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YPRES AND THE FRANCO-BELGIAN BORDER
(17TH–18TH Century)
300th Anniversary of the Peace Treaties of Utrecht and Rastatt

Rik Opsommer
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PREFACE

It is well known that in the course of its history, Ypres has been occupied by several different invaders. The period of French domination is only one of these episodes, and one of the most recognisable in terms of the current form of the town. The fortifications around Ypres were erected in particular by Marshal Vauban, in the service of the French King Louis XIV.

The 18th century is far from being easy to understand historically, due to the large number of succeeding occupations. However, it is clear that one of the numerous peace treaties, in this case, the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, led to the division of the Westhoek. The border or “Schreve” which was then established went through the Flemish linguistic and cultural domain, so that the new border was long felt to be an artificial boundary. The territories conquered by France became French Flanders in which “Vlemsch” is still spoken today.

As alderwoman with responsibility for the archives, I am particularly happy that, 300 years after the Treaty of Utrecht, the municipal archives are able to contribute to the simple explanation of this difficult chapter of history. The collaboration with the archives of the Town of Dunkirk forms an important link in this respect. In order to retrace all of the events, Franco Flemish historical cooperation is not only invaluable today, but will also be so in the future.

In the autumn of 2013, the numerous archives which Ypres possesses concerning topic were presented in an exhibition. Moreover, a Seminar on 29th November 2013 gathered together eight international conference lecturers, who presented seminars concerning numerous new academic aspects with regard to the establishment of the border. The ambition of the archives of the town Ypres is also to promote the historical future of the (French and Flemish) Westhoek among the public at large. In any case, this French/English booklet is also an excellent point of departure for displaying the cultural wealth of our town archives outside of Flanders as well.

Eva Ryde
Alderwoman Archivist
INTRODUCTION

On 11th April 1713 a peace treaty was signed at Utrecht between France and the Dutch Republic. A similar treaty was signed between France and Austria at Rastatt (near Karlsruhe) on 6th March 1714. On 7th September 1714, France signed a peace treaty with the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation (a conglomeration of all of the German States) in Baden (near Zurich). Finally, on 15th November 1715, the Barrier Treaty was signed at Antwerp between the Dutch Republic, Great Britain and Austria. These three treaties form the basis of the modern Franco-Belgian border, while also being decisive for the history of Ypres in the 18th century. Ypres and the Westhoek as a whole had belonged to France since 1678 under the name of Maritime Flanders. Without the four treaties mentioned above, the town would probably have become a typical French provincial administrative town. Part of the Westhoek finally became French after 1713/1715.

Accomplishing the ground work for a precise history of this initial French period in Ypres, and the development of the Franco-Belgian border, is far from being an easy task, and at first sight appears to lack interest. However, it presents an incomparable opportunity for inter-border studies for both professional and local historians. From this point of view, the archives of the towns of Dunkirk and Ypres (Stadsarchief Ieper SAI) have decided to coordinate their public activities on the “border” topic. In addition to two international academic conferences in Dunkirk and Ypres, the archives of the town of Ypres have organised an exhibition entitled “The 300th Anniversary of the Peace Treaties of Utrecht and Rastatt – Ypres and the Franco-Belgian Border in the 17th and 18th Centuries”.

This booklet has been produced for the above-mentioned exhibition. The intention is to set out a detailed chronological overview of the history of the region in the period of Louis XIV. This involves the history of French expansion, wars, sieges, battles and peace treaties. The lesser-known aspect of diplomacy is not forgotten in this regard. Three local topics are highlighted. Between 1678 and 1713, Ypres was a French city with a history different from that of the rest of the Southern (or Meridional) Netherlands. French institutions were put in place in Ypres. As a result Ypres became a fortified French city, a situation which has left its traces upon the urban fabric of the town up to the present. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, Ypres also remained a border episcopal town.

Our archives department is eager to show a number of very precious documents from our collection. In spite of the disaster of 1914, the archives of the town of Ypres still possess important documents. In view of the nature of borders, we have selected a certain number of documents concerning France today.

This booklet is in no way intended to deal with each specific aspect of this fascinating topic in detail. It is only aimed at encouraging research. This booklet takes up several new illustrations. The latter were not to be seen in the exhibition, neither were they taken up in the original catalogue in Dutch.

It is our conviction that, by means of this initiative, as the historical capital of the Westhoek, Ypres, and the archives of the town of Ypres, will contribute to a better understanding of our Franco-Flemish or Flemish-French past.
Until 1795 the borders were different from those of today. The Westhoek was a part of the County of Flanders, one of the principalities of the Netherlands. Tournai and the Counties of Artois and Hainaut comprised other principalities neighbouring the Netherlands.

Since the Middle Ages, the County of Flanders had been legally and administratively organised into 19 castellanies (châtellenies) and a certain number of free, independent cities. Moreover, a certain number of castellanies were subdivided. For example, the castellany of Furnes was subdivided between the “Courts of Justice” of Noord-Vierschaar and Zuid-Vierschaar, while the castellany of Ypres comprised Oost-Ste-Elpa-Ambacht and West-Ste-Elpa-Ambacht, and the castellany of Courtrai (Kortrijk) included five different verges or “Roeden” (subdivisions) (including the Verge of Menen). The borders of the castellanies were very erratic. They did not correspond to village boundaries and there were many enclaves (areas of one castellany inside another castellany). Thus, Vlamertinge was partly in the castellany of Furnes and partly in that of Ypres, while large parts of Deûlémont belonged to the castellany of Ypres. The old borders between castellanies entirely disappeared following the French Revolution in 1795. They bear no relation to the current boundaries of Belgian provinces and French departments. However, the castellany boundaries form the basis of the current Franco-Belgian national border. Overall, the territory of the castellanies of Furnes, Ypres and Warneton are today in Belgium, and the castellanies of Bergues-Saint-Winock, Bourbourg, Cassel and Bailleul are in France.

The old village boundaries perfectly coincided with the parish boundaries. These boundaries survived the French Revolution. The borders of the modern administrative territorial divisions between villages and districts [municipalities] (before the amalgamations) coincide with those of the ancestral villages. Topographical references with a high level of precision concerning the borders first appeared in around 1800.
The castellany of Cassel by Vaast du Plouich and Hendrik Hondius, 1641. Westouter was a part of the castellany of Cassel until the Franco-Austrian agreements of 18th November 1779. (SAI, Maps and Plans 268)

The Castellanies of the Westhoek by Johan Willem Blaeu, 1645. (SAI, Maps and Plans 395)

The topographic maps drawn between 1771 and 1778 by the Austrian general Joseph de Ferraris (1726-1814) enable quite effective pinpointing of the village boundaries by means of numbers. Dikkebus has number 76, and Voormezele has number 77. (Brussels, Royal Library, Ferraris map)

Following page:

The Fortified Towns of the Southern (or “Meridional”) Netherlands by Cornelis Danckerts, circa 1700. Many of these fortified towns eventually became French. (SAI, Maps and Plans 215)
The Franco-Belgian border was the result of almost 80 years of war. In 1635, France declared war on Spain and French troops marched on Artois and Flanders. In the same year, the future Bishop of Ypres, Cornelius Jansenius, had already pointed out the menace represented by France in his “Mars Gallicus”. In 1639 and 1640, the Artesian towns of Hesdin and Arras were finally occupied by France. After the major French victory at Rocroi in 1643, numerous fortified towns of the Southwest of the County of Flanders were captured: Gravelines (1644), Cassel (1645, though only for a few months), Bourbourg (1645), Fort-Mardyck (1646), Dunkirk (10th October 1646), Bergues-Saint-Winock (1646), Furnes (1646), Courtrai / Kortrijk (1646) and Diksmuide (although only for a few months in 1647).

