



**PROVINCE**  
de **NAMUR**

# THE PROVINCE OF NAMUR AT THE HEART OF THE GREAT WAR

**19**  
**20** **14-18**  
COMMÉMORATIONS  
EN PROVINCE DE NAMUR

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**VISITOR'S GUIDE**  
ENGLISH





Provincial monument, Namur.

## EDITORIAL

***“Under the leadership of his command, Captain-Commander Lentrée has opposed the enemy attacks with a valiant defense, in which the garrison showed bravery and firmness. The fortified structure only fell after the complete destruction of all its cupolas by enemy artillery”.***

Fort of Saint Héribet, Province of Namur, 1919  
(Citation in the Order of the Army).

The First World War has left traces of violence and suffering, but also of support and solidarity, and it left a long-lasting imprint in History.

The traces of the conflict across the province, though often overlooked, are very present. Cemeteries, forts, headstones, memorials, street names or places invite the visitor, regardless of age or nationality, to get back into history, to touch the names of victims engraved in marble and set in stone with his fingers. Through this contribution, the Province of Namur and its Tourism Federation want to commemorate this part of history that is becoming eroded by time.

The making of this guide is part of the numerous regional, local, provincial, and federal projects that will emerge in the commemoration events from 2014 to 2018, as as many actions against oblivion: exhibitions, shows, activities for the youth, educational trips, etc. In decades to come, the memory of those, known and unknown, who died for peace, will be honored.

It is for this same peace that the Province of Namur is mobilizing now.

The provincial College



## INTRODUCTION

Between 1914 and 1945, Europe experiences one of the most tragic episodes in its history. On several occasions, the Province of Namur was overcome with the waves of violence that came with these two World Wars.

The strategic role of the control over the valleys of the Sambre and the Meuse offers a natural explanation for the strong presence of the region of Namur in the military operations. Similarly, the unprecedented use that was made of the Ardennes as an invasion path during both World Wars dragged the southern part of the province into military operations it saw but very RARELY before.

The selection of the sites was made according to two criteria: the magnitude or the importance of the military events, and the heritage commemorating these events. It is organised chronologically and thematically.



# THE FORTS OF THE FORTIFIED POSITION OF NAMUR

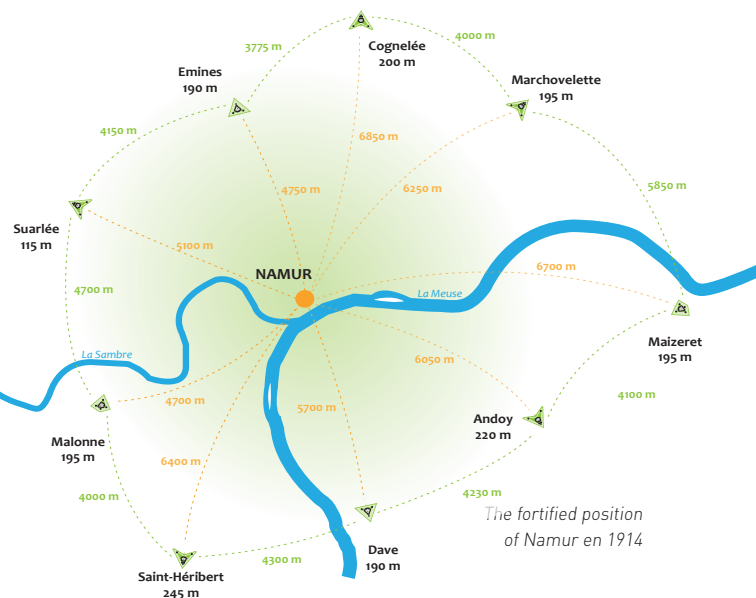
## HISTORY

The “Forts of the Meuse”, which are well-hidden in the countryside of Namur and Liège, have played a key role in the strategic defense of Belgium between the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and WWII.

After the French and Prussian War of 1870-1871, the military situation of Belgium was profoundly modified. This conflict required the mobilization of the Belgian Army and underlined the great difficulties it experienced. While demonstrating the efficiency of the neutral status which protected the small kingdom, it underlined the vulnerability of the troops in the face of an attack from the South or the East. Moreover, during the decennia that followed that war, new fortifications were built on both sides of the border between the German Empire and the French Republic. The Kingdom of Belgium then appeared as the likely battlefield of a hypothetic new confrontation between the two powers. In order to publicly demonstrate its neutrality, Belgium was invited to make the crossing of its territory difficult, if not impossible, by fortifying the Valley of the Meuse, the only real natural obstacle across the country. The fortified positions of Namur and Liège were designed to delay an invading army, thus allowing for a gathering of the allied troops to face the invader.

*Aerial view of the Fort of Malonne. The fort is hidden in the Bois de la Vecquée these days, but in 1914, it watched over the Valley of the Sambre from a 200-metre height.*

On the national level, the building of these forts met quite some opposition, mostly due to the costs of the operation. However, the politicians consent to an expense that had the merit of halting the reform projects for the military system. As went a saying of the time: "Plutôt des forts que des casernes !" ("rather forts, than barracks"). The fortification project of Brialmont also provided an answer to the fear of the populations that lived inside the forts. It abandoned the previous designs of walls which had the disadvantage of hermetically closing the cities, and left the inhabitants to fear for the projectiles they were shot with. The new design featured a series of small forts which form a protective belt located at a safe distance from the city centre. Doing so, the city centre no longer was the aim of attacks. As to the forts, they were supposed to cover the ways of communication towards the city. The artillery also allowed for a reciprocal defense near the forts. They were protected by a solid concrete vault, which was designed to withstand the heaviest weaponry that was used at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.





The Parliament agreed on the proposition to build two fortified positions in Namur and Liège in June 1887. The first works began at the end of the year 1888. The works ended in October 1891. The 21 forts (9 in Namur, 12 in Liège) were thus built in less than three years. They cost more than 72 million francs. They required the building of a 100-kilometer railroad, the digging and levelling of 4 million cubic meters of ground, as well as the pouring of over one million cubic metres of

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*Construction  
of the Fort of Cognelée*



concrete. The works featured a series of more or less serious events. Sometimes, fights would break out between stealing earth workers and local owners, a strike slowed down the works, small fires destroyed the barracks of the workers, and several of them died in the incident. The worst accident made four victims in Emînes, in May 1890, when a concrete vault collapsed, burying about fifteen workers.



## Fort of Cognelée:

The fort, which was built between 1888 and 1892, is located in the immediate vicinity of the interchange of Daussoulx. It is located away from the town of Cognelée, near the former train station of the town. All materials for the construction of the forts of the fortified position of Namur were brought there. A temporary railway then linked all of the forts together. The train station still exists, but the former railway was converted into a RAVeL-path.



The fort has a triangular shape, and is bigger than the fort of Emynes. As with the latter, it was not modified by the Belgian Army in between both World Wars. It is, however, in worse condition than its neighbour. Part of the scarp and counterscarp rooms is in bad shape, and the vegetation has taken over the ditch. Some parts of the fort are no longer accessible, because they are under water or invaded by the vegetation. The fort cannot be visited (private property).

The vicinity of the fort also featured a Zeppelin base under the German occupation. One of these crashed near the village of Daussoulx in the night of February 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 1916.





In a certain way, the designer of the forts of the Meuse became also one of their victims. Henri-Alexis Brialmont was forced to retire in May 1892 because the final cost of his works (72 million) exceeded by far the allocated budget (50 million). However, he got away with the honours. His popularity allowed him to be elected at the Chamber of Representatives in 1892, and to be asked as an adviser by various foreign states such as Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire, and Japan. Posterity saw in him the “Belgian Vauban”, but his realisations did not withstand the German attacks of 1914 and 1940.

*Henri-Alexis Brialmont  
(May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1821- July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1903).  
Photo of the statue kept at the  
Musée Royal de l'Armée.*





*305-mm Austrian Skoda cannon, model from 1911. This type of mortar was used by the Germans during their assault on the fortified position of Namur.*

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1914, the mobilization of the Belgian Army was decreed. The position of Namur was to welcome the 4<sup>th</sup> Army Division. Put together, these troops amounted to 38,000 men. The mobilisation was swiftly conducted and ended on August 6<sup>th</sup>. However, all parts of the army had to face shortages of material and supervision. Most of the forts were under the command of retired officers. Their pieces of artillery were top-of-the-line in 1890, but already outdated by 1914, as much because of the calibre (21cm maximum), as by the reach (7 to 8km maximum). Among others, the ammunition used black powder as an explosive charge, which left an extremely dense smoke cloud when fired. Approximately thirty machine guns were featured on the fortified position. The field artillery consisted of 170 cannons of all types, two thirds of which were absolutely outdated. Worse even, the internal and external means of communication were highly insufficient. The telephone wires, which were badly buried, were too vulnerable. The aviation could not bring any relief. Practically speaking, it was impossible de coordinate the actions of the forts and to offer them sufficient reciprocal cover.



