

# CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

## NO 61 - DECEMBER 2020

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### TRANSMISSION : THE LEGACY OF WAR

Listen to the stories of the descendants of collaborators and members of the resistance. A series of three podcasts (in French). [\[MORE INFO\]](https://www.cegesoma.be/en/news/les-transmissions-la-querre-en-h%C3%A9ritage-the-transmissions-legacy-war) (<https://www.cegesoma.be/en/news/les-transmissions-la-querre-en-h%C3%A9ritage-the-transmissions-legacy-war>)

### DOCTORAL DEFENSE

Our colleague, Anne Chardonens, brilliantly defended her dissertation on the 'management of authorized descriptions in the framework of online linked open data' (ULB), a research conducted in collaboration with CegeSoma. [\[MORE INFO\]](https://www.cegesoma.be/en/news/three-questions-new-doctor-anne-chardonens-charge-digital-access-cegesomas-collections) (<https://www.cegesoma.be/en/news/three-questions-new-doctor-anne-chardonens-charge-digital-access-cegesomas-collections>)

### NEW PUBLICATION

The publication of the book 'Het Schaduwleger / L'Armée de l'ombre' about the agents of the Belgian intelligence and action services during WWII. A human and institutional approach to the history and memory of the Belgian resistance. [\[MORE INFO\]](https://www.cegesoma.be/en/publication/het-schaduwleger-van-landestiniteit-naar-herinnering-l%E2%80%99arm%C3%A9e-de-l%E2%80%99ombre-de-la) (<https://www.cegesoma.be/en/publication/het-schaduwleger-van-landestiniteit-naar-herinnering-l%E2%80%99arm%C3%A9e-de-l%E2%80%99ombre-de-la>)

### HITLER'S SECRET WEAPONS

Discover the second episode of our series 'The Librarian Talks'. [\[MORE INFO\]](https://www.cegesoma.be/en/german-secret-weapons-wwii-cegesoma-library) (<https://www.cegesoma.be/en/german-secret-weapons-wwii-cegesoma-library>)

### ONLINE PUBLICATION

The plunder of libraries by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) in Belgium during the Second World War. [\[MORE INFO\]](https://www.cegesoma.be/en/publication/new-online-publication-activities-einsatzstab-reichsleiter-rosenberg-err-belgium) (<https://www.cegesoma.be/en/publication/new-online-publication-activities-einsatzstab-reichsleiter-rosenberg-err-belgium>)

### MEDIA

Discover some recent interventions of our colleagues on TV and radio. [\[MORE INFO\]](https://www.cegesoma.be/en/news/cegesoma-media) (<https://www.cegesoma.be/en/news/cegesoma-media>)

### END OF YEAR CLOSING PERIOD

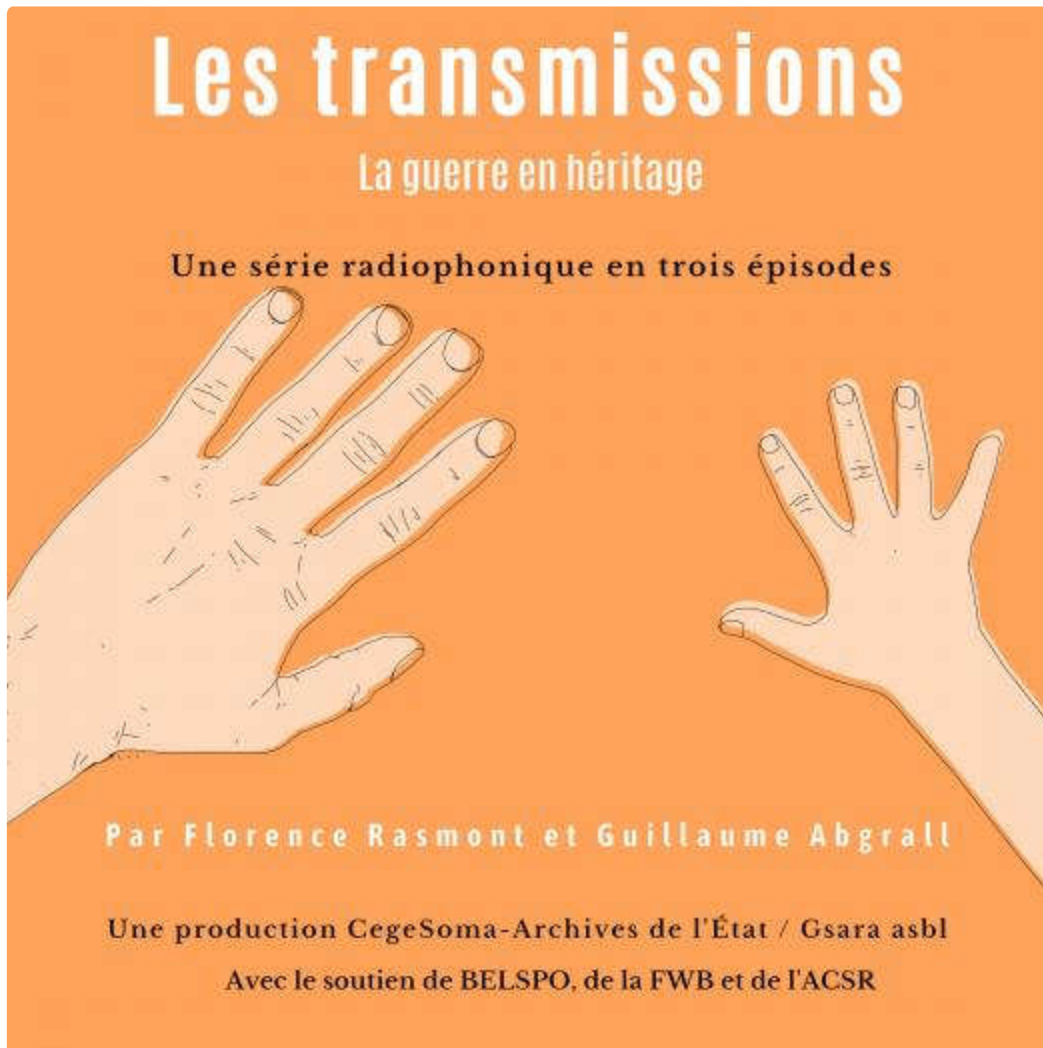
Overview of the closing days of our reading room and CegeSoma at the end of the year. [\[MORE INFO\]](https://www.cegesoma.be/en/end-year-closing-period) (<https://www.cegesoma.be/en/end-year-closing-period>)