The Peace (Treaty) of Münster of 30th January 1648 between Spain and the Dutch Republic was of limited consolation for the Westhoek, in view of the continuation of the war between France and Spain. Ypres was captured on 29th May 1648 by Louis de Bourbon, Prince of Condé. The peace treaty with the Republic enabled Spain to deploy new troops in the Southwest of Flanders and renew its initiative. The Governor of the Spanish Netherlands, Archduke Leopold Wilhelm, recaptured Courtrai (1648) and also succeeded in capturing Ypres on 8th May 1649. In the following years, Furnes (1651), Bergues-Saint-Winock (1651), Bourbourg (1651), Gravelines (1652) and Dunkirk (16th September 1652) once again fell into Spanish hands.

After a few years of peace, the French renewed their attacks. Bourbourg was captured in 1657. Due in part to English support, they were victorious on 14th June 1658 at the Battle of the Dunes. In the same year Gravelines, Dunkirk (25th June), Diksmuide, Bergues-Saint-Winock, Fort de Knocke (at the confluence of the Yperlée canal and the Yser), Furnes, Menen and Oudenaarde were conquered. Ypres had to surrender to Turenne, Marshal of France, on 25th September 1658. Comines fell into the hands of the French in 1659. France was now in a strong position for negotiating a favourable peace with Spain.
French translation of “Mars Gallicus”. The late lamented Bishop of Ypres, Cornelius Jansenius (1585-1638), had written this satirical tract in 1635, under the pseudonym of Patrick Alexandre Armacanu. denouncing the bellicosity of France.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1637/ JANS)

The French finally captured Hesdin on 29th June 1639.

(SAI, Maps and Plans 407)
The castellany of Ypres had to contribute to paying for the accommodation of the soldiers for the approaching winter ("logement van volck van oorloghe voor de aenstaande winter") in spite of "the great devastation". The castellany was exempted from delivery of forage ("vrij ende exempt sijn van fouragieren ende leverijnge van fourrage"), 28th October 1649.

(SAI, Castellany of Ypres 1st series 36)

At the request of the commandants of the fortified city, the castellany of Ypres had to contribute to the cost of the restoration of the Messines gate and the Torhout gate by paying "an de annemers soo haest de wercken zullen volommen zijn" i.e. at the time of completion of the work, 4th May 1646.

(SAI, Castellany of Ypres 1st series 36)
The terms of the surrender imposed by the French general Louis de Bourbon, Prince of Condé (1621-1686), at the time of the capture of Ypres on 29th May 1648.
(SAI, Antique Engravings 949.33/IEPE/1648)

The fortified town of Gravelines was finally occupied by the French on 27th August 1658.
(SAI, Maps and Plans 376)
3. THE (PEACE) TREATY OF THE PYRENEES (1659)

France was in a position of strength enabling it to impose the Treaty of the Pyrenees upon Spain on 7th November 1659. A large number of French conquests were constitutionally recognised. France acquired the whole of Artois (Art. 35) with the exception of Aire-sur-la-Lys, Saint-Omer and their dependencies. Gravelines, the town and castellany of Bourbourg and the border fortress of Saint-Venant became French. (Art. 36). Moreover, the fortified towns of Le Quesnoy and Landrecies, in Hainaut, were definitively assigned to France (Art. 37).

The captured towns and castellanies of Furnes, Bergues-Saint-Winock and Ypres, as well as Diksmuide, Fort de Knocke, Menen, Oudenaarde, Comines and the border fortified towns of Merville (Mergem) and La Bassée were returned to Spain. (Art. 46). This treaty also arranged for the marriage of Louis XIV to the King of Spain’s daughter Maria Theresa on 9th June 1660, the latter renouncing her claims to Spanish territories in exchange for a considerable dowry (which was never paid).

Dunkirk, which had been given to the English in 1658 after its capture by the French, in accordance with a prior agreement between them, was bought back by Louis XIV on 27th October 1662.
An anonymous engraving of 1665 shows the Franco-Spanish peace negotiations prior to the Treaty of the Pyrenees.

It was agreed, on 8th September 1659, at Saint-Jean-de-Luz, that the Spanish would first evacuate Hesdin, while the French would leave Oudenarde, Diksmuide and Furnes (Veurne). Ypres would finally be returned to Spain.

The French only actually left the city on 3rd March 1660.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1665/z.n.)
Peace (Treaty) of the Pyrenees of 7th November 1659. In accordance with articles 36 and 37, France’s acquisitions included Gravelines, Bourbourg, Le Quesnoy and Landrecies. The fortified towns of Bergues-Saint-Winock and La Bassée, which had been captured by the French, were returned to Spain (Art.39).

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1660/z.n.)
Le Quesnoy finally became French territory in 1659.
(SAI, Maps and Plans 402)

Dunkirk finally became French territory in 1662.
(SAI, Maps and Plans 411)

Medallion of Louis XIV following the repurchase of Dunkirk on 27th October 1662.
(SAI, Gravures anciennes 736/1691/MENE)
4. THE WAR OF DEVOLUTION AND THE TREATY OF AIX-LA-CHAPELLE (1667-1668)

On the death of the Philip IV, King of Spain, on 17th September 1665, Louis XIV went so far as to demand part of the inheritance and the payment of the dowry, in the name of his wife, by right of devolution. Maria Theresa was one of the daughters of Philip IV, born of his first marriage. The new King of Spain, Charles II, was a son born of his second marriage. The right of devolution meant that the daughter of a first marriage took legal precedence over any children born from subsequent marriages. War broke out in 1667 and the French military campaign, principally directed by Turenne, met with success. The French conquered Bergues-Saint-Winock, Furnes (Veurne), Douai, Lille, Tournai, Menen, Courtrai and Oudenaarde. Louis XIV was only obliged to return to the negotiating table by the Triple Alliance of 23rd January 1668, set up by the Dutch Republic, England and Sweden against France.

Under the terms of the Peace Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (2nd May 1668) Louis XIV was able to retain all of the listed captured towns (including their castellanies) (Art. 4). Wervicq and Comines-Nord remained Spanish. In the Westhoek, a strange geographical arrangement was put in place in which the towns of Aire-sur-la-Lys, Saint-Omer, Cassel, Bailleul, Ypres and Warneton (including their castellanies), as well as the towns of Nieuwpoort, Lo and Poperinge, remained in the hands of the Spanish. On the other hand, by annexation of the castellanies of Courtrai (Kortrijk) and Oudenaarde, France extended to the outskirts of Ghent. The principal Spanish defences in the Westhoek henceforth extended from Nieuwpoort to Ypres, via Fort de Knocke and Diksmuide.

The conclusion of a succinct peace treaty such as that of Aix-la-Chapelle was relatively simple. However, the implementation thereof was inherently more difficult. There was uncertainty with regard to the precise line of demarcation of the border and of numerous enclaves. The proper legal definition of the adjectives attached to the towns such as “appurtenances, dependencies and annexes” led to great difficulties. For this reason Franco-Spanish discussions were held at Lille, from 23rd November 1668 until 16th January 1672, in order to settle these problems as a whole. The outbreak of the Franco-Dutch War meant that the results of these consultations were minimal.
On 2nd May 1667 the aldermen of the castellany of Ypres conducted an inquiry into the “nopende dexcessen ghecommitteert bij de ruyterie ligghende in guarnisoen binnen der stede van Ipre”, that is to say the excesses within the castellany attributable to the cavalrymen garrisoned in Ypres. Pieter Bouckaert and Jacques van Male, both of whom resided at Krommenelst in Vlamertinge, describe the carnage wrought by the soldiers.