*The caliber of these bombs was twice what the cupola of the forts could withstand.*

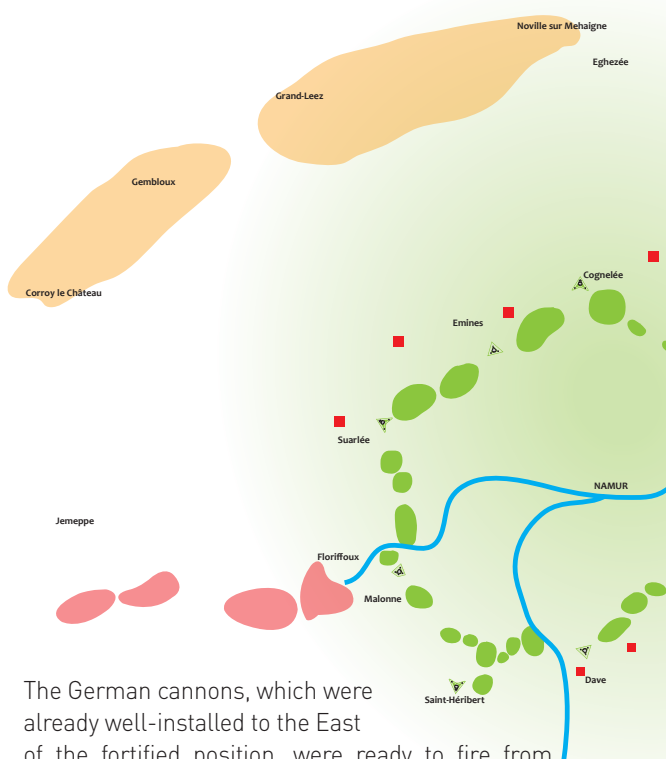
From August 15<sup>th</sup> onwards, the commanding officers at the fortified position of Namur expected a first contact with the German troops. Enemy airplanes flew over the city. Ever-closer cities stopped answering the phone. On the evening of August 18<sup>th</sup>, King Albert decided to withdraw his army to Antwerp, because the German pressure on the Belgian troops had become too dangerous. The forts of Namur were then isolated, on the front line, opposed to about one hundred thousand German soldiers supported by 400 artillery pieces. As to the allies, they were too far off. The British had only just reached Maubeuge. The French were installed along the Sambre, and guarded the bridges over the Meuse, between Namur and Dinant.

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*German representation of the attack on the fortified position of Namur.*

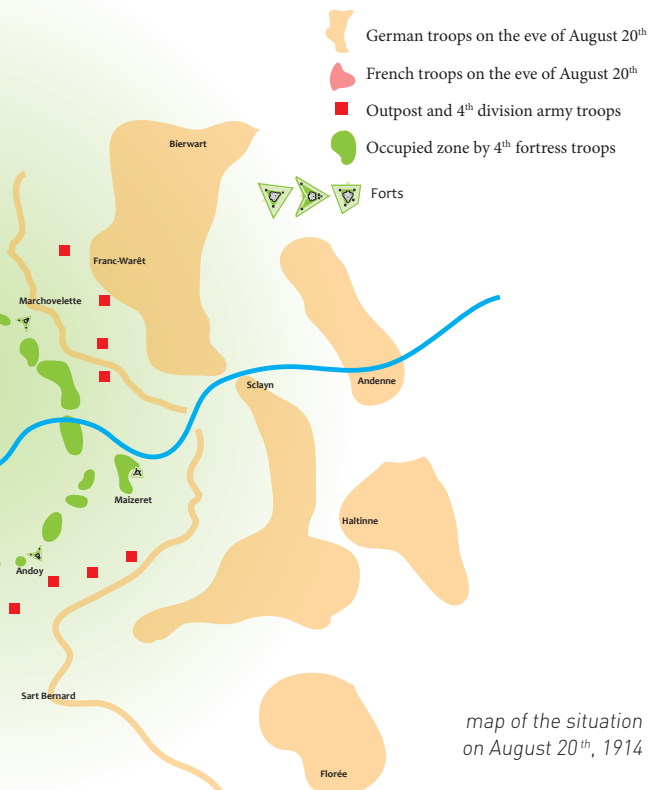




The German cannons, which were already well-installed to the East of the fortified position, were ready to fire from August 19<sup>th</sup> onwards. Some of them were within reach of the cannons of the forts of Marchovelette, Maizeret and Andoy, but their position was not signaled. Their location had been well-prepared on the basis of plans that were made well before the outbreak of the war. The infantry made good progress under the cover of the wooded banks of the Meuse and its side-rivers. On the morning of August 21<sup>st</sup>, the intervals started being attacked, between Maizeret and Andoy, but also near Marchovelette.

The three forts were also subjected to intensive bombing. On several occasions, the Belgian soldiers fell to panic because of the violence of the assault. 42cm-mortars were directed against the Fort of Marchovelette, causing extensive damage. Part of its garrison fled and had to be replaced by two hundred artillerists who were sent as reinforcements. The German headquarters decided to attack the North-East sector, between the road to Hannut and the Meuse.





## Monument of Boninne

This monument was built to commemorate the soldiers who perished in the intervals of Sector 4 in August 1914. It bears the inscription "The battles in Namur have made the stand-up of the Marne possible".





*German soldiers posing on the destroyed cupolas of the forts of Maizeret and Marchovelette.*

The following day, the violence of the conflict became even greater. Three French battalions arrive in the fortified position were are immediately sent to the North-East sector to defend the intervals. The most violent attacks were aimed at the forts of Maizeret and Andoy, while the offensive started on Cognelée. The first was now the aim of the big calibers of 42cm. By the end of the day, all of its cupolas were out of order. Without any offensive option left, the commander decided to evacuate the garrison.

Four successive attacks by the German infantry tried, in vain, to take the fort of Marchovelette. All of them were pushed back. In an attempt to lighten the incredible pressure put on the North-East sector by the German artillery, General Michel ordered a counter-attack of the Belgian and French troops on the village of Wartet. The troops were decimated by the well-coordinated use of machine guns and field artillery by the enemy who was well-entrenched.



The day of August 23<sup>rd</sup> was to be decisive. After an intense preparation by the artillery which smashed the entire North-East sector by concentrating all its heaviest pieces on the forts of Cognelée and Marchovelette, the infantry fell around 10:00 a.m. Any form of resistance was now desperate. General Michel ordered a full retreat at 12:30 p.m. The troops of the North-East crossed the Meuse in Namur and took the road to the Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse. They followed a road which was but a few kilometres wide, in-between the various victorious German armies on the Sambre and the Meuse. While the 4<sup>th</sup> Army Division reached Mariembourg on August 24<sup>th</sup>, so only just escaping the German attack, its rear suffered great losses in the region of Bioul, where it was eventually captured.

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## General Michel

On the *Avenue de la Plante*, a few hundred metres from the *Casino de Namur*, an impressive rock reminds us of the figure of lieutenant-general Michel, commander of the fortified position of Namur in August 1914. His profile was sculpted by Victor Demanet, an artist from Namur, in 1933.



The troops in the fortress continued to undergo the German bombings. Once again, the fort of Marchovelette fell under the heaviest attacks. Hit by a 42-cm bomb, it exploded around 02:00 p.m. About one hundred soldiers were burned. In Cognelée, the cupolas fell under the 30.5-cm bombs. There was confusion all around. While half of the garrison managed to escape, the commander of the fort had the white flag raised around 01:00 p.m. The other forts fell in the following days, after experiencing the same ordeal as the first ones. Only the fort of Malonne fell to the enemy without resistance. In the night of August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, most of the garrison managed to escape, following rumors from the city. The soldiers, frightened by tales of the bombings of the forts of Marchovelette and Cognelée, left their post. On the morning of August 24<sup>th</sup>, the commander of the fort had only about thirty men left to his service. He was captured,

without fighting, by a German patrol around 01:00 p.m.

A photograph of a stone stele, a memorial monument, heavily covered in green ivy. The stele is partially obscured by the foliage. It is set on a low stone base. In the background, there are trees and a clear sky.

*This stele, which was erected in memory of the defenders of the Fort of Saint-Héribert during both World Wars, is the only remaining trace of the presence of the fort nearby*



## Cemetery of Marchovelette

This cemetery, which was built in the vicinity of the Fort of Marchovelette, features the tombs of 491 Belgian soldiers and 32 French soldiers. Most of these men fell in the defense of the stronghold of Namur, and during the ensuing retreat.

It was inaugurated in 1923 by King Albert I, and it is dedicated to the Belgian-French alliance, which is represented by the presence, side-by-side, of a French soldier recognisable by his gaiters and kepi, and a Belgian infantry soldier wearing a shako. Above these two figures, a kneeling woman lays down a crown of flowers to pay tribute to those who died “for right and freedom”, as the inscription reminds us.

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*Rue de Fernelmont 260 - 5020 Namur*


## THE FORTIFIED POSITION OF NAMUR NOWADAYS

Nine forts remain around the city of Namur. Of the military road which linked them during their construction, only sections remain. Some of them still bear the memory of their former use in their name (rue du fort de Dave, chemin du fort de Marchovelette, rue du fort de Cognelée, Chemin militaire, route militaire, route des forts,...).

From the citadel, the nearest fort is the fort of Malonne, in the Bois de la Vecquée. The fort, with its quadrangular shape, was supposed to watch over the valley of the Sambre from a height of 200 meters. From its state of 1914, it kept an access to its fortified entrance. Now a property of the *Division Nature et Forêts*, it is used as a nature reserve for bats.

