Revival After the Great War

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Published by Leuven University Press

Verstraete, Pieter, et al.
Revival After the Great War: Rebuild, Remember, Repair, Reform.

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Behind the blind walked the one-armed, and behind them those without arms, and behind the armless the ones who were hit in the head …

There they stood, the invalids, whose whole face was a single gaping big hole, wrapped in white bandage, with reddish wounded folds instead of ears.

There they stood, the clogs of flesh and blood, soldiers without limbs, torsos in uniform, the empty sleeves tied together on the back in an expression of coquettish horror …

Behind the car the insane were walking. They still had everything, eyes, nose and ears, legs and arms, only the mind had flowed out of them, they did not know why or for what they had been brought here, they looked like brothers, they all experienced the same great destructive emptiness.

Joseph Roth on a mass demonstration of war invalids in L'viv (Galicia) shortly after the war, quoted in Geert Mak, *In Europe. Travels Through the Twentieth Century* (2004)
Fig. 1. Raymon Haesebrouck and his wife © Private archive of the Van Eenoooghe Family.