

Memorial circuit

– Town of Bourg-en-Bresse 

Departmental Labour Service

5 Saint-Antoine Street – Bourg-en-Bresse (01000), France



In February 1943, the creation of the **S.T.O.** led to a census of young people (born between 1920 and 1922) with the aim of providing the **labour force** demanded by Germany. This service caused a great **deal of concern**, and many voices of **discontent** were heard.



Figure 1: Photograph of the Bourg-en-Bresse Teacher Training College for Girls

Very quickly in Bourg-en-Bresse, the **F.U.J.** planned to steal the departure order files from the **S.T.O.**, which were centralised at the Departmental Labour Office. During preparatory meetings, high school students **Marcel Thenon**, head of the **F.U.J.**, and **Paul Morin** met with **Léon-Emile Roy** and **Louis Bollon**, both employees of the Departmental Labour Office and responsible for registering young people for the **S.T.O.**

So, on Friday, 21 May 1943, after a first **theft** of **political** documents, the resistance fighters climbed a wall bordering Saint-Antoine Street, about three metres high, and carried away **25 to 30 kilos** of files. Then, around noon, **Roy** and his comrades placed the files in trailers attached to bicycles and transported them to the farm of **Gabriel Pobel's** parents on Chemin des Dîmes in Bourg-en-Bresse, where they burned them. However, this double theft had little impact on the **S.T.O.'s** operations, as a **duplicate set** of the lists was kept at the regional headquarters in Lyon.

Following a denunciation, all participants except **Paul Morin** were arrested. Some, such as **Marcel Thenon**, were subsequently deported.

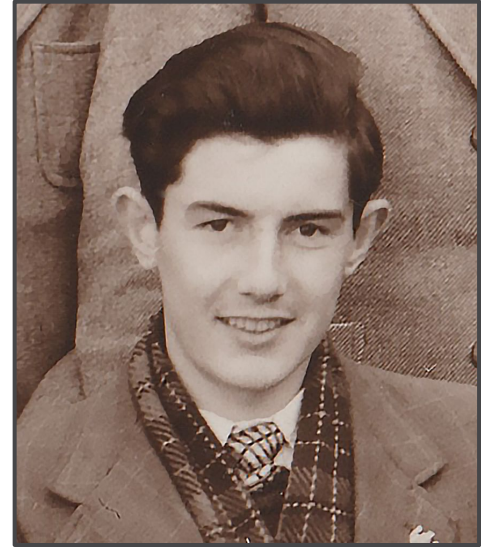


Figure 2: Photographic portrait of Marcel Thenon (1925-1989)

Sources

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Credits

- ◆ **Municipal Archives of Bourg-en-Bresse**
– *Ecole Normale de Filles* (Figure 1)
- ◆ **“La Résistance au lycée Lalande” Association – Lalande2**
– *Portrait de Marcel Thenon (Photographie de classe (1941-1942))* (Figure 2)

Infographic created based on the work of the Seconde D class (class of 2023-2024) at Jérôme Lalande High School to commemorate the mass arrest carried out by the Militia at the school on 5 June 1944.

This is not a work of historical scholarship, but rather an attempt to popularise history.