The First World War commemorations in the Brussels-Capital Region
Brussels and the First World War

During the First World War, Brussels was the sole European capital that was made to endure the long years of the occupation. Unlike other parts of the country, Brussels did not suffer any major battles or ravages. But that did not make the impact of the war any less on the Brussels residents: the rationing and the goods and properties that were commandeered made their mark on people’s everyday lives. Citizens got involved in the war effort, by tending to the wounded, but some also took up arms against the occupier by joining the resistance. As such, some of these men and women went down in history as heroes. With the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the capital of Brussels is the only location where national homage is paid to the victims of the First World War.

It is important that we keep alive the memory of what the war entailed: how was life in a town under military occupation and what kind of impact did the war have on society in the early part of the 20th century?

The commemorations of the First World War in the Brussels Capital Region are a good opportunity to draw attention to the timeless nature of values such as freedom, solidarity, social cohesion, fatherland, independence and democracy, which were central to this first worldwide conflict. This is why the Great War should forever remain a foundation of tomorrow’s democracy. The idea is to collectively draw lessons from the First World War and to continue to build a democratic Europe for which Brussels is proud to serve as its Capital.

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1. **BELGIUM DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

With the crisis sparked by the assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne on the 28th of June 1914 in Sarajevo, the shadow of a larger conflict loomed over Europe, and therefore over Belgium, in a tense international context. The sequence of alliances prompted the bellicose German Empire on the 2nd of August 1914 to deliver Belgium with an ultimatum: free passage of troops or invasion. The country, protected since its creation by its neutral status guaranteed by most of the major European powers, including Germany (!) thus suffered a hostile act of aggression: on the 4th of August 1914, the German army invaded Belgium, entering via Gemmenich. After several battles and the capture of the city of Liège, the Germans steadily advanced towards Brussels, which they reached on the 20th of August 1914, leaving behind them a path of devastation characterised by plundering, requisitioning (food, wine, sheets, etc.) and violence (destruction of churches and houses, killing of animals in the stables after confiscating the most healthy specimens, etc.), not to mention the summary executions.

The Belgian army retreated to the area around Antwerp, which fell on the 10th of October. Belgium was almost completely occupied. At this point, King Albert, chief of the armed forces, ordered the Belgian troops, backed by allied forces, to defend the line of the Yser, clinging on to a thin strip of land so as not to concede the country as a whole. After an initial German assault on the 18th of October (‘First Battle of Ypres’) trench warfare began: for 3 years, the Yser front hardly budged.

While civilian Belgium was plunged into four years of occupation, it gradually saw the restoration of a certain form of order and the return of many refugees (who had left for the Netherlands, France, England, etc.). The country’s legitimate government, led by Prime Minister Charles de Broqueville, moved to Sainte-Adresse, a Norman seaside town near Le Havre.

The flow of raw materials having been halted, the country’s economy came to a standstill. Shortages also quickly became a problem, with Belgium largely depending on foreign imports. A ‘National Relief and Food Committee’ was created to distribute food, coal and clothing. News from the front was rare and the rules imposed by the occupying power were strict, transforming the territory into a police State.

To administer Belgium, the Germans established a ‘Government-General’, led by Von Bissing, which had virtually unlimited powers and a civil administration (‘Zivilverwaltung’) under the direction of Maximilian von Sandt although dependent, in practice, on the authority of the Governor-General. This organisation was imitated at provincial level.

As the war continued, living conditions became even harsher, with food shortages causing febrile conditions and diseases, systematic deportation of Belgian workers to Germany from the end of 1916 and through 1917, etc.

However, the German army was losing momentum. Badly hit by the outcome of the very bloody battle of Verdun, which ended in December 1916 and during which the French army resisted violent German attacks resulting in a standstill, German soldiers suffered a loss of morale and motivation.

In April 1918, a major German offensive was stopped by the Belgian army in Merkem, West Flanders. In September 1918, a counter-attack by the Allies, orchestrated by Marshal Foch - Commander of the Allied forces on the Western Front – made it possible to free Belgium.

On the 22nd of November 1918, the royals, flanked by the army, were welcomed back to Brussels by the mayor
of the city, Adolphe Max, only recently released from German prisons. In Parliament, the King proclaimed the introduction of universal male suffrage and the creation of Dutch-language university instruction.

