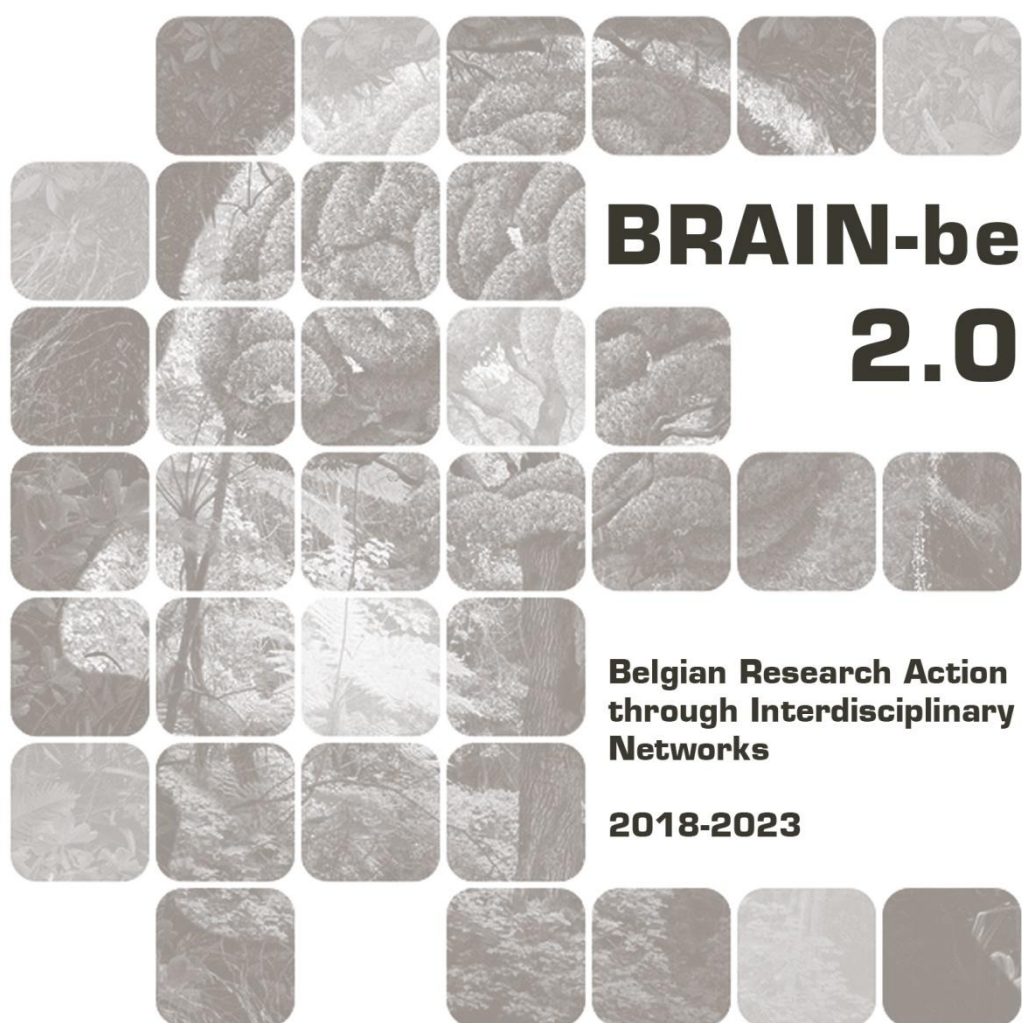


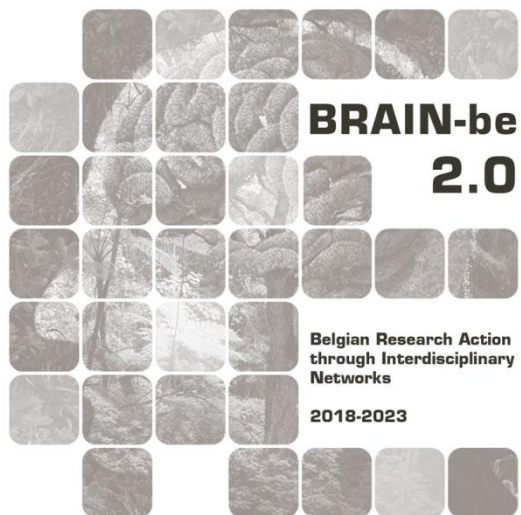


COLLINT

Internment of suspects of collaboration in Belgium (1944-1946)