(SAI, Castellany of Ypres 6th series 489)
Louis XIV conquered Oudenaarde on 30th July 1667. Painting by the Court painter Adam Frans van der Meulen (1632–1690).
(SAI, Maps and Plans 335)
The French occupied Lille on 27th August 1667. After the Peace Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle, Vauban erected a citadel there. (SAI, Maps and Plans 404)

The aldermen of the castellany of Ypres grant a contribution levied for the four commandants of the fortified city of Ypres. They had to make sure that the troops did not engage in any misconduct within the castellany. (SAI, Castellany of Ypres 6th series 2754)
Peace was short-lived, since Louis XIV decided to devote his attention to the Dutch Republic. In 1672, Louis XIV began to march upon the Republic via Liège; however, his advance was halted. From 1673 the theatre of operations shifted to the Spanish Netherlands, since Spain allied itself with the Republic in 1671. Finally, the whole of Europe threw itself into the conflict. Brandenburg-Prussia, Austria and Great Britain formed an alliance with the Dutch Republic and Spain. Sweden allied itself with the French.

In spite of their numerous enemies rallying around the Dutch Stadtholder, William III of Orange, the French won several victories. In 1676 they conquered Aire-sur-la-Lys and Condé and, at the beginning of 1677, Valenciennes and Cambrai. At the Battle of Cassel, on 10th and 11th April 1677, Louis XIV’s brother, Philippe I, Duke of Orléans, crushed William III’s forces. In total, there were more than 60,000 soldiers on the ground, with the total number of dead and wounded coming to around 12,000 men. Saint-Omer (1677) and Ghent (1678) fell into the hands of the French, and Ypres became the next target. Between 14th and 25th March, Louis XIV besieged and finally captured the city.

The British diplomat Sir William Temple (1628-1699), who took part in the Peace Congresses of Aix-la-Chapelle and Nijmegen, published an account of the Franco-Dutch War at the end of his life.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1693/TEMP)
Passport authorising travel both in the Southern Netherlands and in the Spanish and French territories, granted on 23rd September 1677 by the Spanish Governor Carlos de Aragón de Gurrea, Etienne du Retz, tax collector of the Estates of Lille.

(SAI, Acquisitions of Ypres 343)

Louis XIV conquered Cambrai on 19th April 1677. Painting by the Court painter Adam Frans van der Meulen (1632–1690).

(SAI, Maps and Plans 418)
In 1865, at the initiative of Philippe de Smyttere (1800-1886) Noordpeene, obelisk was erected commemorating the Battle of Cassel.
(P. DE SMYTTERE, La bataille du Val-de-Cassel de 1677, ses préludes et ses suites... ["The Battle of Val-de-Cassel of 1677, its preludes and results..."]) Hazebrouck, 1865)
The conditions of the capitulation of Ypres on 25th March 1678 were based on those of 27th of February 1658. The text erroneously mentions 1659.

(SAI, Castellany of Ypres 6th series 386)

The historian Casimir Freschet (1640-1720) wrote a chronicle of the period between the Treaty of the Pyrenees and the Peace Treaties of Utrecht and Rastatt. For the year 1678, he mentions the capture of Ghent and Ypres by Louis XIV.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1715/FRES)
6. THE PEACE TREATIES OF NIJMEGEN (1678-1679)

In the 17th and 18th centuries belligerents often commenced negotiations without the prior calling of a truce. Peace negotiations were thus conducted from 1676 onwards. Because of the consolidation of his military position, on 9th April 1678 Louis XIV set out his conditions to be followed for the establishment of the peace treaty.

Exactly as in the case of the Peace of Westphalia 30 years earlier, separate treaties were signed between the various different States at Nijmegen between 10th August 1678 and 2nd October 1679. For the Southern Netherlands, the treaty of 17th September 1678 between France and Spain was disastrous. The French acquired Valenciennes in Hainaut, the border town of Condé, Aire-sur-la-Lys and Saint-Omer in Artois (Art. 12).

In the County of Flanders, the Spanish Netherlands lost the towns and castellanies of Ypres, Bailleul, Warneton and Cassel, as well as the towns of Wervicq, Poperinge and Fort de Knocke (Art. 11-12). Nieuwpoort obtained special status and continued to be a part of the Spanish Netherlands (Art. 10). The castellanies of Oudenaarde and Courtrai (Kortrijk) were returned to Spain, without the Verge (subdivision) of Menen, however, which remained French. (Art. 4). France evacuated a number of occupied towns, such as Ghent (Art. 5).

Article 14 expressly provided that enclaves and villages close to the border could be exchanged: “of course we may agree upon the said exchanges”. Two months after the signature of the treaty, commissaries met in order to specify the borderline, discuss these enclaves and distribute the debts pertaining to the territories exchanged (Art. 15). Spain and France negotiated these matters at the town hall of Courtrai between 20th December 1679 and 22nd March 1682, without however reaching conclusive results.
Louis XIV set out his conditions for acceptance of peace on 9th April 1678. The Dutch Republic replied positively on 25th May 1678, and expressed its “sincere intention to establish the said Peace”.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1678/z.n.)
On 10th August 1678 France and the Dutch Republic established a peace treaty as well as a trade treaty.
(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1678/z.n.)

The engraver and poet Jan Goeree (1670-1731) published a work on the life of Louis XIV on the basis of the medals struck depicting the latter.
(SAI, Antique Engravings 737/1712/GOER)
After the Peace Treaties of Nijmegen, numerous Flemish fortified towns once again bore the French blazon: amongst others Cassel, Saint-Omer, Aire-sur-la-Lys, Ypres, Bailleul, Poperinge, Wervicq and Warneton.

(SAI, Maps and Plans 122)
Between 1678 and 1713, Ypres was a French city. Its institutions gradually changed to the French model. In 1668 a “Sovereign Council” had been established at Tournai as the Supreme Court for the majority of the conquered territories. From 1679, the institutions of the City and Castellany of Ypres also came within the jurisdiction of this court, which bore the name of the “Parliament of Tournai” from 1686 onwards. Dunkirk, Bourbourg and Gravelines alone came within the jurisdiction of the “Council of Artois”. In January 1693, in spite of the protests of the local government of Ypres, the French took the further step of establishing a “Bailiwick and Royal Seat”. This was a court which came between the Parliament and the local courts. The jurisdiction of this institution was broadened in March 1698. In April 1704 it was raised to the status of “Présidial (judicial tribunal) of Flanders” After 1713, the “Présidial” was moved to Bailleul.

The King’s principal administrative and judicial watchdogs were the Intendants of Maritime Flanders, whose seat was initially at Dunkirk, then undoubtedly at Ypres from 1680. The successive Intendants were François Demadrys (1680-1699), Charles-Honoré Barentin (1699-1705), Charles-Étienne Maingart de Bernières (1705-1708) and Claude-Louis Le Blanc (1708-1716). Overall, the territory of Maritime Flanders corresponded to the seven castellanies of the Westhoek (Ypres, Furnes, Warneton, Bergues-Saint-Winock, Bourbourg, Cassel and Bailleul).

From 1678, a Royal office of tabellion was exercised in Ypres, which had been created in 1675. This was a specific French form of notarial office, which was previously unknown in the Southern Netherlands, in which the “tabelionnat” consisted of the filing of instruments by notaries, within their jurisdiction.

The numerous orders sent by the central government in Ypres were, in general, printed in French. The old recognised common (customary) laws, drafted in Dutch, were translated into French for all of the conquered territories.