*The ruins of the Fort of Suarlée are home to numerous butterflies and bats.*





*Inner moat of the Fort of Emynes.*

To the North of the confluence of the Meuse and the Sambre, four forts with a similar shape (triangular), but of a different size, are hidden in the countryside of the Hesbaye. The fort of Suarlée, which ranks among the major forts, is only partially visible, in the vicinity of the zoning of Rhisnes.

The fort of Marchovelette, well-hidden in the woods, is still used by the Belgian Army from time to time for explosives exercises, which have severely damaged the structure of the building.

## Fort of Emines

The fort, which was built between 1888 and 1892, is located less than 5km from the city centre of Namur, between the villages Emines and Saint-Marc, near the highway E42. The fort was built 200 metres high, and controlled the route between Namur and Wavre, and the road to Perwez.

The fort, with its triangular shape, still features a wall in excellent condition. The fort can be accessed by an entrance gate which still features its drawbridge; it can be visited on special occasions.

The counterscarp rooms are relatively well-preserved. The ditch separating the defensive wall from the central building allows you to walk around the entire fort.

Within the central building, the use that was made of the various rooms can still be felt, as in the great gathering room, the shooting office, and the machinery room. It has, however, not kept any element of its original weaponry. Its cupola is still visible at the Fort of Lantin nowadays.

The fort was not altered before WWII, except for a metallic door in the defensive walls. In-between the wars, it served as an ammunition depot. The fort therefore mostly retained its condition of 1914.



*Chemin du fort d'Emines - 5020 Namur  
(Private property)*





*Representation of the Fort of Maizeret in 1940.*

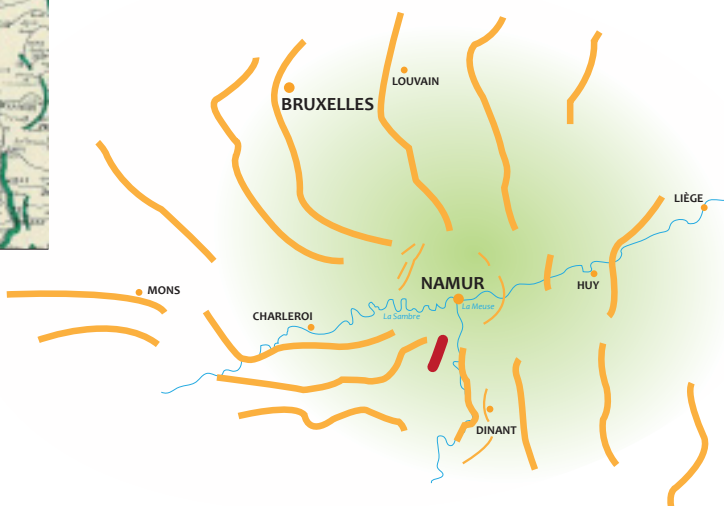
South of the confluence, three forts were built in a more hilly landscape. The small quadrangular fort of Maizeret watched over the valleys of the Meuse and the Samson. Nowadays, it overlooks a former quarry, which has not been used since 2002. The big triangular fort of Andoy watched over the road to the Ardennes. This fort was strongly altered by the Germans during WWI, and by the Belgians in between the wars.

The small triangular fort of Dave looked out over the valley of the Meuse. As with the fort of Andoy, it was strongly altered in-between the wars and is now in a decrepit state. It is still used from time to time by the paratroopers that are stationed in Marche-les-Dames. Finally, the fort of Saint-Héribert, in the entity of Wépion, was entirely buried ground in the 70's. It is almost not invisible.

## MOVEMENT OF GERMAN TROOPS DURING THE INVASION OF AUGUST 1914

In the morning of August 4<sup>th</sup>, the German cavalry crossed the Belgian border and tried to cross the Meuse between Visé and Liège. The objective was to quickly gain control over the communication ways to allow the five army divisions (one million soldiers) to march to the north of France without wasting too much time.

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After crossing the border, the progression of the German army resembled a race against the clock. In this context, the first obstacle in the way of the invasion was the fortified position of Liège, of which the 12 forts closed the valley of the Meuse. The city of Liège and its bridges were taken on August 7<sup>th</sup> in the morning, but the cannons of the fort will perturb disturbing the operations of the German troops until August 16<sup>th</sup>.

On the morning of August 18<sup>th</sup>, King Albert ordered a retreat on the line Aarschot-Beauvechain, then on the Dyle. Likewise, on the Meuse, Andenne was evacuated while the bridges were destroyed and the important railway tunnel to Seilles blocked. Despite the powerful German attack, Belgian soldiers managed to shelter in the fort of Antwerp in the night of August 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, by avoiding the circumventing manoeuvre from the north attempted by the enemy headquarters. Without the requested reinforcements from his allies, and two weeks after the invasion of his territory, King Albert used his last two fortified positions, Antwerp and Namur, to face the enemy. The French Army slowly took up its positions south of the Sambre and protected the bridges between Namur and Givet. Another part of the army gathered in the south of the Province of Luxembourg, while the English expeditionary corps was on its way to the region of Mons. The first major battle between the various armies was now in sight...



## Le monument de Le Roux

The place known as “Les Bruyères”, in the entity of Le Roux, where a simple cross commemorates the death of Second Lieutenant Georges Cotelte. The cross was first erected by his parents in 1931, on the place where he perished during the battle of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1914. It was recently displaced to enable it to be honoured by the visitors.

The stories of the Belgian resistance round Liège, the participation of the civilians in the battles, and the retaliation against them quickly spread in Germany, in the concentration zones near the Belgian border, but also elsewhere. The press also relayed this information and amplified it through the various invasion troops. Therefore, the German soldiers were convinced of the threat presented by the Belgian population, of its tendency to take up weapons, and its aggressive, even cruel, behaviour.

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The German troops were then convinced that they risked being attacked by hidden shooters, also called “francs tireurs”, making up real armies under command of the civilian and religious elite. All the incidents that occurred during the invasion of Belgium and resembled this “guerre de francs tireurs” (“war of hidden shooters”) even further reinforced the German army’s beliefs and therefore its brutality towards the Belgian population.



*Illustration from the German press depicting the arrest of the “murdering Belgian farmers”. The Germans will justify their actions during the invasion by the presence of hidden shooters.*



*Belgienverwalter werden in der belgischen Provinz  
nach einer Eingekerkelung von Belgien.*

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> German Army arrived in the city of Andenne and found the bridge which had just been destroyed by the engineers of the Belgian Army. All day long, the troops will gathered in the centre of the village and drank alcohol. The inhabitants had nothing to fear, except for the mayor and the deacon of the collegiate church, who were kept hostage. By the afternoon of August 20<sup>th</sup>, the engineers were finished building the bridge, and the troops started their progression towards Namur.

Around 06:00 p.m., however, shots were heard in Seilles, a small town on the other side of the Meuse, located opposite Andenne. Panic spread among the soldiers who were crossing the river. They retreated disorderly in the streets of Andenne, where gun shots were also heard. The inhabitants of these two entities were henceforth considered as hidden shooters, although the first shots were probably fired by hidden Belgian soldiers, or maybe even by drunken German soldiers.



## Monument in Seilles

The monument of the entity of Seilles, built on the *Place Joseph Wauters*, features a triptych dedicated to the martyrs of 1914. The monument includes scenes of the destruction of the entity and the massacre of its inhabitants. These bas-reliefs, inaugurated in July 1930, were destroyed during WWII. They were afterwards replaced by dark marble plates, which are still on the monument.

Overnight, Mayor Camus was executed. Early on the morning of August 21<sup>st</sup>, the houses of Andenne and Seilles were emptied, ransacked, and burnt down. The objective was to set an example. Entire families were executed on the spot. The others were gathered on the *Place des Tilleuls*. There, Captain Junge separated men and women. Among these, the suspects were identified with a cross on the back. They were taken to the banks of the Meuse, where they were collectively executed. In Seilles and Andenne, 262 victims were killed.

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## Plaque on the *Place des Tilleuls* in Andenne

On one of the walls around the *Place des Tilleuls*, at the end of which stands the city hall, an impressive limestone plaque features a particularly vehement inscription aimed at the German army. It was on that square, that the people from Andenne were rounded up, before being taken to the banks of the Meuse to be executed, in August 1914. This monument, which was inaugurated on August 1920, is an insurrection against the “German bandit”.



