressions en Belgique (1939-1949)

CegeSoma Public History Meetings (2021-3)

World War II [Conference](#)



Conference-debate (in French) with Céline Rase (UNamur) as guest speaker.

A discussion led by Jean-Philippe Schreiber (ULB).

The end of the war is a time of reckoning. Everywhere in the country, those called traitors to the fatherland are hunted down. Among them are the collaborators of Radio Brussels, the station which broadcast German propaganda during the dark years. Two spectacular trials begin before the Military Courts to judge the notorious speakers and journalists. The others, columnists, actors, musicians, typists and other civil servants, involved in a more "ordinary" collaboration, which they often considered insignificant or inevitable, will pass before purge commissions set up within the liberated radio. Thus, like other administrations in the country, the Institut National de Radiodiffusion (INR) sanctions members of its staff who have not maintained a sufficient patriotic distance from the invader. The symbolic stakes of this vast operation of "ideological redemption" are such that the sanctions are severe: at the INR, no one skimps when it comes to making amends. But judgment is hasty, inconstant, and in

the irregularity of the treatments reserved for similar cases, the obstacles and interferences of the changeover are revealed: not only are the agents of the repression confronted with unsuspected material, technical and legal difficulties, but moreover they cannot jeopardize the revival of a media that has just demonstrated all its power. It is through this narrative, which goes backwards from the sanction to the fault, that we invite you to immerse yourself in this detailed, almost "sonorous" history of a war on the airwaves that was so noisy that its (mythologized?) echo still resonates in our collective memory.

Guests :



Céline Rase is a doctor of history at the University of Namur and holds a master's degree in journalism from *UCLouvain*. *Interférences: Radios, collaborations et répressions en Belgique (1939-1949)* is the publication resulting from her PhD thesis defended in 2015. It brings together two of her favorite subjects, the media and the history of the Second World War. After four years spent in the Communication Department of the *FNRS*, she returned to the University of Namur where she is in charge of the course *Questions d'histoire de l'époque contemporaine* devoted to the theme of collaboration and post-war repression. In the framework of a post-doctorate, she is also leading a project of scientific valorization and popularization centered around the little-known figure of the biologist Hector Lebrun. This research project is associated with the realization of an exhibition and the production of podcasts that question the constant evolution of scientific knowledge, practices and positions.



A graduate of the *Université libre de Bruxelles* and the *École des hautes études en sciences sociales (Paris)*, with a doctorate in philosophy and literature (1993), **Jean-Philippe Schreiber** is a professor at the *ULB* where he teaches the history and law of religions. Director of research at the *Fonds national de la Recherche scientifique*, he directed the *Centre interdisciplinaire d'étude des religions et de laïcité* from 2003 to 2007. His research and publications are devoted to the history of modern and contemporary Judaism, the history of immigration, anti-Masonicism, the relationship between memory and history, and Church/State relations.



17/11/2021 - 12:30 to 14:00

Practical information :

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

When: Wednesday 17 November 2021 (12.30 - 14.00)

Registration required: isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or 02.556.92.11

Attention! Corona measures: a number of safety measures still apply in the CegeSoma building. For example, you must disinfect your hands when you arrive at CegeSoma and wear a mask in the building. In order to ensure appropriate distancing between participants, the number of seats in the conference room is also limited and registrations will

therefore be closed once the maximum is reached. The room will be properly ventilated before and after the conference. We reserve the right to cancel this third Public History Meeting if health measures do not permit the holding of such a meeting on the announced date. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

