SUBSCRIPTION TO

TABLES DU JOURNAL
(The TABLES of the Daily Newspaper)

Le Temps

13 JUIN 1940 – 30 NOVEMBRE 1942
(1940 June 13th. – 1942 November 30th.)

VOLUME I and VOLUME II

Marie-Françoise and François PUTOIS

with a Preface by Pierre ALBERT

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TABLES DU JOURNAL Le Temps
(The TABLES of the Daily Newspaper Le Temps)

“THE DARK YEARS” (1940, June 12th. – 1942, November 30th.)

I. HOW AND WHY THE ‘TABLES’ WERE RESUMED

Under the guidance of Pierre Albert, professor at the University of PARIS II, the history department of the ‘Institut Français de Presse’ (French Institute for Press Studies) published from 1966 to 1982, in collaboration with the ‘C.N.R.S.’ (National Committee for Scientific Research), ten volumes of the “Tables of Le Temps” covering the years from 1861 to 1900.

In 2001, Marie-Françoise and François Putois, suggested to Pierre Albert that he should resume the task in which they themselves had taken part from 1963 to 1978. In this fresh undertaking, it was decided to start with the so-called period of the ‘Dark Years’, the last years in which Le Temps was to live. The next step, devoted to the periods of the First World War and that comprised between 1938 and June 1940, will be classified and placed at the disposal of the researchers.

Madame Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand, head of the B.D.I.C., is resuming this publication in order to finalise the tool for research that the tables of a significant newspaper of the Vichy time may provide.

II. THE CONTENT OF Le Temps

These ‘Tables’ enumerate in detail, over 1,650 pages that fall into two thick volumes (21,5x30), the content of Le Temps during the time which followed the removal of the paper from Paris to Lyon on 1940, June 10 th., and came to an end on 1942, November 29 th., when the newspaper wound up its affairs.

The sources covering current events (O.F.I., Inter-France, foreign radios, correspondances and press releases of manifold kinds...) supplied the paper with enough stuff to write on, within the limits imposed by censorship and Information Services. Those prohibitions and instructions, fortunately, have been recorded from day to day thanks to the ‘Éphémérides’ of Pierre Limagne, a journalist in La Croix, who had been collating daily news of the world.

In defiance of its former republican convictions, Le Temps, in its leading articles, was now extolling the ideology of the new regime: it supported the policies of Marshal Pétain and strove to explain what they meant. Its ‘Bulletins du jour’ (Daily Bulletins) commented upon the passing events of the war and the world in the way the government wished. Yet, faithful to its duties of an informative paper, it also published a large number of short factual, uncommented news on military operations, diplomatic developments, home policy of some foreign countries – most particularly the United States – or life in French provinces, mainly in the South not occupied zone of France.

III. HOW ARTICLES ARE CLASSIFIED

The Table may seem complex to the user, but this is due to the encyclopædic character of the daily paper. Once a brief study of their rules has been made they become an invaluable guide for every kind of research on French and the world’s life during the dark years.

In the Table Guide placed after the Preface, the whole list of subjects and headings is clearly described. The editorial contents have been classified according to the method followed in the first ten volumes:
- an analytical classification of references in a geographical area, which consists of two parts: FOREIGN COUNTRIES, FRANCE.
- as regards each country, subjects have been ordered under headings, sub-headings and different subdivisions.
- as to the news and articles referring to the war, a new part, entitled WORLD WAR has been introduced, in which are grouped:
  ► GENERAL NEWS: the various aspects of the conflict in general.
  ► MILITARY OPERATIONS: a detailed study of fighting according to the geographic areas.
Though the current classification GENERAL NEWS, POLITICAL LIFE, ECONOMICAL LIFE, SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE, LIFE IN THE REGIONS, and CULTURAL LIFE, and, on the whole, within each of those sub-parts, the same headings have been kept as it was, new headings and sub-headings have been appended, to take into account the changes in situations; for example, as regard France:
- FREE FRANCE added to POLITICAL LIFE,
- SUPPLYING added to ECONOMICAL LIFE,
- PRISONERS added to SOCIAL LIFE.
To avoid too many repetitions a system of derivations and cross references has been used.
The code of notes attached to each article on the list has been devised in the following manner: in the reference 41 6.8.4D, the figure in thick print indicates the year; then (is mentioned) the day on which the paper was issued (6), that of the month (8), that of the page (4) and the column (here, D stands for the fourth column). The sign ‘+’ may have two meanings: either it tells whether the article is long and continues over the next column, or else if the information it gives, even though held in few lines, seems to be of special interest.

IV. HELPING TOOLS FOR READING THE ‘TABLES’

In his Preface, Pierre Albert describes the life of the newspaper, and the restraints imposed on it by instructions and censorship.

