

CEGESOMA NEWSLETTER

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EXHIBITION

'Brussels, November 1918. From War to Peace?: a difficult transition between euphoria and sorrow.

[\[MORE INFO\]](#) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3759&pag0nbr=56&pagofs=0)

WEBSITE

The platform BelgiumWWII supplemented with new themes and a Blog! [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (<http://www.cegesoma.be>

/cms/index_en.php?article=3761)

PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK

'Grenzeloos verzet': a thrilling story about cross-border resistance around the abbey of Val-Dieu and its monks. [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3764&pag0nbr=56&pagofs=0)

PUBLICATION

Nations, Identities and the First World War'. To what extent did the First World War influence the national identification process and the loyalty to the fatherland? [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (<http://www.cegesoma.be>

/cms/index_en.php?article=3743)

IN MEMORIAM JACQUES LORY

A great professor has left us... [\[MORE INFO\]](#) (http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php?article=3740&pag0nbr=56&pagofs=0)

Brussels, November 1918. From War to Peace?

On 26 September, the exhibition 'Brussels, November 1918' will open in the BELvue Museum, an initiative of CegeSoma/State Archives.

The exhibition wants to evoke the last months of the war and the first months of peace in the city of Brussels.

In the past years, the occupation years were the core of the multiple commemorative events. Now it is time to focus on the transition from war to peace.



11 November 1918 marked the end of the Great War, but this date goes far beyond the symbolic importance of the Armistice. As the guns went silent, peace had not yet been achieved. Two days before the Armistice, the German Reich collapsed and the Republic was declared in an atmosphere of absolute chaos. On the battlefields, the soldiers had to learn to live in peace again. This transition was quite a traumatic experience. For more than four years, daily life at and behind the front had been dominated by the war.

As the nation's capital, Brussels is the incarnation of national power, even though the government remained in exile in Sainte-Adresse near Le Havre during the war, as well as of local power structures, though these lost much of their power during the occupation. But there are also the 700,000 inhabitants of Brussels who were subjected to the German occupation.

The exhibition Brussels, November 1918: from War to Peace? shows a quantity of photographs and historical documents, but also some exceptional archive footage. Interactive applications allow the visitors to discover songs that were popular at the end of the war. With touchscreen modules, the press at the time of the liberation can be consulted. Finally, the exhibition wants to focus on the day-to-day difficulties of the war refugees.

Brussels, November 1918: from War to Peace? focuses on the following themes:

- The final offensive
- Daily life
- The refugees
- The 'red days' (a revolt of German soldiers around 11 November)
- 22 November 1918
- Peace and hatred
- The post-war period

Curators: Chantal Kesteloot and Jens van de Maele

[Interview with Chantal Kesteloot](#)



Scientific committee : Bruno Benvindo/Emmanuel Debruyne/Dominiek Dendooven/Barbara Deruytter/Sophie de Schaepe/drijver/Benoît Majerus/Gonzague Pluvinage/Peter Scholliers/Pierre-Alain Tallier/Laurence van

Ypersele/Christian Vreugde/Antoon Vrints/Nico Wouters

Scenography and realisation : mimesis.architecten

[Interview with the scenographers](#)

The exhibition is free and can be visited at the BELvue Museum from 26 September 2018 to 6 January 2019.

Opening hours and information : <https://www.belvue.be/fr/activity/temporary-exhibition>

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Belgium WWII, the story continues...

Almost one year ago, on 27 September 2017, we launched the website "Belgium WWII". The aim was to make the works and research of the most renowned experts accessible to the general public in a clear and concise manner. The purpose was not to propose an official version of history, but to provide information with a quality label substantiated by the academic credit of the Study Centre War and Society and the thorough evaluation of the texts.



Clandestine newspaper "La Libre Belgique". Photograph taken in 1944 in the clandestine printing shop located 87, rue St. Gilles in Liège, and developed after the Liberation. Photo 27956. © CegeSoma.

is intended as a link between those two opposites. Discover our first articles online now!

You can also take part in these exchanges. In order to feed our blog, we need your input, your knowledge, your expertise and your desire to communicate.

Interested? Simply send an e-mail to belgiumwwii@cegesoma.be.

The first texts focused on two particularly sensitive topics: collaboration and repression on the one hand, and justice in wartime on the other hand.