S. HORVAT (RMA) – P. NEFORS (WHI)

Pillar 2: Heritage science



NETWORK PROJECT

COLLINT

Internment of suspects of collaboration in Belgium (1944-1946)

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ABSTRACT

The internment of suspected collaborators at the end of the German occupation of Belgium (from September 1944 on) was a huge (extra)judicial 'operation' in Belgium's postwar history that still has an impact on present-day Belgian society (e.g. political interventions addressing this topic, questions by relatives, television series on children of the collaboration). Based on a decree of 1918, up to 40.000 suspects of connivance with the occupier were deprived of their freedom and interned in prisons or internment camps in 1944-1946, many of them taken captive by resistance members.

Intense societal debates have lasted for decades, myths were created and the legitimacy of the way the Belgian State and military justice system dealt with collaboration was and still is questioned.

This research project wants to contribute to a better understanding of the organisation of the internment and the military justice system and challenge and, if so, deconstruct or confirm myths or stories surrounding this issue. This project put Fort Breendonk at the centre of this research. Fort Breendonk, an internment camp in September-October 1944 actually managed by the WHI, was at the heart of the repression, since it had been until only a few months earlier a German SS concentration camp and is now one of the remaining sites. A (private) list of names of people interned in Breendonk served as a basis to make a database of all the internees in Breendonk, and more personal elements were collected in the archives of the military justice system (kept by the the State Archives). In order to make a comparison between an internment centre in the Flemish region, one in the Walloon region and one in the German speaking region in the same period (September-December 1944), similar information was collected in the archives of the former military courts, the "commissions consultatives" and the "Police des étrangers" regarding the internees of the internment centres of Namur-Arsenal and Eupen. As such the database contains detailed information on nearly 1800 suspects: who was brought in and by whom, the reasons of arrest and internment, who became subject to criminal investigation and trial etc. To describe the creation and evolution of the internment centres, the archives of the National Security's High Commissioner's office (at State Archives) pertaining to its position regarding the internment centres and their management were analyzed in a systematic and detailed way and combined with a more summary analyse of the archives of the office of the chief military prosecutor (at State Archives) regarding these centres. The research also focused on the legal framework, how the judicial system worked and how legal provisions evolved.

Keywords

Collaboration – internment – WW II Belgium – postwar punishment

1. INTRODUCTION

The BRAIN 2.0 Project COLLINT was a two-years BRAIN 2.0 network-project aiming at a fundamental archive-based historical research of the internment of suspected collaborators at the end of the Second World War German occupation of Belgium (with a special attention for the period of September till December 1944) and the role of the military justice in these internments.

The internment of suspected collaborators at the end of the German occupation of Belgium was a huge (extra)judicial 'operation' in Belgium's post-war history. Based on a decree of 1918, up to 40.000 suspects of connivance with the occupier were deprived of their freedom and interned in prisons or internment camps in 1944-1946, many of them taken captive by resistance members.

This project focused on the organisation of the internment and the role and position of different actors in the internments, with a special attention to the military justice actors. It describes the process from the deprivation of freedom to the liberation or the prosecution of the interned individuals.

Intense societal debates have lasted for decades, myths were created and the legitimacy of the way the Belgian State and military justice system dealt with collaboration was and still is questioned. The project has the ambition to contribute to the societal debate on these internments by challenging and, if so, deconstructing myths surrounding this issue, by presenting scientifically sound information on it. This research is possible now since all the archives of the military justice system are available for research after their transfer to the State Archives. The aim of the project was to share with the general public the findings of archival research regarding this topic that has not often been analyzed by professional historians or lawyers.