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## Les Transmissions. La guerre en héritage (TheTransmissions. The Legacy of War)

A series of three podcasts (in French): the stories of descendants of all those who fought with or against the German occupiers during WWII.



In 2017 the research project '[Transmemo](#)' on the family memory of resistance and collaboration during the Second War in Belgium was initiated. Within the framework of this project, eighty Dutch and French-speaking families agreed to be interviewed across three generations (the children of the war - their children and grandchildren).

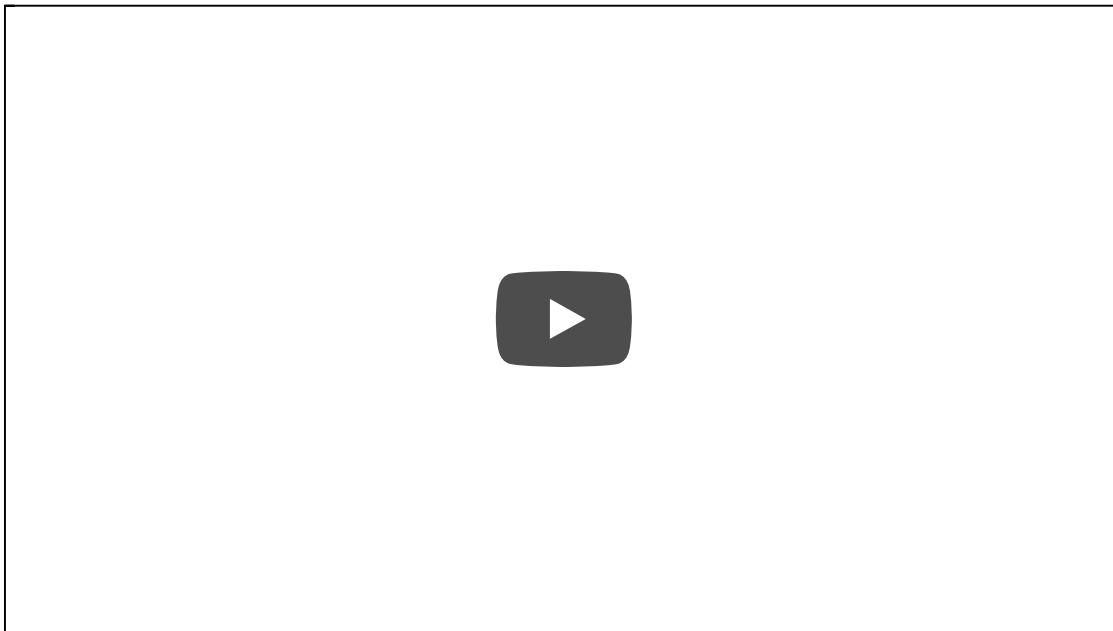
Three years later, in parallel with forthcoming scientific publications on the results of the project and in order to bring these stories to life, a series of three podcasts '*Les transmissions : la guerre en héritage*' was produced by [Florence Rasmont](#) and Guillaume Abgrall (Gsara asbl).

The purpose of these podcasts is to share the stories of three families that participated in the Transmemo project. The series puts us in the footsteps of the engagement of their forefathers during the war while helping us discover both the past and the ever-present impact of this story on the families.

The series '*Les transmissions. La guerre en héritage*' was selected for the documentary creation prize at the 18th '*Longueur d'Ondes*' radio listening festival, to be held in Brest in February 2021. The series directed by Florence Rasmont and Guillaume Abgrall will therefore be on the program of the festival. The announcement of the jury's final selection for the grand prize will take place on the evening of February 6.

The series 'Les transmissions' has been broadcast on several community radio stations (Radio Campus, Radio Panik, 48FM, etc.) and will be aired on *La Première/RTBF* on January 8, 2021 (1st and 2nd episodes) and January 15, 2021 (3rd episode + presentation of the series by Florence Rasmont and Guillaume Abgrall) in the program "*Par Ouvre dire*" at 10 pm.

To know more about it ? [Discover the video interview of Florence Rasmont](#) :



**The three episodes (in French) of the series 'Les Transmissions. La guerre en héritage' (The Transmissions. The Legacy of War):**

### **Episode 1: From mother to daughter**

This is the story of a mother who never recovered from deportation. It is also the story of a daughter, born in the post-war period, torn between admiration for her resilient mother and the pains of everyday family life. It is also the story of a conflict between two generations of militant women, each one swept away by the great struggles of their time.

## Listen to more free podcasts on Spotify. De mère en fille

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Les transmissions : la guerre en héritage

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### Episode 2: The Secret

In 1968, Antoine learned from his father that the latter had fought on the German side during the war. Antoine kept the secret all his life, until he decided to investigate and come out of his silence. In this episode, Antoine tells us about his research and his questions both on the great and the small history. An introspective dive into the search for facts that have marked his family and his memory forever.