From 1684, there was a separate administration for the management of the major military roads and embankments between Ypres and Dunkirk. Its accounts were drafted in French. The postal services were also governed by Royal Ordinance.

The introduction of French customs also began at the cultural level. Thus, in 1697 the Alpha and Omega Guild of rhetoricians published an ambitious eulogy in French, on the subject of Louis XIV.

French propaganda in honour of the Sun King was manifested in particular by the erection of a new Fountain, with a statue of the King, on the market square of Ypres, as well as by a certain number of symbols and texts displayed on the gates of the city of Ypres.
Letter from M Le Peletier des Forts to the intendant Charles-Honoré Barentin (1667-1705) concerning the projected setting up of the Présidial and the salaries of the personnel, 31st March 1704.

(SAI, Castellany of Ypres 1st series 14)

The Royal Edict governing the establishment of a Présidial (judicial tribunal) in Ypres and Valenciennes, April 1704.

(SAI, Castellany of Ypres 1st series 14)

Letter from M Le Peletier des Forts to the intendant Charles-Honoré Barentin (1667-1705) concerning the projected setting up of the Présidial and the salaries of the personnel, 31st March 1704.

(SAI, Castellany of Ypres 1st series 14)
Claude-Louis Le Blanc (1669-1728) was the intendant of Maritime Flanders from 1708 to 1716. He then became French Secretary of State for War for some time.

(SAI, Portraits)

Claude-Louis Le Blanc (1669-1728), intendant of Maritime Flanders, proclaims a Royal Ordinance. No grain was to be bought or sold, except on the public markets.

(SAI, Documents 344)
Letter of thanks from Madame Marie-Reine de Montchal, widow of Charles-Honoré Barentin (1667-1705), Intendant of Maritime Flanders, to the town councillor Furnes, following the condolences which she received after the death of her husband, 27th September 1705. (SAI, Acquisitions of Ypres 324)
The intendant Charles-Étienne Maignart de Bernières (1667-1717) thanks the town and castellany of Furnes for the congratulations that he received on the occasion of his appointment as intendant of Maritime Flanders on 21st September 1705.

(SAI, Acquisitions of Ypres 321)
Invoice submitted by Alonse Laurens de Brier, tax collector for the roadway from Dunkirk to Bergues-Saint-Winock, to the intendant François Demadrys, 10th March 1689.
(SAI, Castellany of Ypres, Steenwegen 59)
Creation of an official post office in the street of Ypres, Boterstraat (Rue au Beurre), supplemented by the officially approved list of post workers, 1682.

(SAI, Castellany of Ypres 1st series 23)
Engraving of 1694 of the Edict concerning the creation of the notarial office of tabellion under the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Tournai in April 1675. The establishment of six Royal notarial offices was planned for the town of Furnes, and the same applied for the castellany of Furnes.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 34/(09)/1694)
Legal instrument drawn up for the tabellion of Ypres and the Royal notary Jean-Baptiste Stove, 4th June 1696.
(SAI, Acquisitions of Ypres 117)
A Fountain was built in honour of the Sun King in Ypres in 1689.
(J. VEREECKE, Histoire militaire de la ville d’Ypres... ["Military History of the Town of Ypres..."] Ypres, 1858)

An inscription in honour of the Sun King appeared on the Menen gate of Ypres.
(J. VEREECKE, Histoire militaire de la ville d’Ypres... ["Military History of the Town of Ypres..."] Ypres, 1858)

Around 1688 the Diksmuide gate was endowed with the coat of arms and emblem of the Sun King.
(J. VEREECKE, Histoire militaire de la ville d’Ypres... ["Military History of the Town of Ypres..."] Ypres, 1858)
On the death of Charles II, Elector Palatine, in 1685, Louis XIV demanded a share of the inheritance. In order to counter a possible French attack, Spain, Austria and Sweden founded the League of Augsburg, which the Dutch Republic and England subsequently joined. The Dutch Stadtholder, William III of Orange, became King of England by marriage in 1689. In 1688, Louis XIV besieged the Palatinate. Although there were numerous movements of troops in Flanders, no major battles or conquests of towns occurred in the Westhoek. The principal French line of defence followed the Yser via Ypres, Comines and Menen to Espierres and was hardly broken. The French nevertheless recaptured Courtrai (Kortrijk) in 1689.

The war ended in a status quo in 1697. Several peace treaties were established at Ryswick on 20th September 1697. The Franco-Spanish Treaty of 20th September 1697 provided that the castellany of Courtrai was to be evacuated by the French (Art. 8). Article 10 provided for a separate conference between France and Spain concerning the demarcation of the border and the possible exchange of enclaves. If the two parties were unable to reach agreement, the Dutch Republic would arbitrate.

The conference which followed in Lille concerning the borders, between 26th June 1698 and 3rd December 1699, established agreement on a number of points. Thus, the final treaty provided that the whole of the wood of Houthulst should be allotted to France, despite the fact that a part of the latter fell within the castellany of Bruges (Art. 1) and an arrangement was found, although the newly French territories had to contribute to the payment of the outstanding debts of the County of Flanders (Art. 10-11). Subsequently, in 1698, the Dutch Republic and Spain agreed that the South of the United Provinces could constitute a “barrier”. Dutch troops were stationed in eight towns including Nieuwpoort, Courtrai, Oudenaarde and Mons.

Louis XIV tears up the Nijmegen peace treaty. From and anonymous Italian treatise on French ambitions and machinations, 1690. (SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1690/z.n.)
Regulations issued by François Demadrys (1649-1699), intendant of Maritime Flanders, concerning the supply of wood and candles which had to be present in each watch post throughout the length of the lines from Fort de Knocke to Ypres, and from Ypres to Lys, 31st October 1696. (SAI, Castellany of Ypres, temporary number BP6724)

Letter of 1694 by Denis de Banne-d’Avesnan (1639-1707), military commander of Furnes, to the persons in charge of the line of defence between Fintele, Lo, Fortem, Adinkerke and Zuydcoote. They can only grant passage to residents of the castellany of Furnes and to persons with special authorisation. (SAI, Acquisitions of Ypres 355)
The French lines of defence around Menen and Rekkem in 1692-1693. Detail from a map published by Nicolaas Visscher in Amsterdam, circa 1700.
(SAI, Maps and Plans 4172)
Eulogy to Louis XIV following the Peace Treaty of Ryswick written by the Alpha and Omega Guild of rhetoricians of Ypres, 1697.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 949.33/1EPE/1697)
The Huis ter Nieuwburg in Ryswick ("House at New Borough") where peace treaties between several States were signed between September and October 1697.
(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1699/BERN)

Map printed in Paris by Pierre Moullart-Sanson, setting out the French military sites in the Southern Netherlands between 1690 and 1695.
(SAI, Maps and Plans 396)
Article 8 of the Franco-Spanish Treaty of Ryswick of 20th September 1697 stipulated that the castellany of Courtrai was to be evacuated by the French. Article 10 provided for a follow-up conference: “that Commissaries shall be appointed ... in different places, both in order to settle to which of the two Kings the said 82 Cities, Towns ... shall belong and remain and to agree upon the exchanges to be made concerning enclaved Places and Villages...”.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1698/z.n.)
Letter of 2nd February 1698 at Dunkirk by Vive-Fontaine, a French official. He informs an administration, which is not specifically named, that he cannot take part in the official proclamation of the Treaty of Ryswick due to the fact that he has to allocate work on the Ypres line of defence.