2. STATE OF THE ART AND OBJECTIVES

Some aspects of internment (e.g. the daily life in the camp of Beverlo by Wilfried Raemaekers) and camps have already been studied (e.g. Björn Rzöska, *Opgesloten tussen zwart, wit en grijs. Het kamp van Lokeren (1944-1947)*; Kurt Ravyts & Jos Rondas, *Het interneringskamp Sint-Kruis*). Helen Grevers has compared the internment in Belgium with the Netherlands, but mostly looks at the level of the central institutions. Moreover, the role of the military justice in the imprisonment and re-education of collaborators in post-war Belgium merits further research (e.g. review by Dirk Luyten of the book of Helen Grevers, published in *BMGN – Low Countries Historical Review*, CXXLIX, 4, 2017).

In Belgium, historians like Carolien Van Loon ('De geschorene en de scheerster. De vrouw in de straatrepressie na de Tweede Wereldoorlog' in: *Bijdragen tot de Eigentijdse Geschiedenis* XIX, 2008, pp. 45-78) or Francis Balance ('Les hoquets de la liberté' in: Francis Balance (eds.) *Jours de Guerre. Jours libérés* II, Brussels: Crédit communal, 1995, pp. 7-134) have studied the civilian violence against women during the so-called 'street repression' of September 1944. However, many questions remain unanswered: what happened to the women after their public punishment? Were they interned and if so, together with their male counterparts or in separate camps? How was life in the internment camps for these female internees and did it differ compared to the male internees? And were there specific reasons why the female suspects were interned? Beneath the analysis of the male internees the COLLINT research tried to answer these questions regarding female internees too, by using a bottom-up perspective (case studies).

This research was innovative when considered from an international perspective. In the Netherlands and France, suspects of collaboration were also interned in prisons and internment camps. However, in France the research is mainly focused on the internment of Jews by the Vichy regime during WWII, a bit less on the collaborators (Denis Peschansky, *La France des camps*, and on regional level Laurent Duguet, *Incarcérer les collaborateurs*; a general study on the national level is however still lacking). As far as the Netherlands is concerned, the above mentioned study by Helen Grevers is the first and only scientific monograph to tackle the topic. To sum up, in neither the French nor Dutch cases has research been done that is comparable to the approach and scope proposed in this project. By combining the study of the internment in Belgium based on three different case studies (Breendonk, Namur and Eupen), covering each linguistic Belgian region (Flanders, Wallonia and the East Cantons) this BRAIN-project can serve as an example for future international research on the topic.

The central aim of Collint is to describe and understand the role of the several actors, especially the position of the various (official and unofficial) authorities involved in the internment process, with a particular focus on the military justice system, and on their mutual interactions. This role and impact of the authorities and military prosecutors was different in the consecutive phases and in the different periods of the postwar period. Collint focused in particular on the situation of September-December 1944 because that was the period of 'wild' internment camps and the assumption of control by the official authorities.

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3. METHODOLOGY

This research was based on extensive archival research of different actors : the National Security's High Commissioner ('Haut Commissariat à la Sécurité de l'État'), the military prosecutors' and the military prosecutor general's offices, the military courts, the '*commissions consultatives*' and the Office for Foreigners ('Police des étrangers'). The core archives were the archives of the High Commissioner and the military justice, still largely unexplored archives. Starting from the archives of the High Commissioner (reports and letters) and the military justice (criminal files), we tried to link with other collections of the State Archives (some '*commissions consultatives*' and archives of *internments camps* such as Breendonk). This research allowed us to understand the role of the Resistance, the local authorities, the gendarmerie, the National Security's High Commissioner, the military prosecutors and the general military prosecutor, and to map the internment centres and – through a microstudy of the centres of Breendonk, Namur (Arsenal), and Eupen – to compare the living conditions in the centres in theory and in practice.