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Les transmissions : la guerre en héritage

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2 :2

### Episode 3 : Bompa

'Bompa' means Grandpa, grandfather, in Brussels dialect. This is how Charles, a former communist worker, resistant and deported, is affectionately nicknamed by his entire family. Bompa is at the same time the story of one man's struggle and of his resilience. It is also the story of a family through the 20th century, confronted with war and the transformation of the working class world of Brussels.

## Listen to more free podcasts on Spotify. ompa

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Les transmissions : la guerre en héritage

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2 :

Podcast production: Florence Rasmont and Guillaume Abgrall.

Music: Tuur Florizoone.

With the support of Belspo and the Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles.

Production: Gsara - Cegesoma/ State Archives.

Other news

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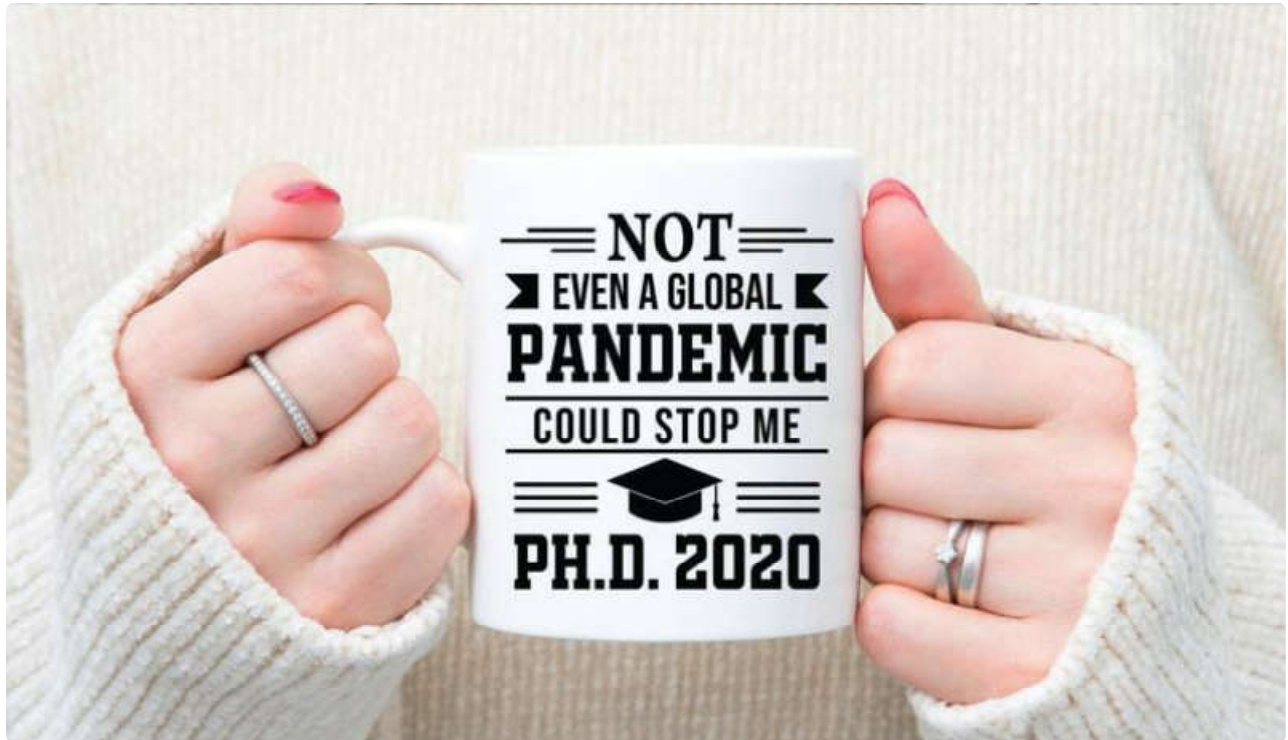
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## Three questions to ... a new 'doctor', Anne Chardonnens, in charge of digital access to CegeSoma's collections



*Dear Anne, you have just defended your dissertation - this Tuesday, December 15 - and you are now a Doctor in Information and Communication. Can you tell us what it's like to finish your PhD in a time of global pandemic?*

It's true that the context was special. In fact, I only met my thesis director once between March and December, all our other exchanges took place online. I was also lucky enough to be able to count on four people who were in charge of reviewing my dissertation: everything was done online, via a collaborative editing platform. They could simultaneously add comments to the final text, while being connected from Belgium, Switzerland or Reunion Island... It's really great, I think! As far as writing is concerned, the lockdown only reinforced the ascetic character typical of this period of solitary work. I hardly met anyone for several months, but at least I didn't have the impression that I had to give up all sorts of events, as everything was going slowly around me. The lockdown was both an additional constraint and an opportunity.

Finally, the defense also had to take place exclusively online. Beyond a few technical concerns to ensure that each member of the jury could be properly seen and heard, this was not very constraining. I certainly had to give up the traditional « pot de thèse », *drinking to toast* my successful *dissertation defense* with my family and friends, but, being from Switzerland, I was happy to be able to invite everyone I know without them having to travel!

*What is your research subject and what is its interest for CegeSoma visitors?*

As I had outlined in [this midterm review of the ADOCHS project](#), I have been working on the issue of access to the collections, and more precisely on authority data concerning private individuals. Indeed, in the current context of the Web of data, private individuals constitute privileged channels of access to collections. They allow users to navigate from one document to another, beyond the walls of a single institution. As I have had the opportunity to experiment, it is indeed possible to query several sources of information simultaneously, but to do so, one must first create relationships between these entities. It is all this that I wanted to explore through my research, in particular by creating a [database dedicated to CegeSoma's authority data](#).

