



**STUDIEDAG**  
MORTSEL – 24 MAART 2022

**BISC** BELGIAN  
INTELLIGENCE  
STUDIES  
CENTRE



***‘IN THE MIDST OF MY DAYS ...’***  
**SPIES OF MORTSEL.**

Numerous Belgian citizens, men and women from all ages and social classes, were indignant by the occupation of their native country during World War II. As a result, they felt the need ‘to do something about it’ and would evolve to a special form of the Resistance. No less than 18,716 Intelligence and Action Agents (IAA) in 129 Intelligence and Action Services and missions with agent-parachutists (IAS) operated in occupied Belgium as well as other countries. They were directed by the State Security in Exile in London, in cooperation with the British services MI5, MI6, MI9, SOE and PWE. They were active in: political, economic and military espionage; sabotage; psychological warfare and propaganda; escape lines; meteorological intelligence; support to people who refused the Compulsory Work Service, in hiding and Jews. At least 4,000 of these agents were arrested and 1,815 killed (shot to death, decapitated or killed in concentration camps ...).

Several citizens of Mortsel engaged in this intelligence work. Recently, a socio-historical study into their activities was conducted. This study was based on archival research in Belgium, supplemented by sources from 'The National Archives' (Kew, UK) and the 'National Archives of Australia'. The results of this research are now being presented to the public for the first time.

**This seminar was realized in collaboration with  
RUSRA-KUIAD, Royal Union of the Intelligence and Action Services.**

## PROGRAM

Chairperson: Kathleen Van Acker (BISC).

08.30 – 09.00: 'Reception' (and allocation of places within the COVID-19 measures).

09.00 – 09.10: '*Opening seminar*'.  
Guy Rapaille (Chairman BISC).

09.10 – 10.10: '*De Inlichtingen- en Actieagenten, een bijzondere vorm van het Verzet tijdens WOII.*'  
Robin Libert (RUSRA-KUIAD & BISC). Great-nephew of two IAA of the IAS 'Jean'

10.10 – 10.50: '*The RAF Special Duties Service. Supporting the Resistance.*'  
RAF Group Captain Justin Fowler, Defense Attaché to Belgium and Luxembourg, British Embassy.

10.50 – 11.10: 'Coffee break'

11.10 - 11.20: '*De historische criminologie en het onderzoek naar de Inlichtingen- en Actieagenten.*'  
Prof. Dr. Marc Cools (UGent & VUB, BISC & RUSRA-KUIAD).

11.20 – 11.40: '*Wetenschappelijk onderzoek naar de Inlichtingen- en Actiediensten.*'  
Robin Liefferinckx (RUSRA-KUIAD & BISC). Great-grandson of an IAA of the IAS 'Comète'.

11.40 – 11.50: '*Sociaalhistorisch onderzoek naar de Inlichtingen- en Actieagenten.*'  
Prof. Dr. Marnix Beyen (UAntwerpen, BISC).

11.50 – 12.50: '*"In de helft mijner dagen...". Een sociaalhistorische studie van de Inlichtingen- en Actieagenten van Mortsel.*'  
Tibo Minsart (Historicus UAntwerpen, RUSRA-KUIAD).

12.50 – 13.00: '*Conclusions*' by Marc Cools.

13.00 – 13.15: '*Final reflection*' by Livia Moreau, Schepen van onderwijs, ruimtelijke ordening, stedenbouw en wooncode, juridische zaken van de Stad Mortsel. Granddaughter of an IAA of the IAS 'Socrates'.

## LOCATION

### Mark Liebrecht Schouwburg - Heilig Kruisstraat 16 - 2640 Mortsel

#### Accessibility:

By **car**, there is a car park at approximately 10 minutes walking distance around the Heilig Kruiskerk, the underground car park 'Stadsplein' (opposite the town hall), or the car parks: 'Krijgsbaan' (150 places), 'Edegemsestraat', 'Oude God' (Mechelsesteenweg).

#### **Public transport.**

##### **Train**

'Station Mortsel-Oude God' 10 minutes walking distance.

**Tram** 7 and 15 from Antwerp stop 'Gemeenteplein' and Tram 15 from direction Lier (from the P+R parking in Boechout) stop 'Gemeenteplein'.

