

# BELGIUM UNDER THE GERMAN OCCUPATION. (1916)

## A PERSONAL NARRATIVE 2

**Brand WHITLOCK**

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

The municipal authorities and the aldermen of the city of Ath announced to the public by *placards* that, by order of the German authorities, the local authorities were directed to draw up and hand to the Germans a list of all unemployed in Ath ; that those would be considered as unemployed who received any kind of aid from the public charity, and that by the words public charity was meant the aid offered by the *Comité de Secours* (Commission for Relief). This notice reproduced textually the terms of an order that had been sent by the Germans to the municipal authorities of the city of Ath.

**Brand WHITLOCK**

**(Translation :)**

### **TOWN OF ATH IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The municipal authorities inform their fellow-citizens that by order of the military authorities they must prepare and submit a list of all the

unemployed men of Ath, including surname, Christian name, date of birth, nationality, profession or trade.

To this end registrations will be received at the Town Hall, Monday, October 23, in the following order :

9-10 o'clock. Persons whose names begin with the letter A, B, and C.

10-11 ". Persons whose names begin with the letter D.

11-12 ". Persons whose names begin with the letters E, F, G, H, I, J, and K.

12-1 ". Persons whose names begin with the letters L, M, and N.

3- 4 ". Persons whose names begin with the letters O, P, Q, R, and S.

4- 5 ". Persons whose names begin with the letters T, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z.

Every person who receives any assistance from the public charities will be considered as unemployed. Assistance given by the Commission for Relief is also considered as public charity.

Any change in the situation of the unemployed must in the future be declared at the Town Hall on Friday of each week before noon.

The Secretary,  
J. Degauquier.

For the Mayor and Aldermen,  
O. Ouverleaux.

Ath, 21 October, 1916.

## 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 Ath : page 282. (**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>