CEGESOMA - State Archives

NEWSLETTER

No 84 - April 2023



NEWS

HEROES OF THE RESISTANCE

Between Saturday 6 May at 6pm and Monday 8 May at 8.30pm, 6,000 names of resistance fighters who died between 1940 and 1945 will be read out at Fortress Breendonk. This event is an initiative of the non-profit organisation Heroes of the Resistance and was made possible by CegeSoma's "Wikibase Resistance"-project.

Read more





AGENDA

STUDY DAY ON THE RESISTANCE

On 10 May 2023, the *FelixArchief* organises a study day on the resistance in Antwerp in collaboration with CegeSoma and the *Vredescentrum*. Historians take stock of the research.

Read more

THE 'BENDE VAN NIJVEL' / 'TUEURS DU BRABANT'

On Friday 12 May from 2 to 4.30 pm, the non-profit organisation 'Friends of CegeSoma' invites you in the series Public History Meetings to a conference in Dutch with Hilde Geens and Paul Ponsaers, moderated by Rudi van Doorslaer.



Read more



GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES IN BELGIUM

A double presentation of recent publications on the German secret police and intelligence services in Belgium in the 20th century will take place on Monday 22 May from 5-7pm. This is an initiative of the BISC with the support of the CegeSoma.

Read more

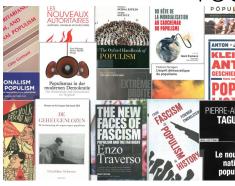
THE ODYSSEE OF JACQUES DE DUVE



On Wednesday 24 May from 12.30 to 14.00, Charles-Albert de Behault will tell us (in French) about the unlikely escape of a Belgian patriot seeking to provide the Allies with important military information. Fabrice Maerten moderates this Public History Meeting.

► Read more





FOCUS ON THE COLLECTIONS

FASCISM IN THE CEGESOMA LIBRARY

Discover with our librarian the third and final part (on populism and national-populism) of a trilogy on fascism and the richness of our library collection.

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Read more & watch the video

PUBLICATION

NEW ISSUE OF THE JBH

Discover the latest thematic issue in English of the JBH on spectacle and entertainment culture during the two German occupations of Belgium.

Read more



JOURNAL OF BELGIAN HISTORY REVUE BELGE D'HISTOIRE CONTEMPORAINE









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Helden van het Verzet. Dit zijn de namen.

[Heroes of the Resistance. These are the names.]



During World War II, some 15,000 people engaged in the Resistance against the occupying forces in Belgium lost their lives. These men and women have almost all been forgotten. That is why a 48-hour reading marathon of the names of resistance fighters who died in 1940-1945 will be organized on the occasion of May 8, the anniversary of the victory over Nazism. CegeSoma is contributing greatly to this initiative.

The reading of approximately 8,000 names will take place between Saturday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. and Monday, May 8 at 8:30 p.m. The event will take place at the fort of Breendonk, which was used by the Sipo-SD (the "Gestapo") as an Auffanglager ("reception camp") for resistance fighters and other suspected opponents of the regime, and is thus an emblematic place of Nazi oppression in occupied Belgium. <u>The reading will be broadcasted</u> <u>live via Facebook.</u>

The event is organized by <u>the non-profit organization Helden van het Verzet</u> [Heroes of the Resistance] in the framework of the program <u>Vrij op 8 mei</u> [Free on May 8]. CegeSoma is making an essential contribution to this project, since most of the names, surnames, dates of birth, places and dates of death that will be published during these 48 hours come from the databases developed within the <u>Wikibase Resistance project</u>. This project aims to **collect and publish information** from the personal files of resistance fighters kept at CegeSoma, the Archives Service for War Victims and at the State Archives Belgium. This database will make it possible to search through hundreds of thousands of descriptions of over 150,000 members of the Resistance, based on a name, a date of

birth, a place of residence or a movement or network name. At the moment, the descriptions of more than 100,000 files, forms and index cards of resistance fighters who applied for the status of intelligence and action agent, armed resistance fighter or resistance fighter in the underground press have been entered.