(SAI, Acquisitions of Ypres 356)
The War of the Spanish Succession concerned the succession of the deceased King of Spain, Charles II (1661-1700), who died without heir in 1700. According to his will, the Spanish Kingdom was to devolve to Philip, Duke of Anjou (1683-1746), a grandson of Louis XIV. However, France and Spain could not be united under a single monarch. Louis XIV paid no heed to this clause and invaded the Southern Netherlands in 1701. The Emperor of Austria, Leopold I (1640-1705) now demanded the throne of Spain for his younger son Charles (1685-1740). Austria, Great Britain, the Dutch Republic, Savoy, Prussia and numerous other German principalities were grouped together on the same side. Their principal enemies were France, Spain, Bavaria and Cologne. Battle raged throughout Europe and even in the colonies. The principal Allied military commanders were Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663-1736), for Austria, and John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough (1650-1722), for Great Britain. France was defended by Duke Claude Louis Hector de Villars (1653-1734).

After the bloody Battles of Blenheim / Höchstädt (near Augsburg) in 1704 (30,000 dead and wounded) and Ramillies in 1706 (17,000 dead and wounded), the course taken by the war was clearly in the Allies' favour. Moreover, in 1706 Eugène de Savoie (1663-1716) henceforth became Governor of the Southern Netherlands, conquered by the Allies.

The bloody Battle of Malplaquet (near Maubeuge) in 1709 (32,000 dead and wounded) ended in a Pyrrhic victory for the Allies. When the new Emperor Joseph I (1678-1711), a son of Leopold I, died in 1711, he was succeeded by his brother, the above-mentioned Charles VI. The stability of Europe was thus threatened by an Austro-Spanish monarch. Great Britain henceforth began to progressively withdraw from the war. At the Battle of Denain (near Valenciennes) (1712) Marshal De Villars defeated the Austrians and the Dutch, thus leading to a military balance. At the instigation of Great Britain, peace negotiations began in 1712 at Utrecht.
Francis Eugène de Savoie-Carignan (1663-1736) was the most important Austrian commander of his time.
(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1738/PASS)

The death of the ailing Charles II of Spain (1661-1700) led to the War of the Spanish Succession.
(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1728/KASC)
At the Battle of Malplaquet on 11th September, Prince Eugene of Savoy and John Churchill won a small, bitterly fought victory against the French Marshal De Villars.

( Sai, Antique Engravings 830/1701/WEIS)

At the Battle of Blenheim on 13th August 1704, Eugene of Savoy and John Churchill won a victory over the French Marshal Camille d’Hostun, Comte de Tallard (1652-1728).

( Sai, Antique Engravings 940/1750/DEMA)

Play by Christian Weise (1642-1708) concerning the adversaries involved in the threatened war. The States are characterised as follows: “French deceit, Spanish superstition, English credulity, Dutch simpleness”.

( Sai, Antique Engravings 830/1701/WEIS)

Engraving of a medal commemorating the Battle of Blenheim with the portraits of Prince Eugene of Savoy and John Churchill, 13th August 1704.

( Sai, Antique Engravings 940/1750/DEMA)

At the Battle of Blenheim on 13th August 1704, Eugene of Savoy and John Churchill won a victory over the French Marshal Camille d’Hostun, Comte de Tallard (1652-1728).

( Sai, Antique Engravings 940/1750/DEMA)

Engraving of a medal commemorating the Battle of Malplaquet with the portraits of Prince Eugene of Savoy and John Churchill, 11th September 1704.

( Sai, Antique Engravings 940/1750/DEMA)

At the Battle of Malplaquet on 11th September, Prince Eugene of Savoy and John Churchill won a small, bitterly fought victory against the French Marshal De Villars.

( Sai, Antique Engravings 940/1750/DEMA)
John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough (1650-1722), an ancestor of Winston Churchill, was the principal British military protagonist of his time. (J.-F.-H. DU TEMS, Histoire de Jean Churchill... [“History of John Churchill”] Paris, 1868)

Claude Louis Hector de Villars (1653-1734) was the principal French commander during the War of the Spanish Succession. (SAI, Antique Engravings 944.02/1784-1785/DEV1)
After The Battle of Ramillies in 1706, the theatre of operations shifted to Flanders. Ostend, Courtrai (Kortrijk) and Menen fell into the hands of the Allies in 1706. In 1708, the French attempted to march North through Flanders. They temporarily captured Bruges and Ghent. However, they suffered heavy defeats at the Battles of Oudenaarde (11th July) (18,000 dead and wounded) and Wijnendale (28th September), after which the Allies even reconquered Lille. Nieuwpoort, Fort de Knocke and Ypres henceforth constituted the principal French line of defence. In the 1709, the Allies succeeded in conquering Tournai, Douai, Saint-Venant, Béthune and Aire-sur-la-Lys. Ypres thus indisputably became the most important French bastion in Flanders.

The withdrawal of British troops, the French victory at Denain (Valenciennes) and the French re-conquest of Douai in 1712 led to a military status quo. The final act of war in Flanders was a raid on Fort de Knocke by the Allied troops and the capture of this fortified town on 6th September 1712.

During the war, the belligerents took specific economic measures, e.g. with regard to the exportation of goods and the taxation of land in conquered territories.

For the Year 1706 Jan Fransois De Flo obtained a reduction of one third in the price of his agricultural lease of £465, 12 s. payable to the Maison-Dieu des Grands Malades (“Hospital for the Seriously Ill”) of the Saint-Jean Hospital. De Flo had an agricultural lease to work a wood of alders of 8 arpents and had suffered damage caused by the garrison of Ypres “welcke schade gedaen door het garnisoen van Ipre”. Although the French king paid an indemnity for this damage, the Maison-Dieu received a third thereof, on 1st September 1706. (SAI, CPAS Historical Archives (Archives anciennes) 633)
Under the commandment of the Dutch general Ernst Willem van Salisch (1649-1711), the Allies conquered Menen on 22nd August 1706. Extract from a map by Eugène Frickx, 1706. (SAI, Maps and Plans 306)

Ordinance by Charles-Étienne Maignart de Bernières (1667-1717), intendant of Maritime Flanders, concerning the heating and lighting of watch posts along the lines from Fort de Knocke to Ypres, and from Ypres to Lys, 29th October 1707. (SAI, Castellany of Ypres, temporary number BP6724)
At the Battle of Oudenaarde on 11th July 1708, John Churchill and Eugene of Savoy won a victory over the French, commanded by Marshal Louis-Joseph de Bourbon, Duke of Vendôme (1654-1712). Drawing Published in Augsburg by Johan Stridbeck, circa 1710.
(SAI, Maps and Plans 252)

Letter and Ordinance by the commander of the fortified city of Ypres, Lieutenant-General Claude Hatte de Chevilly (1643-1722). An escort had to be organised for a convoy due to go from Furnes to Dunkirk with foodstuffs.
(SAI, Acquisitions of Ypres 322)
The siege and capture of Lille by John Churchill and Eugene of Savoy, 12th August – 8th December 1708. Drawing by Claude Du Bosc, circa 1735.

For the Year 1708, Jan Francois De Flo obtained a reduction (£374) of one third of the price of his agricultural lease for a wood of poplars in Saint-Jean. This was due to the fact that troops had camped, destroyed and taken away his crops: “de vijantsche trouppen die t'sijnen hove gecampeert laeghen ende sijnen oegst verwoest ende getransporteert hebben”.

(SAI, Maps and Plans 184)

(SAI, CPAS Historical Archives (Archives anciennes) 633)
Ordinance issued by the intendant Charles-Étienne Maignart de Bernières calling for the listing of property located in Maritime Flanders belonging to Dutch nationals residing in Menen, Tournai and Lilloise Flanders (Walloon Flanders). The Ordinance was a response to a similar measure taken by the Allies concerning the property of French nationals in the conquered territories of Menen, Tournai and Lilloise Flanders, 16th December 1709.