Besides a strong archival component, the COLLINT project is also defined by a pronounced interdisciplinary approach, linking law (and legal procedure) and criminology with social and military history. Moreover, it combines a grassroots perspective (case studies starting from the internment camp of Breendonk) with a national approach (different actors involved in the internment, the decision-making process, and the evolution of the internment over time).

The main goal of the research was to disclose the internment policy of the Belgian authorities by looking at the role played by the different actors (e.g. military justice) and the impact on the internment camps/internees.

The COLLINT project first collected relevant empirical data on the internees: the exact number and basic statistics regarding the persons involved and the type of crime. As the research aimed at providing the public with reliable information on the internments after WWII and at contributing to the still vivid societal debate on the collaboration issue, a sound empirical foundation of all relevant aspects was essential. A last goal of this empirical dataset is in the realm of research methodology. Since approximately 40.000 civilians suspected of collaboration have been interned following the liberation of Belgium, it was impossible to study every case and camp in depth. The approximately 770 civilians interned at the camp of Breendonk were at the heart of this research project, but they were completed by a sample of civilians interned at the internment centres of Namur (Arsenal) and Eupen. This selection was necessary to complete the project in two years.

The focus of the archival research was foreseen on judicial procedures and on the internees in order to understand the procedures and decision-making process of the internments, to discover patterns in decision-making and understand how and why decisions were made and the role of the military justice system, and focus on case studies. At the centre of the research was Fort Breendonk, a site which is currently managed by the War Heritage Institute. Between 1940 and 1944, the German occupier used Breendonk as a prison camp for resistance fighters, political opponents and Jews. At the liberation of Belgium in September 1944, the camp was overtaken by the local resistance and transformed into an internment camp for civilians suspected of collaboration crimes. A recently discovered (private) list created by the local resistance with the names of the former internees in

Camp Breendonk served as a basis for the realization of a database of all Breendonk internees. The research entailed the verification of the exactness and completeness of that name list, but also the cross-checking of the info given by the (real or alleged) resistance members with the criminal files of the military justice and the grounds invoked by the resistance members to take someone in custody. One of the complaints of many internees (and arguments in the still ongoing societal discussion) is that they were taken in custody without legal reason.

However, the the military courts files at the State Archives in Liège were inaccessible during more than a year. Given the problems of access to the archive collections due to the moving of the military justice archives from the State Archives in Brussels to the local State Archives in Wallonia, the remaining lapse of time did not allow the researchers to consult intensively other archives collections (e.g. archives of the Resistance, archives of townships/cities where internment camps were located, the 'ADVN-Archief- and Documentatiecentrum voor het Vlaams-nationalisme' collection) or unwritten testimonies such as interviews in television programs).

The archives were basically processed in two ways. As for the individual cases, the data from the different components of the archives consulted were integrated in an excel database. This database contains detailed information on nearly 1500 suspects that were interned for alleged collaboration with the enemy. As far as the sources allowed the exact identification of the internees and as far as their files were still available in the Archives, all the 773 internees at camp Breendonk, all the 639 internees of camp Namur (Arsenal) and the 418 internees of camp Eupen at the end of 1944 were included in the data base. Based on extensive analysis of the sources of the military justice referring to the individual cases (with an ad random selection of 160 files for the internment camp of Namur-Arsenal and the files of all 75 women of the internment centre of Eupen), the database provides detailed information on the individuals and their activities during the German occupation, their arrest by the Belgian Resistance or by the authorities (date, reason, responsible etc.), their stay (and release from) in the internment camp and, if so, the further judicial consequences. Furthermore, the database also gives the location where the information was found. In total, the research tool comprises for each convict 65 till 95 fields that are easily searchable by using one of the preinstalled filters.

The archives pertaining to the position and the policy of the High Commissioner's office (at State Archives, with a copy at CEGESOMA) regarding the internments' centres were analyzed in a systematic and detailed way and combined with a more summary analyse of the archives of the office of the chief military prosecutor (at State Archives) regarding these centres. The legal framework (decree-laws, circulars of the military general prosecutor) was also analyzed and will be published in an article later.

