

# World War, 1939-1945, Underground Resistance Collection—Belgium

## UNDERGROUND PUBLICATIONS

The underground publications have been arranged under the following headings:

- Publications relating to “L’Affaire Royale”
- Other Underground Publications

### PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO “L’AFFAIRE ROYALE”

The “L’Affaire Royale” or the “Belgian Royal Question” refers to the constitutional crisis that gripped Belgium after its WWII defeat by Germany. The Belgian army had been led by King Leopold III. When defeat appeared imminent, Leopold declared his intention to remain with his troops rather than head a resistance government in England or France, which his government ministers preferred. These ministers, who had re-assembled as government-in-exile in France, feared that Leopold would form a new government in Belgium under vassalage to Hitler. Leopold’s fate was sealed when he ill-advisedly met with Hitler in November of 1940; following a post-War referendum that showed only narrow support for the king, Leopold abdicated in 1951.

#### References:

J. Gérard-Libois and José Gotovitch, *L’an 40 [i.e. quarante]; la Belgique occupée*. Bruxelles, CRISP [1971].

#### Box 9

##### **BL 0131**

***À notre très cher fils, Léopold III, Roi des Belges.*** 2 pp. 4to. Carbon copy on onion skin. Copy of a letter from Pope Pius XII to the King, dated March 30, 1941, and of the answer by Léopold III. 275 x 215.

##### **BL 0132**

***Amicale des anciens combattants belges résidant au Portugal.*** Lisbonne, 30 mai 1940. 1 p. 4to. Carbon copy on original letterhead of the Amicale. The attitude of the war veterans is against the capitulation and favour the Resistance but are full of respect for the king. 270 x 210.

##### **BL 0133**

**LEOPOLD III.-** *Lettre au président Roosevelt datée Bruges, 28 mai 1940.* Mimeographed copy. 1 p. 4to on onion skin. Probably printed during the same period and during the same royalist campaign as the following leaflets: *Mémoire* (BL 0133) and the *Communication* by cardinal Van Roey (BL 0134); see Gérard-Libois pp.346-347.

##### **BL 0134**

***Memorandum sur la Reddition du 28 Mai 1940.*** Mimeographed on onion skin. 3 pages on 3 leaves 4to. *Un des premiers tracts - on n'ose dire clandestins - reprennent et développent la campagne royaliste. On voit circuler ainsi, stencillé, le Memorandum sur la reddition de l'armée belge rédigé après l'entretien Van Roey-Léopold III (Gérard-Libois p. 347).*

**BL 0135a**

**VAN ROEY**, Cardinal.- *Communication datée du 31 Mai 1940*. Mimeographed copy. 1 p. and a few lines on one leaf 4to. Onion skin. Very light inking in certain parts. *Après avoir vu le Roi le 30 mai, le Cardinal Van Roey fit lire dans les églises le dimanche 2 juin une communication [celle-ci] justifiant l'attitude du souverain*; probably one of the earliest, practically underground, leaflets of Occupied Belgium (Gérard-Libois pp.346-7).

**BL 0135b**

**Lettre du Cardinal Van Roey. A nos Très Chers Frères**. 1 full page large 4to. Typewritten text. It is approximately the same text as leaflet BL 0134a but more readable since it is typewritten. 280 x 215

**BL 0136**

**Ce que les Anglais pensent du Roi**. 2 p. large folio printed on brown paper. Comments favorable to the King. Probably from the summer of 1941. Could be either from an underground movement or even from the Germans.

**BL 0137**

**Réflexions d'un journaliste belge (Extrait du journal "Le Courrier du Centre", paru à Limoges le 17 June 1940). Quelques lueurs sur les événements qui précédèrent la trahison du Roi**. Text by Marcel COLLEYE. 3 pp. 4to. Carbon copy on onion skin. Very strong statement in opposition to the King's position.

**BL 0138**

**Commentaires sur le Livre des Rois**. 12 pp. folio. Mimeographed. At the end: *Répandez ce compte rendu et reproduisez-le*. Reproduces the minutes of the "séance secrète de Limoges – 31 mai 1940". Without a doubt an underground publication.