(SAI, Documents 362)

At the Battle of Wijnendale on 28th September 1708, the British Major-General John Webb (1667-1724) defeated the French Lieutenant-General Charles La Mothe-Houdancourt (1643-1728). Drawing by Claude Du Bosc, circa 1735.

(SAI, Maps and Plans 183)
On 27th November 1708, under the direction of John Churchill and Eugene of Savoy, the Allied troops headed for the Scheldt via Gavere and Kerkhove. Drawing by Paul Decker, circa 1750.
(SAI, Maps and Plans 354)

List of the number of officers and soldiers present in the French fortifications between Ypres and Comines, circa 1710.
(SAI, Castellany of Ypres, temporary number BP6724)
Claude-Louis Le Blanc (1669-1728), intendant of Maritime Flanders, proclaims a Royal Ordinance prohibiting exportation of animals, 2nd July 1711.
(SAI, Documents 363)

The French began demolishing the fortifications at the end of the War of the Spanish Succession. Publication by Claude Le Blanc, intendant of Maritime Flanders, stipulating that on 11th June 1711 the work of demolishing the fortifications along the canal of Lo and Zillebeke will be allocated. 3rd June 1712.
(SAI, Documents 311)
The bailiff and aldermen of Messines drew up a list of (dead) horses provided for the purposes of war: “Nombre van de voornomde ghecreveerde peerden bedraghende 6 peerden”. The horses were killed at Kemmel, Cambrai, Le Quesnoy, Lille, Humerouille and near Saint-Thomas (probably Saint-Omer).
(SAJ, Castellany of Ypres 6th series 2734)
The warring parties began to engage in peace negotiations at Utrecht, although battle continued. At the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries the technique was developed of common or separate negotiations in the same town between envoys from different States, who at the same time remained in contact with their homelands by means of letters. The international diplomatic language increasingly came to be French (though not exclusively). At the same time there emerged specialised literature on international law. In addition, the first manuals appeared describing the natural conduct of good diplomats. In the diplomatic environment, rank and etiquette were highly important. The developing press gave reports on diplomatic initiatives. The treaties and other information published concerning the peace conferences were commented on and analysed after the event.

Dutch translation of 1705 of “De iure belli ac pacis” (1625) by Hugo Grotius (1583-1645). This work constitutes the basis of modern international public law.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 34/(09)/1705)
L'AMBASSADEUR ET SES FONCTIONS
PAR MONSIEUR DE WICQUEFORT
Conseiller aux Conseils d'État & Privé du Duc de Brunswick & Lunebourg Zelle &c.
DERNIÈRE ÉDITION,
Augmentée des REFLEXIONS sur les MEMOIRES
pour les Ambassadeurs, de la REponce à l'Auteur.
ET DU DISCOURS HISTORIQUE de l'ELECTION
de l'Empereur, & des Électeurs
par le même Auteur.
PREMIÈRE PARTIE.

À COLOGNE,
Chez PIERRE MARTEAU.
1680.
Jacques Bernard (1658-1718), a Huguenot who had fled from France, described the rules for the movement of the negotiators' vehicles at the time of the peace negotiations at Ryswick in 1697. His work also includes a plan of the premises where the negotiations took place and the places of residence of the delegations. Bernard subsequently became a professor at Leiden. (SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1699/BERN)
Letter from the High-Ranking French Diplomat Jean-Baptiste Colbert de Torcy (1665-1746) to Eugene of Savoy, 2nd June 1709.

The French King rejected a peace proposal put forward at The Hague. Colbert de Torcy expresses the hope that “we will meet with more propitious times for the negotiation of a Peace Treaty, if necessary for the whole of Europe”. The author De la Torre is probably a pro-Habsburg Spanish diplomat.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1721-1725/DELA)
Notwithstanding the war, the belligerents nevertheless established agreements. On 7th May 1712, Herbert Briell, in the name of the Dutch Republic, and Jan Coce and François Remacle de Draeck, in the name of the castellanies of French Flanders, established an agreement concerning the sum payable by French Flanders has a share of the total contribution of Flanders between 15th May 1712 and 14th May 1713. (SAI, Castellany of Ypres ist series 15)
In the course of the Utrecht negotiations, Dunkirk was at the centre of discussion in Great Britain. Satirical tract by the British politician Richard Steele (1672-1729).

(SAI, Antique Engravings 944.28/IEPE/1713)

The correspondence of Sir William Temple, the English Ambassador at The Hague, was translated into French and published in London.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1700/TEMP)
Between 1692 and 1728 the Moetjens family in Nijmegen and The Hague published “Historical Letters Containing the Most Important Events Taking Place in Europe” several times a year. These were written by the exiled Huguenot Jacques Bernard. In August 1713, numerous ambassadors found themselves at The Hague for the subsequent continuation of initiatives concerning the Utrecht peace treaties.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1692-1728/BERN)
Lettres Hétéroines.

d'honneur à cette Ambassade par sa Noblesse que par son Grand Genie, travaillé conjointement avec Mr. le Duc d'OffINS, à perfectionner le Traité de Paix qu'on est devoir être signé par L. H. P. aussi tôt que S. M. C. aura renvoyé le dernier Épreuve qui est allée à Madrid, pour avoir le Consiètement de ce Monarque, sur quelques Articles dont on n'eu pas encore convenu dans les Conférences d'Utrecht.

Mr. le Marquis d'Ambigni, fort estimé des plus habiles Ministres d'État, & chargé des Affaires de Mad. la Duchesse des Ursins, qui est dans la Consideration qu'elle mérite à la Cour de Madrid, est souvent en Conférence avec des Seigneurs de la Régence de ces Provinces, & avec plusieurs Plénipotentiaires, de même qu'avec ceux d'Espagne, dont l'Embassade est d'autant plus Illustre & Magnifique, qu'on y voit assis parmi avec beaucoup d'Elan, Mr. le Duc d'Airi Grand d'Espagne, & Mrs. les Marquis Grilloca, & Imperiali, avec beaucoup d'autres Personnes de Distingtion, qu'ils trouvent quelquefois sous ensemble chez Mr. le Comte de Stratton, premier Plénipotentiaire d'Angleterre, qui donne des Bals & des Colations fort splendides, où se rendent aussi les autres Ambassadeurs, dont les bornes de cette Lettre ne me permettent pas de vous parler.

Mons d'Aout, 1713.

Les maintenant, comme je le soussais, pour vous faire publiquement leurs Meritissima particuler, & leurs Negociations.

Les Traitez de Paix entre l'Espaigne & la Grande Bretagne, & entre cette première Couronne & le Duc de Savoye, furent signés le 15. du mois dernier, suivant l'avis que L. H. P. en recueil dans Utrecht, le même jour.

Depuis que les États Généraux ont nommé Mr. Buys, pour Ambassadeur de L. H. P. en France, il est aussi choisi Mr. de Goltinga, pour y aller en la même Qualité; on prépare la Maison du Comte d'Athos pour y loger Mr. de Charenceau, Ambassadeur de cette Couronne, qui a été faîte qu'il le renverse en cette Ville le mois prochain.

Mr. de Meynenshagen, alain délivré les Lettres de Créance, en qualité d'Envoit Extraordinaire du Roi de Prusse, fut complément fur cela, au commencement de ce mois, par les autres Ministres Etrangers.