Given that a large part of CegeSoma's visitors carry out research on their relatives, for example having been involved in resistance activities during the Second World War, it is very useful for them that the institution seeks to centralize research about individuals. It is also important to be able to enrich the research results with additional contextual information.

***Do you plan to continue this work in the coming months?***

Of course! The sustainability of the "Wikibase" knowledge base is a question that will be discussed in the coming months and doesn't just depend on me. It is a question of seeing how it fits into the practices and infrastructures of the State Archives, but what is certain is that the work undertaken on the issue of metadata quality will in any case be continued. As I detailed in a series of recommendations in the final chapter of my dissertation, it is possible to proceed in stages, it is not necessarily "all or nothing" operation.

***And your dissertation, can we read it somewhere?***

My dissertation is entitled: `La gestion des données d'autorité archivistiques dans le cadre du Web de données' (« The management of archival authority data in the context of the Web of data »). It will soon be made available online on the ULB's Digital Institutional Repository, I will keep you informed!

***Thank you Anne and congratulations again!***

Other news

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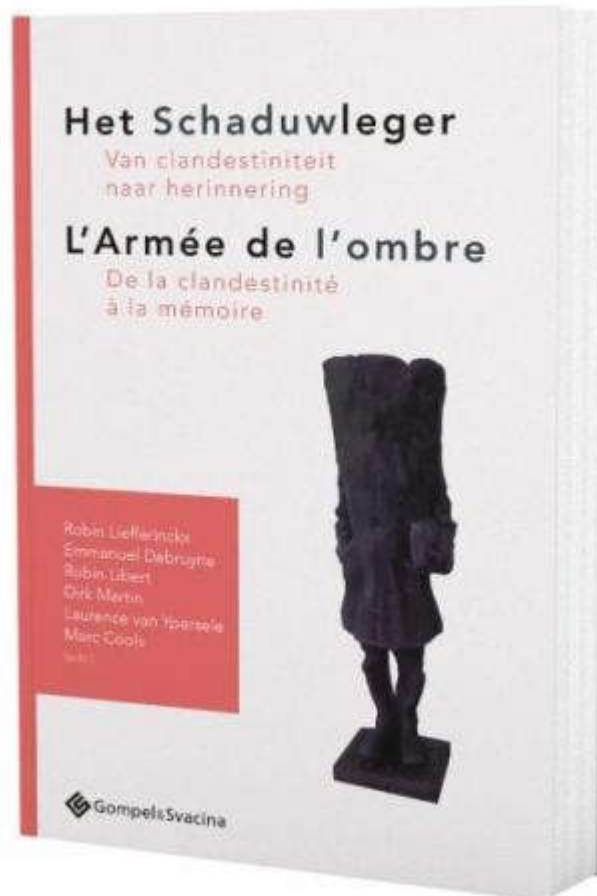
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## Het Schaduwleger. Van clandestiniteit naar herinnering. / L'Armée de l'ombre. De la clandestinité à la mémoire.

World War II [Book](#)



### Commemorating in Pandemic Times

Originally, the year 2020 should have been marked by commemorative events related to the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Unfortunately, many of these events had to be cancelled due to the health crisis. However, some initiatives were nevertheless successfully completed. For example, the bilingual book '*Het Schaduwleger / L'Armée de l'ombre*' (« The Shadow Army ») was released, focusing on the agents of intelligence and action services. It is a follow-up of the [memorial book published in 2015 on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the "Royale Union des Services de Renseignement et d'Action" \("Royal Union of Intelligence and Action Services"\)](#). As a reminder, it included the names of the 18,716 recognized intelligence

agents as well as an overview of the 129 intelligence and action services and missions. At the same time, research on this very closed and very specific group of the Resistance was experiencing unprecedented momentum. Of course, certain aspects of this history remain to be written, but it is nonetheless true that our knowledge of this "glass house" of intelligence and action has been refined; an evolution that owes much to the hard work of a few researchers, but also to various archives preserved at CegeSoma.

### **From clandestinity to memory**

The book 'Het Schaduwleger / L'Armée de l'ombre' obviously contributes to our knowledge of part of the Belgian resistance. Several researchers directly or indirectly linked to CegeSoma, now or in the past, have contributed to this book, among them [Dirk Martin](#) as co-editor, together with two associated researchers, [Marc Verschooris](#) and [Etienne Verhoeyen](#), as well as [Emmanuel Debruyne](#), Laurence van Ypersele and [Chantal Kesteloot](#). Its originality lies in its articulation focused on both historical and memorial dimensions. The approach is both human and institutional. Several texts thus highlight the dramatic experiences of certain agents but also the impact on families and, in particular, on children. This story does not finish with the end of the conflict because the hour of liberation comes at a time of delicate questions about recognition and a return to "normalcy". What will their status be? How to overcome the physical and/or psychological after-effects and succeed in their professional reintegration? For some, it is a certain frustration that will prevail because they no longer feel useful and cannot share their experience, especially in the very closed world of intelligence. In this context, the role of associations will prove to be essential, as several contributions show. There is also the more general question about the place of the resistance in post-war Belgian society, and also the more international perspective with, for example, commemorations linked to the Comet network (*'réseau Comète'*). For others, Germany's capitulation is not an end in itself. Indeed, some of these agents will move on to other fields in a context that very quickly becomes that of the Cold War.

