



German Occupation of Guernsey in WW2

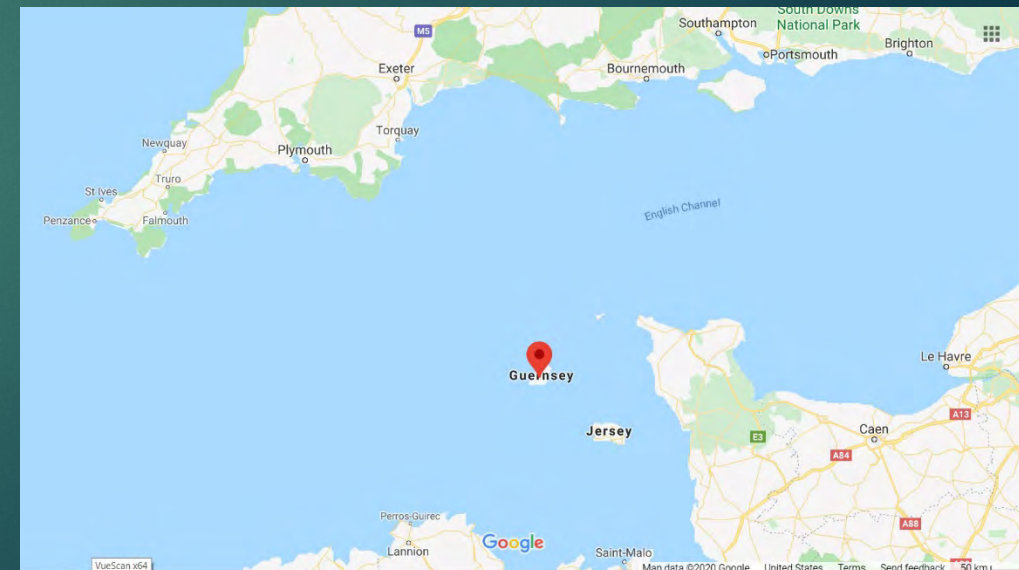
FIVE YEARS 1940-1945

PHOTOGRAPHS OF WARTIME
ARTIFACTS & INSTALLATIONS

KATHRYN LERCH & MARLENE MENDONSA'S 2019 TRIP

The Channel Islands

Included the Bailiwick of Guernsey & Bailiwick of Jersey along with smaller islands: Alderney, Sark, Herm, Lihou, Jethou, and Brecghou. In June 1940 they become part of 'Hitler's Island Madness'



Channel Islands De-Militarized & Abandoned by British War Cabinet in June 1940

CAUSE

Brits: "ABANDON" . . . Not strategic!