Today, new content is available. Fabrice Maerten, a specialist in the history of the Resistance, has penned an article for the website (<https://www.belgiumwwii.be/belgique-en-guerre/articles/resistance.html>).

Alain Colignon discusses key aspects of the Liberation (<https://www.belgiumwwii.be/belgique-en-guerre/articles/liberation.html>).

Other articles about Resistance movements will follow, as well as a detailed chronology of the history of the Resistance and the Liberation. Within the framework of the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Liberation and the end of the Second World War, new content will be added to the website continuously. We will keep you informed through your favourite communication channel.

In the meantime, you can already discover our blog dedicated to the Second World War in general (<https://www.belgiumwwii.be/blog/de-tweede-dood-van-een-verzetsstrijder.html>) and (<https://www.belgiumwwii.be/blog/memoire-et-toponymie-bruxelloise-des-grands-themes-qui-entrent-par-la-petite-porte.html>).

What is the purpose of this blog ? We found that research, debates and controversies continue to expand our knowledge while sometimes being too much confined to the academic world or, on the contrary, being subject of undistinguished polemics without any critical view. The site Belgium WWII

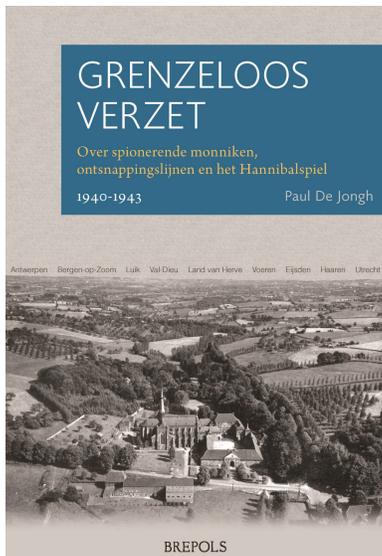
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'Grenzeloos verzet' (Boundless Resistance), a unique case study on the cross-border resistance during the Second World War

On 16 October 2018, Paul De Jongh, who is an associated researcher of CegeSoma, will present his book '*Grenzeloos verzet. Over spionerende monniken, ontsnapingslijnen en het Hannibalspiel, 1940-1943*', Turnhout, Brepols, 2018, 344 p.

March 1943. The German secret police surrounded the abbey of Val-Dieu and two of its monks were arrested for participating in resistance activities: H. Jacobs of Antwerp and E. Muhren of Bergen op Zoom.

A short time later, 80 arrests were made in Belgium and in the Netherlands.



On 9 October, 9 members of the resistance were executed in Rhijnauwen, near Utrecht. Among them, the two monks.

The author has consulted the archives of CegeSoma, the NIOD, the Nationaal Archief at The Hague, the State Archives of Liège and Brussels, as well as several local archives, and tells us the story of the emergence and development of the first resistance groups.

By retracing the trajectory of these two monks, he tries to give an answer to the questions relating to the role of the Church and the abbey in this case, to the treatment of the resistance fighters after their arrest, the manner in which they were tried etc ...

In short, a passionate cross-border spy story involving evacuation of pilots, aid to Jewish persons, German infiltration in the resistance groups ...

Paul De Jongh is a lawyer and leads an academic editing company. For some years, he has been doing research on the resistance (espionage and escape lines) in the border region of Herve-Fourons-Eijsden (the Netherlands), including infiltrations, arrests, juridical procedures and executions.

This presentation (in Dutch) will take place in the conference room of CegeSoma, on **Tuesday 16 October at 2 p.m.** (29, square de l'Aviation in 1070 Brussels).

We thank you for confirming your presence by telephone (02/556.92.11) or by email to : isabelle.ponteville@arch.be.

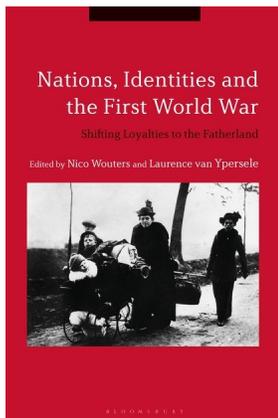
Do not hesitate to bring a friend !

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Results of the conference War and Fatherland are published

On 14-15 October 2015, CegeSoma with all Belgian universities organizes the international conference 'War and Fatherland'. Almost three years later, the results are published in the edited volume '[Nations, Identities and the First World War](#)'.

The book is edited by Nico Wouters (CegeSoma) and Laurence van Ypersele (*Université Catholique de Louvain*), has fifteen chapters and was published by Bloomsbury.