### **Valuable and much consulted archives**

Several contributions to this volume were made possible thanks to various archival fonds held at CegeSoma. This is notably the case of the very rich archives of the Belgian State Security (*'Sûreté de l'État'*) deposited in 1993. In particular, there are more than 46,000 files of men and women closely or remotely linked to the activities of intelligence, escape, propaganda or armed action networks, orchestrated from London by the Sûreté de l'Etat or the Second Directorate of the Ministry of National Defense. General files supplement these individual files.

Other archival fonds kept at CegeSoma also allow a better understanding of this chapter from the history of the Resistance. The William Ugeux and [Louise de Landsheere](#) archives, as well as those of the [Luc-Marc networks](#), have been used by several authors. Let us also mention more specific fonds such as the 385 letters from from people sentenced to death gathered on the initiative of [Fabrice Maerten](#).

Beyond these archives, our Center is also particularly rich in the field of periodicals published after the war by the fraternal organizations and veterans other associations linked to the world of intelligence and action, not forgetting documents related to the many commemorative events.

Local, national and international approaches; individual dimensions and collective structuring, are all aspects addressed in this book. A great Christmas gift to put under your tree !

## PRODUCT DETAILS

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## PRICE

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## TAGS

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[Resistance](#) [Commemorations](#) [Cold War](#)

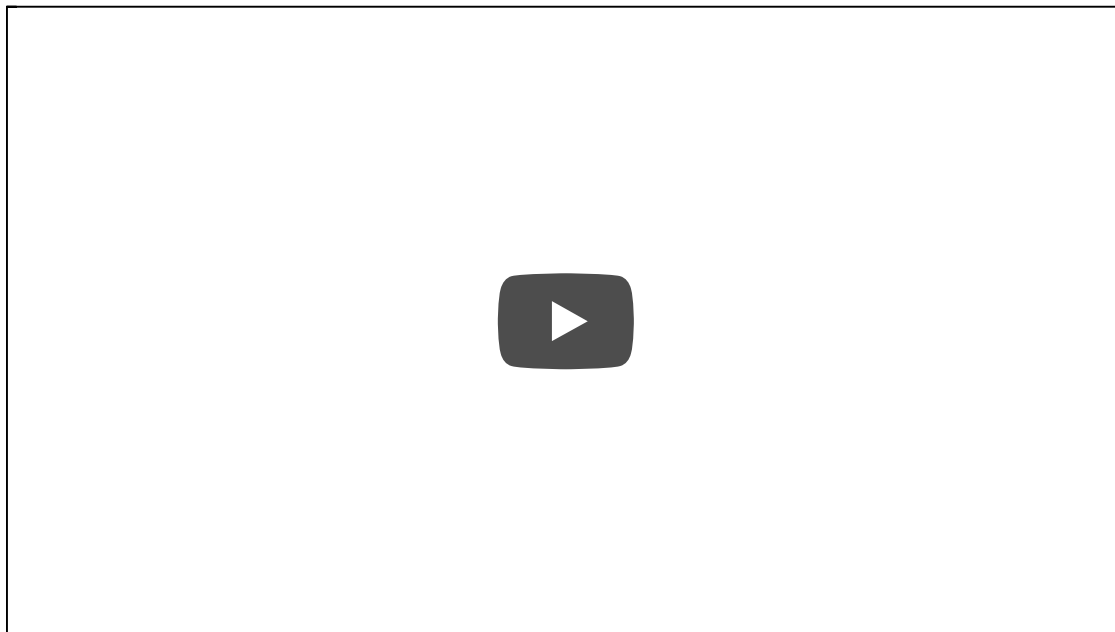
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## German Secret Weapons of WWII in the CegeSoma Library

German Secret Weapons in the CegeSoma library ... Under this title, we invite you to discover the second 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 second episode of our video series 'The Librarian's Talks: 2. German Secret Weapons in the CegeSoma Library'.](#)**



World War II enthusiasts, or at least lovers of militaria, often find research into "German secret weapons" very attractive, whether it be their technical development, their entry into the battlefield during the last phase of the conflict... or speculation of a rather uchronic type: what would have happened if they had been deployed earlier? And the imagination to run, inventing less promising futures for the Allied armies and - who knows - even envisaging the survival of the Reich beyond the fateful date of May '45....

This approach, which often betrays, in a somewhat naive way, a good dose of fascination with German technical-scientific expertise (Nazi? ) is not new: for a good part of the war, Anglo-Saxon politicians and scholars feared some Nazi treachery with the sudden arrival in action of a weapon as new as it was decisive, coming out of German brains

and Krupp's foundries... And even if this did not happen, the deployment by the Wehrmacht, in '44-'45, of certain weaponry reflecting an undeniable qualitative leap made the risk plausible, at first sight.

At the risk of limiting imaginations, this contribution, within its limited framework, will attempt to put the church back in the middle of the village. In addition to the fact that these dreamlike weapons, which were to reverse the tide of history, intervened "too late and too few in number" in the course of the conflict (generally AFTER June 1944, that is to say after the Normandy landings and following the final elimination of the last Nazi armies from the Soviet Union), in any case, the last word would have been spoken in August 1945, with the American atomic bomb coming into action, the Nazis having abandoned the field of nuclear research to bet on other horses... These delays, these trial and error, these limited deployments in the field were due to the particular nature of the Hitlerian system: rivalries between design offices and builders, weaknesses in technical coordination, friction between Nazi baronies (Wehrmacht, SS, Luftwaffe, ...), wastage of resources, inadequate mobilization of manpower. And above all: weaknesses in standardized and centralized production, unlike in Anglo-Saxon countries. Thus, in 1943, over a year after his appointment, Albert Speer, Reich Minister of Industry and Armament, although pragmatic and good planner, still had to manage in the Luftwaffe no less than 425 different types and versions of aircrafts...