2. BRUSSELS DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

With complete disregard for its neutrality, on the 4th of August 1914, the German army invaded Belgium via the town of Gemmenich. The first military operations in Belgium triggered a patriotic backlash in Brussels as the political leaders and the people refused to slavishly give in without a fight.

On the morning of the 20th of August, the German troops marched on Brussels. From the Cinquantenaire Park to the rue de la Loi, the German soldiers continued their onslaught to the Grand-Place. The staff was headquartered in the City Hall and the German flag was hoisted.

Brussels managed to escape the destruction and fighting, no doubt thanks to the many calls by the mayor Adolphe Max to “keep calm and carry on”. That being said, Brussels was the only European city to suffer occupation during the four long years of the conflict.

Away from the heat of the front-line action, Brussels’ experience consisted of surviving the occupation on a daily basis:

In terms of administrative management, the Germans opted for a «Greater Brussels”, in other words, a unification of Brussels’ territory whose communal system was too fragmented for their taste. The «Conference of Mayors” (first held in 1874) thus took on a new dimension and was entrusted with the management of the common interests of the city’s population.

Again in the administrative area, the occupying authority established a policy of Flemishisation or «Flamenpolitik» in Brussels. At this time, Brussels was overwhelmingly French-speaking. As part of their divide and rule strategy for the country, designed to weaken it, the Germans encouraged the more malleable Flemings to come on board. They were called activists and placed at the head of some departments. Similarly, the occupiers set up a system aiming for the Flemishisation of administration and education, through an administrative division of the country into two regions according to the linguistic border: the north, encompassing Brussels as its capital, became Flemish; the south Walloon, with Namur as its capital. The Germans tried to make Dutch the official language of administration in Flanders, and therefore also in Brussels. These efforts were in vain in most cases in the face of objections by the local population.

The question of the organisation of work was paramount. The deportation of the unemployed to Germany was decided in October 1916 and, from February 1917, all industrial activity employing more than twelve workers was subject to authorisation. But the mayors of the town fiercely refused to pass on the lists of the unemployed to the occupying forces and the German project thus ended in failure.

Daily life was also marked by the notorious requisitions carried out both to boost German stocks and weaken opposition. Pigeons, cars, carts, horses, bicycles, rubber (and bicycle tyres), copper, wool, etc. had to be handed over to the Germans unconditionally.

The occupation was also characterised by some major new developments that brought about lifestyle changes, such as the imposition of German time to align it with Central European time (clocks turned forward one hour in winter), the adoption of a curfew, the introduction of the German currency or «Reichsmark» etc. Some of these changes continue to this day, such as the switch to daylight saving time in effect from 1916,
or the introduction of the identity certificate (ancestor of our identity card), mandatory for all individuals over 15 years, for the purpose of better control of the population.

In Brussels, there was a flurry of activity to organise daily life, to cope with the new conditions, to respond with concrete actions. Indeed, very quickly the question of supplies and food became desperate. Generally speaking, Belgium was highly dependent on imports, and Brussels even more so as an urban area. Overall, the side effects of the conflict on daily life were to be tougher in the cities than in rural areas. The panic that erupted at the outbreak of the conflict prompted a storming of food shops, resulting in shortages and dramatic price hikes (for example, the price of vegetables rocketed by 60 to 70 %!). The authorities had no other choice but to intervene in the management of foodstuffs. Grain and flour were distributed fairly among bakers, the price of bread was fixed for all and «communal shops» sold commodities at cost price. Soon, the entire operation was taken over by the National Committee for Relief and Food, a philanthropic relief and supply charity.

The shortages were felt acutely: the slightest plot of soil was transformed into a vegetable patch, everything was in short supply and the Brussels knack of “making do” was put to the test! Butter, coffee, bread and potatoes were replaced with margarine, swede, chicory and rice, while meatless veal meatloaf and «Imitation Mocha» became staples! Canteens and soup kitchens were set up and «economic restaurants» created to cater to the needs of the bourgeoisie, also suddenly in financial straits. An army of women was proud to provide the labour needed to run all these charitable works.

Brussels also showed it was made of sterner stuff when it came to caring for the casualties of war. The many hospitals and ambulances in the Brussels region welcomed the war wounded. These camp hospitals were dotted all over the place, even in the Royal Palace.