In a few months, an online platform will allow anyone to trace these resistance fighters. In the meantime, feel free to contact the scientific coordinator of the project, <u>Fabrice Maerten</u>. He will be happy to check whether there is any file with the names of the Resistance fighters sought and, if so, will help you access the documents in question in the CegeSoma reading room.

Other news

Young Historians 'class of 2022': a beautiful bloom 'Cultures of spectacle' during WWI and WWII: new thematic issue of JBH Two new inventories! 'Les Invalides Prévoyants' and 'Les Enfants de la Patrie/De Kinderen van het Vaderland' EHRI/CLARIN Holocaust testimonies event, London, May 2023 Postdoctoral fellowships for Ukrainian researchers 13–14 December 2022: EHRI-PP General Partner Meeting at CegeSoma Launch of new calls for candidates for the EHRI-Conny Kristel scholarships - 2023 News from the Wikibase Resistance project Study Day on the Resistance at the State Archives in Liège New issue of the JBH (2022-3) The Great(er) War of Military Occupations in Europe Research: The SNCB/NMBS and deportations during WWII

The Resistance in Antwerp during the Second World War

Study day (FelixArchief - Antwerp)

World War II Conference



Antwerp was the most important city for the resistance in Flanders during the Second World War. This resistance in Antwerp was as diverse as the city itself: men and women, French-speaking bourgeoisie and communists, Jews and Catholics, people from the left and the right of the political spectrum. In recent years, we have seen a rising interest in the resistance in Belgium during the Second World War, as reflected by this study day organised by CegeSoma/State Archives in collaboration with the *FelixArchief* of the City of Antwerp and the *Vredescentrum*. In the course of this day, the state of affairs with regard to research about the resistance will be presented and a discussion about the relevance of resistance today and tomorrow will round off the day.

The study day takes place at *FelixArchief* in Antwerp on 10 May 2023. **Registration is free but mandatory. Simply send a message to: stadsarchief@antwerpen.be.**

Welcome to all of you!

PROGRAMME

- 9.00-9.30 Welcome
- o 9.30-9.40 Welcome address | Marie Juliette Marinus, FelixArchief
- 9.40-10.15 Het verzet in Antwerpen: synthese en krachtlijnen | Nico Wouters, CegeSoma/State Archives
- 10.15-10.45 Session 1: "De onvergetelijken Fidelio": Marcel Louette (1907-1978) als pionier in het verzet l

Babette Weyns, UGent

- 10.45-11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15-11.45 Session 2: "Voor vrede, brood en vrijheid": straatprotest van Antwerpse volksvrouwen tegen de bezetter (mei 1941) | Michèle Corthals, UAntwerpen
- 11.45-12.30 Open floor discussion
- 12.30-13.30 Lunch
- 13.30-14.00 Session 3: Het georganiseerde Joods verzet in Antwerpen: een stand van zaken I Janiv Stamberger, Vredescentrum; Dorien Styven, Kazerne Dossin
- 14.00-14.30 Session 4: Collectieve herinnering versus oorlogsrealiteit: de politie van Deurne en het verzet, 1942-1944 I Herman Van Goethem, UAntwerpen
- 14.30-15.05 Open floor discussion
- 15.05-15.30 Coffee break
- 15.30-16.30 Open floor discussion and conclusions I Marnix Beyen, UAntwerpen; Bruno De Wever, UGent; Nico Wouters, CegeSoma/Rijksarchief
- 16.30 Reception

Host and floor leader: Frank Seberechts, FelixArchief

-> INVITATION

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10/05/2023 - 09:00 to 16:30

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Where : FelixArchief - Oude Leeuwenrui 29 - 2000 Antwerp

When: Wednesday 10 may 2023, 9.30 - 16.30 (closing reception)

Registration: free of charge but registration required via e-mail: stadsarchief@antwerpen.be

Main language

Dutch

TAGS

Resistance Flanders

Home » Event » De Bende van Nijvel. De feiten, het onderzoek, de toekomst. (The 'Nijvel Gang'. The facts, the investigation, the future.)

De Bende van Nijvel. De feiten, het onderzoek, de toekomst. (The 'Nijvel Gang'. The facts, the investigation, the future.)

Public History Meetings of CegeSoma (2023-4) - Invitation of the NPO 'The Friends of CegeSoma'.