As for results, the figures speak for themselves... If we are willing to use the data on German secret weapons given by Wikipedia – a large market place for elementary and factual knowledge – we can just review the list of some 118 entries on the page dedicated to "Wunderwaffe" ("miracle weapon"). Out of these, 41.5% of the weapons mentioned NEVER made it past the drawing board stage, 28.8% reached the prototype stage, 7.6% made it to factory production...but there was no time to use them because of the German collapse in March-April 1945...and only 22% could actually be used in combat, up to a certain point, and with...mixed success.

In fact, we should always bear in mind that only half a dozen truly innovative weapons had time to be deployed on a large scale: Hugo Schmeisser's Sturmgewehr 44 assault rifle (426. 000 units produced, the ancestor of the "Kalashnikov"); the Messerschmitt Me-262 jet fighter (1430 units built); the Fritz X and Henschel Hs-293 guided anti-ship bombs; the Fieseler Fi-103 (the V-1, about 30,000 units built) and Aggregat A4 (the V-2, 5,200 units built) missiles. This picture needs to be qualified, however. Although the Me-262 was produced in fairly large numbers, it was poorly deployed due to « teething » problems with its engines, likely to catch fire or stop abruptly. In spring 1945, Germany was barely capable of throwing about forty of them simultaneously against incoming raids of Allied four-engine bombers, and their achievements were very limited. As for the V-1 and V-2s, their inaccuracy limited their capacity for strategic nuisance, even if their psychological impact was not negligible...

Other " secret weapons " of the Reich in the field of aviation were only used anecdotally: whether the Messerschmitt 163-A " Komet " - which was not really developed and caused the death of more German pilots than Allied airmen -..., the Arado Ar-234 - a highly valuable light bomber but which only saw very limited use -, or the Heinkel He-162. The Kriegsmarine was in the same boat: the type XXI submarine could have been the most successful new-generation weapon for its underwater capability and its armament. However, the first one of its kind was only commissioned on June 27, 1944, and out of the 1170 programmed, just 4 were operational on May 8, 1945.

The conclusion is self-evident: for the reasons mentioned above, German "secret weapons" were above all an excellent propaganda weapon for Dr. Goebbels' services, and their development was mainly aimed at the German people, in order to maintain their faith in the final victory, despite an increasingly desperate geostrategic situation.

More than three-quarters of a century after the demise of Nazi Germany, with its pomp and its poisonous works, the average citizen is allowed to contemplate with detachment these "feats" of Nazi technology, staged by Josef

Goebbels, and taken up 'con amore' by the naive and the curious, drunk with a certain type of journalistic literature - or worse.

### And in the CegeSoma Library?

The researcher or the curious person wishing to go "further" will undoubtedly find, with certain limits, additional information on these wonderful "German secret weapons" in the CegeSoma Library. The limits evoked obviously result from the "Mission Statement" of our institution, which was not, by purpose, specifically "connected" to military history, but rather had to examine the effects of the « war phenomenon » on Belgian civil society, primarily from political, economic, social and cultural points of view.

For a long time, the acquisition of works related to the field we are dealing with has been peripheral, even if, as we can guess, titles on this theme have always been welcomed as donations or legacies from private collectors. This has allowed us to accumulate a few dozen interesting books on the subject, with, here and there, some striking gaps in the view of specialists.

As far as Belgium is concerned, work and studies on German secret weapons are almost exclusively limited to V-1 and V-2s, but it is true that our country was especially affected by the entry into action of these two types of rockets, both in Liege and in Antwerp. We thus have in our collections 'Bilan V1-V2-Omdat ge het niet zoudt vergeten-Lest we forget-Pour que vous l'oublierez (sic!) jamais', Antwerpen, Internationaal \* [coquille dans texte français] Propaganda Kantoor, 1945 and also, in the Dutch-speaking field, the most recent contribution of R. PATTEET, '160 dagen van V-1 liegende V-2 ergelding: studie van de V-bommen in de gemeenten Beerzel, Berlaar, Booischoot, Hallar, Heist, Hulshout, Liegem, Putte, Schriek,...Heist', Die Swane, 1994. Then in French-speaking Belgium, in addition to the classic 'Belgique sous les bombes' published in 1945 by the Haut-Commissariat à la Protection Civile, we obviously have the excellent research of Lambert GRAILET, 'Liège sous les V-1 et V-2 : un rajustement de l'importance réelle du drame' (1996). However, works in English on this topic, are sometimes conspicuous by their absence. We can hardly mention the French translation of a book by David IRVING ('A bout portant sur Londres : la vérité sur les armes secrètes allemandes' (1967)), originally published in 1964 under the title : 'The Mare's Nest'. And even if this author, now very controversial because of negationism, was still producing at the time writings of good historical quality, it is rather poor... Fortunately, the same cannot be said of German studies, which are substantial and erudite (you still need to know German...).

We will thus highlight those of : Edgar MAYER & Thomas MEHNER, 'Die Lügen der Alliierten und die deutschen Wunderwaffen ; das Dritte Reich, die Atombombe und der 6 August 1945', (2010) ; Fritz HAHN, 'Waffen und Geheim Waffen des deutschen Heeres 1933-1945' (1986) ; Ralf SCHABEL, 'Die illusion der Wunderwaffen : die Rolle des Düsenflugzeuge und Flugabwehrraketen in der Rüstungspolitik des Dritten Reiches' (1994).

