

# Perspectives on Military Intelligence from the First World War to Mali

Floribert Baudet · Eleni Braat  
Jeffrey van Woensel · Aad Wever  
Editors

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Between Learning and Law



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# Foreword

World War I had already started when in the summer of 1914 a military intelligence service was established in The Netherlands. On 15 August 1914, the Supreme Commander of the Army and Navy, Lieutenant-General C.J. Snijders, gave 1st Lieutenant H.A.C. Fabius free rein to organize a military intelligence service making decisions as he thought fit. GS III, as this department was to be named, rapidly developed from a one-man intelligence bureau to a fully fledged military intelligence and security service. After the end of the war, the department continued its activities while adding the surveillance of domestic developments as ordered by the minister of Home Affairs.

On the occasion of this centenary, the Netherlands Defence Intelligence and Security Service (DISS) and the Netherlands Intelligence Studies Association (NISA) organized a two-day conference in Amsterdam on 18 and 19 September 2014 titled: *Telling Truth to Power. The Past, Present and Future of Military Intelligence*. The present volume contains a selection of papers presented at this conference, and of contributions by authors who were approached by the editorial board.

One century after the establishment of the DISS, the world has changed considerably: Twitter has replaced the telegraph and symbolizes both the globalization and the revolution in communication. National and international security have meanwhile become fully intertwined. The web of cooperation by military intelligence services with other services, but also with domestic actors from civilian society and in deployment areas abroad, has never been so closely woven as these days. Finding replies to present-day challenges and to wicked problems will remain challenging as one century ago. But we have advanced one century and are able to draw lessons from the past and strengthen confidence in military intelligence services.

I am convinced that this volume will inspire many readers when practising and studying military intelligence activities.

I would like to thank the NISA congress organization and all speakers for their contributions to the congress. Heartfelt thanks are also extended to the DISS for their generous support and assistance. Thanks are also owed to Ms. Gerda Ransdorp

of Fox-It cyber security company for her assistance in the organization. For the realization of this volume, I would like to express my thanks to NISA members Floribert Baudet, Eleni Braat, Jeffrey van Woensel and Aad Wever; the Veterans' Institute (VI) and the Faculty of Military Sciences of the Netherlands Defence Academy (FMW/NLDA); and Martin Elands (VI), Bob de Graaff and Paul Ducheine (FMW/NLDA) in particular for their willingness to enable some members of the editorial board to spend part of their office hours on this NISA volume.

Michael Kowalski  
Chairman, Netherlands Intelligence Studies Association

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## About the Editors

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