Resistance was expressed in different ways: some mayors refused to bow to the demands of their enemy (e.g. the imprisonment of Adolphe Max after only five weeks of occupation, followed by that of Camille Lemonnier, his successor), intelligence (major spy figures, such as Gabrielle Petit), and the establishment of escape networks to allow young men (Belgian, British, French) to join the front via the neutral Netherlands (see on this topic the courage of Edith Cavell).

Some cultural life somehow managed to thrive: for example, the city’s 140 cinemas (15 more than in 1914!) were always full. Alongside the censored press (Le Bruxellois for example, an almost avowed organ of the Kommandantur, the local German military command) the underground press also circulated, including the famous Libre Belgique.

Before the hostilities drew to an end, Brussels had to contend with the decomposition of the German army, which carried everything it could away with it in its flight, looting museums and the requisitioned houses. Between the 11th (signing of the Armistice) and the 17th of November (departure of the last members of the occupying force) chaos reigned in Brussels, an atmosphere hovering between exultation and anarchy.

On the 22nd of November 1918, the sovereigns King Albert I and Queen Elisabeth, flanked by the army, were greeted at the Porte de Flandre by the recently released Adolphe Max. The image of the «soldier king» took hold in the collective memory. A return to normal was finally in sight...
3. SOME NOTABLE PERSONALITIES

1. King Albert I

The third King of the Belgians was a discrete prince, who was born in the «Palais de la Régence» (located at the corner of the Place Royale and the Rue de la Régence, current seat of the Court of Auditors) on the 8th of April 1875 (see the plaque on the building). In 1900, he married Elisabeth, a Duchess of German origin, in Munich. Albert I succeeded Leopold II in December 1909.

While the early days of his reign passed without much incident, things changed with the outbreak of war and the four years of conflict. Albert’s defiant speech to Parliament on the 4th of August 1914, the date on which the country was invaded, made a lasting impression and he became known as the soldier-king or knight-king. Well trained in military strategy, the Sovereign commanded the Belgian army, and after several forced retreats, proudly and firmly moved his troops behind the River Yser. Throughout this time, he remained close to the front line, alongside his soldiers (residing at La Panne, then at Les Moëres). His enlightened speech at the official close of hostilities heralded some major social changes such as the introduction of universal male suffrage and measures to bring about linguistic equality; changes in keeping with the already well-advanced new century.

After the war, he was very much concerned with, among other issues, the socio-economic reconstruction of the country and colonial policy in the Congo. He lost his life in February 1934 while indulging in his favourite sport, mountaineering, on the rocks of Marche-les-Dames.

2. Queen Elisabeth

Born in 1876, the Bavarian Duchess Elisabeth’s aunt and godmother was none other than Empress Elisabeth of Austria herself, the famous Sissi. Elisabeth met Prince Albert at the age of 20, and became his wife three years later. Something of a culture enthusiast (music - especially Wagner played at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, painting, sculpture, literature - mainly Verhaeren), the Princess was also a committed philanthropist (child protection, fight against tuberculosis, etc.).

On the 1st of August 1914, she helped the King write a letter in German addressed personally to Emperor Wilhelm II. Unfortunately, this call to respect Belgian neutrality fell on deaf ears. Her wartime activities earned her the image of the Nurse Queen, as she played a hands-on role in caring for the wounded (also opening hospitals in Brussels and La Panne).

After travelling extensively overseas in the 1920s, the Queen was deeply affected by the death of Albert in 1934. She lost both a husband and a throne, with Astrid (who was married to Leopold III) succeeding her as Queen. Her title of queen dowager was restored with the latter’s tragic death in a car accident. In 1937 she launched the Ysaye International Competition, the future Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition. Residing in Laeken during the Second World War, she resumed her activities in support of the wounded, and also made every effort to prevent deportations, especially those of many Jews. Until her death in 1965, she was a fixture on the international scene with a lifestyle filled with travel, high-profile encounters (Cocteau, Einstein) and culture.
3. **Adolphe Max**

Born into the upper-class intelligentsia, Adolphe Max was trained as a lawyer. He began a career at the bar while honouring a term as provincial councillor in 1896. His legal career was interrupted by his appointment as Mayor of Brussels in 1909, at the age of 40.