Conference



Lecture with debate (in Dutch) ; invitees: Hilde Geens & Paul Ponsaers.

Debate moderated by Rudi Van Doorslaer

The 1980s are known in Europe as the 'Years of Lead'. In Belgium, this centered on the terror of the Communist Combatant Cells (CCC) and the so-called 'Brabant Killers' or 'Nijvel Gang'. Several crimes attributed to the gang, in 1982-1983 and later in 1985, left 28 dead and dozens wounded. Unlike with the CCC, the perpetrators and their motives were never identified and the investigation gradually bogged down in total obscurity and chaos. Rival police forces and judicial institutions fought each other with hypotheses about bandits on the loose and extreme right-wing conspirators. Two parliamentary commissions of inquiry brought no relief either. And so the unsolved crimes of the Nijvel Gang continued festering in the Belgian society and grew into a blemish on its democracy. In 2015, Justice Minister Koen Geens decided to postpone the prescription by 10 years and today a new draft is on

the table for a sine die extension.

So there is plenty of material here for a debate organized by the non-profit organization 'The Friends of CegeSoma' in collaboration with CegeSoma/ National Archives on **Friday, May 12, 2023 (14.00 - 16.30).**

Invited guests are two Flemish specialists: journalist Hilde Geens and UGent professor and criminologist Paul Ponsaers. Since the 1980s, they have both followed this case closely and also devoted several publications to it. Moderator of the debate is former CegeSoma director Rudi Van Doorslaer. They will discuss the following questions: what do we actually know? What can be said about the judicial enquiry? Is there still a future for the investigation?



Hilde Geens graduated as an interpreter in English and German. Retired since July 2005, she worked as a journalist for *Knack, De Zwijger, Trends, Humo* and *Vrij Nederland*, among others. For decades, she immersed herself in the case of the Nijvel Gang. With an impressive tenacity, she dug into police reports and archives and interviewed scores of key witnesses. In 2013, she published the result of her research in *Beetgenomen*. In this first book she concludes, like the investigators, to be nowhere after thousands of pages of reading. In 2022, she presented a new part of her research in *Het complot van de stilte*, in which. In it, she makes connections between the case of the gendarmerie commandant Léon François (involved in international drug trafficking) and the Brabant Killers.



Paul Ponsaers holds a degree in sociology and a PhD in criminology from *KULeuven*. He worked as a journalist for the newspaper *De Morgen*, where he was mainly involved in the investigation of the Nijvel Gang. In 1988 he wrote the first book on the subject, *De Bende. Een documentaire*. He then became head of division within the General Police Support Service (APSD/SGAP). From 1998 to 2012 he was a professor at the University of Ghent, in the department of criminal law and criminology. He taught 'police studies', 'sociology of law' and 'methods and techniques of criminological research'.

Since 2012 he is professor emeritus at *UGent*. Today, he is mainly interested in the different forms of political violence. In 2018 he wrote the book *Loden jaren. De Bende van Nijvel gekaderd*.



12/05/2023 - 14:00 to 16:30

PRACTICAL INFORMATION :

Where: CegeSoma conference room, Aviation Square 29 - 1070 Brussels When: Friday 12 May 2023 (14h00 - 16h30) Registration required: isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or 02.556.92.11

Main language Dutch

German secret police and intelligence services in Belgium



On Monday 22 May from 5 pm to 7 pm, the BISC (Belgian Intelligence Studies Centre), in collaboration with CegeSoma, organises a double presentation of recent publications about **German intelligence services in Belgium in the 20th century**.

At 5 pm, the authors of the latest issue of "Cahiers d'études du renseignement/Cahiers Inlichtingenstudies" entirely dedicated to this topic shall elaborate on the work of the German intelligence services and secret police operating in Belgium during the two World Wars and the Cold War.

At 6 pm, the floor will be given to **Louis Fortemps** and **Vincent Gabriel** for the presentation of their work **"La police secrète de la Wehrmacht en Belgique (1940-1945)"**, published by Weyrich.

The event is free of charge, but registration is highly appreciated. Copies of the two books presented will be available for purchase.