Mr. le Comte Pallions Minisire du Pepe, est parti pour Bruxelles, d'où il ira à Paris, & Mr. le Comte Maffei, Ministre du Duc de Savoye, est parti pour la Cour d'Angleterre; Mr. Melletade est à Paris doit retourner à Turin, & le Marquis de Borgo continuera sa Résidence ici au Nom de S. A. Roi

Le Chevalier Rouxain, Procureur de
In separate peace agreements, Spain, France, Great Britain, Savoy and the Dutch Republic signed the treaties of Utrecht on 11th April 1713. Philip V was able to retain the throne of Spain, but the French and Spanish Crowns could not be unified.

According to the treaty established between Louis XIV and the Dutch Republic, France was to hand over the towns and castellanies of Furnes, Ypres, Warneton and Tournai, as well as the town and Verge of Menen, to the Southern Netherlands (Art. 11-12). The border followed the course of the Lys at Warneton, Comines and Wervicq, and the Lys was freely navigable upstream to the mouth of the Deûle (Art. 13). Artois, and the cities and castellanies of Bourbourg, Bergues-Saint-Winock, Cassel, Bailleul, Lille, Douai and Orchies, were finally attributed to France (Art. 15). The Franco-British treaty provided that all of the fortifications of Dunkirk were to be demolished (Art. 9). The latter measure was to be implemented by the 6th August 1714.

In view of the refusal of Austria to make peace, new negotiations took place at Rastatt between Prince Eugene of Savoy and Claude Louis Hector de Villars. The Treaty of Rastatt of 6th March 1714 confirmed previous provisions concerning the border (Art. 20-22). Under article 26, provisions were made for the payment of the State debt.

Formal peace was established between France and the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation (all of the German states) in Baden in Switzerland on 7th September 1714. This treaty was drafted in Latin, in accordance with the traditions of the Holy Roman Empire, and was largely a translation of the text agreed upon at Rastatt. The principal addition to article 26 was the announcement of a conference between the Austrian Emperor and the French King. This conference concerned the distribution of the debt pertaining to the territories handed over and the precise line of the border.

No exchanges of enclaves were planned in the treaties of 1713/1714.
Dutch translation of the text of the peace treaty of 11th April 1713 between France and Great Britain, printed in Utrecht. Article 9 provided for the demolition of the fortifications of Dunkirk.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1713/2.n.)
Eulogy to the Peace of Utrecht by the jurist and historian Pieter Birmans (1668-1741), Professor at the University of Utrecht, 1713.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1713/BURM)

Text printed at Grenoble, in which the King of Spain Philip V waived all of his rights to the French throne, with regard both to himself and to his successors.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1713/2.n.)

Philip V, Duke of Anjou (1683-1746) was able to retain the Spanish throne after the Peace Treaty of Utrecht.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1719/ROUS)
TRAITE
DE PAIX
ENTRE
SA MAJESTE IMPERIALE
ET CATHOLIQUE,
ET SA
MAJESTE TRES-CHRETIENNE.
Conclu & Signé au Palais de
Rastatt le 6. de Mars 1714.

Approuvé par le Roi
Chez la Veuve de Jacques de Rave,
Sœur de Missiné, à S. Augustin.
M. DCC. XX.

The house of the widow of Jacob le Rave in Ypres, text of the Peace Treaty of Rastatt between the Emperor Charles VI and King Louis XIV, printed in 1720.
(SAI, Antique Engravings 9.40/1720/2.n.)
German translation of the Baden peace treaty. Article 26 provides for a meeting of commissaries within the following two months, in order to clarify border disputes.
(SAI, Antique Engravings 940/1714/z.n.)
13. YPRES AS A BARRIER CITY AND THE BORDER IN THE 18TH CENTURY

The French Bishop of Ypres, Martin de Ratabon, renounced his position while the place negotiations were still in course. He moved to the diocese of Viviers (Ardèche, France) on 27th March. On 3rd June 1713, the last French troops left Ypres and a Dutch garrison entered the city the next day. The final Barrier Treaty was signed at Antwerp on 15th November 1715 by the Austrians, the Dutch Republic and Great Britain, on the basis of previous agreements between the Allies. The Republic was permitted to quarter its troops in garrison at the expense of the Southern Netherlands at Namur, Tournai, Menen, Warneton, Ypres, Furnes and Fort de Knocke (Art. 4). A joint Dutch-British garrison was assigned to Dendermonde (Art. 5). These troops were unable to prevent the French king Louis XV from successively conquering Warneton, Menen, Ypres (26th June), Fort de Knocke and Furnes, during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748). In 1745, Tournai, Oudenaarde, Nieuwpoort, Ghent and Dendermonde fell into the hands of the French. The second Peace Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle of 18th October 1748 re-established the status quo of Utrecht and Rastatt and did not lead to any changes of borders. The French troops left Ypres on 10th February 1749 and Dutch troops took up their positions once again. They remained there until 1782. As from 1713, the areas once again handed back by France, such as Furnes, Ypres, Warneton and Menen, as territories that were “Retroceded” or coming under “West-Flanders”, had a lower political status in comparison to the rest of the County. Thus, Ypres was no longer a member of the Estates of Flanders, the Parliament of the County.

In accordance with article 26 of the Peace Treaty of Baden, negotiations between France and Austria were held in Lille from March 1716 until January 1717. The French delegation was led by the former intendant of Maritime Flanders Charles-Étienne Maignart de Bernières (1667-1717). He worked in close collaboration with his successor, the intendant Claude Le Blanc (1669-1728), working at Versailles who, in the meantime, had become Minister of War. Austria was particularly interested in favourable transport routes by land and sea between Tournai and Mons. France gave priority to links between Lille, Dunkirk and Saint-Omer. Indeed, the erratic line of the border and enclaves made it possible for each party to set up customs barriers, rendering trade difficult. The distribution of the debt pertaining to the exchanged territories and the exact line of the border was negotiated...
at Lille. However, exchanges of enclaves quickly became a subject of negotiations, although no provision had been made for this under article 26. These involved five enclaves of the castellanies of Warneton (at Stegers, Stegersbrugge, Merville and Steenwerck) close to Ypres, and the territories of Ypres along the confluences of the Deûle and the Lys. However, the negotiations remained fruitless. The international peace conferences of Cambrai (1722-1725) and Soissons (1728-1729) did not settle the question of the border.

Austria and France only found a definitive solution half a century later. By means of the “Boundaries Treaty” of 16th May 1769, signed at Versailles, Austria and France exchanged the five enclaves of Warneton and the towns within the territory of Ypres of Deûlémont in the case of Nieuwerkerke (Neuve-Église), Dranouter and parts of Niepkerke and Halluin (Art. 10-14). The right of appointment of the Abbot of the Abbey of Saint-Jean of Ypres finally fell to the Austrian monarch (Art. 36). Article 38 of this treaty also regulated the return of a part of the archives of the Court of Audit of Lille. Although France had promised this measure in the treaties of 1659, 1678, 1697 and 1713, these archives were only returned to Brussels in 1772. The treaty of Brussels (the second Boundaries Treaty) of 18th November 1779 provided for far-reaching border adjustments around Halluin, Armentières and Watou (Art. 14, 15, 18). Westouter was transferred to the Austrian Netherlands in accordance with article 17. In 1795, the border disappeared for 20 years, as a result of the annexation of the Southern Netherlands by France on 1st October as the “United Departments” (Départements réunis).
On 11th October 1715, the representatives of the various different territories of West Flanders met in the house of the castellany of Ypres, in order to take care of affairs concerning the secession.

(SAI, Castellany of Ypres 1st series 400)
Satirical tract printed in Cologne in 1760, addressed to Charles VI. The tract desires amendments to the Barrier Treaty of 15th November 1715.
(SAI, Antique Engravings 949.3.02/1716/z.n.)