His attitude during the conflict was not so much a systematic opposition to the occupier as a stance marked by its firmness and serenity. On the 20th of August 1914, along with a handful of other local politicians, he participated in a meeting with the occupier. The negotiations resulted in the establishment of an agreement between the two parties, which the mayor unhesitatingly availed himself of in cases of German violation. In September, he ordered the suspension of the payment of the war contribution in response to the abolition of the German requisition vouchers (a system of compensation for requisitions, redeemable after the war), which led to his arrest and imprisonment in Germany for the remainder of the conflict. Minister of State and Parliamentarian, this great lover of painting and sculpture was to remain mayor of Brussels until his death in 1939.

4. **Cardinal Mercier**

Appointed to the highest ecclesiastical authority of the country in 1906 (Archbishop of Malines), Désiré-Joseph Mercier was appointed cardinal the following year. A fervent patriot, he belonged to a generation for whom the country and all that it represented were sacred.

During World War I, considering himself to be one of the few Belgian authorities remaining on national soil, he spent the years of conflict voicing his opposition to the occupying power. He encouraged passive resistance and refused to consider the Germans as a legitimate authority. The Cardinal gained respect in particular for rejecting the deportation of Belgian workers to Germany and his fight against the enrolment of Belgians in the enemy army. An illustrious philosopher and the author of many texts, he was struck down by illness in 1924 and died in January 1926. He was given a State funeral.

5. **Edith Cavell**

After a strict upbringing in England, Edith Cavell came to Brussels for a few years to work as governess for a Brussels family. A student nurse for 5 years, she then began her nursing career in the slums of London. Taking advantage of an opportunity to return to Brussels, she was made Director of the Belgian School of Graduate Nurses, a progressive and pioneering establishment founded by Professor Antoine Depage.

From the beginning of the First World War, she secretly treated allied soldiers. Her war efforts didn’t stop there and, with trusted friends, she set up an escape network for healed soldiers to neutral Holland or England. Her scheme was dismantled due to indiscretions (overly explicit thank you letters, etc.). Edith Cavell was arrested on the 5th of August 1915 and imprisoned in Saint-Gilles. Sentenced to death on the 8th of October 1915 by a German military court, even the intervention of the U.S. and Spanish ambassadors proved to be in vain and she met her death on the 12th of October, bound to the execution stake of the Schaerbeek National Rifle Range – a former training ground of the military stationed in Brussels - alongside Philippe Baucq.
6. Gabrielle Petit

Born in Tournais, Gabrielle Petit came from a very humble background. When her mother died, her father literally abandoned her in a pension then an orphanage. Forging a strong character from a very young age, she lived alone with a great deal of resourcefulness. In 1912, she met a young junior officer, Maurice Gobert.

On the eve of the war, she offered her services to the Red Cross of Molenbeek-Saint-Jean. Her fiancé having left her for another, she tried to win him back by joining him in England. After training briefly as a spy in London, in July 2014 she started her intelligence activities. Arrested a first time before being released for lack of evidence by the German secret police, she adopted a false identity: Mademoiselle Legrand. She continued her missions until her second arrest in February 1916 and her incarceration in the prison of Saint-Gilles, where she is likely to have been the most unruly captive. On the 3rd of March, she was sentenced to death by a German military court and shot on the 1st of April at the Schaerbeek National Rifle Range – a former training ground for troops stationed at Brussels. Facing death, she is said to have proclaimed: «You will see how a Belgian woman knows how to die». She refused the blindfold, preferring to see the firing squad, and died shouting «Long live the King! Long live Belgium!».

7. Philippe Baucq

Philippe Baucq, a Brussels-born architect and surveyor by training, was 34 years old when war first broke out. He did not hesitate to put his efforts at the service of the Resistance as early as August 1914 - under the pseudonym M. Fromage! – and assisted the safe passage of men to the Netherlands, carried messages between men stationed in the Netherlands or front-line soldiers and their families, distributed the clandestine newspaper La Libre Belgique and conducted espionage activity. This activity was to be his downfall. He was discovered in July 1915, arrested and taken to the prison of Saint-Gilles. Sentenced to death, he was shot at the National Rifle Range on Monday, the 12th of October, alongside Edith Cavell. On the 15th of June 1919, they were both honoured by a State funeral.

8. Antoine Depage

At the start of the war, this Brussels surgeon could already look back on a successful career in medicine both in Belgium and abroad. In 1907 he was behind the creation of the first nursing school in the country, an establishment attached to a surgical clinic whose management he entrusted to Edith Cavell. He embarked on a political career in 1908 as a municipal councillor in the city of Brussels.