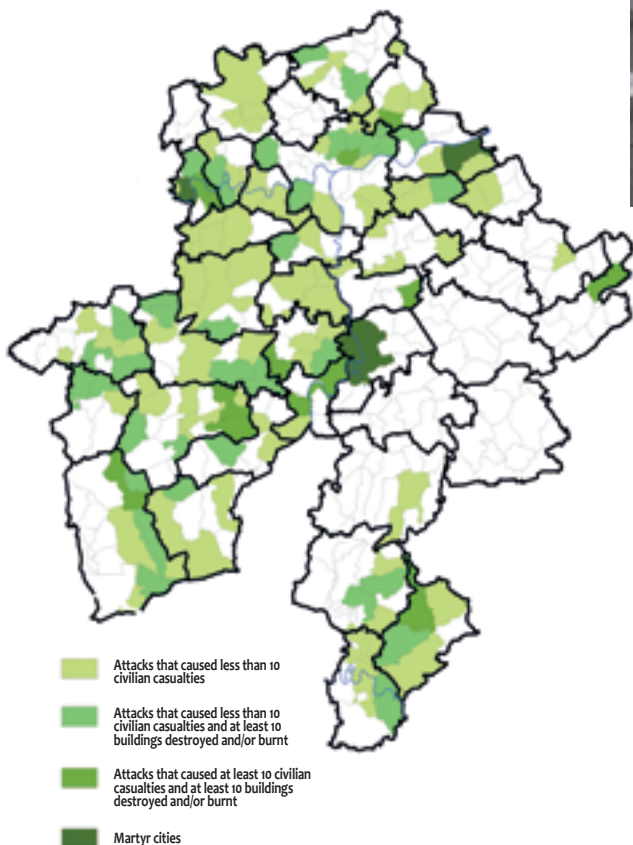
*Place des Tilleuls* - 5300 Andenne



During the “Battle of the Borders”, between August 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, close to 3,500 civilians fell under the German bullets. Southern Belgium then became the theatre of a gigantic battle between the five German armies and the allied forces consisting of the English expeditionary corps, the Belgian Army in Namur, and three French armies. The invading forces were twice as numerous as the defenders. The Germans needed to win a decisive battle before starting on the second part of the Schlieffen Plan, which consisted in pushing back the allies to the East of France.

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### Municipalities of the Province of Namur victims of atrocities during the invasion of August 1914



On the Sambre, the German and French armies met with great violence. The western part of Namur was also attacked by the heavy German artillery, while the 5<sup>th</sup> French army attempted an attack on the 2<sup>nd</sup> German army that was starting a move southwards.

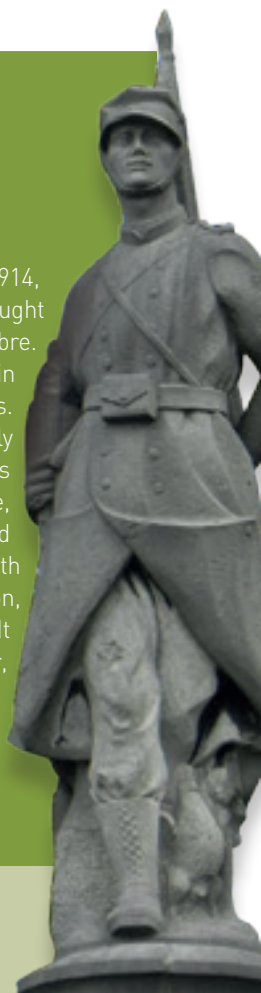
Between the two enemies, the Sambre, and the bridge over it, were a major objective. The German headquarters mainly aimed for the bridges in Tamines, Auvelais and Châtelet. These bridges, which were located at a fair distance of Suarlée and Malonne, were included in a city as was the bridge in the region of Charleroi.



## Monument of Auvelais

On the days of August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1914, the French and German army fought each other on the banks of the Sambre. The bloodiest battles were fought in the entities of Tamines and Auvelais. The French losses were extremely heavy. In July 1923, a monument was inaugurated along the road to Falisolles, where the French troops had retreated in August 1914. It shows a soldier with his gaze outstretched to the horizon, his rifle in hand, protecting the flag. It is dedicated to a young Breton soldier, Pierre Lefeuvre, a sharpshooter who fell in battle.

*Rue des Bachères, 1 - 5060 Sambreville*



The German offensive started on August 21<sup>st</sup>. It took advantage of the favorable lay of the land. Its artillery, located on the heights, mowed down the French who guarded the passages, at the bottom of the valleys. The Germans were able to rapidly take the bridges of Auvelais, Tamines and Ham, but they now faced the shots of the French artillery. There were numerous casualties on both parts. The passages that were controlled by the Germans remain fragile through August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the French launch various counter-attacks. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the morning, they had abandoned control over the Sambre and retreated to the Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse.



## Military Cemetery of the Breton Lighthouse in Auvelais

This cemetery was built in 1917 by the German occupier, and it featured German tombs, which were transferred in-between both World Wars. The place, which is located on a hill overlooking the valley of the Sambre, can be easily accessed by a rather steep flight of stairs which starts at the *Rue du cimetière des Français*. The 415 individual tombs are regrouped in different ways. Sometimes, they are displayed in circles or aligned without really respecting symmetries. In 1934, a monument representing a "Breton lighthouse" was erected at the entrance to the cemetery. By doing this, local former soldiers wanted to honour the Breton origins of a great portion of the soldiers who fell in the valley of the Sambre in August 1914.



On the Meuse, the 2<sup>nd</sup> German Army attacked Namur from its position to the northeast of the city. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Germans enter the city, while the Belgian and French troops have managed to avoid being surrounded by successfully retreating, via the southwest. Pummeled by the heavy German artillery, the forts of the fortified position fell between August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. In the city, the civilians were treated as potential hidden shooters. The authorities were held hostage. Whenever a shot was heard in the city, panic broke out. About thirty civilians were executed. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, a fire broke out in the City Hall and spread to the houses on the Grand'place.



## Military Tombs in the Communal Cemetery of Belgrade

Besides the aforementioned military cemetery of Marchovelette, the honorary field of the communal cemetery of Belgrade has welcomed the remains of numerous soldiers of both World Wars. These soldiers came from France, Italy, Russia, the Commonwealth, and Belgium.



*Chaussée de Waterloo 458 - 5002 Belgrade*



*Photos from 1915 depicting the ravaged city centre of Taminés.*

On August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, the passage of the Sambre in the region of Auvelais and Taminés went with even greater violence against the civilians. About fifty civilians were executed in Auvelais and Arsimont. In Taminés, the German troops took the bridge easily on the morning of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, by using a part of the population as a human shield and to clean the road. In the evening, hundreds of people from Taminés found shelter in the church, while their village was burnt to ashes. The men were forcefully expelled and taken to the *Place Saint-Martin*, along the Sambre. They were made to shout “Long Live Germany”, before being executed. From this group of approximately 500 men, several managed to escape. Some drowned in the Sambre, while others were put to death with the bayonet. 383 civilians died in Taminés, most of which on the *Place Saint-Martin*.



## Monument to the Executed of the Place Saint-Martin in Tamines

From the end of the war onwards, the people from Tamines wanted to commemorate the tragedy which took place on the *Place Saint-martin* in August 1914. They erected a wooden cross, which was rebuilt in concrete in 1923. In August 1926, a monument was inaugurated with all the honours. It features an original statue. A woman jumps out of the composition. She holds her arm outstretched to the sky, while she seems to be hit in the back. At her feet, three bodies have already fallen. On the walls enclosing the location, three plaques have been attached. They feature the names of the victims of the massacre. The commemorative space consisting of the cross, the monument and the stele, is integrated in a park.

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*Post card illustrating the battle on August 15<sup>th</sup> in Dinant.*



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Between the operations on the Sambre and Luxemburg, the 3<sup>rd</sup> German Army was ordered to cross the Meuse between Namur and Givet. While all German forces headed southwards, it was the only part of the army to follow an east-to-west itinerary. To make the crossing, the Germans chose the passages of Dinant, Houx and Hastière. They did, however, meet great resistance which they attributed to small French regiments that were helped by the inhabitants of the cities. Attempts to enter Dinant and take the bridge had already failed on August 15<sup>th</sup>, and on the night from August 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>.

While the Headquarters prepared the attack on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, they heard rumours of fights against civilians, which had been brought over from Marche and Dorinne. So doing, the German troops prepared their invasion of Dinant as a violent confrontation with its inhabitants.

On their path, civilians were taken from their homes, which were then pillaged and burned. The men were



executed without trial, or taken to gathering places before being executed. The women, children and elderly people were also assassinated. The northern and southern parts of the city were particularly aimed at, while the city centre, still under French fire, did not allow for the deployment of the German troops.



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## Wall of the Executed in Dinant

In August 1914, 674 people from Dinant were executed in various places in the city. In the vicinity of the prison, along the main street, the main execution took place before the wall of a private property (the Tschoffen property). A few hundred metres from the banks of the Meuse, over one hundred people from Dinant were lined up to be executed. To commemorate this tragedy, panels were installed already at the end of the war, and the wall became the main object of an important pilgrimage. In August 1927, a big bronze plaque was put up on the wall. It was made by a sculptor from Brussels, Franz Huygelen. It features an executed man lying under a shroud. A widow and an orphan are kneeling at his feet. A victory figure to the left and a motherland figure to the right are flourishing the deceased. The inscription blames the "Teutonic fury".



Rue Alexandre Daoust 19 - 5500 Dinant



## Monument of Spontin

The village of Spontin was entirely destroyed in 1914 and over forty inhabitants were executed, among whom the mayor and the priest. To commemorate this tragedy, an elegant monument was erected at the entrance of the village, on the road between Huy and Dinant. The monument, which was built on a small square between the former train station and the medieval castle, features the names of the martyrs of Spontin. At the top, a woman leaning against an obelisk lays down a bunch of flowers. It was inaugurated in August 1922.



