

# **BELGIUM UNDER THE GERMAN OCCUPATION. (1916)**

## **A PERSONAL NARRATIVE 2**

**Brand WHITLOCK**

Chapter **XXXIII**. The press-gangs : **Antoing**.

**(Translation :)**

### **NOTICE**

By order of the Commanding Mayor of the *Etape* of  
Antoing  
(N°1694, dated October 20th, 1916.)

The office of the communal secretary of Labour is open between ten and twelve o'clock with the exception of Sundays and holidays.

Labourers, male and female, between the ages of seventeen and forty-six years are asked to enter their names in the lists which are placed in this office for that purpose.

The wages which will be paid are as follows :

- (a) For labourers who are over eighteen years of age and who have a trade, Fr. 4.50 per day, Fr. 0.45 per hour for each hour overtime.
- (b) For other labourers Fr. 3.50 per day, Fr. 0.35 for each supplementary hour.

Workmen under eighteen years of age will be paid the same wages if they can do a corresponding amount of work.

The working day consists of ten hours including meal-time.

The workmen must feed themselves.

The German authorities announce that the civil population may be forced to work if there are not enough volunteers to work in the factories, in saw mills, in workshops, to work on farms, and to construct highways and railroads.

The population will never be forced to do any work where they will be exposed to uninterrupted fire.

### **COMPULSORY MEASURES**

Whoever refuses to work will be punished by fines, by imprisonment, by being placed in a corps of workmen with reduced food allowance.

The commune may also be punished either by limiting its commerce, imposition of fines, etc.

The mayors are informed that it is in their interest and in the interest of the commune that these lists of workmen be furnished as soon as possible.

The Mayor,  
Bouzin.  
President of Bureau of Labour

#### **Footnotes.**

*Belgium under the German Occupation : A Personal Narrative* ; London ; William HEINEMANN ; 1919, 2 volumes. See chapter (« The Press-gangs», sometimes with title « *Documents in evidence* » in other editions), volume 2, pages 268-344 (76 pages). About Antoing : pages 283-284. (**Very partial**) French

translation : «*Les enlèvements*» in WHITLOCK, Brand ; chapitre XXVI (1916) in ***La Belgique sous l'occupation allemande : mémoires du ministre d'Amérique à Bruxelles*** ; (Paris ; Berger-Levrault ; 1922) pages 383-391.

It would be interesting compare with what **Paul MAX** (cousin of the *bourgmestre Adolphe MAX*) told about the same day in his ***Journal de guerre*** (*Notes d'un Bruxellois pendant l'Occupation 1914-1918*) :  
[http://www.museedelavilledebruxelles.be/fileadmin/user\\_upload/publications/Fichier\\_PDF/Fonte/Journal\\_de%20guerre\\_de\\_Paul\\_Max\\_bdef.pdf](http://www.museedelavilledebruxelles.be/fileadmin/user_upload/publications/Fichier_PDF/Fonte/Journal_de%20guerre_de_Paul_Max_bdef.pdf)

It would also be interesting compare with what [Louis GILLE](#), [Alphonse OOMS](#) et [Paul DELANDSHEERE](#) told about the same days in ***50 mois d'occupation allemande*** (Volume 2 : 1916) :  
<http://www.idesetautres.be/?p=ides&mod=iea&smod=ieaFictions&part=belgique100>

It would also be interesting compare with what Charles TYTGAT told about the same days in ***Journal d'un journaliste. Bruxelles sous la botte allemande*** :  
<http://www.idesetautres.be/?p=ides&mod=iea&smod=ieaFictions&part=belgique100>