Main language

French

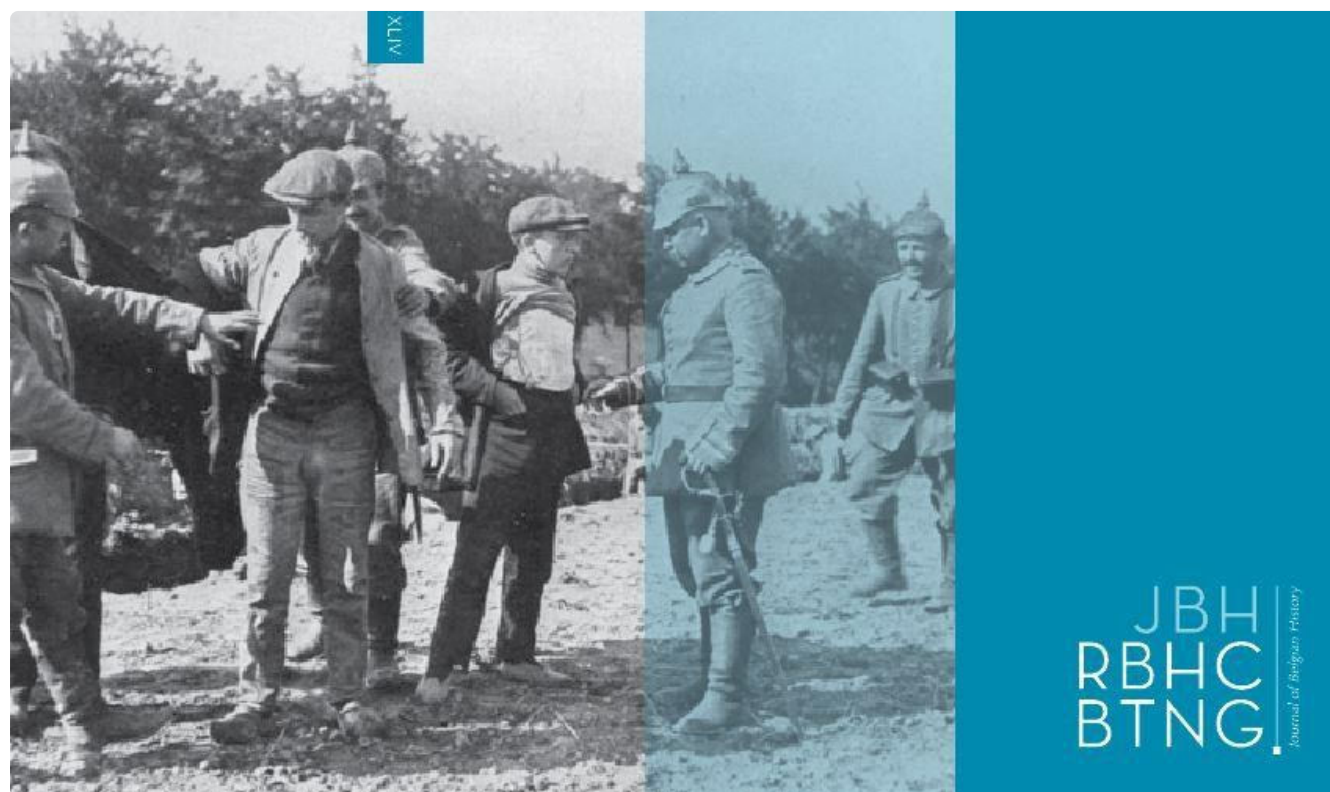
TAGS

[collaboration](#) [Media](#) [Propaganda](#) [Repression of collaboration](#)

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The First World War in the Journal of Belgian History (JBH)

[World War I](#) [Magazine](#) [Article](#)



Over the past few decades, dozens of articles on the First World War have appeared in the [Journal of Belgian History](#), with a distinct peak around the 100-year commemorations (2014-2018). Together, these articles constitute a wealth of innovative research findings on the First World War. These have not always reached the general public, despite being available digitally. Here is a brief overview :

First, two thematic issues deserve special attention

In the first commemorative year 2014, we published a thematic issue on [fields of social tension and the First World War in Belgium](#), led by guest editors **Antoon Vrints** and **Axel Tixhon**, with seven articles on socio-historical history and no fewer than six debate contributions on the representation and commemoration of World War I. In 2018 (no. 1-2), we published the English-language issue "[Congo during the First World War](#)," supervised by guest editors **Enika Ngongo**, **Béregère Piret** and **Nathalie Tousignant** with six articles. The introductions to these thematic issues, serve as important historiographical overviews : **Antoon Vrints** with '[Eenheid in verdeeldheid. Tegenstellingen in België tijdens de 1ste WO](#)' (2014) and **Enika Ngongo**, **Béregère Piret** and **Nathalie Tousignant** with '[Introduction : Congo at War](#)' (2018).

The journal als published ample critical reflections on commemorations and historiography:

The centenary (2014-2018) instigated important contributions in this regard. **Bruno Benvindo**, **Benoît Majerus** and **Antoon Vrints** gave a first general overview of historiography in Belgium in the article '[La Grande Guerre des historiens belges, 1914-2014](#)' (double thematic issue, 2014). In 2016, **Jan Naert**, **Florent Verfaillie**, and **Karla Vanraepenbusch** provided [an overview of ongoing \(doctoral\) research on WWI related to Belgium](#). **Sophie De Schaepe** gave a critical reflection on the research in the same issue ('[New Research on First World War](#)

[Belgium](#)', 2016). **Luis Angel Bernardo y Garcia & Benoît Majerus** [compared research on World War I and World War II](#) (no. 3-4; 2019). **Winfried Dolderer** discussed [the myths of the Belgian francs-tireurs](#) in 2016 and on the same topic **Christoph Brüll & Geneviève Warland** discussed [Ulrich Keller's controversial German book 'Schuldfragen'](#) in 2020.

