

**War
Heritage
Institute**

BELGIUM, BATTLEFIELD OF EUROPE



the MEDICI
ARCHIVE
PROJECT



International Workshop

The Army of Flanders: Crossroads of Peoples, Crucible of Nations (1567-1706)

War Heritage Institute, Brussels > 15-16 May 2026

Day One (15 May)

| 9.45 | **Opening remarks** by Dr. Peter Capreau, General Director of War Heritage Institute, & practical information about book tables/posters by Dr. Natasja Peeters, Director of Collections of War Heritage Institute and co-organiser

| 10.00 | **Session One**

Transnational Soldiers and Identities

Moderator Prof. Dr. Raymond Fagel (Universiteit Leiden)

Massimo Bomboni (Università degli Studi di Torino), *"Tuscans" in the Army of Flanders: Between Medici Politics and Habsburg Service (1568-1648)*

Prof. Dr. José M. Floristan (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), *Estradiotes griegos y albaneses en el ejército de Flandes (1567-1621)* (*Greek and Albanian Stradiots in the Army of Flanders (1567-1621)*)

Prof. Dr. Víctor García González (Universidad de Málaga), *The Army of Flanders During the Nine Years' War or the War of the League of Augsburg: Organization, Composition of the Allied Forces, and Relations Between the Contingents of the Various Nations and Powers*

Discussion

| 12.00 – 13.00 | **Free Lunch**

Book table

| 13.00 – 14.30 | **Session Two**

Infrastructure, Fortification and Territorial Control

Moderator Piet Veldeman (Director of Sites, War Heritage Institute)

Prof. Dr. Em. Piet Lombaerde (Universiteit Antwerpen), *The Citadel of Antwerp: A Stronghold of the Army of Flanders*

Prof. Dr. Brian Sandberg (Northern Illinois University), *The Wars of France and Flanders: The Army of Flanders and the Franco-Flemish Borderlands*

Dr. Ralph Lange (MNAHA Luxembourg), *The Eye of the Needle in the South of the Spanish Netherlands. The Duchy of Luxembourg, Its Fortified Capital and Its Garrison as a Prism of the Army of Flanders; Infrastructure, Fortification and Territorial Control*

Discussion

| 14.30 – 15.00 | **Coffee Break**

Poster sessions

| 15.00 – 16.50 | **Session Three**

Gender, Representation and Religion in Military Life

Moderator Prof. Dr. Ralph Dekoninck (Université Catholique de Louvain)

Dr. Verónica Manzanares Gallego (Università di Padova), *Widowhood, Orphanhood and Women's Petitions in the Armies: A Comparative Approach between Flanders and Naples (16th–17th Centuries)*

Dr. Sandra Suárez (Universidad de Murcia), *Other Protagonists: Tracing the Lives of Women in the Army of Flanders*

Dr. Silvia Mostaccio (UC Louvain), *Lived Catholicisms at the Army of Flanders. Military Chaplains, Missionaries, Women and Families*

Dr. Delphine Schreuder (UC Louvain), *What image(s) for the Army of Flanders?*

Discussion

| 16.50 – 17.10 | **Coffee Break**

| 17.10 – 17.30 | **Prof. Dr. Geoffrey Parker (Ohio State University)**

***"Sixty years on (and off) the Spanish Road"* (via streaming)**

| 17.30 – 18.20 | **Roundtable: *Research on the Army of Flanders in a Current Perspective;***

Moderator Prof. Dr. Alexander Mattelaer (Vrije Universiteit Brussel VUB and Egmont Institute)

Day Two (16 May)

| 10.00 | **Opening and practical information, Dr. Natasja Peeters (Director of Collections of War Heritage Institute), and Nand Cremers (Head of Arms and Armour, War Heritage Institute) co-organisers**

| 10.00 – 12.00 | **Session Four**

Logistics, Material Culture, and Healing the Army

Moderator Dr. Ilya Berkovich (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien)

Dr. Maxime Poulain (Universität Tübingen), *The Materiality of War:*

An Archaeological Perspective on Material Culture and Encampments in the Army of Flanders

Fanny Verslype (UC Louvain), *The Royal Military Hospital of Mechelen (1585–1701),*

une "machine à guérir"? A Contribution to the History of Military Medical Services in the Army of Flanders

Col. Manuel Casas Santero (Instituto de Historia y Cultura Militar, Madrid), *"El Camino Español": "Spanish Road" More than 1000 Kilometers of Variable Border*

Prof. Dr. Luca Lo Basso & Luca Domizio (Università degli Studi di Genova), *Ambrogio Spinola and the Spanish Road: Networks, Logistics, and Power in Early Modern Europe*

Discussion

| 12.00 – 13.00 | **Free Lunch**

Book table

| 13.00 – 14.30 | **Session Five**

Governance, Assemblies, and Political Decision-Making

Moderator Prof. Dr. Christopher Storrs (University of St Andrews, Edinburgh)

Prof. Dr. René Vermeir (Ghent University), *Warfare from Below: The Representative Assemblies in the Habsburg Netherlands and the War Effort Against the Republic and France in the Seventeenth Century*

Dr. Harald Deceulaer (State Archives of Belgium), *The Council of War in the Spanish Low Countries: General Staff, Council in the Field or Body of Honour? An exploration of a forgotten junta, c. 1567–c. 1718*

Fauve Bergez (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), *Governor-General Margaret of Parma between moderation, mobilisation and mediation (1566-1567)*

Discussion

| 14.30 – 15.00 | **Coffee Break**

Poster sessions

| 15.00 – 16.30 | **Session Six**

Military Organization, Evolution and Command

Moderator Prof. Dr. Em. Gustaaf Janssens (State Archives of Belgium and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

Prof. Dr. Olivier Chaline (Sorbonne Université, Paris), *The Comte de Buquoy and His Regiments, from the Low Countries to the Bohemian War*

Prof. Dr. Declan Downey (University College Dublin), *The Army of Flanders, Its Irish Tercios and Associated Colleges: The Evolution of a Irish National Identity Imbued with Habsburg Catholic Culture*

Prof. Dr. François Pernot (CY Cergy Paris Université), *The Tactical, Operational and Strategic Evolution of the Army of Flanders*

Discussion

| 16.30 – 17.00 | **Coffee Break**

| 17.00 – 18.00 | **Roundtable: *On the (Spanish) Road Again: Future Research Horizons for the Army of Flanders***; Moderator Dr. Maurizio Arfaioli (The Medici Archive Project, Florence)

| 18.00 – 18.45 | **Keynote lecture: *From Army of the Flanders to the Walloon Regiments Nationaux (1714-1816)***; Dr. Ilya Berkovich (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien)