Germans arriving in St Peter Port, Guernsey on June 30, 1940

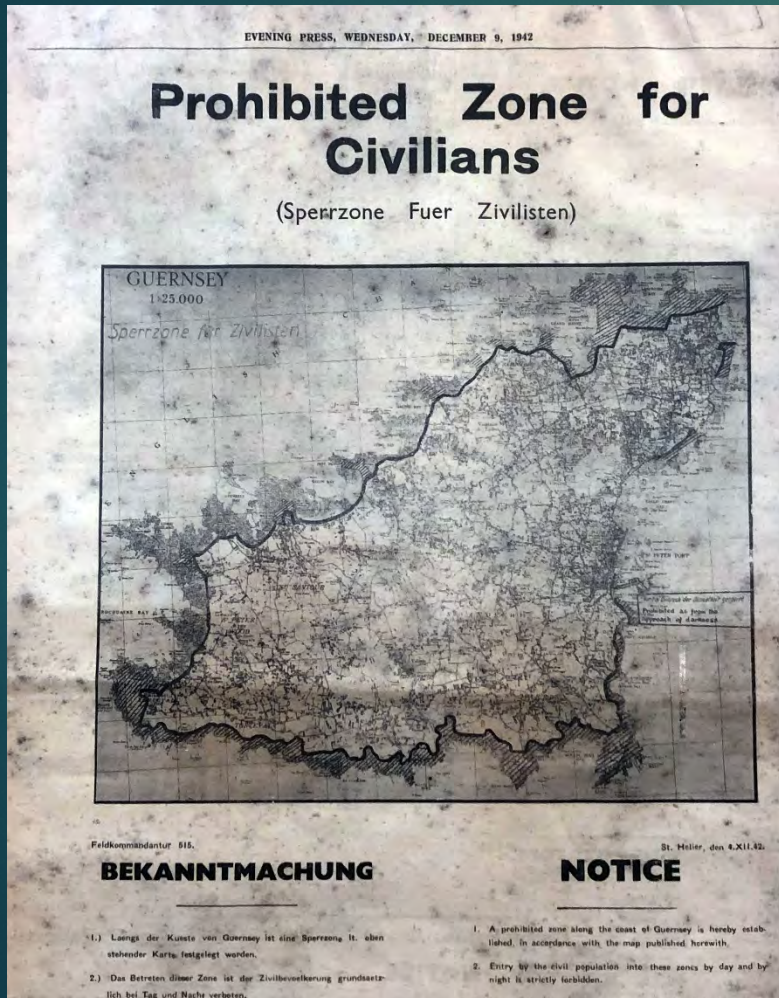
EFFECT

Germans: Strategic ! . . .
"OCCUPY"

Why Abandonment & Then Occupation?

II. Occupation brought new rules . . .

II



- “Shared” governance: Guernsey Controlling Committee to assist German Kommandant
- Imposition of strict new rules brought life-changing conditions



Kommandant
Graf von
Schmettow
served 3 times
in the Channel
Islands



Guernsey Controlling Committee

Cooperation or resistance?

11

No. 19590 I.

The holder of this Card is COKER, DOROTHY BLANCHE
 Inhaber dieser Karte ist Do. Cornus St. Martin

Residing at Do. Cornus
 Wohnhaft St. Martin

Born on the 25-10-1912 (at) Guernsey
 Geboren am 25-10-1912 (in) Guernsey

PARTICULARS—NÄHERE ANGABEN

M. Single, Married, Widow or Widower
verheiratet edig, verheiratet, verwitwet

Brown Colour of Hair
Braun Farbe des Haares

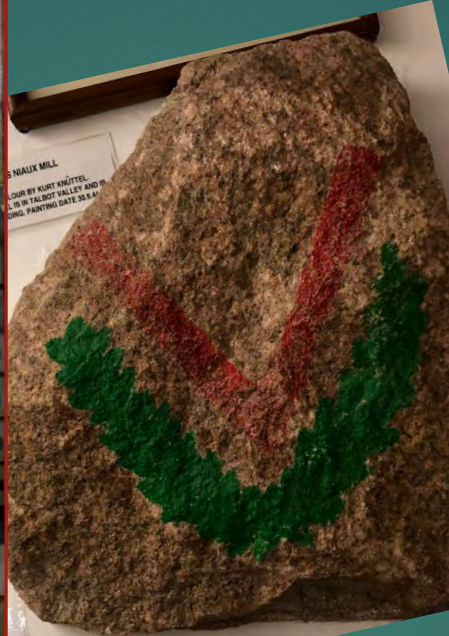
Light Brown Colour of Eyes
hellbraun Farbe der Augen

Birth ma
mutter - m

esther

Controlling Committee of the States of Guernsey.

Feldkommandantur, Nebenstelle Guernsey.



★ GUERNSEY UNDERGROUND NEWS SERVICE

Charles Machon, printer's compositor for one of the Guernsey newspapers, who founded the illicit news-sheet, G.U.N.S., secretly circulated during the German Occupation.

The author (centre) poses with a Swedish friend, Shes Gullberg (left), and others. Charles Machon, printer's compositor for one of the Guernsey newspapers, who founded the illicit news-sheet, G.U.N.S., secretly circulated during the German Occupation.