35

*Chaussée de Dinant 25 - 5530 Spontin*

During the entire day of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, as well as on the day after, the High Meuse of Dinant was subjected to extreme brutality. Two thirds of the houses of Dinant were destroyed, and 674 inhabitants executed. In the villages along the Meuse, the damage was rather extensive. About thirty people died in Bouvignes, and the villages of Houx, Hermeton and Hastière were entirely destroyed. On the plateau, the village of Spontin was also entirely destroyed, and about forty inhabitants were executed.

The crimes also touched the left bank of the Meuse. The village of Surice, on the road between Dinant and Philippeville, was also destroyed, together with fifty inhabitants, on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1914. The following day, the 3<sup>rd</sup> German Army left the Belgian territory, completely annihilating the village of Frasnes-lez-Couvin and killing approximately ten civilians.

## THE MILITARY CEMETERIES

The bloody battles of the second half of the month of August 1914 left major cemeteries over the entire territory of the Province of Namur. In Namur, two cemeteries still feature tombs from WWI: the great communal cemetery of Belgrade and the military cemetery of Marchovelette. In Avelais, a smaller cemetery gathers 345 tombs of French soldiers who were killed in 1914.

The most important among them is located on the border of the entities of Fosses-la-Ville, Sambreville, and Aiseau-Presles, between the provinces of Namur and Hainaut.



*In thumbnail: French Military Cemetery of Dinant  
Below: Military Cemetery of Marchovelette  
Background: Military Cemetery of Belle Motte*



## Military Cemetery of Belle Motte in Le Roux-Aiseau

On the border with the villages of Le Roux and Aiseau, a military cemetery gathers the remains of over 4,000 French soldiers in 1,179 individual tombs, 3 common tombs, and 2 ossuaries. The cemetery was inaugurated in 1923 by general Passaga, commander in Rennes, and it gathers mostly soldiers from Brittany, Normandy, and northern France. The cemetery was built from 1917 onwards by the occupier, and it also featured German tombs which were transferred to Langemark at the end of the 50's. Nowadays, the main monument in the cemetery consists of a gothic arch. It is what remains of a German attempt at a commemorative chapel of 1917. A plaque commemorates the French-Belgian alliance; a second one is the homage of the working class of Aiseau to the "glorious French soldiers", and the third one honours an active member of the pilgrimages at the Belle Motte, Ernest Cotelle, the father of an officer killed in Le Roux in August 1914.

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## French Military Cemetery of Dinant and former German Necropolis

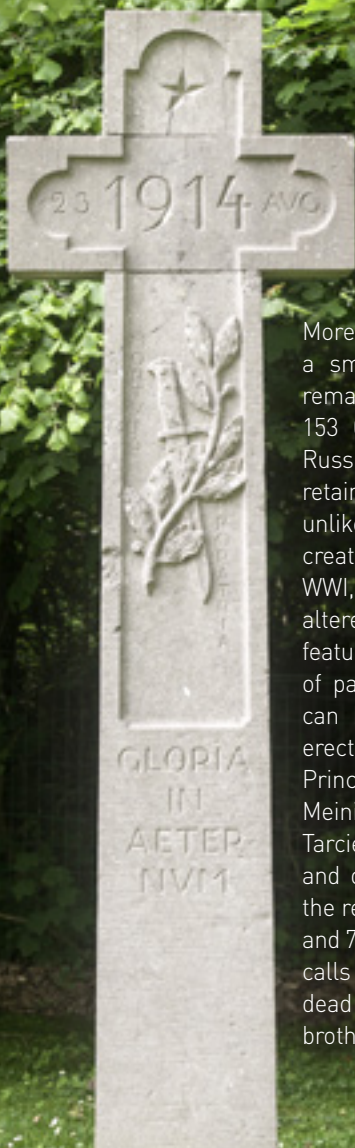
In Dinant, another great French military cemetery gathers the remains of 1,104 soldiers who fell in the region in 1914. Most of these are gathered in ossuaries. The cemetery, which was inaugurated in 1923 by Marshal Franchet d'Esperey, is decorated by a new monument which was made by the sculptor Daoust in 1927.



Nearby, a circular German monument decorated with military and religious symbols is proof of the former presence of a German cemetery which was built during WWI. In the former ditch around the entrance of the citadel, a monument that was built by the occupier in 1918 to commemorate the battles of August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1914, is still visible. According to the inscription in German and in French, it would contain the ashes of 12 German soldiers and 58 French soldiers.



## German Military Cemetery of Tarcienne



More to the South, in Tarcienne, a small cemetery holds the remains of 394 French soldiers, 153 German soldiers, and 2 Russians. It has practically retained its original aspect, unlike other cemeteries created by the Germans during WWI, and which were strongly altered afterwards. This space features a chapel and a series of particular monuments. We can highlight the monument erected to the memory of Prince Frederick of Sachsen-Meiningen, who was killed in Tarcienne on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1914; and on the ossuary gathering the remains of 123 Frenchmen and 71 Germans. Its inscription calls upon the visitor: "Every dead could have been your brother".

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## THE CEMETERIES OF THE EXECUTED

The civilian population of the Province of Namur has paid a heavy price during the German invasion of August 1914. In a couple of days, over 1,500 inhabitants were executed. Most of them were buried on the place of their execution, but later received a more traditional resting place in the cemetery of the entity. In some cases, however, these bodies remained together in the place where they were first buried. The location, which was originally not designed to serve as a cemetery, then turned into a necropolis, a commemoration area to the memory of the executed. The two most impressive examples are located in Tamines and Andenne.

*Post card.*







## Cemetery of the Executed in Tamines

In the first entity, the victims of the collective execution that took place on the Place Saint-Martin were buried in the former church cemetery on the square. In this relatively small space, 384 bodies had to be buried in various common graves. The families then placed crosses with inscriptions on the soil of this cemetery, but also commemorative plaques on the walls of the church opposite the tombs. The entrance door bears the inscription "cimetière des fusillés" ("Cemetery of the executed"). Walking through this "crowded" cemetery, other inscriptions identify the deceased and mention, as in a litany, the date of their death: "August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1914". Some accuse the "German barbarity", while other simply mourn a "victim" or the "executed". Others were censored in 1916 by the occupier and still bear the marks of censorship. The cemetery was classified in July 2009.

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## Cemetery of the Executed in Andenne

In Andenne, the events knew the same ending as in Tamines, only two days earlier. There too, people were collectively executed next to a river. Along the Meuse, on the *Quai Pastor*, civilians were executed by the tens. On the evening of the executions and on the following day, common graves were dug nearby to welcome the bodies of the executed. The bodies could hardly be identified and some doubts subsisted, even after the war, on the number of people who were executed in Andenne and buried in this cemetery. Already during the first years of the war, the cemetery featured crosses and commemorative plaques, but it was entirely redesigned in 1920. A limestone cemetery with an elegant stele was inaugurated on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1920. The names of the victims were engraved in the borders of the flower grounds. The place, which was perfectly maintained up to this day, was classified in September 1993.

42



Rue Malevé 5 - 5300 Andenne





## Cemetery of the Executed in Surice

The small village of Surice features a similar, yet smaller, cemetery. In August 1914, the village was destroyed by the German troops who accused a young girl of having shot a German officer. Inhabitants were executed individually, and 37 of them were led outside the village to a place known as “aux fosses”. After the war, a hedge was built to commemorate the place of the massacre. A cast iron cross soberly commemorates the memory of the deceased. The inscription mentions that 37 people were executed in this place, and that 32 more were executed in the village.



*Rue des fusillés 2 - 5600 Philippeville*



## Cemetery of the Executed in Heure

The Province of Namur also features a fourth “cemetery of the executed”. A few hundred metres from the centre of the village of Heure, as in Somme-Leuze, a monument was erected on the burial site of four inhabitants of the neighbouring village of Briscol, in the entity of Erezée. Accused of having shot at German troops, these men were led to a war council which sieged in the village of Noiseux. They were condemned to death and taken to Heure, where they were executed just outside the village. From 1919 onwards, the inhabitants of Heure wanted to build a monument on the place of the execution, and the burial site of the unfortunate ones. It was inaugurated on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1920.

## THE MONUMENTS TO THE DEAD

The monuments in the Province of Namur create a stylized image of the war. The palm and the cross are often the only brief parenthesis on the war in regions which did not really suffer from it. The soldier is stoic or proud, as they were when they first left for the war. But in the martyr cities, or in the crunched villages, the imagery puts the emphasis on the darker side of the conflict. The commemoration simply depends on history, and while it may embellish it, it still is a witness of the particularities of the war in the province. It features the occupation, the deportation, the French presence. Commemorative art is a pluralistic form of art. There is, however, one persistent element: all monuments represent a “great” war, full of superior ideals. The Sacrifice is made in the name of the Redemption promised by a double religion, some sort of “catholic-patriotism”. All these representations around God and the Homeland rather represent the after-war than the war itself, two decennia in search of meaning and identity.