Alongside these productions from across the Rhine, of which we have given a brief overview, one could say that we have a rather good range of titles on this subject, it being understood that they are sometimes a little "dated", and thus a bit outdated. Let us mention in this register Albert DUCROCQ, 'Les armes secrètes allemandes' (1947), the inevitable and prolific Colonel REMY (with "... et l'Angleterre sera détruite." (1969)), Victor Debuchy, 'L'étrange histoire des armes secrètes allemandes' (1978), Max DUTILLEUX, 'Le camp des armes secrètes: Dora-Mittelbau' (1993), etc, etc... And we will abstain here from mentioning articles in contemporary history journals, simply pointing out, by the way, that a rather fine set of journals specialized in the history of armaments and oriented on this theme will soon be introduced into our collections.

Being understood that we will always welcome, but after preliminary examination, any new contribution of books on this subject, since there is apparently a demand for this field of research too long neglected by CegeSoma! But as the French proverb says: « A sin confessed is half forgiven ».

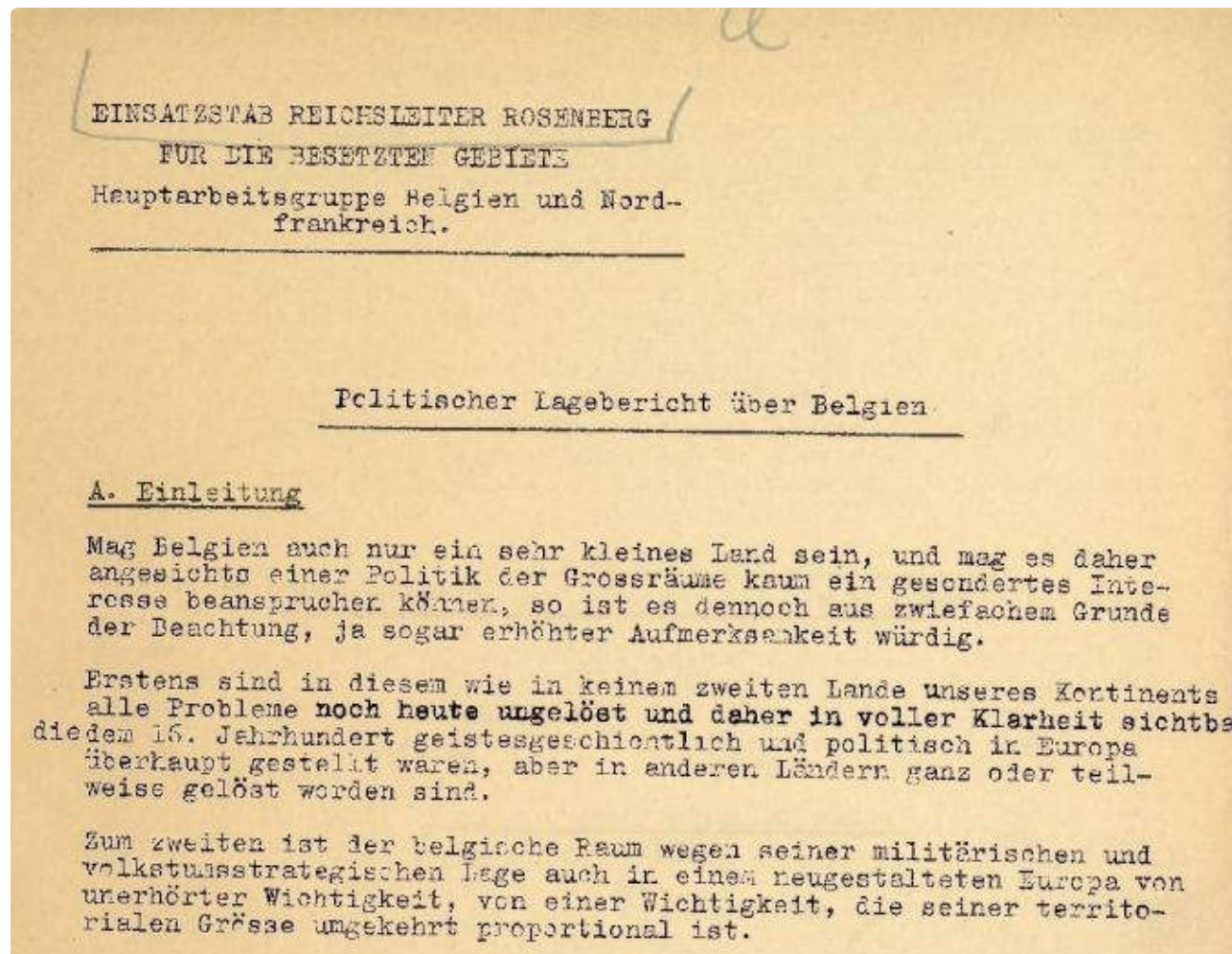
Alain Colignon, Librarian

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[Home](#) » Publication » A new online publication on the activities of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) in Belgium

## A new online publication on the activities of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) in Belgium

World War II



During the occupation, the Nazis carried out cultural looting: libraries and archives of Jews and political opponents (or those whom the Nazis saw as such) were systematically robbed. The *Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR)* played a key role in this. After the end of the Second World War much of this material disappeared to the USSR. After the fall of the Wall part of it was returned, but the issue of cultural looting still leaves traces, just think of the recent discussions about the provenance of certain works of art in museums and the problem of restitution in the Netherlands.