**BL 0139**

**DEVEZE**, Albert; Joseph **PHOLIEN** and Raoul **HAYOIT DE TERMICOURT**. *Memorandum sur la reddition de l'armée belge le 28 mai 1940*. 6 pp. 4to. Mimeographed. Statement favourable to the King's position by former ministers or political personalities of the period.

**BL 0140**

**Extraits des discours de la séance de Limoges. (30 mai 1940)**. 16 p. Stitched. Text of the speeches such as in the pamphlet *La Séance historique* (BL 0140) but with a short introduction and a conclusion of 2 pages. 210 x 165.

**BL 0141**

**La Séance historique de Limoges (30 mai 1940)**. Charleroi, Editions W.L. n.d. 15 p. 8vo. Extracts of the speeches without commentaries. Worn with some light damp-staining. 210 x 130.

**BL 0142**

**Pourquoi l'Armée belge déposait les armes**. 4 pp. 8vo. n.d. (circa summer 1940). Anvers: V. Van Dieren. Portrait of the King on the first page. Reprints official communications of the King and of Cardinal Van Roey. 245 x 165

**BL 0143**

**Confédération nationale des Prisonniers politiques et ayants droit**. Palais d'Egmont.

Bruxelles. *Appel au Pays*. 2 pp. mimeographed. Possibly after the war. 270 x 210

**BL 0144**

**LAROCK**, Victor. *Un aspect de la « Question Royale ». A quand la Lumière ?* Bruxelles, Société d'Édition du « Peuple », n.d. [summer 1945?]. 40 p. large 4to. Stapled. Illustrated. Printed on newsprint. Slightly worn.

**BL 0145**

**Gai, gai, Marions-nous...** 1 ½ p. 4to on 2 leaves. Carbon copy on beige paper. Three manuscript corrections. On the marriage of the King. Dated « December 41 » in pencil. 275 x 215.

**BL 0146**

**Que pensez du Mariage du Roi ?**. 8 pp. 4to and folio. Mimeographed. Probably an underground publication. 330 x 215

**BL 0147**

**Excellence, En October et November 1942 ...** Bruxelles, 20 mars 1943 (signé) L'Avocat général R. Hamoit de Termicourt et le Premier Président Jamar. Carbon copy on regular paper. Probably reproduced and distributed by the Résistance. 345 x 220.

**BL 0148**

**Stickers and papillons on l'Affaire Royale.**

- a. *Retour* with the coat-of-arms of the King. 70 x 70
- b. *Ordre, Union, Indépendance*. The first letters forming a « OUI ». 50 x 75.
- c. *Oui* under the crown and *Non* under the hammer and sickle. Oval. 60 x 75
- d. *Le Roi Oui*. Bruxelles, Imprimerie De Meeus. In yellow, red and black Round. 60 mm
- e. *Oui le roi revient*. Head of the King (profile) in brown on beige paper. 70 x 65
- f. *Oui nous voulons notre Roi*. Similar presentation as previous but in black on orange paper. 70 x 65.
- g. *Royalistes La Monarchie est en péril !*. Bruxelles, Emile Masset. 1 p. 8vo oblong. One must vote for the candidates who want the return of the King. 60 x 150.

**BL 0149**

**Oui le Roi Revient**. Auteur-responsable : P. De Meeus, 175 ch. de Tervueren, Auderghem. Large drawing of the King (profile) with cap. 35,5 cm x 24 cm (broadside).

**BL 0150**

**Oui le Roi revient**. Same author. Same source as the previous but smaller. 10,5 cm x 29,5 cm (broadside).

## OTHER UNDERGROUND PUBLICATIONS

### References:

J. Gérard-Libois and José Gotovitch, *L'an 40 [i.e. quarante]; la Belgique occupée*. Bruxelles, CRISP [1971].

### Box 9

#### **BL 0151**

***Churchill parle: La Défaite totale de Hitler et de Mussolini est certaine*** (*discours adressé le 27 avril 1941 par M. Winston Churchill aux peuples britanniques et américains*). 8 leaves mimeographed on one side only. Same paper and presentation as in the *Extraits de la Libre Belgique no.12* (BL 0154 and 0155) and probably also the mysterious issue of the *Libre Belgique* of April 1941 (Newspapers, box 2). 335 x 220.