During the Occupation a 51-year-old linotype operator working on The Star started a B.B.C. news-sheet which later took the title G.U.N.S. (Guernsey's Underground News Service). It was circulated in St. Peter Port and nearly 300 people daily enjoyed reading or hearing the news it contained. The above is a facsimile of one of its issues. Daily (Sundays excepted) it ran for nearly two years, May 1942 to February 1944, when the Guernseyman who ran it was rounded up by the Gestapo, mainly on evidence collected by them and information supplied by an Irish traitor. This daily news-sheet typed on thin tomato-packing paper averaged 760 words a day, approximately 4,600 words a week. Actual size of the sheet was 13½ by 8 inches.

The Guernseyman mainly concerned in its production were tried by a Nazi Tribunal, but were not allowed a civil defence, and the five of them were sentenced to a total of 8 years' imprisonment. The sentences were:-- Charles Machon 2 years 4 months; Cecil Duquesne 1 year 11 months; Ernest Legg 1 year 10 months; Frank Falla 1 year 4 months; Joseph Gillingham 10 months.

Before their trial was opened the German Prosecutor had asked for sentences totalling 12 years 9 months 1.

All served their sentences in Nazi prisons in Germany and Charles Machon and Joseph Gillingham died there.

Other main receivers of the news who were picked up by the Germans served 6 months' imprisonment in the island prison. They were: Hubert B. Lanyon (who daily received and distributed 3 copies of G.U.N.S. in Sark), Rex Copley, Edward Lihon, Steve Plaguet, Len. Castell, P. N. Robin and E. McAuliffe.

All concerned with G.U.N.S. were charged with:

- (1) Listening to the B.B.C. news; (2) Retaining radio-receiving sets contrary to German orders; and (3) Distributing B.B.C. news by means of daily news-sheets.

The full story of G.U.N.S. can be read in the book "THE SILENT WAR" by Frank W. Falla (Leslie Frewin Publishers Ltd.).

'V' for victory painted all over island as form of disobedience, but a German added a wreath underneath. The Germans offered £25 reward to informers of those who painted these 'V's

Guernsey citizen's identity card

PROCLAMATION

Certain incidents have occurred in which, on the part of the inhabitants of the Island, acts have been committed which were against the safety of the Army of Occupation. Those who were guilty have been, or will be, punished according to the decree of Martial Law by Sentence of Death.

In their own interest I warn the Public most solemnly against perpetrating any further acts of this kind. Any person involved in such an act, either as Perpetrator, Participant or Instigator will, upon conviction by Court Martial, without power of Appeal be condemned to suffer the Death Penalty.

In view of the present economic situation the recent Prohibition in regard to Fishing has been modified. If, however, this act of leniency is misunderstood, and certain individual and irresponsible elements of the population perpetrate further acts which are detrimental to the safety of the Army of Occupation, the entire population will have to suffer the consequences of the reprisals which will follow.

People of the Island! Your destiny and your welfare is in your own hands. Your Home Interests demand that you should refrain from, and to the best of your power prevent, all such actions which must inevitably be followed by such disastrous consequences.

The Military Commander in France,
(Signed) v. STÜLPNAGEL,
General of Infantry.

What are citizens to do?
Commander of German forces
in France, Stülpnagel had
ideas!

Consequences could be
severe:



II

April 1941 . . . "Notice"
regarding act of sabotage
Soldiers went "missing"

Biased Local Press, Underground

"V" Press & Liberation Press

II

Deutsche Guernsey-Zeitung

St. Peter Port, den 12. 1. 45.

The Editor,
Guernsey Star & Gazette Co.,
Borlidge.

Dear Sir,

On Friday January 12th. 1945 an article appeared in the Evening Press quoting an interview in the Jersey Evening Post with the Baliff of Jersey. Such articles must not be published in the future. This is the order of the Division for the following reasons:

Conditions in Jersey are not, as you know the same as in Guernsey. For example Jersey has more potatoes and Guernsey more tomatoes, and there are many differences between the circumstances of the two islands.

Articles quoted from the Jersey Evening Post must not refer to economic conditions, the food situation or any red Cross matters and publications of any items of this nature I forbid.

I wish again to refer to the absolute necessity of economising in the use of gas on the machines at the Gas Works. Mr Digard informed me by letter that members of the Evening Press staff had only used gas for warming their midday meal. This is not correct. If it is required to warm food at midday this must be done by placing it above the metal pot and not by using a separate gas burner.