At the end of the ‘Tables’ is placed what can be considered as a tool to consult them or as a means to put an emphasis on some subjects mentioned in Le Temps.

The list of newspaper’s writers: the traditional anonymity as to articles dealing with political subjects is everywhere respected. As to the articles signed by over two hundred contributors, the recension gives an outline of what the contents of Le Temps are: thus Jacques Bardoux’s articles describe the main trend of the ‘révolution nationale’ (national revolution), Paul Gentizon’s letters tell about the situation in Axis-dominated Europe, General Brossé’s and Edmond Delage’s reports on military operations give informations about the course of events on the different fronts of the world war.

The two INDEXES (Subjects and Names of People) are intended to make easier the consultation of the ‘Tables’. The index of people comprises over 11,000 names.

The four ANNEXES come as follows in completion with the classified subjects:
- “Bulletin du Jour et Éditorial” (Daily Bulletin and Leader) gives the title of the daily bulletins and leading articles. Their reading may draw the reader’s attention on what Le Temps took interest in on a given day or in a given period of time such as they are seen through the Vichy Government views.
- “Instructions passed on to papers”: This annex is based on Limagne’s above-mentioned work. Those instructions enable the reader to form an idea of the atmosphere of curtailed freedom which the journalist had to cope with.
- “Announcements of the National Rescue”: Here is revealed how important the Vichy Government considered this charity organization; going so far as putting announcement in the press. It is a miscellany where appeals to public generosity give an occasion to print moralizing speeches and literary fabrications.
- “Announcements for military recruiting”: those advertisements for the ‘Armée d’armistice’ (Armistice Army) were imposed by the government and conveyed the ideals of the time: cultivate manliness, to serve ‘le Maréchal’, and better service to the ‘révolution nationale’.

V. THE ‘TABLES’ OF LE TEMPS: AN INVALUABLE DATA BANK

The ‘Tables’ of Le Temps (1940, June 13th. – 1942, November 30th.) constitute a most enlightening document over the period. The common scattering of the facts or comments selected by a newspaper largely increased in the years 1940-1942, as Le Temps multiplied very short pieces of news only a few lines long. The authors have done their best to keep as many as possible of them, assuming that, for example, as regards military operations, official communiqués or news items could by their own nature, localisation or date, meet the requirements of researchers or open out new tracks to them. Thus, references to bombed towns or to the spots where fighting took place, to some cultural celebrations (such as exhibitions, or lectures), or else, to hearings given by Pétain, Darlan or Laval, are most often signalled by a short mention rather than a full-scale article in the paper. The thorough study of the whole collection has been conducted with the idea in mind: finding practically every bit of information given by Le Temps to its readers at the time – and presented it in classified order to to-day’s researchers.
Leçon des faits (après la défaite) :
absence d’un idéal national, cosmopolitisme et immobilisme : 40 26.9.1B+
ancien régime : responsabilité du désastre est « politicienne » : 40 18.8.1B+ ; mandat politique comme cause des malheurs : 40 17.9.1B+ ; « - politique » vu par Pétain dans son message publié dans la presse : 40 12.10.1B+ , 1D+ ; fautes des gouvernants sont payées par le peuple c’est-à-dire les prisonniers en Allemagne, selon Scapini : 40 22.11.1G ; irresponsabilité politique : 41 29.1.1D+ ; effervescence lors des changements de ministère : 41 14.2.1D+ ; procès des méthodes parlementaires de l’- : 41 13.5.2G+ ; 21.7.1D+ ; 12.9.1D+ ; incapacité de procéder à des réformes par le régime représentatif : 41 21.8.1D+ ; déviations du régime représentatif : 41 23.8.1D+ ; 25.8.1D+ ;
cadres : manque de – comme une des causes de la catastrophe : 42 28.2-1.3.1D
démagogie : sécurité du régime démagogique annihilant l’effort personnel : 40 28.9.1B+ ; démon favori des Français : 41 8.5.2H
divorce entre l’État et la nation : 40 19.9.1B+ ; 23.9.1B+
esprit critique : désastre dû à un défaut d’esprit critique : 42 21.9.1D+
fanatique idéologie sacrifie le raisonnable au passionnel : 40 15.11.1D+
individualisme abandonné au profit de la notion « d’équipe » : 42 11-12.7.1D+
intelligence : son utilisation dans l’enchaînement des actes qui ont conduit à la guerre : 42 24-25.1.1D+
liberté se mérite : 40 30.7.1E+
littérature responsable des événements : 40 11.11.1F+
manque de méthode avant le désastre : 40 19.7.1B+ ;
mensonge : « nous avons vécu dans l’idéologie et le - » selon Baudouin : 40 21.9.2A ; comme cause du désastre : 40 28.10.2A+ ; la guerre comme preuve du - : 40 23.11.1D
etc….

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