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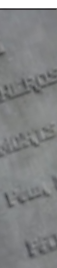


Among the honoured dead, the soldiers come first. Before all others, it is in their name that the commemorating reflex spreads out. On the provincial monument, five soldiers stand, sometimes a foot soldier with his weapon in hand, sometimes the horse rider in battle with the enemy. All of them are heroes of the trenches, those who have suffered, persevered, won, or gave their life for their fatherland. In the Province of Namur, the soldier figure widely dominates the statues landscape (37%). Naturally, mourning is also featured. Death is depicted in a clean, silent, suffering and mud-free manner. The uniform is untouched, the face betrays no emotion, the agony is estheticized. The dying person is never alone. In Pontillas, its body is hugged by a stoic virgin, while in Jambes it stumbles in the arms of a grateful fatherland. At the foot of the monument of Couvin, the young soldier is dying under the gaze of his brother-in-arms, a smile on his lips, with a naked torso and a finely muscular shape. With its antique dress, and serene in its suffering, his death takes a more passionate touch.



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*Monument of Assesse*

Very often (in 25% of the cases), the soldier quietly awaits his departure for the battlefield. He stands tall, stoic, calm and his mind set up; he has nothing to fear from this trench

war. In Assesse, a “poilu” stands tall on his six-metre obelisk, with a determined gaze and balled fist. Clad in his impeccable uniform, with his rifle in hand, he leaves the “borne 16”, from where “the soldiers from Assesse left to defend their fatherland”, according to the inscription. In Malonne, the perfectly prepared soldier, with

the helmet on the head, bayonet on the rifle and ammunition on the belt is standing watch. These standardized soldiers, which are dispersed all over the province, are as many models of a same collection of toy soldiers. There is something chivalric about these swords that are engraved on 10% of the memorials, something poetic about that young man in a loincloth, defying the enemy with his sword on the monument of Sclayn.

But the soldier is not always featured in a defensive position. There are actually more monuments that depict him in an offensive stance. Therefore, it is deep in the saddle that the riders on the provincial monument give the assault.



*Soldier on the monument of Gembloux*



The recurrence of the aggressive behaviour of the soldier in the province (20 %) is a particularity which is easily explained by the concentration of martyr cities in the provincial perimeter. In Tamines, the soldiers head to the battlefield, with their bayonets on the rifle, pushed forward by a fearless country. On the stele in the Marie-Henriette barracks in Namur, a foot soldier in his mobilisation uniform rises to the battle in an extraordinary transport of ferocious energy. On the Ardennes triptych, three soldiers are featured in a central – and dominant – position while they advance menacingly

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towards the battle. At the entrance of the cemetery of Dinant, a French “poilu” prepares to impale the first enemy who dares to approach the population on the tip of his bayonet.

*Monument on the Place du Chapitre in Andenne.*



W



## “L’Assaut”

This work of art was made in 1927 by the sculptor Daoust, it represents a French soldier climbing a rock and is named “L’assaut”. It was inaugurated by Marshal Pétain, who was then accompanied by Captain Charles de Gaulle, who had been injured on the bridge of Dinant in 1914.





Moreover, the French “poilu” shares the honours with all his army and his Belgian allies. On the stained glass of Le Brûly, a certain Georges Wilmart can be distinguished from the Walloon soldiers by his French kepi. In Marchovelette, it is also by the uniform that the Belgian and French soldiers who “died in 1914 in the 4<sup>th</sup> S of the PFN for justice and liberty” can be differentiated.

*Monument of the military cemetery of Marchovelette.*

The commemoration is even more collective when it is synthetized by the representation of a simple French helmet resting side-to-side to its Belgian counterpart, as on the stele of Hastière, or on the city hall of Dinant. At the entrance to the French cemetery of the city on the Meuse, the roosters on the fence proudly sing the victory of these men who fell in a country that was not their own.

*Monument of the City Hall of Dinant*





Two thirds of the monuments in the province pay tribute to those who “died for the motherland” or, in one way or another, give a patriotic dimension to their commemoration. With the presence of the national coat of arms, for instance, but also by featuring a royal crown or even by a direct representation of the king and/or the queen. On the stained glass of the church of Le Brûly, the royal couple is featured kneeling before the altar, praying for the soldiers.

*Stained glass of the church of Le Brûly.*

More frequently, the king is featured alone, as on the statue of Andenne where, wearing his uniform, with a strong and confident gaze, he rejoins the former emperors. At the top of the triptych of the Ardennes, the face of Albert I is represented next to his predecessors, and the whole monarchy watches paternally over the soldiers.

*Monument on the Place du Chapitre in Andenne.*

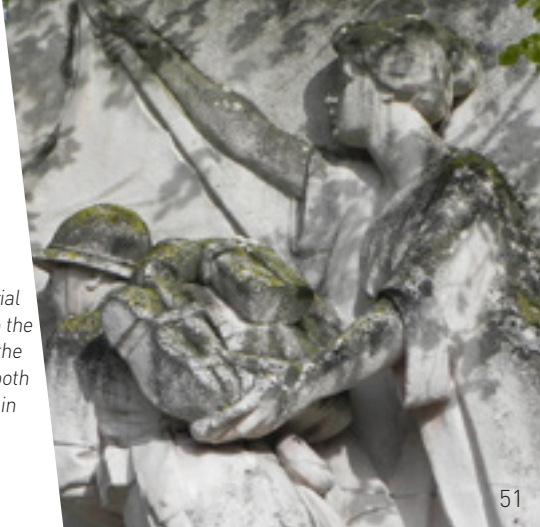


However, of all the patriotic emblems, the Belgian lion is the most frequent. He walks on the steles or stands watch, proud and focussed, at the foot of an obelisk. In Thon-Samson, the royal animal lies, with the gaze to the east, defying the enemy. In Landenne, it holds a palm in its mouth, savouring victory. In Floriffoux, it advances nonchalantly, brushing the national flag with its paws. As a “sacred flag”, this flag is often represented. It gloriously floats in the wind in Couvin, it hangs half-mast in mourning in Malonne. In Bouvignes, the soldier holds it against his chest, and in Jambes, he holds onto it in his agony. In Pontillas, the flag covers the soldier’s body; he already rest in the arms of the Virgin Maria and wilfully gives his life for God and the fatherland.

*Monument in Thon-Samson.*



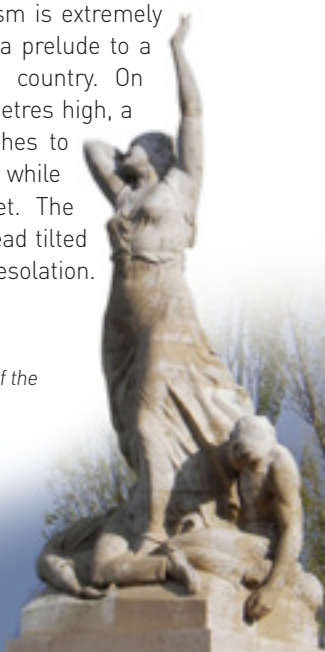
*War memorial  
dedicated to the  
memory of the  
soldiers of both  
World Wars in  
Tamines.*



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In commemorative arts, the figure of the motherland can be distinguished – however not always easily – by the folds of her dress, the serenity of her face or in the actions she accomplishes: in Havelange, she crowns the soldier, in Tamines, she pushes him to the battle. In Floreffe, she is crowned with laurels. In some cases, she glorifies the soldier for his victorious sacrifice; in others, she savours the victory of the country. In Jambes, she welcomes the stumbling soldier. In the other hand, she holds a broken sword, as if to regret the unnecessary deaths. Such display of pacifism is extremely rare in the province, but it is a prelude to a representation of a battered country. On the square of Tamines, four metres high, a woman in antique dress reaches to the sky in a cry of suffering, while three civilians lie at her feet. The nation is mourning, with its head tilted backwards in a movement of desolation.

*Monument dedicated to the memory of the  
martyrs on the Place Saint-Martin.*



In the province, you need not have fought to be commemorated. On the contrary, the monuments are often reminders of the trials of the occupation. Whenever figures are represented, the civilians and their sufferings are featured one time out of five.

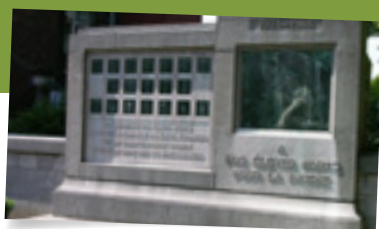


## Monument of the Faculty of Gembloux

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This impressive monument by the sculptor Jules Lagae was inaugurated in May 1925 to honour the students of the faculty of agronomy who died during WWI. The monument, located near the former abbatial palace, features various bronze bas-reliefs. The main one features a “victory” figure laying down a crown of flowers at the feet of the heroes who died for the motherland. Their portraits are realistically engraved in 19 smaller medallions.



The inscriptions feature tributes to the victims of “Teutonic savagery”, to the “martyrs of the German barbarism”, who were “cowardly assassinated by the enemy”. They tell “the most sinister tragedy in history”, the story of a population who heard the “German bandit sentence them to death”. The heinous images are much scarcer, but they exist: in Walcourt, a Belgian soldier tramples a German helmet; in Cul-des-Sarts, the national lion defeats the imperial eagle.



The martyr is not the only civilian to be featured in the memorials. There are also those who mourn him. On the triptych of the church of Andenne, the survivors lay over the executed.