As a further measure of economy both the Evening Press and the Star must use larger types especially for advertisements, which should as far as possible be set by hand.

Yours Faithfully,

Frank Falla
Oberleutnant.

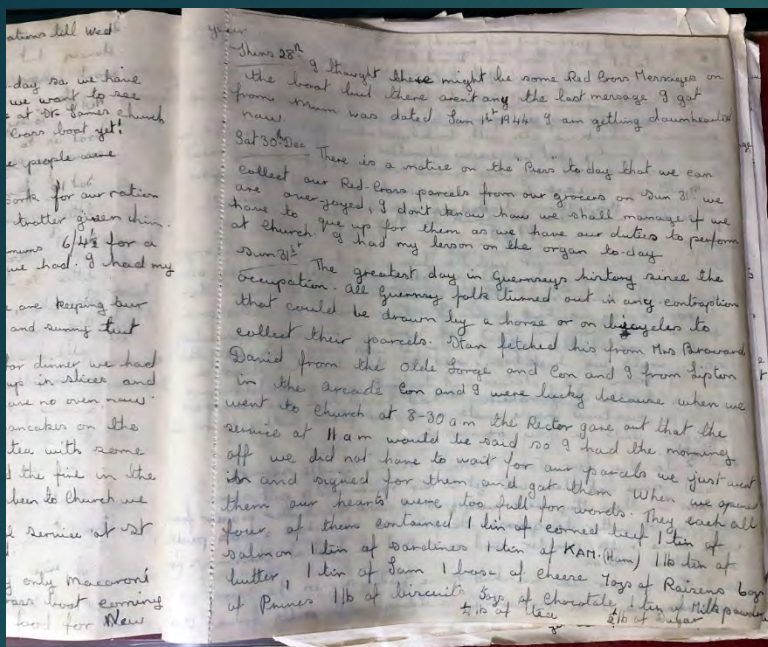
Instructions from German officer to Editor of The Star



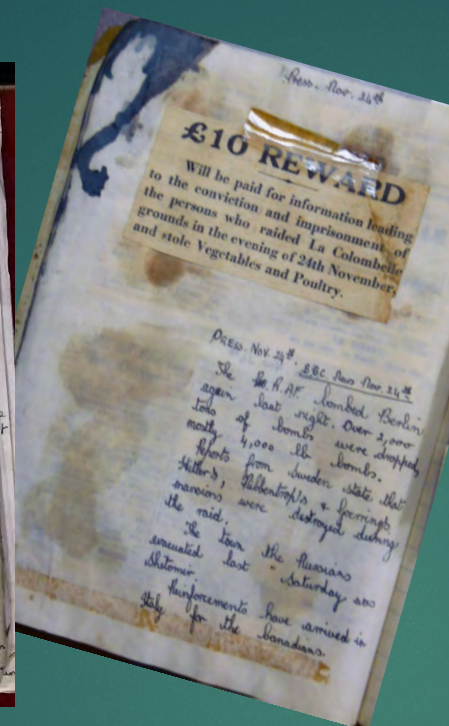
Typed "V" or Underground Victory Press newspaper. This was established by GUNS (Guernsey Underground News Service) by Frank Falla (more later on Falla)



Life Under the Occupation



Diary in Guernsey Museum



Brandeis University Archives: The scrapbook, made by "W.T. Oliver, 8 Rouge-Val Road, St Johns, Guernsey



Photo Album in Guernsey Museum

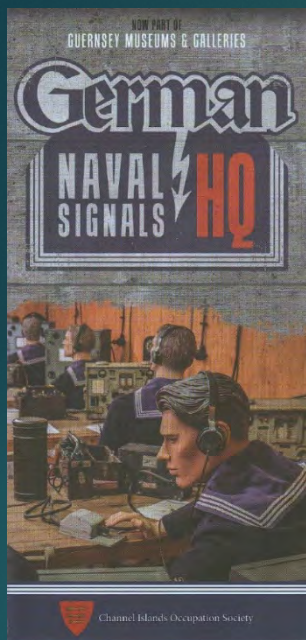
- Diary around Christmas when many were close to starvation in 1944. (Food had begun to run short in 1941) . . . "I'm getting downhearted"
- "£10 Reward . . . will be paid for information on person who raided . . . and stole vegetables and poultry."
- Some local women had affairs with the Occupiers . . .