Besides a scientific output and a contribution to societal debate, the COLLINT project also aims at making the collected information on the internment available for a broader audience. One of the main objectives of the project was to create a database on the internees, starting from the list of nearly 770 men and women interned at the camp of Breendonk. Some 30 people were not found in the archives, we suppose that their names were not correctly mentioned in the list. But during the analysis of the files in the State Archives we also found Breendonk internees who were not on the Resistance list. It is possible that they were not on the list because of the short lapse of time they were interned. Finally we found the information about 773 individuals. The database was realized by the analysis of the criminal files (regarding as well those condemned as the files that were dismissed) of all the internees in Breendonk and those in the internment centre of Mechelen. All the names were checked in the

Official Gazette where the names of all the condemned individuals were published. For those who were condemned after appeal and those who were condemned by other military courts (Bruges, Veurne etc.), the information was gathered in the Official Gazette and as such it was not possible to find out the internment date for all of them.

The information that has been collected in various archives such as the criminal files of the military justice and prisons registers are personal information (e.g. age, sex, nationality, profession and residence at the time of their internment), details on the internment (when they interned and where? By whom? On which accusations?) and the judicial aftermath (where they sentenced or was their case dropped for lack of evidence? For which crimes were they finally punished?), etc. This database gives us the possibility to create a robot picture of the internees but also reveals patterns and evolutions in the internment. Special attention was paid to the female internees, by focusing especially on the 75 German speaking women in the internment centre of Eupen and 22 women in the internment centre of Namur-Arsenal, besides the 75 known female internees of Breendonk.

Each partner had one full-time researcher during 24 months. One researcher was foreseen to study the procedures and decision-making process of the internments on a central level (the military General Prosecutor's Office or *Auditorat-général*), the other researcher would focus on case studies, beginning with the camp of Breendonk. The planned agenda could not be followed since the military justice archives of the selected internment camp (Namur Arsenal) was not accessible during more than a year due to the moving of the archives. This caused an asymmetric progress in the realization of the research. Moreover the RMA researcher, specialist of Breendonk, left the project after a year when he obtained a FedTwin engagement. We have then modified the plan given that the new researcher would analyze the files regarding the Namur internment centre, as the archives were then finally accessible. As a result, one researcher (WHI) studied the administration of the internments on a central level (Haut Commissariat), the second (RMA) studied the Breendonk files and the third one (RMA) focused on the case studies of the internments camps of Namur, and Eupen, and especially on the female German speaking internees.

We tried to organize every month a meeting with supervisors and researchers in order to monitor the progress of the project and to make decisions on specific issues, such as the selection of case files. Given the long absence of the WHI supervisor, the RMA supervisor organized the meetings as far as possible.

The follow-up committee has met two times to monitor the progress of the project. On these occasions, researchers presented their findings. In month 12, a workshop was organized to fine-tune internal coordination based on a prospection of the archives. In this workshop, members of the follow-up committee and other specialists on specific issues were invited to provide feedback on how the project is taking shape.

4. SCIENTIFIC RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The project has filled a gap in the research on the internments of collaborators after the Second World War, since we can now complete the evolution of the internment system, the internment centres and the relationship to the military justice and the decision makers.

First, it appears that there was no preliminary reflection on the internments, the only legal framework was a 1918 decree-law. No specific preparations were made nor was there a reflection on the type of crimes or suspects for which internments would be necessary. When Belgium was liberated, Resistance groups intervened without any official framework or assistance.

Next to the meta-judicial perspective and the analysis of the decision making processes, the project aimed at a case by case approach of which one of the objectives was to have clear profile of the persons who were interned. To make the profile, the project followed a dual approach. First, the findings of the archival research at case level were integrated in a database, which allowed to draw a quantitative and statistical profile. Some of the findings were already discussed above, but some others deserve mentioning as well. In public discourse, the internments are often presented as a sort of revenge of the Belgian state/the resistance/the authorities... against collaborators, especially the Flemish ones. Our findings show that this image does not correspond to reality.