*Monument of Walcourt*



Ten people lay in a disorderly heap, showing more of the pain than of the horror of the massacre of the 218 inhabitants of Andenne. This type of representation is more typical of the generation of the 20's. For that generation, although the war is something of the past; it remains painfully present and is to be remembered in mourning. The monument of the *Cliche de Bois* in Leffe features a widow and her orphan under the gaze of the Sacred Heart. On the stele of the cemetery of Franière, women throw themselves onto the ground, weeping, crying out their suffering, while men are going, becoming victims of the deportation.

*Monument on the Church square*



In between the wars, the cult of the dead becomes assimilated to religion, because believing in God and the motherland were inseparable at the time. In the aftermath of a war that was conceived as a crusade, Christianisation was the most logical way of worshipping for a population which was still profoundly catholic. The church is also the most often chosen location for monuments (31%) over the entire province. Latin crosses; often mixed with military crosses, cover 46% of the memorials. Whenever the commemoration is more economical, it often features such a cross and/or a branch of laurel. However, it is also possible to find impressive monuments, the end of the conflict bringing the opportunity for a new devotion to the saints and the Sacred Heart. The "Sacred Heart" which "protected Sorinnes in the bad days of 1914-1918", opens its arms on its stand, welcoming the fallen heroes. In the *Cliche-les-Bois* of Leffe, the Sacred Heart surmounts a fatherless family who mourns within the context of religion.





This wish of Christianising the homage is very clear in the province, but even more so in certain rural regions. Hastière, however a martyr city, chooses a more religious representation with simple crosses, Chi-Rho and Christ on the cross.

*Monument dedicated to the memory of the martyrs of Hastière.*



On the stained glass of Pontillas, the crucifix is featured on the battlefield, promoting the “association of the passion of Christ and the sacrifice of the soldier” . The soldier, who has just descended from the cross, rests in the arms of the Virgin Mary. There is a confusion between the saviours and the Saviour. Once again, the image of the Great War answers a need for spirituality, and it creates a discrepancy with the reality of the conflict. Sometimes, the religious touch is lighter, slightly perceptible in the representation of a woman who is treated according to the criteria of Christian iconography, such as the weeping woman of Spontin. Often, this devout homage is associated, without contradicting it, to a patriotic spirit. In Marchovelette, a flag is wrapped around the Christian cross, a strong witness of the union, in the 20's, of God and motherland.

*Tombs in the military cemetery of Marchovelette*



## AS A CONCLUSION...

***By Professor Philippe Bragard***

The Province of Namur features countless reminders of the storm which reached the country in August 1914. Without the glory of Liège, the fortified position has played a limited, yet honorable, role in the course of history. The slaughters of civilians, and the bloody trail it left behind, have marked the collective memory for a long time. The cemeteries and the memorials, far from being forgotten, are still part of commemoration ceremonies a century after the war and are still maintained decently.

The nine forts are still, for some, linked by the military road as they were at the time of their construction as incredible machines built for the defense of the territory. Although these forts have now lost their weapons and shielding, which were sent to scraps after WWII, they remain proof of the Belgian know-how and the incredible possibilities of the engineers. They are also witnesses of the past richness of the country. Driving through the countryside, one can easily imagine the protecting role they have played. Walking through the almost underground rooms, one can almost “feel” the life of a soldier. The forts also welcome an extraordinary fauna and flora.

The commemoration becomes even more emotional in the cemeteries for the executed and the military cemeteries. The Belgian military tombs are all identical, in molded blue stone with a bronze plaque, all of those who died on the battlefield are equal and united. In the fort of Dinant and in Tarcienne, an imposing mausoleum and a resting field gather French and German soldiers. Civilians also have a right to special enclosures, often highlighted by a monument bearing the names of the executed.



As to the monuments to the memory of the executed, which also preserve the names of the dead in stone, and far from the stereotyped variations of the same theme as they can be in a few French villages; they offer a wide selection of shapes which is often overlooked in the history of sculptures. Some of them were made by renowned artists and are a reflection of the artistic movements of a period, such as Art Déco or the final examples of the Art Nouveau. The symbolic elements are a fascinating thing to decipher. There is, however, one missing element of all these commemoration artifacts: the countless pieces of artillery of all calibers which have either equipped these monuments, or were spread in the streets of the martyred cities and villages, a treasure of war which was divided evenly by the provincial authorities in 1919. While French monuments have retained these, our regions have seen the occupier take these away after the campaign of May 1940. Postcards of the era feature traces of this.

So doing, the entire Province of Namur allows us to better approach what happened a century ago, rediscovering little-known places, through our countryside, in our cities and our villages.

Thanks to this comprehensive guide, the visitor can walk in the footsteps of our ancestors and continue our duty of commemoration, which makes every one of us a citizen in the true sense of the word. Not forgetting allows us to prevent the repetition of such brutal and tragic events, without hate or resentment. These days, the former battlefields which have torn Europe to shreds have become a beautiful reason to meet in peace, just as with other commemorating circuits of military heritage of all times, and which developed over the course of the past 20 years.



## THE TOURISTIC SITES RELATED TO WWI IN THE PROVINCE OF NAMUR

### Citadel Of Namur

The Citadel of Namur, located at the heart of the fortified position of Namur, is one of the main fortified positions in Europe, and yours to discover! This site and its fortifications are classified and recognized as “Patrimoine Exceptionnel de la Région Wallonne”; they illustrate several centuries of occupation and military architecture, from the Middle Ages to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A unique historic site for you to discover in Belgium!

→ **Information :** <http://www.citadelle.namur.be>



### Citadel Of Dinant

In August 1914, the Citadel of Dinant witnessed various massacres, but also intense battles between the German and French armies. Numerous traces of this, such as the French military cemetery and the former German necropolis, are still visible. The citadel, overlooking the Valley of the Meuse, takes you on a journey to the heart of history.

Come and discover it, you will experience a thrilling moment! In the heart of the walls, life-sized characters bring the strongest moments of the European and Belgian history back to life, and the cells, kitchens, and carriages come back to life before your eyes. The weaponry museum and the cannons give a military touch to this historic location, and it offers you a plunge in the war of the trenches of the Yser (1914-18) with the “destroyed” shelter.

→ **Information:** <http://www.citadellededinant.be>

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## **Museum Of The Engineers Of The Belgian Armed Forces**

Throughout various thematic rooms, you will be able to discover the history of the Engineers of the Belgian Armed Forces, from 1830 to the present day. Outside, you will be able to see the various vehicles used by the Engineers. Library.

Opening hours: Wednesday afternoon, from 01:00 p.m. to 05:00 p.m. Visits for groups upon appointment during the week. Closed on weekends and holidays.

→ **Information:** <http://www.geniemus.be>



## AS AN ADDITION TO THE DISCOVERY CIRCUIT OF THE FORTIFIED POSITION OF NAMUR...

### The Forts Of The Fortified Position Of Liège...

The fortified position of Liège, which is well-known for its unexpected resistance during the invasion, remains one of the most important sites of WWI in Belgium. Most of these forts are now demilitarized and can be visited.

The Fort of Loncin is the best-known of the Forts of Brialmont. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1914, under the shots of the "Big Berthas", one of the two ammunition depots exploded, burying 350 of its defenders. The Fort of Loncin is the only one to have retained its original weaponry of 1914. Besides the visit of the fort, which offers you a splendid view on the explosion crater and a moving visit of the crypt, the adjacent museum features a combination of scale models and artifacts, some of which are exceptional. The fort features a scenography circuit, which allows you to relive the final moments of the garrison and the explosion of the fort.

→ **Information and visits:** [www.fortdeloncin.be](http://www.fortdeloncin.be)



## Mémorial National Du Fort De Breendonk Fort De Liezele

The forts of Liezele and Breendonk are part of the second fortified line of defense of the city of Antwerp, which was built from 1909 onwards to protect the city and its port. These were built in concrete, equipped with various types of cannons and defended by approximately 300 men in war times. These forts were heavily bombarded in the first days of October 1914, and could not withstand the pressure of the German Army.

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The fort of Liezele has now integrally been restored to its original state, while the fort of Breendonk was used as a transit camp for political prisoners of the Nazi regime during WWII; it became a National Memorial in 1947.

→ Infos :

**National Memorial of the Fort of Breendonk**

**Prices and information : [www.breendonk.be](http://www.breendonk.be)**

**Museum of the Fort of Liezele**

**Prices and information : <http://www.fortliezele.be>**

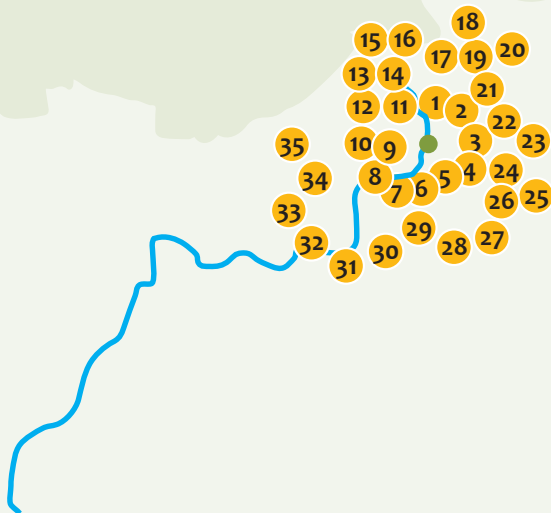
## The Forts Of Antwerp: Discover, Experiment, And Reconquer.