In 1914, the health services of the army were ineffective and on the 4th of August, Queen Elisabeth asked Antoine Depage to take over the organisation of the hospitals. He set up several temporary hospitals or «ambulances»: at the Palais Royal, at Calais, at La Panne and near combat zones, which were quoted everywhere as model institutions with admirable performances. As President of the Red Cross, he remained very much involved in the world of medicine, sharing with it often innovative approaches that met with some resistance due to their ground-breaking nature. He died at the age of 63 as a result of ... an operation! It is interesting to note that his wife, Marie Picard, a nurse, was present at his side in all the activities he performed. She died when returning from a fund-raising trip to the United States in early 1915, when her ship, the Lusitania, was torpedoed by a German submarine.
4. THE WAR AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS FOR BELGIUM

In Belgium, the war had two immediate and tangible repercussions, one social and the other linguistic. They were announced on the 22nd of November 1918 by the King himself in his speech proclaiming the end of hostilities.

On the one hand, there was a realisation that the time was ripe to take a step towards a fully-fledged democracy. «Equality in suffering and endurance has created equal rights to the expression of public aspirations.» In other words, voting rights were to be extended to grant universal suffrage: one man, one vote, which meant universal suffrage for males over the age of 21. After the November 1919 elections, this decision generated a sharp surge in the Socialist vote, giving the party the second largest number of seats in Parliament.

On the other hand, but again in keeping with this march towards equality, it was decided to introduce Dutch-language instruction, hitherto unheard of in the country, at the University of Ghent. However, generally speaking, Flemish and even Flemish-language demands had great difficulty overcoming the discriminatory attitudes that had taken root in Belgian minds against the few that had collaborated with the occupying forces.

More prosaically, Belgian territory was in need of reconstruction, quite literally. The area that had made up the front was completely devastated, especially at Ypres. The town centres of Leuven, Mechelen and Namur had been left in ruins and other smaller communities, such as Dinant, Dendermonde, Tremelo and Spontin almost razed to the ground. Everywhere, bridges, railways and roads were badly damaged. The armies of unemployed faced a dearth of resources and infrastructures that prevented them from getting back to work. Housing was also in short supply.

Belgium returned dissatisfied from the Versailles Peace Conference. Apart from obtaining the Eastern cantons (Eupen, Malmedy and St. Vith), the mandate on Ruanda-Urundi and the abolition of neutrality imposed by the founding treaty of Belgium (Treaty of XXIV articles) - a neutrality which offered Belgium only a false sense of security - the most fervent demands remained unfulfilled. As compensation for «Belgian sacrifices», the Brussels diplomats sent to France were hoping to bring back generous war damages and a strengthening of the country’s fragile borders: it wasn’t to be.

As for everyday life and cultural events, they started to take on a distinctly U.S. feel: the Belle Epoque was definitely over, giving way to movies, cigarettes and lipstick – until then the reserve of the seedy underclasses.
5. AGENDA 2016

EXHIBITIONS

Mini-Europe
August 2014 - 2018

A remembrance trail has been devised, taking visitors to all Belgian and European monuments and buildings associated with the First World War. This walk starts out in an area where the remembrance of the First World War will be symbolically reflected at 4 war cemeteries and through various sculptures.

Mini-Europe, Bruparck, 1020 Brussels
www.minieurope.eu
info@minieurope.eu
Infoline: +32 (0)2-478.05.50
Tel. +32 (0)2-474.13.13

02/10/2015 – 31/08/2016
Musée bruxellois du Moulin et de l’Alimentation

A unique look at life in the trenches to the occupied territories. Hunger and courage, a struggle on a global scale.

Wednesdays to Fridays: 10:00 am to 05:00 pm, Saturdays to Sundays: 01:00 pm to 05:30 pm
Rue du Moulin à vent 21, 1140 Brussels
www.moulindevere.be
+32 (0)2-245.37.79
mbma.bmmv@evere.irisnet.be

Houses for Heros, 1915-1922.
Garden city and housing estates commemorating the First World War.
08/12/2015 – 25/09/2016
AAM - Archives d’Architecture Moderne

The exhibition presents original documents, models, drawings, prospects, posters, correspondence and other contemporary documents from the collections of the Archives d’Architecture Moderne.