**Libraries**



The research is also still going on. Patricia Grimsted is an international expert on the spoliation and restitution of cultural property and knows better than anyone the archives in the ex-Soviet Union, where a lot of information about those operations is being kept. In the 1990s, Michel Vermote from the *AMSAB-ISG* was involved in the recovery of archives that were taken from Belgium by the Nazis, including those of the socialist workers' movement, and he is still doing research on the subject.

They both wrote an article regarding the theft of libraries by the *ERR* in Belgium. It is estimated that between 250,000 and 300,000 volumes were stolen from private or institutional libraries in the course of 150 book confiscations. The article was published online on [the website 'Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg'](#) created with the support of the Claims Conference. You can consult it [on this link](#). The article is mainly based on material kept in Kiev and Berlin, but the collections of CegeSoma and the State Archives were also used. In addition to the article, a number of digitised archival documents are published, such as the lists of confiscations.

On 14 June 2018, both authors were already guests at CegeSoma for a workshop on the same theme. For a report on the workshop and an interview with Patricia Grimsted about the research, please visit [this link](#).

The article by Patricia Grimsted and Michel Vermote makes it clear that the Second World War must also be seen as a transnational phenomenon and that international archival research is indispensable for certain themes.

#### TAGS

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[Antisemitism](#) [Archives](#) [Cultural history](#) [Transnationalism](#) [Cultural collaboration](#)

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## CegeSoma in the media



Following the strong public interest for the documentary film on children of the collaboration, « Les enfants de la collaboration », shown by « La Une » (RTBF Channel 1) on 25 November and in the associated 3-part mini-series '[Regards d'historiens](#)' filmed in collaboration with seven historians specialists on the question, CegeSoma has been very present in the media at the end of 2020.

On Saturday 28 November, Koen Aerts was the guest of Radio 1 for a programme on the same subject, which can be heard or replayed (in Dutch) [under this link](#).

On Saturday, December 5, on « La Trois » (RTBF Channel 3) Chantal Kesteloot participated with Laurence Schram (Kazerne Dossin) in an episode of the TV programme 'Retour aux sources' focusing on the looting of Jewish apartments during the German so-called 'Möbel Aktion' (« Operation Furniture »).

The following Saturday, December 12, on the same 'Retour aux sources' TV show, Fabrice Maerten joined a debate on the Red Orchestra (the name given by the Gestapo to a number of groups in contact with the Soviet Union that resisted Nazism during the Second World War), accompanied by André Possot, author and translator, passionate about the history of the Red Orchestra in Belgium.

If you didn't have the chance to watch these two programs (in French) or wish to watch them again, it's still time to see them on RTBF's Auvio platform (after free registration):

- [Möbel Aktion](#)

- Red Orchestra (in two parts) : [Part 1](#) - [Part 2](#)

Other news

[Three questions to ... a new 'doctor', Anne Chardonnens, in charge of digital access to CegeSoma's collections](#)

[Les Transmissions. La guerre en héritage \(The Transmissions. The Legacy of War\)](#)

[EHRI celebrates 10th anniversary](#)

[Lives turned topsy-turvy, forever](#)

[A new colleague reinforces CegeSoma's permanent scientific team](#)

[The historical truth and the perception of the Second World War in Belgium in these times of so-called 'post-truth'](#)

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[The peculiar summer of 1940](#)

[Farewell ....](#)

[Science and truth : archives and research](#)

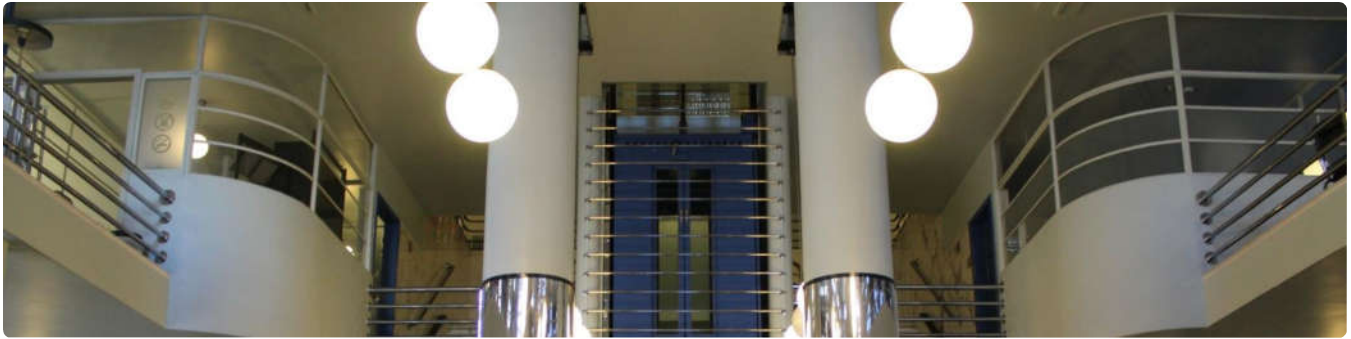
[Belgium WWII in times of confinement](#)

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## End of year closing period

The State Archives (CegeSoma) is closed from Thursday 24 December 2020 at 1.00 pm until Friday 1 January 2021. Our reading rooms reopen **on Tuesday 5 January 2021** and can be freely accessed upon appointment and under strict observance of the safety measures in force.

Reservation of workspace in the reading room must be made by e-mail to the State Archives in question at least 2 workdays before the visit. You can find the contact details of our repositories [here](#). (CegeSoma : [cegesoma@arch.be](mailto:cegesoma@arch.be)).

Please consult the [special preventive measures against Coronavirus/COVID-19](#) to best prepare your visit.

You can stay informed about further developments via our website and via [Facebook](#).

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