Another general conclusion is that the military justice was keen to respect rules and procedures for these executions. The office of the chief military prosecutor closely monitored the executions and the work of the military prosecutors in charge, elaborated uniform procedures including when necessary, filling gaps in the legislations.

The intensive research in the different component of the archives of the military justice has shown the rich informative value of these archives, enabling to reconstruct for each person why he/she was interned. These archives provide first-hand information on a particular moving period in personal histories. For the descendants this information makes it possible to understand this particular moving period in personal lives and can contribute to counterbalance facile myths which still circulate about these executions. Therefore, it deserves recommendation to facilitate access to these archives for the descendants.

During the first four weeks of the Liberation, Resistance fighters had the upper hand on the arrests of suspected collaborators. With a virtual monopoly on weapons, the Resistance was able to establish itself as a major force of law and order in the first few weeks of the Liberation, specialising in securing strategic locations in the name of the Allied Armies, arresting suspected collaborators, and guarding them inside improvised internment centers. As from the second week of September, armed Resistance movements were even recognised by the Belgian Government as a legitimate security force. This Resistance dominance entailed a particular relationship, between tensions and collaboration, with the various Belgian official police forces (local police, gendarmerie, judicial police, Military intelligence service, Public Security service and Foreigners Office). At the same time, the judicial authorities set to work just days after the Liberation, establishing also from the outset a form of collaboration with the Resistance forces, next to regular police forces. Official authorities such as mayors, local police, gendarmerie but also the Prisons administration often acted as intermediaries between the judiciary and the Resistance.

The mutually instrumental relationship between the Resistance and the various official Belgian authorities began to shift at the end of September 1944, when the Allies started to massively supply the Belgian gendarmerie forces with new weapons. This strategic Allied support gradually shifted the balance of power among Belgian security actors, which culminated in the spike in tensions at the end of November 1944, ending with the demobilisation and disarmament of the Resistance forces. As a bargaining chip, the government prioritised the recruitment of former Resistance fighters to guard the internment centres, where suspected collaborators were detained. As a result, the State took back control of the mostly Resistance-managed centres, often by changing the uniforms rather than the staff themselves.

The predominance of the Resistance on security matters was increasingly challenged during the month of October by official police forces. The Resistance continued however to play a key role in the arrest of suspected collaborators, in particular via the ability of local mayors to intern those suspects. The local police remained, longer than the gendarmerie, a weak security actor, which enabled the Resistance to pressure and sometimes take over mayors in their legal ability to intern suspects. This situation led to numbers of arbitrary arrests and internements which were, however, not only due to Resistance members. Under the relative chaos of the first weeks of the Liberation, official police forces also committed hastily arrests based on denunciations, which were then endorsed by the various authorities managing the internment centers (Resistance members, mayors, gendarmes, military officers or even prisons directors). This situation led to some abuses, which decided the government to strip mayors of their right to intern suspects: the Minister of Justice's circular of 28 October 1944 reserved the ability to order interments of suspected collaborators for magistrates, i.e. public prosecutors (*procureurs du Roi*), military prosecutors (*auditeurs militaires*) and the Public Security administrator – which albeit not a magistrate exerted the power of judicial officer. The latter acted however to a much lesser extent than magistrates in the internment procedures.

The end of October 1944 marked an important shift in Belgium's internment policy, with the takeover of the internment procedure – an administrative measure – by the (mostly military) judiciary. Magistrates, in particular military ones, who were mostly ending the internment procedure until then – by issuing arrest or liberation warrants against suspects –, imposed their virtual monopoly at the outset of the internment decision, and thus on the entire administrative procedure. Although one cannot designate this evolution as a formal judicialization of an administrative arrest procedure (administrative and judicial procedures remained distinct while managed by the same magistrate), the control by the military magistracy became almost complete on the internment procedures from November 1944 onwards. This development led to a substantial reduction in arbitrary arrests, and accelerated the end of internment procedures in favour of either formal releases or judicial arrests. Given the number of arbitrary arrests during the first weeks of the Liberation, this situation did not prevent, however, regularisations of interned suspects – i.e. taking a first judicial decision on their case – after some time.