PRATICAL INFORMATION

Venue: Conference room of CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation 29 – 1070 Brussels Date and time: Monday 22 May 2023 (5.00 pm – 7.00 pm) Registration (highly appreciated): isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or 02.556.92.11

Main language

Dutch French

Home » Event » Tu rendras un grand service à l'Angleterre, 1943-1945. L'odyssée de Jacques de Duve.

Tu rendras un grand service à l'Angleterre, 1943-1945. L'odyssée de Jacques de Duve.

Public History Meetings of CegeSoma (2023- 5) - invitation by the non-profit organisation 'Friends of CegeSoma'.

World War II Conference



Conference-debate in French with guest speaker Charles-Albert de Behault

Hosted by Fabrice Maerten

After two unsuccessful escape attempts at the beginning of the Second World War, Jacques de Duve, Belgian patriot stemming from an old German family from Hannover is more than ever keen to be of service for his country and to join his English wife, a close collaborator of Paul-Henri Spaak in London.

To do so, he will follow the advice of two German officers opposed to the Nazi regime: his paternal uncle who works for Organisation Todt and one of his long-time friends, in charge of the "*Abwehr*" in Antwerp. De Duve gets himself enrolled in the *Abwehr* for the sole purpose of sending military intelligence of the highest order to the Allies as soon as possible. His reception in England turned out not to be what he had expected. After his incredible

escape, he was imprisoned in a secret MI5 prison under harsh conditions. For one year, the English services would insist on depicting him as a German secret service agent... When he returned to Belgium, he was entirely cleared of all accusations and awarded the *Croix des évadés*.

In order to retrace the captivating and touching odyssey of his father-in-law and to write the book '*Tu rendras un grand service à l'Angleterre, 1943-1945. L'odyssée de Jacques de Duve*'(You will be of great service to England, 1943-1945. The odyssey of Jacques de Duve), Charles-Albert de Behault collected and studied many documents held by his family as well as publicly available sources. He will be the guest of the Friends of CegeSoma and interviewed by Fabrice Maerten on Wednesday 24 May within the framework of the Public History Meetings of CegeSoma.

Welcome to all of you!



Charles-Albert de Behault holds a diploma in law, finance and management. Since his retirement, he has published a dozen of historical papers. His work is mainly based on primary sources.

"Tu rendras un grand service à l'Angleterre", his first book, is the product of three years of research in many files for the most part recently declassified or still with restricted access. Claus Taaks, German historian specialised in Enigma (<u>cipher</u> device) and the German resistance to Nazism has helped him in this task.



Fabrice Maerten is a member of the scientific team of CegeSoma since 1995. He is in charge of guiding the public through the collections.

He holds a PhD in history from UCL and the focus of his research lies on the Resistance in Belgium during the Second World War. He has publised, among others, "Papy était-il un héros ? Sur les traces des hommes et des femmes dans la Résistance pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale", which was simultaneously published in Dutch with the title "Was opa een held ? Speuren naar mannen en vrouwen in het verzet tijdens WOII" in 2020.

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24/05/2023 - 12:30 to 14:00

PRATICAL INFORMATION:

Venue: Conference room of CegeSoma, Square de l'Aviation 29 – 1070 Brussels **Date and time**: Wednesday 24 May 2023 (12.30 pm – 2.00 pm) **Registration mandatory**: isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or + 32 (0) 2 556 92 11 The book will be available for purchase for 24 Euros.

Feel free to bring someone with you!

Main language

French



Fascism in the CegeSoma Library (3): heirs, populists and 'nationalpopulists'.

"Fascism in the CegeSoma Library (3): heirs, populists and 'national-populists". Under this title, we invite you to discover the fourteenth theme of our series 'The Librarian's Talks'. Each theme will be an opportunity to dive into our collections and will be illustrated by a video and a text complementing the information found there.

Watch the fourteenth video 'The Librarian's Talks: 14. Fascism in the CegeSoma Library (3): heirs, populists and 'national-populists'".