**Bus** lines 51, 52, 53, 90, 91, 92 (stop 'Gemeenteplein') or 140, 141 (stop 'Edegemsestraat – 't Parkske').

## BISC - BOARD

Michaël Auwers (CegeSoma)

Marnix Beyen (UAntwerpen)

Chris Bombeke (ADIV/SGRS)

Marc Cools (UGent – VUB)

Emmanuel Debruyne (UCLouvain)

Vivianne Deckmyn (Commissie BIM)

Mathias Desmet (UGent)

Marc De Vijlder (POLBRU)

Eric Kalajzic (ERM/KMS)

Sophie Lavaux (BPS/BPV)

Robin Libert (VSSE)

Robin Liefferinckx (NCCN)

Thierry Piette (ERS/IVS)

Guy Rapaille (BISC)

Vincent Seron (ULiège)

Koen Sybens (IVS/ERS)

Kathleen Van Acker (ADIV/SGRS)

Matthias Van Hoey (OCAD/OCAM)

Karin Van Peteghem (UGent)

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Members of intelligence and security services, defense, federal and local police forces, Belgian and European governments, political decision makers, NATO, embassies, academics, students, local historians and local history circles...

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

#### **Registration fee:**

Participation: 30 Euro

Participation with Cahier Inlichtingenstudies (theme "Spionnen van Mortsel"): 55 Euro

Student participation: 10 Euro

Participation students with Cahier Inlichtingenstudies (theme "Spionnen van Mortsel"): 35 Euro

The book “*Het Schaduwleger. Van clandestiniteit naar herinnering. L’Armée de l’ombre. De la clandestinité à la mémoire*” can be purchased at a bargain price of 40 Euro (in the bookstore 45 Euro) by deposit into account BE76 0000 0725 5495 of asbl RUSRA-KUIAD vzw. The book will be handed over to you at the seminar.

**Registration:**

Participants must register through the website:

<https://congrezzo.ugent.be/bisc-conference-032022/re23-bisc-2022-registration>

**COVID-19:**

**Please register ASAP.** Available places are allocated chronologically. It will only be possible to effectively allocate your reserved place after reception of your payment. Payment on site is **NOT** possible. In case of **non-payment**, we **cannot grant access** to the room.

**Language:** The lectures will be given in Dutch and English. Questions can also be asked in French.

## CONTACT BISC

If you would like to obtain more information about our BISC seminars and publications, please send an email to: [bisc.secretaris@gmail.com](mailto:bisc.secretaris@gmail.com)

## BISC PUBLICATIONS

BISC publishes the series ‘*Cahiers Inlichtingenstudies. Cahiers d’Etudes du Renseignement*’. In it, both practitioners and academics publish a scientific interest in the broad domain of intelligence studies. 10 issues have already been published. Articles are included in Dutch, French, German and English.

**Four books were also published:**

Marc Cools, Koenraad Dassen, Robin Libert, Paul Ponsaers (eds.); *De Staatsveiligheid. Essays over 175 jaar Veiligheid van de Staat. La Sûreté. Essais sur les 175 ans de la Sûreté de l’Etat*. Brussel, 2005, 383p.

Roger Baron Coekelbergs, Marc Cools, Robin Libert, Veerle Pashley, Jaak Raes, David Stans, Renaat Vandecasteele (eds.); *Gedenkboek Inlichtings- en Actie Agenten. Livre-Mémorial Agents de Renseignement et d’Action. Gedenkbuch Nachrichten und Aktions Agenten. Memorial Volume Intelligence and Action Agents*. Antwerpen-Apeldoorn, 2015, 862p.

Marc Cools, Patrick Leroy, Robin Libert, Veerle Pashley, David Stans, Eddy Testelmans, Kathleen Van Acker (red.); *Classified. Honderd jaar Belgische Militaire Inlichtingen- en Veiligheidsdienst. Le centenaire du service de renseignement militaire et de sécurité belge*. Antwerpen/Apeldoorn, 2015, 673p.

Robin Liefferinckx, Emmanuel Debruyne, Robin Libert, Dirk Martin, Laurence van Ypersele, Marc Cools (eds.); *Het Schaduwleger. Van clandestiniteit naar herinnering. L'Armée de l'ombre. De la clandestinité à la mémoire*. Oud-Turnhout/'s-Hertogenbosch, 2020, 368p.

## HOMAGE

After the seminar, the board members of BISC and RUSRA-KUIAD will go to the Cemetery of 'Mortsel-Dorp' (Lepelstraat 1), to pay a floral tribute to the '**Monument van de Weerstand**' and to greet the **graves of the Mortsel Intelligence and Action Agents**. Participants of the seminar are kindly invited to join.

The scenario - with the course and the safety measures taken - for this seminar was submitted to the '**covid events risk model**'. In this period of **COVID-19** pandemic, we expressly ask you to follow all sanitary instructions, as well as the guidelines that you will receive on site!

Your CST (COVID Safe Ticket) must be presented at the entrance.