Despite a decline in arrests from November 1944 onwards, the number of suspects interned remained excessively high to be treated by the military prosecutors. Advisory committees (“commissions consultatives”) were assigned the responsibility of assisting in the management of the case flow. However, their role in (provisional) releases remained variable, with varying degrees of latitude in decision-making depending on their relationship with the military prosecutor.

The military justice files also reveal that a multitude of actors participated in the inquiry process surrounding the internment measure. In addition to the interrogations and investigation process provided for by the legislative framework, civilian actors – including lawyers, local associations, mayors, prominent figures, etc. – decided to be involved. Attempts were made to intervene with the military prosecutor in order to secure the release of the suspects, with varying degrees of success. The duration of internment is therefore contingent upon the specific circumstances of each individual case, as well as on the role and involvement of external actors. Cases considered less serious or important are dealt with later by military prosecutors.

In this respect, the gendered approach indicates a clear desire amongst the judicial actors involved in repression to return to the pre-war social order. Consequently, individuals who deviate most from these norms face the most severe repercussions. In a more general sense, the contentions advanced by legal counsel or family members of the women interned prior to the military courts' proceedings constitute a component of this process of reintegration of women into their familial units under the authority of a male family member – father or husband.

The practice of internment has been employed not only to pursue legal action against collaborators but also as a mechanism for restoring social order. The extent to which this is the case varies according to the transgression committed during the period of occupation.

5. DISSEMINATION AND VALORISATION

As the aim of the brain call on heritage science is to promote the interpretation of the “Heritage” and the social valorisation of that heritage (i.e. the collections held by the FSI), the deliverables of the COLLINT project aim to valorise the sources and results for different types of users so that the research results can reach researchers as well as a larger public:

a) The database on the internment of collaborators contains a wealth of information.

A key deliverable of the project is the database. The data are used for the articles publications but the data can be used to study other aspects : the database contains information on a large group of more than 1000 persons. Therefore, following the end of the project, the final version of the database will be deposited at the WHI research repository, to make the results of the project available for further research.

This database will also serve as an instrument for the long-term valorisation of the project. At the end of the COLLINT project, the database will be preserved at State Archives/CEGESOMA and a shortened copy at the Breendonk Memorial/War Heritage Institute to help family members of former internees and researchers in their quest for information (with respect for the UE GDPR rules). Moreover, the collected information will be available for future research on the subject. We dispose now of reliable figures and data on the internments, based on a combination of several sources. The database is also conceived as a tool for archivists. The project showed that it was not always easy to retrieve files since different directory systems of the military justice had to be combined and the different courts martial and sections of the military court had not organized their archives in a uniform way. In the database, the archival references were systematically integrated. This not only facilitates further research, but also the work of archivist to retrieve files for the general public looking for information on their ancestors. During the research for the project, there was a close cooperation with the archivists of the repositories of the Belgian State Archives where the files of the military justice are kept. In informal exchanges between project-researchers and archivists, specific often detailed knowledge on the organisation of the archives of the military justice was shared, which also helps archivists in the future to provide public services for the archives of the military justice.

b) For archivists, the database contains detailed information on the sources used for the COLLINT-project.

c) The key findings of the project would lead to the publication of a scientific article in an A1 journal, aiming at scholars in legal, social, and military history. Furthermore, the COLLINT project aimed at publishing the results in a book which targets a larger (non-specialist) audience as the project aimed at deconstruction of facile myths on the internments with the general public. The priority was with a format of publication specifically aimed at the general public but unfortunately the asymmetric research makes this project unrealistic. The dissemination will thus be downsized here and realized through articles in journals. Several articles were sent to the editors and are passing peer review procedures at this moment (see *infra*).