Guernsey: La Collinette Hotel & German Signals HQ

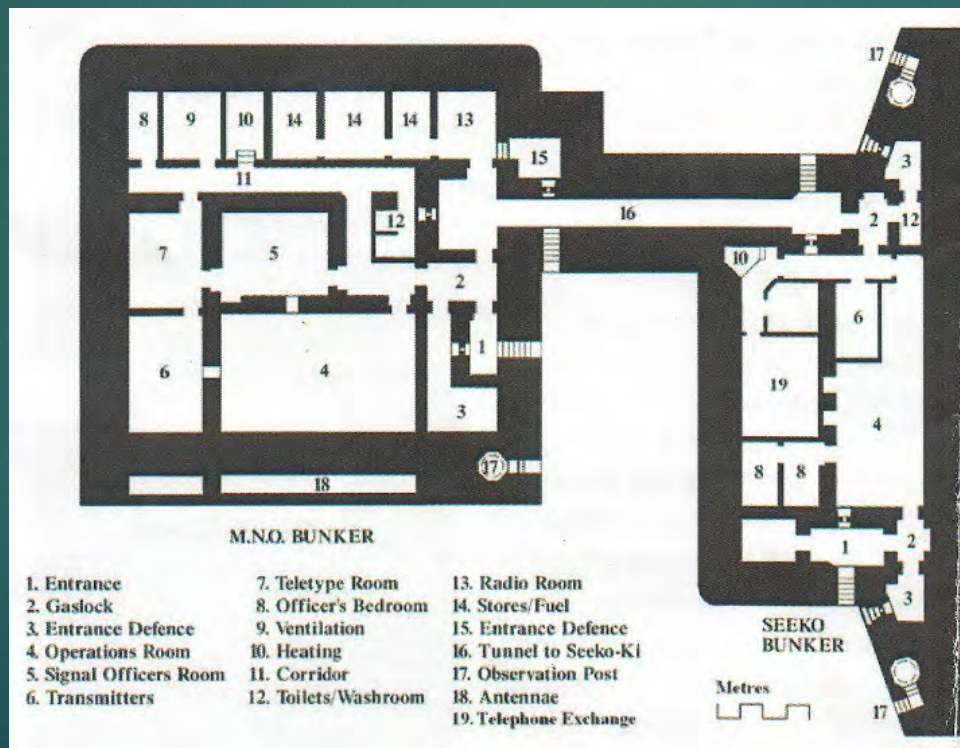


Underground German Signals Station at La Collinette Hotel

III



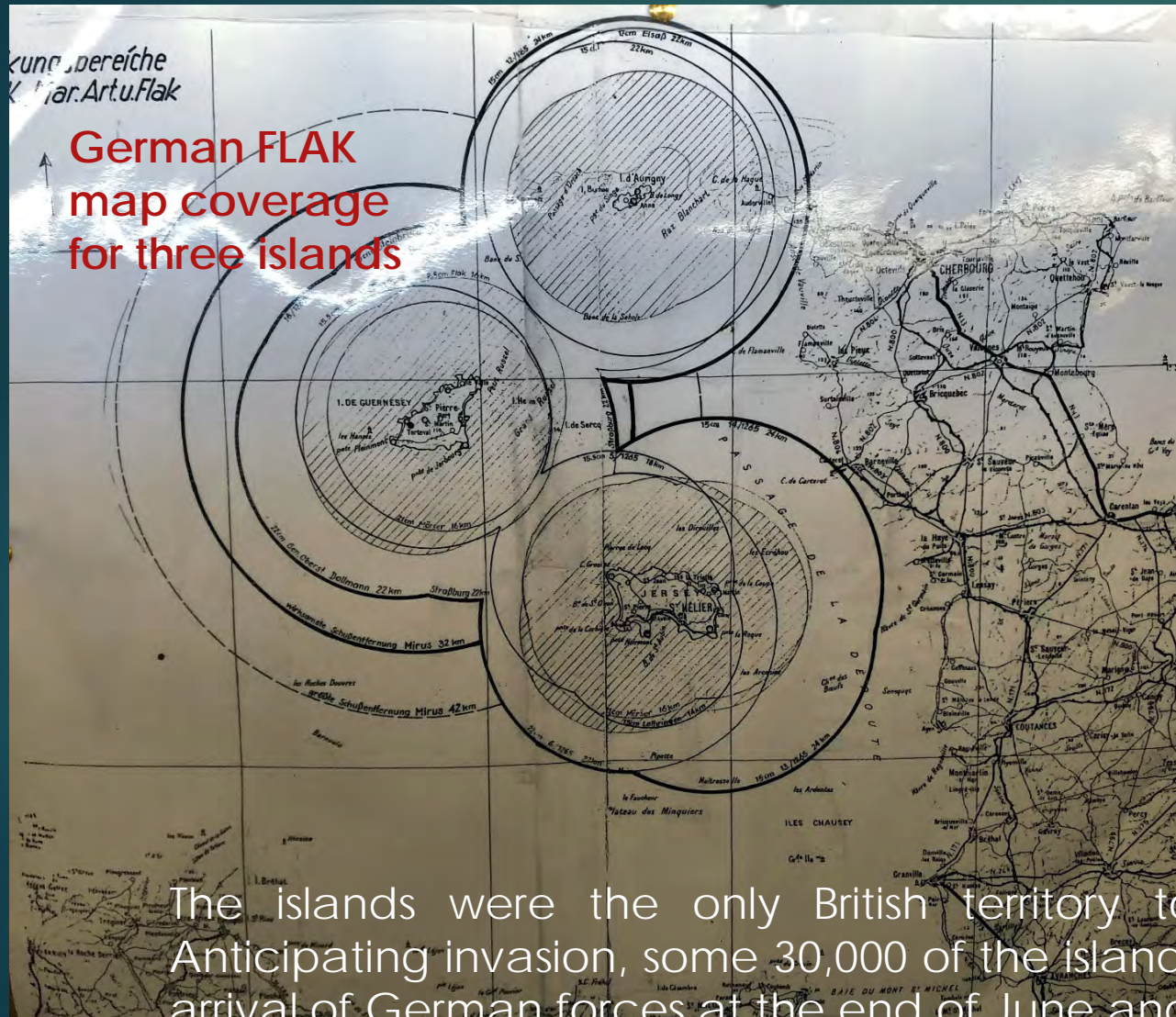
The construction itself was a triumph of engineering, slave labor and shattering.



Guernsey, Alderney & Jersey

St Peter Port on Guernsey

III



Establishing Military Facilities on Guernsey: A Hospital, but at what cost?

III



Eastern European POWs built facility
which was used only a few months

Island Fortress: great scenery, but bleak posts with little action

III



Coast Watch & Defenses

Pleinmont Tower at Torteval



Cost: POWs as Slave Labor

Was Guernsey
and the
Occupation worth
it for the
Germans?

"The Atlantic Wall [in Normandy and northward] could have been doubled in strength, so far as excavated works are concerned, had the resources devoted to the islands been retained on the mainland."