Rue de l’Ermitage 55, 1050 Ixelles
+ 32 (0)2-642.24.62
info@aam.be
www.aam.be
The Power of the avant-garde
23/09/2016 - 22/01/2017
BOZAR - Centre for Fine Arts

Avant-garde is a concept derived from the arts and ‘the art of’ war. Avant-garde is seen to thrive in societies that are in a state of flux. The exhibition in Brussels examines just how relevant the revolutionary power of avant-garde is at the beginning of the new millennium. Some twenty leading contemporary artists engage in dialogue with fellow artists from the historical avant-garde movement (1895-1920).

Tuesdays to Sundays: 10:00 am to 06:00 pm, Thursdays: 10:00 am to 09:00 pm
Rue Ravenstein 23, 1000 Brussels
www.bozar.be
info@bozar.be
+32 (0)2-507.82.00

Complete information on: www.2014-18brussels.be


EXHIBITIONS

Metropolis: The new Berlin. A metropolis between East and West, between war and peace
Late 2018 – early 2019
The Royal Museums of Fine Arts

The Royal Fine Arts Museums will be celebrating the centenary anniversary of the armistice with an exhibition that delves straight into the heart of the landslide changes that marked this crucial time in history. An exhibition that paints the picture of a city, Berlin, as a new crossroads of European cultures, and of an era (1913-1930) through the arts and which considers the relationship between art and history, art and politics, art and society. A microcosm in its own right, the city reflects the questions, challenges and utopian dreams of a time that was thrown into disarray, along with the disillusions and crises that threatened the new and fragile balance just recently regained in Europe.

Rue de la Régence 3, 1000 Brussels
www.fine-arts-museum.be
info@fine-arts-museum.be
+32 (0)2 508 32 11
While Brussels saw no major accomplishments during the First World War it was, as the capital of Belgium, the most fitting place to mark the First World War, on a local, national as well as international level. The first thing people think of in this regard is the Monument for the Unknown Soldier, yet there is much more besides; with no less than six hundred street names, commemorative plaques or monuments dedicated to remembrance. Street names and monuments should remind people for years to come of the honourable fallen, and heroes both national and local; they should keep alive the names of major battle fields, and express collective recognition.

The Brussels Capital Region set the task of identifying and listing these traces in a land registry. This land registry bears witness to Belgium’s war experiences in general and those of Brussels’ citizens in particular, and provides a picture of how the interpretation assigned to the Great War evolves throughout commemorations. The book, based on this land registry, investigates how this multiform commemoration in Brussels’ space came into being, analyses its symbolic extent and evolution, and examines what this special heritage might still mean in the present.

Available in bookshops now in Dutch and in French, priced €29.90.
Also available in English at the visit.brussels tourist offices.
Authors: Laurence van Ypersele (UCL), Emmanuel Debruyne (UCL), Chantal Kesteloot (CEGESOMA)
Publisher: Renaissance du Livre
Pages: 350

Follow the thoughts, observations and concerns of an inhabitant of Brussels during the war. Based on diary fragments and newspaper clippings, you can experience the events that played out in Brussels, both the major global moments and the everyday worries and uncertainties.

Meet Paul Max, in his early thirties and nephew of the then mayor Adolphe Max, who confided his reflections as a journalist and writer to his diary. Started on August 20th, the day on which the Germans marched into Brussels.

www.facebook.com/paulmax19141918
9. MINI-MAP: “COMMEMORATION 14 -18”

This walk gives a view on how the occupation of Brussels manifested itself through, among other things, the requisition of buildings, goods and workforce, through shortages of food and clothing, through German interference in administration, etc.

The local resistance is at the same time also followed: the organisation of provisions, caring for injured from the front, espionage activities and the clandestine press. By starting from the upper city where the war began, and moving down to the lower city that forms the backdrop of its symbolic end, we aim to provide a vivid picture of how the citizens of Brussels experienced the First World War.

This mini-map is available in English, French, Dutch and German €1 in every visit.brussels tourist office. This walk is also available as an application.

10. GUIDED TOURS

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<td>+32 (0)2 218 38 78</td>
<td>+32 (0)495 32 03 62</td>
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The **Agenda** section rounds up all the events set to take place in and around Brussels in remembrance of World War I.

The section ‘**1914-18 in pictures**’ provides the historical background of the events surrounding the First World War in Brussels: key dates, monuments, Brussels residents that played a major role during the war, ... All of which gives visitors the essential background information needed to have a better understanding of what life was like in times of occupation. There's also an overview of the First World War **guided tours** available.

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