The volume tackles the question of the impact of the First World War on different processes of national identification and the way the notion of loyalty to the fatherland and the national state gradually replaced or integrated other competing forms of collective loyalties; towards family and the local region, social class and background, religion, cultural-ethnic identity etc.

The book is divided in four sections : 'The Fatherland of the Other' with an introduction by John Horne, 'The Limits of Nationalization' with an introduction by John Breuilly, 'Minorities in and at War' with an introduction by Peter Gatrell and finally 'Town and Nation' with an introduction by Pierre Purseigle.

The book has a good mix of micro-cases with more generalizing approaches, and also of senior scholars with early stage researchers, who here present their results for the first time to an international readership.

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Decease of Jacques Lory, former member of the Scientific Committee of CegeSoma

Historian Jacques Lory, professor emeritus at the University of *Louvain-la-Neuve* (*UCL*) and the University of *Saint-Louis*, passed away on 13 August. He became a member of the Scientific Committee of our Centre in 1972, to which he participated assiduously until its cessation in 1999. With him an important part of the memory of our institution disappears, as well as a discreet but important contributor to the historiography of the Second World War in Belgium.



Jacques Lory (in the middle), with among others to his right one of his greatest friends, abbot André Tihon, also professor at the *Facultés universitaires Saint-Louis*, during the symposium « *Belgique, une société en crise, un pays en guerre, 1940* » organised by the future CegeSoma in October 1990. (photo CegeSoma).

history of education and the Second World War. The latter subject was especially dear to him since his nomination as a member of the Scientific Committee of our institution in 1972. During nearly thirty years, he faithfully assisted the meetings of the Committee and the activities of the Centre and he successfully stimulated research by his students in this field, particularly in the context of the contemporary history seminars which he supervised at the *UCL* from 1983 onwards. As a result, the remarkable and in their scope unprecedented oral history surveys he organized between 1983 and 1998 on daily life during the war in Walloon Brabant but also in *Hainaut* and the region of *Namur*, constitute a unique source on the memory of the Second World War in Wallonia. He proved his commitment to CegeSoma by leaving us his books (about 190) and sound recordings (about 1,200). All his written and audio documents are accessible in our reading room.

The resistance, too

The contribution of Jacques Lory to the historiography of the Second World War does not end there. Apart from the seminars, there are the regular exercises on this subject in the first two university years and also the dozens of licentiate theses and some PhD's conducted under his survey. These end-of-studies works, mostly kept at CegeSoma, mainly concern daily life and the resistance during the occupation.

Fabrice Maerten
30.8.2018

A successful academic career

Jacques Lory was born on 1 January 1934 in Dour, in the Borinage region. He obtained his licentiate thesis in contemporary history at the *UCL* in 1961. He was a *FNRS* aspirant from 1962 to 1965 and started working as a teaching assistant at the *Facultés universitaires Saint-Louis* in 1965. Very soon, and until 1999, he played a central part in the historical education of nearly all students. His PhD concerned the liberals and the reforms in primary education in Belgium from the 1842 law to the 1879 law. In the same year, 1971, he became a lecturer, then part time professor at the *UCL* where he remained until 1998.

Research through teaching

Professor Lory's teaching assignments in the two universities played an important role in his career. However, he also took a keen interest in research and published several studies on Belgian political history and the Roman question in the second half of the 19th century. In particular, he supervised countless research projects carried out mostly by future historians he taught at *Saint-Louis* and at *Louvain-la-Neuve*.

Daily life during the occupation

The research projects which he supported concerned the history of the press and in particular the history of education and the Second World War. The latter subject was especially dear to him since his nomination as a member of the Scientific Committee of our institution in 1972. During nearly thirty years, he faithfully assisted the meetings of the Committee and the activities of the Centre and he successfully stimulated research by his students in this field, particularly in the context of the contemporary history seminars which he supervised at the *UCL* from 1983 onwards. As a result, the remarkable and in their scope unprecedented oral history surveys he organized between 1983 and 1998 on daily life during the war in Walloon Brabant but also in *Hainaut* and the region of *Namur*, constitute a unique source on the memory of the Second World War in Wallonia. He proved his commitment to CegeSoma by leaving us his books (about 190) and sound recordings (about 1,200). All his written and audio documents are accessible in our reading room.

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