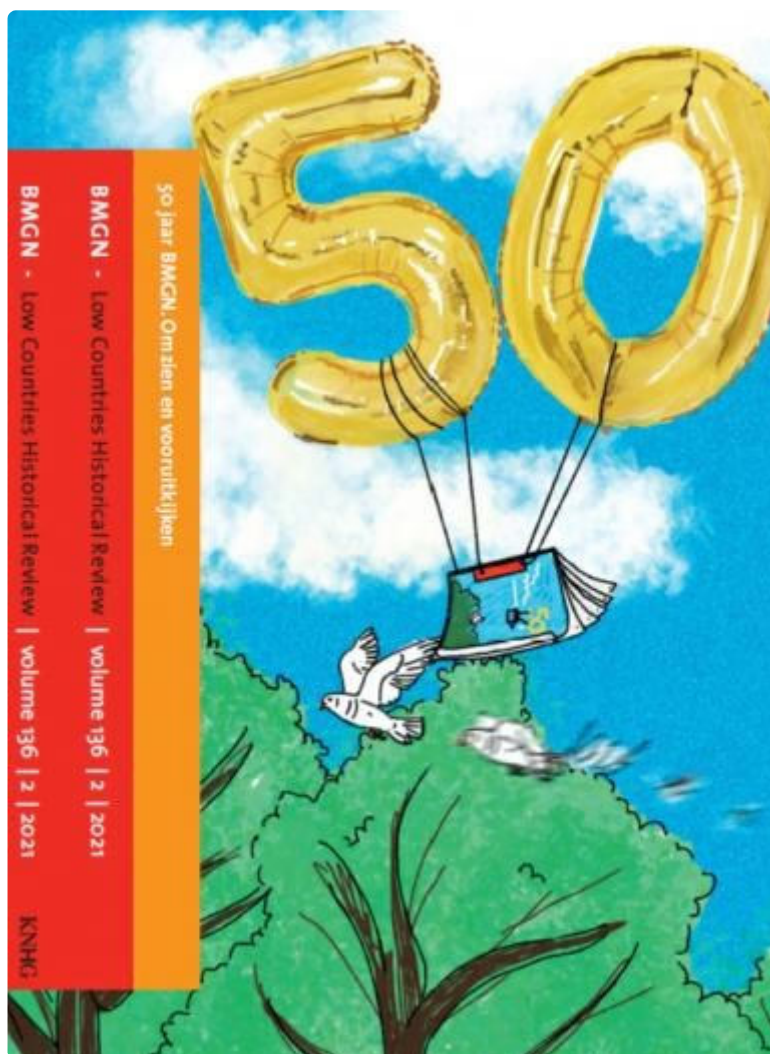
In 2006, **Antoon Vrints** wrote [an essay on the motivation of Belgian soldiers at the front](#). In the 2012 double issue, **Chantal Kesteloot, Nico Wouters, Sophie De Schaepdrijver, and Laurence van Ypersele** provided [separate reflections on the Flemish and Francophone politics of remembrance in 2014-2018](#).

The double themed issue in 2014 also published a unique `debate file' on how WWI is represented in Belgium via television, with the following contributions : **André Dartevelle** on '[Les Murs de Dinant et les Villages contre l'oubli](#)', **Anne Roekens** with '[Les "trois journées d'août 1914" ou la mémoire à vif](#)', **Bruno De Wever** with '[Clio op het scherm](#)', **Mark De Geest** with '[Based on true facts - inspired by true facts](#)' and **Willem Erauw** with '[Het debat over "In Vlaamse Velden" Over publiekgeschiedenis en historische fictie op televisie](#)'.

Finally there are also the numerous individual articles published throughout the years : by **Bram De Maeyer** on [the Council of Flanders](#) (2019), **Gertjan Leenders** on [informers](#) (2017), **Lode Wils** on [activism](#) (2015), **Jan Naert** on [mayors](#) (2020), **Karen Van Hoorick** on [activism in Mechelen](#) (1993), **Mieke Sertyn** on socialist activism during WWI (1976), **Ulrich Tiedau** on [German cultural politics in Belgium](#) (2003), **Mélanie Bost** on [internal cleansing in the magistracy after WWI](#) (2011), **Tom Simoens** on [military discipline in the Belgian army](#) (2011), **Aurore François** and **Frédéric Vesentini** on [the massacres in Tamines and Dinant](#) (2000), **Guillaume Baclin** on ['traitors' court-martialed in Mons after WWI](#) (2008) and **Jacques Maes** on [the executions of Belgian soldiers](#) (2005).

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Historiography in Belgium and the Netherlands



Discover the forum article '*De Tweede Wereldoorlog in de Lage Landen*' in which [Nico Wouters](#) looks at the different trends in the historiography of WWII in Belgium and the Netherlands, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary issue of the journal '*Bijdragen en Mededelingen betreffende de Geschiedenis der Nederlanden*' published by the *Koninklijk Nederlands Historisch Genootschap*.

The forum article is [digitally available here](#).

Other news

[Everything you want to know about Belgian resistance fighters ? Discover Wikibase Resistance](#)

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