#### **BL 0152**

***Conseils et Recettes par Tante Marie***. Camouflage cover for ***Le vrai visage de l'Union Soviétique*** by Rev. Johnson Hewlett. Deuxième édition. Edité par l'Association des Amis de l'Union Soviétique. On the camouflage cover a text printed in red and the mention *sorti de presse le 3 Septembre 1944*. 12mo. 25 pp. 160 x 120.

#### **BL 0153**

***Contribution à l'Histoire de la Guerre***. Edité par l'"Espoir" au profit des victimes de la répression allemande. 16mo. 32 pp. Cartoons with captions. Stamp of the Bourdoux collection on the title. See also the leaflet version (BL 0079). 145 x 100.

#### **BL 0154**

[DE GRUNNE, Xavier]. ***La Belgique Loyale. Que penser ? Que Dire ? Que Faire ? La réponse d'un groupe de combattants des deux guerres***. N.p.n.d.. [Brussels, summer 1941]. 168 p. 12mo oblong. Stapled. Some tears to the last pages without loss. Pamphlet published anonymously (underground?) and criticized by both collaborators and resistance members. The author was arrested by the Germans and died in July 1944 in the German prison of Gross Strelitz. For a discussion of the content of this work, see Gérard-Libois and Gotovitch, pp. 467-468.

#### **BL 0155**

***Extrait de la "Libre Belgique". No.12. 1er juin. 1941. A Ceux de 40*** [par Le Centurion]. 2 pp. folio. Mimeographed reprint of this article taken from the printed underground newspaper issue. 335 x 220.

#### **BL 0156**

***Extrait de La Libre Belgique. No. 12. 1er juin 1941. Pour les Pessimistes***. 2 pp. folio. Mimeographed reprint of this article taken from the printed underground newspaper issue. The second page lists the radio stations transmitting in French. 335 x 220.

#### **BL 0157**

**FÉDÉRATION LIÉGEOISE DU FRONT DE L'INDÉPENDANCE. Booklet of ration tickets. Aide aux Réfractaires (Section de Solidarité Croix-Rouge du Front de l'Indépendance). Versez 5 [ou 20] frs pour que les réfractaires à la déportation et leur famille continuent leur résistance et leur lutte contre l'occupant pour la libération du pays**. This booklet which looks complete contains 7 tickets of 5 francs and 7 tickets of 20 francs. Stapled. 55 x 75

**BL 0158**

***Le Pillage du Pays.*** Pamphlet partially mimeographed and partially printed. 16mo 16 pp. Probably published by the Front de l'Indépendance. Examines all the industrial and agricultural sectors of the economy in order to highlight the damage done by the Germans. Undated but, according to hints in the text, probably printed in December 1941 or the beginning of 1942. Stained and soiled but very readable. 165 x 145.

**BL 0159**

**PLISNIER, Oscar.** *Mémoire relatif à l'indemnité réclamée à la Belgique au titre de couverture des frais d'occupation de l'armée allemande.* Bruxelles, 20 décembre 1940. (Letterhead of the Cabinet du secrétariat général du Ministère des Finances). 12 leaves folio mimeographed on one side only. Probably a copy of the official document printed and distributed by the Resistance.

**BL 0160**

***La Vraie Belgique. Réponse à "La Belgique Loyale"***. N.p.n.d. [Brussels, 1941 ?]. 32 p. 16mo oblong. Stitched.

Underground pamphlet in response to the publication by De Grunne described previously. On a supplementary title page, this manuscript note: *Presse clandestine. Envoyé par Louise de Landsheere (sic pour Lantsheere), Madame de Bonznie (?) et son mari dans les enveloppes du "Secours d'hiver"*.