Next to the articles, results of the project will also, if possible, be disseminated digitally on the website BelgiumWorldWarII. The digital format allows to present research results differently, combining research content with original sources and focusing on specific aspects.

d) For the scientific audience, a workshop presented the archival status quaestionis after a first year of research activities. On 19 February 2024 a virtual workshop was held on the sources, possibilities and limits of these sources (ONDERZOEK NAAR DE INTERNERINGEN IN SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1944. MOGELIJKHEDEN EN VALKUILEN /RECHERCHE SUR LES INTERNEMENTS EN SEPTEMBRE-DECEMBRE 1944. PERSPECTIVES ET ÉCUEILS), targeted at specialist researchers and archivists, among whom key experts in the field.

The researchers also presented or agreed to several papers during congresses:

F. Verfaillie : “A Trustworthy Auxiliary? The Belgian Resistance and the internment of collaborators at the Liberation (1944)”, International conference: “Changing Perspectives on Resistance during the Second World War”, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, 18-20 September 2024

F. Verfaillie : “Une auxiliaire digne de confiance ? La Résistance belge et l’internement des collaborateurs lors de la Libération (1944)”, Symposium : “La Libération et l’après-guerre en Belgique”, Cegesoma /Belgian State Archives, Brussels, 18 October 2024

M. Roberti-Lintermans : “Des femmes germanophones dans la répression des collaborations par la Belgique. Le cas du centre d’internement pour inciviques d’Eupen (1944-1945)”, Journées internationale du droit et des institutions, Dinant, 10 mai 2024

D. Roden : Het fort van Breendonk. Van SS-Auffanglager tot Breendonk II (Conference in Dendermonde, November 2025)

Archivist B. Willems (State Archives Beveren) gave a paper (CEGESOMA) presenting the figures of the internment centre Breendonk gathered by D. Roden.

e) In order to enlarge the social valorisation of the collections, a temporary exposition on the internment of collaborators in Breendonk would be organized at the Breendonk Memorial (WHI), in which the key findings of the research would be combined with the museum collections on the matter preserved at WHI. Unfortunately, due to the long-term absence of the WHI promoter and the problems to obtain the access to the archives (see supra), the exhibition project at Breendonk Memorial had to be canceled.

f) A final conference in which the substantive results of the research will be presented to an audience of both specialists and a non-specialist public in Autumn 2025, possibly at CegeSoma.

6. PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming (peer review)

F. Verfaillie, "A Trustworthy Auxiliary? The Belgian Resistance and the internment of collaborators at the Liberation (1944)", (acta of the international conference in Antwerp)

M. Roberti-Lintermans, "Les femmes germanophones dans la répression des collaborations par la Belgique dans les cantons de l'Est : le cas du centre d'internement d'Eupen (1944-1945) ", Les Cahiers du CRHIDI, (submitted for peer review)

M. Roberti-Lintermans, "De l'internement à Eupen à la condamnation : les femmes germanophones face à la justice militaire durant la répression des collaborations en Belgique (1944-1946) " (submitted for peer review)

M. Roberti-Lintermans, book review "A. Vrints, De Afrekening. Geweld tegen collaborateurs in Antwerpen 1918 en 1944-1945", RBHC (publication in the next volume)

In preparation

F. Verfaillie, "L'érection des centres d'internement à la Libération de la Belgique (1944)" (to be submitted, RBHC)

F. Verfaillie, Book review of A. Vrints, "De Afrekening. Geweld tegen collaborateurs in Antwerpen 1918 en 1944-1945", First World War Studies (to be submitted)

D. Roden, "Breendonk II. The internment of collaborators in a former nazi prison camp" (to be submitted BTNG)

Contributions for BelgiumWWII about the internment centre Namur; about the internees in internment centre Eupen

Contribution for the Digitale Encyclopedie van de Vlaamse Beweging about the internment centres.

Contributions for the magazine "Belgica"

F. Verfaillie: "Le Verdinaso: un précurseur fasciste en Flandre", Belgica (publication foreseen in September 2025)

M. Roberti-Lintermans, "Le centre d'internement de l'Arsenal à Namur à travers les dossiers de la justice militaire"

Paper during the GRISHOG seminar (Groupe de Recherches Historiques des Sociétés en Guerre UCLouvain) - December 2025

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