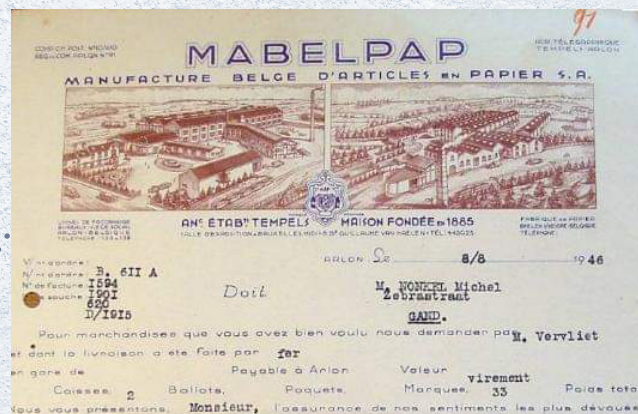


Joseph TEMPELS (1889 – 1949)

C18A-L4-T1+2+3

Joseph Tempels began his career in his mother's small stationery shop. Faced with supply issues during the First World War, he decided to manufacture what he needed himself. He began making paper in his small workshop. In 1923, he set up a limited company: La Manufacture Belge d'Articles en Papier (Mabelpap). The business continued to grow, even taking over other companies. Tempels then bought the Baelen-sur-Vesdre paper mill in the province of Liège. When the Second World War broke out, Baelen was annexed by Germany. However, Joseph Tempels still managed to obtain deliveries of paper from this mill. This arrangement not only enabled the company to maintain a minimal level of business, but also to supply some of the paper needed by the underground press. Tempels did everything he could to save his employees from forced labour in Germany. No one was made redundant, and when work was scarce, the employees grew vegetables and potatoes on company land. In May 1943, with the help of his children, Joseph set up the Foyer Léopold III, which served soup every day to his employees and to political prisoners held in the prison. After Liberation, Mabelpap was soon back in business. La Manufacture Belge d'Articles en Papier was taken over by Swedish, Finnish and then German groups, and was finally bought by Belgian companies (partnerships limited by shares), and today it has a turnover of 5.6 billion euros and 500 employees.



Sources : Arlon 1939 – 45 de Jean-Marie TRIFFAUX
Avenir du Luxembourg du 05/07/1949

Papeterie maternelle, rue de Diekirch. A l'époque de Joseph Tempels, la Mabelpap avait son siège social aux 4-6 rue de Diekirch et l'usine se situait 17, rue Zénobe Gramme à Arlon.