Fascism in the Italian or German style has left a trace in the history of the XX century. A trace so negative that for decades, for a vast majority of European opinions, it was understood that... Never again! '. And except in one or another very specific case (Spain, Portugal,...), the 'fascist phenomenon' seemed to belong definitively to the past. Decolonization itself, with the anxieties, frustrations and humiliations that it could arouse here and there within the Western countries, was incapable of resurrecting it, except in a groupuscular form (*O.A.S.* in France, *Mouvement d'Action Civique* in Belgium, etc.), and it was the same with the Cold War. In terms of "neo-fascism", the Italian Social Movement seemed to be alone in the sun of the triumphant social democracy in various and varied forms. Then, at the beginning of the 1970s, the economic situation turned around and a long, long structural crisis occurred, while new leaders appeared who claimed a less friendly "neo-liberalism", with a series of social cuts at the end. Soviet communism died its death, while economies globalized, and this increasingly competitive globalization turned out to be less happy than its heralds

had imagined. And time continued to run out, wearing down the last generations that had experienced World War II.

By the end of the 1980s, political groups were reappearing on the 'Old Continent' that could, without too much polemical exaggeration, be likened more or less to the heirs of the historical fascisms of the inter-war period. Certainly, whether it was the French National Front, the Scandinavian or Dutch anti-tax parties, or the Flemish *Vlaams Blok*, they all had an air of 'déjà vu' in the eyes of political scientists and historians (not to mention left-wing publicists who are always quick to denounce the return of the 'foul beast'). Didn't they contest the ordinary forms of representative democracy in the name of a sublimated People, adorned with all the virtues...and in 'direct' communication with a charismatic leader who claimed to be a great believer? The twentieth century advancing, punctuated by spectacular attacks and repeated crises, the democracies seeming to become more and more impotent and formal, these movements which one designated more and more as 'populist' or, better, as 'national-populist', became stronger until the election, across the Atlantic, of a certain Donald Trump to the presidency of the U.S.A. It was then a tidal wave, historiographically speaking.

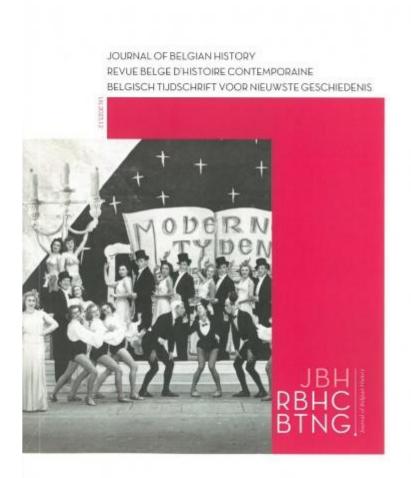
CegeSoma, by its very function, could not fail to pinpoint the phenomenon and to provide the library's collections with a number of interesting titles on the subject.

If until now we still lack the studies of Dominique Borne (*Petits bourgeois en révolte ? Le mouvement Poujade-1977*) or Sandro Setta (*L'Uomo Qualunque 1944-1948-2005*), it is probably only a postponement, and we have already been able to enter a good deal of research on the French National Front and its foreign imitators. In this respect, we will recall the very interesting synthesis produced by *CRISP* in 2004 under the direction of Pierre Blaise and Patrick Moreau, *Extrême droite et national-populisme en Europe de l'Ouest*. It is of high scientific quality and has been followed by a number of works of the same kind on this theme but, it must be said, with a few years' delay... As if by chance, the media ascension and then the surprise election of Trump as head of the United States of America proved to be a powerful stimulant in this respect. Thus, while before 2017 Enzo Traverso was still one of the few international researchers to address this issue after the work of Dick Pels (*Het volk bestaat niet. Leiderschap en populisme in de mediademocratie-2011*), Pierre-André Taguieff (*Le nouveau National-populisme-2012*) and Benjamin Moffitt (*The global rise of populism-2016*), from 2017 onwards, following this famous American election, there was a veritable proliferation of historical writings dedicated to the close study of populism, its drifts, its various forms and its dangers.

Have a look: while Federici Finchelstein re-situated the phenomenon in its general context in 2017 (*From fascism to populism in history*), political scientists close to the University of Oxford produced a voluminous Oxford Handbook of populism the same year. And barely a year later, the Belgian Bruno Colmant tried to embrace the concept Du rêve de la mondialisation au cauchemar du populisme (2019) while Federico Tarragoni remained (a bit naively?) at L'esprit démocratique du populisme (2019), seeing in it an authentically popular protest against the vacuity of an increasingly theoretical democracy... Contrary to him, as early as 2016, Renée Frégosi had denounced Les nouveaux autoritaires. Justiciers, censeurs et autocrates, seeing in these contesting forces only purely negative entities inspired by dangerous demagogues little concerned with the common good, and this thesis will be taken up again con amore in 2022 by Gino Germani in Authoritarianism, fascism and national populism. On the other hand, 'left-wing' populism has been the subject of much less work, even if quality researchers, such as Chantal Mouffe, have been active in its shadow.