The disputed blazon of Deûlémont was registered in the official list of French coats of arms on 27th February 1699 by the judge of coats of arms Charles d’Hozier (1640-1732).
(SAI, Abbey of Messines/Mesen, 23)
Following problems concerning tolls, Julien-Louis Bidé de la Grandville (1688-1760), intendant of Flanders, settled arbitration concerning movements on the transport routes from Roesbrugge to Dunkirk, from Pont-Rouge to Lille and from Lille to Douai. Tolls were no longer to be payable by persons possessing lessees’ (“pachter” in Dutch) papers on the Ypres to Roesbrugge and Ypres to Pont-Rouge roadways, 6th April 1739.

(SAI, Castellany of Ypres 1st series 15)
Amongst the provisions of the Boundaries Treaty of 16th of May 1769, article 14 thereof provided that Westouter was to remain in France and that Nieppe and Steenwerck were to become French, while Nieuwerkerke (Neuve-Église) and Dranouter were to be handed over to the Austrian Netherlands.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 34/ (09)/1769-1690)
This plan of 1762 shows the manner in which the port of Dunkirk continued to be of interest to Great Britain.

(SAI, Maps and Plans 346)

On 29th of November 1779 (eleven days after the Boundaries Treaty of Brussels), Pierre-François Langlé, Pensionary-Councillor of the Court of Cassel, signed the parish register of Westouter for the year 1780, in accordance with French law. Westouter had been part of the Southern Netherlands since the end of 1779.

(HEUVELLAND, Archives, parish registers of Westouter)

Hand-drawn map of the capture of Ypres between 2nd and 18th June 1794 by the French, under the commandment of General Jean-François Dejean (1749-1824).

(SAI, Maps and Plans 394)
In the 17th and 18th centuries military strategy was based upon increasingly large professional armies and heavily fortified towns. The latter were used as an initial base and logistical centre when armies on campaign marched upon the enemy. However, they were also designed defensively in order to halt advances on the part of the latter. The developing right of nations gave absolute monarchs the right to make war. However, it also meant that these princes could limit wars and were inclined to sign peace treaties.

The 17th and 18th centuries were characterised by the siege and capture of fortified towns, as well as by bloody battles in open terrain (such as the Battles of Cassel in 1677 and Oudenaarde in 1708).

Officers wrote treatises on military training and discipline, and on the manner in which troops should conduct themselves during battles. Under the influence of their mathematical training, military engineers wrote treatises on the construction of fortifications. These works were printed throughout Europe. In addition, many of these maps of fortifications have been preserved.

The most famous French line of defence was constituted by the “Pré Carré” fortifications, designed by Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633-1707) in order to protect France’s northern border. These comprised of two successive lines of fortified towns. The first stretched from Dunkirk to Givet, via Ypres and Lille. The second line extended from Gravelines to Charleville, passing through Aire-sur-la-Lys and Douai. At Ypres, the military engineer Jean-Anthénor Huë de Caligny supervised execution of the work on the ground.
 Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633-1707).
(DENDERMONDE, Dauwe Collection)

Bastion according to the method of Bernard Forest de Bélidor (1698-1761).
(SAI, Maps and Plans 398)

Battle order of the French army under the commandment of the heir Louis (the "Grand Dauphin") in 1694. Other important commanders included the Marshals François-Henri de Montmorency-Luxembourg (1628-1695) and François de Neufville de Villeroy (1644-1730).
(SAI, Maps and Plans 416)

Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633-1707).
(DENDERMONDE, Dauwe Collection)

Bastion according to the method of Bernard Forest de Bélidor (1698-1761).
(SAI, Maps and Plans 398)
Jean-Anthénor Huë de Caligny described the fortifications of Ypres in 1709. Description the flooding of Bailleul.

(SAI, Acquisitions of Ypres 63)
In 1677, the French Jesuit and mathematician Claude François Millet Dechales (1621-1678) wrote "L’art de fortifier, de defendre et d’attaquer les places, suivant les methodes Françoises, Hollandoises, Italiennes et Espagnoles" ["The Art of Fortifying, Defending and Attacking Fortified Towns, According to French, Dutch, Italian and Spanish Methods"], a work concerning the construction of fortifications.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 355/1677/MILL)

Treatise on the construction of fortifications by Matthias Dögen, of Brandenburg (1605-1672), printed by Louis Elsevier, 1648.

(SAI, Antique Engravings 355/1648/DOEG)

Following page:

“The finest of all Locks to my knowledge, and whose designer has shown the greatest ingenuity, is that of Bouzingue.” In 1753, the French military engineer and builder Bernard Forest de Bélidor (1698-1761) described the lock of Boezinge in his "Architecture hydraulique" ["Hydraulic Architecture"].

(SAI, Antique Engravings 355/1750-1755/BELI)
Valenciennes had been captured by Louis XIV on 17th March 1677 and had belonged to France since 1678. The town formed part of the “Pré Carré”. Hand-drawn map of a fortress, circa 1700. (SAI, Maps and Plans 410)

During the War of the Spanish Succession, English, Dutch and German troops defeated the French and Spanish at the Battle of Wijnendale on 28th September 1708. (SAI, Maps and Plans 183)
Throughout the period from the 16th to 18th centuries, another border remained unchanged. At the end of 1559, Philip II reorganised the dioceses in order to enable them to adapt to the structure of the Netherlands. Indeed, the diocesan seat of Terwagne in France was moved to Ypres. The new diocese extended over the Southwest of the County of Flanders and parts of the territory of Artois. French conquests meant that the diocese was divided between two States from the end of the 17th century. Between 1678 and 1713, Ypres (with the exception of certain parishes in Nieuwpoort and Diksmuide) almost became a French diocese in its own right.

Disputes over appointments between the Holy See and France meant that no bishop was recognised by Rome between 1678 and 1693. In 1693, the Frenchman Martin de Ratabon became Bishop of Ypres. He had a completely new Episcopal palace built shortly thereafter. In 1713, he departed from the City with the French, to become the Bishop of Viviers in France. The administration of the diocese was conducted in Latin, Dutch and, increasingly, in French. The diocese of Ypres was abolished in 1801 under Napoleon.

In 1801, the region between Menen and Hollebeke was part of the diocese of Tournai.
Contract between Pieters de Wavrans, Françoys Bonaert and a certain Navigher, churchwardens of St Martin’s Cathedral, and Toussain Cambron, bellfounder of Lille, concerning the recasting of the bells, 2nd May 1683.

(SAI, Archives of St Martin’s Church 308)
Eulogy for the joyous entry of Bishop De Ratabon into Dunkirk, 1694.
(SAI, Antique Engravings 944.28/IEPE/1694)

The Diocese of Ypres by Johan Blaeu, 1662.
(SAI, Maps and Plans 126)
The vestry of St Martin's Cathedral now received the income from several village décimes (levy on the clergy) which were now in the North of France: Hazebrouck, Caëstre (Kaaster), Hondegem, Vleteren and Strazeele, 1710.

(SAI, Archives of St Martin's Church 109)
Map of Lilloise Flanders (Walloon Flanders) with the Deanery of Courtrai which belonged to the Diocese of Tournai. Map printed in Amsterdam by Willem Blaeu and Martiuan Doué, circa 1660. (SAI, Maps and Plans 264)

Announcement of the examination of a priest for the parishes of Merris, Ledringem, Ochtezele and Stene by the Bishop of Ypres, His Grace Charles Alexander van Arberg, 1757. (SAI, Acquisitions of Ypres 346)
This booklet was produced by the Archives department of the Town of Ypres.

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