Cycling and walking paths, concerts, activities for the youth, archery, team building... The forts around Antwerp no longer serve a military purpose. Nowadays, they are natural and captivating meeting places for all generations. Come and discover all there is to see and to do!

→ On [www.fortengordels.be](http://www.fortengordels.be), you will find all the necessary information on the forts. The website [www.antwerpen1914-1918.be](http://www.antwerpen1914-1918.be) (also available in French) is dedicated to the commemorations of WWI in the Province of Antwerp.







## Les trois positions fortifiées belges en 1914.

### Namur

- 1 Fort d'Emines
- 2 Fort de Cognelée
- 3 Fort de Marchovelette
- 4 Fort de Maizeret
- 5 Fort d'Andoy
- 6 Fort de Dave
- 7 Fort de Saint-Héribert
- 8 Fort de Malonne
- 9 Fort de Suarlée

### Anvers

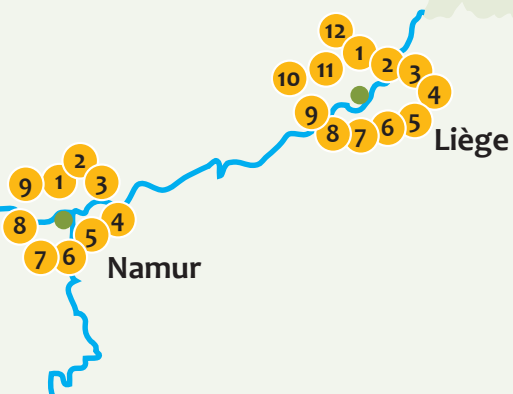
- 1 Fort 1 – Wijnegem
- 2 Fort 2 – Wommelgem
- 3 Fort 3 – Borsbeek
- 4 Fort 4 – Mortsels
- 5 Fort 5 – Edegem
- 6 Fort 6 – Wilrijk
- 7 Fort 7 – Wilrijk
- 8 Fort 8 – Hoboken
- 9 Fort van Kruibeke
- 10 Fort van Zwijndrecht
- 11 Fort Noordkasteel
- 12 Fort Sint-Marie
- 13 Fort Sint-Filips
- 14 Fort van Merksem
- 15 Fort Liefstenhoek
- 16 Fort van Lillo
- 17 Fort van Stabroek
- 18 Fort van Ertbrand
- 19 Fort van Kappelen
- 20 Fort van Brasschaat

- 21 Fort van Schoten
- 22 Fort van 's-Gravenwezel
- 23 Fort van Oelegem
- 24 Fort van Broechem
- 25 Fort van Kessel
- 26 Fort van Lier
- 27 Fort van Koningshooikt
- 28 Fort van Sint-Katelijne-Waver
- 29 Fort van Duffel
- 30 Fort van Walen
- 31 Fort van Breendonk
- 32 Fort van Lizele
- 33 Fort van Bornem
- 34 Fort van Steendorp
- 35 Fort van Haasdonk

### Liège

- 1 Fort de Liers
- 2 Fort de Pontisse
- 3 Fort de Barchon
- 4 Fort d'Evegnée
- 5 Fort de Fléron
- 6 Fort de Chaudfontaine
- 7 Fort d'Embourg
- 8 Fort de Bonnelles
- 9 Fort de Flémalle
- 10 Fort de Hologne
- 11 Fort de Loncin
- 12 Fort de Lantin

Anvers



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- 1 Monument de Gembloux
- 2 Monument des facultés de Gembloux
- 3 Monument de Sombreffe
- 8 Monument de Boninne
- 9 Monument de Thon-Samson
- 10 Monument de Seilles
- 13 Monument de la collégiale
- 18 Monument provincial
- 21 Monument au Général Michel
- 22 Monument de Jambes
- 27 Monument aux combattants français
- 29 Monument aux martyres de Tamines
- 30 Monument au soldat Lefeuvre
- 32 Monument de Le Roux
- 33 Monument de Mettet
- 34 Monument d'Assesse
- 35 Monument aux martyrs de Spontin
- 36 Monument de Ciney
- 38 Monument de Rochefort
- 39 Monument de Leffe
- 41 Monument de l'Hôtel de Ville de Dinant
- 43 Monument de Hastière
- 46 Monument de Walcourt
- 47 Monument de Frasnes-lez-Couvin



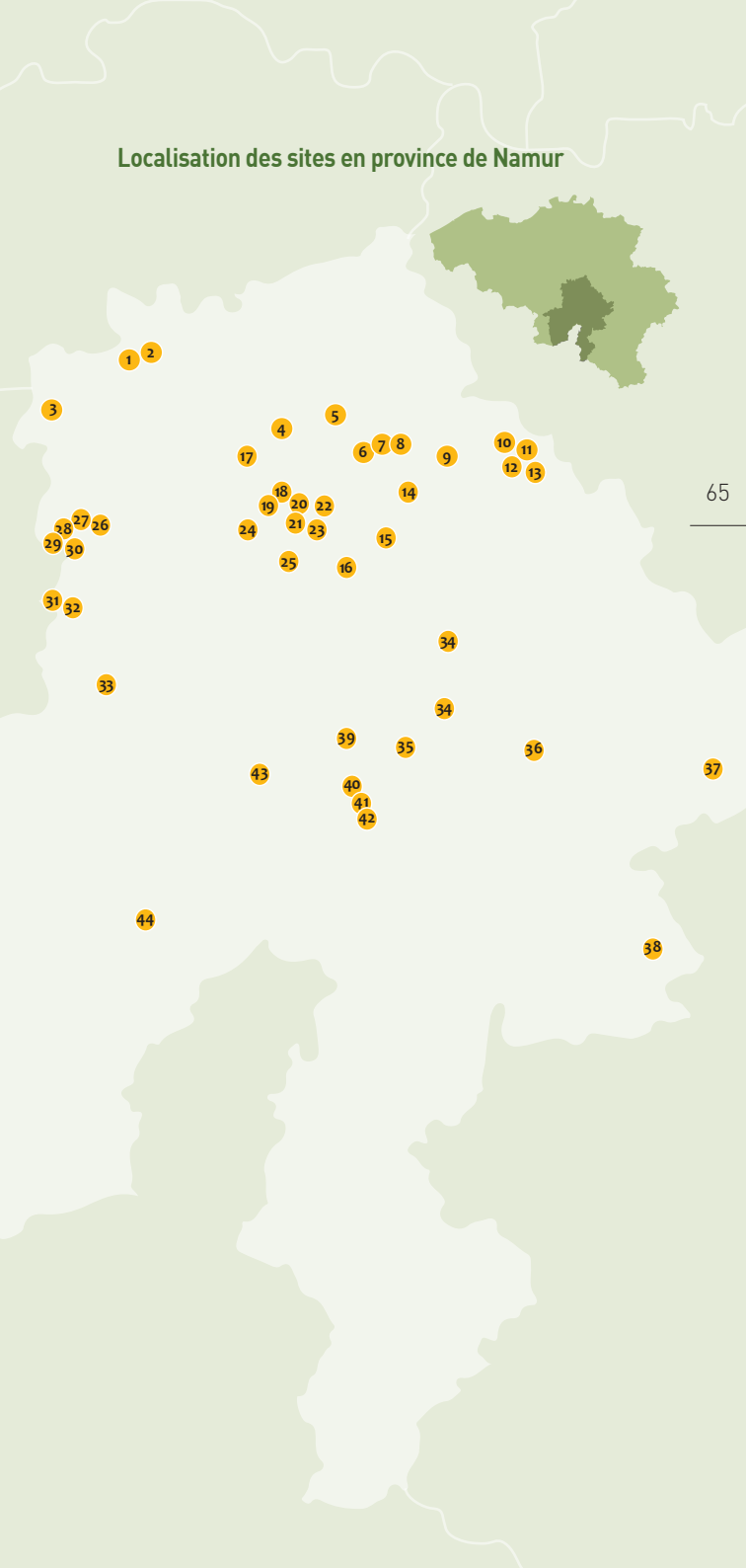
- 4 Fort d'Emines
- 5 Fort de Cognelée
- 7 Fort de Marchovelette
- 14 Fort de Maizeret
- 15 Fort d'Andoy
- 16 Fort de Dave
- 17 Fort de Malonne
- 24 Fort de Suarlée
- 25 Fort de Saint-Héribert



- 6 Cimetière militaire de Marchovelette
- 11 Cimetière des fusillés d'Andenne
- 19 Cimetière de Belgrade
- 26 Cimetière du phare breton
- 28 Cimetière des fusillés de Tamines
- 31 Cimetière militaire de la Belle-Motte
- 37 Cimetière des fusillés de Heure
- 44 Cimetière des fusillés de Surice
- 45 Cimetière militaire de Tarcienne
- 12 Plaque de la place des Tilleuls
- 20 Citadelle de Namur
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## NOTES







*Military Cemetery of the Breton Lighthouse, Auvelais*



[www.province.namur.be](http://www.province.namur.be)



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