Things being what they are and humanity being what it is with its short memory, let's bet that national-populism, like fascism, is promised to a bright future... at least in our library collections!

'Cultures of spectacle' during WWI and WWII: new thematic issue of JBH



In late March 2023, the new double thematic issue of the Journal of Belgian History was published. Guest editors **Roel Vande Winkel** and **Leen Engelen** (both from *KU Leuven*) presented a thematical issue in English about the cultures of spectacle and amusement in German-occupied Belgium during the First and the Second World War. This issue presents twelve papers from the same number of authors and forms the written product of the study day of the Institute for Media Studies of *KU Leuven* held on 12 and 13 March 2020 at CegeSoma.

Leen Engelen (*UAntwerpen & KU Leuven*) & **Roel Vande Winkel** (*KU Leuven*) open the thematic issue as guest editors with papers in which they advocate for interdisciplinary research into 'cultures of spectacle' in the broader sense.

The papers by **Margo Buelens-Terryn** (*UAntwerpen*), **Evelien Jonckheere** (*UAntwerpen*) and **Klaas de Zwaan** (*Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*) all discuss the use of projection lanterns during WWI in different cases in Antwerp, Brussels, Mortsel and the neutral Netherlands. Next, **Erik Spinoy** (*ULiège*), a specialist of Paul van Ostaijen, examines how the latter used various references to contemporary cinema culture in his poem "Bezette Stad" (1921). The renowned film specialist **Guido Convents** looks at the 'receiving end' of art and culture, by analysing film distribution and exhibition in occupied Belgium during WWI. **Leen Engelen** focusses on a particular 'cultural site' during WWI, namely 'Louvain Palace' in Leuven, as a crossroads of different cultures of spectacle.

The Second World War is also addressed. Louis Fortemps (*Institut de Recherches Historiques du Septentrion bij de Université de Lille* & Institute for Media Studies of *KU Leuven*) & Roel Vande Winkel analyse the policies of the German "Propaganda-Abteilung Belgien". Music historian Erik Baeck investigates the German policy with regard to the scheduling of operas in occupied Belgium, both during the First and the Second World War. Musicologist Hedwige Baeck-Schilders also addressed both occupation periods in her paper, but focusses on symphonic concerts in Antwerp. Eric Derom is another specialist in music history, he delves into the scheduling of the Great Symphony Orchestra of Belgian Radio during WWII.

Finally, **Sophie De Schaepdrijver** (Pennsylvania State University) draws a strong conclusion in this thematic issue by reflecting on the various manners in which repressive occupation regimes can interact with popular entertainment an culture in the broad sense.

This double issue is available for 25 Euros (shipping not included) and can be ordered from Hilde Keppens, CegeSoma, Luchtvaartsquare 29, 1070 Brussels, +32 2/556 92 11 - Hilde.keppens@arch.be.

For further information we gladly refer to **the website about film in occupied Belgium of** *KU Leuven*, managed by Roel Vande Winkel.

Other news

Young Historians 'class of 2022': a beautiful bloom Helden van het Verzet. Dit zijn de namen. Two new inventories! 'Les Invalides Prévoyants' and 'Les Enfants de la Patrie/De Kinderen van het Vaderland' EHRI/CLARIN Holocaust testimonies event, London, May 2023 Postdoctoral fellowships for Ukrainian researchers 13–14 December 2022: EHRI-PP General Partner Meeting at CegeSoma Launch of new calls for candidates for the EHRI-Conny Kristel scholarships - 2023 News from the Wikibase Resistance project Study Day on the Resistance at the State Archives in Liège New issue of the JBH (2022-3) The Great(er) War of Military Occupations in Europe Research: The SNCB/NMBS and deportations during WWII