List of Russian POWs buried on Alderney or dumped into the sea

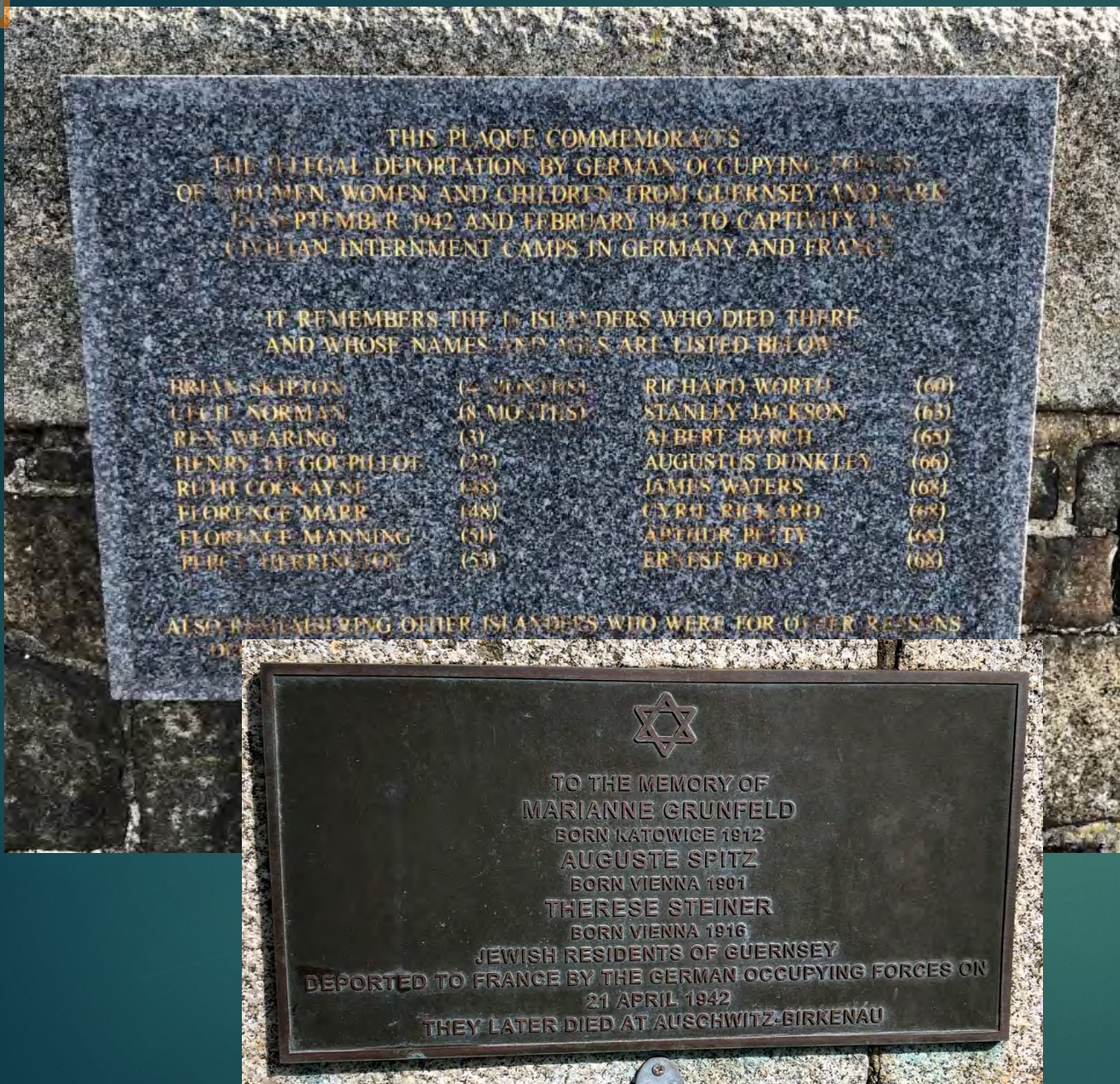
ALDERNEY "RUSSIAN" CEMETERY				
Alderney Grave No.	Initial & Name	Nationality	Dates of Birth Death	
Row A				
226	W. Kowaltschuk	Russian	25. 6.1923	17. 5.43
227	S. Stanisewski	Polish	5. 7.1916	1. 5.43
228	D. Derkatschow	Russian	15. 5.1911	28. 3.43
229	Unknown	Russian		
230	Unknown	Russian		
231	W. Krupadczow	Russian		7. 7.43
232	Unknown	Russian		
233	N. Roswij	Russian	1. 1.1924	1. 5.43
234	J. Demetiuk	Russian	21. 6.1916	18. 6.43
235	Unknown	Russian		
236	Unknown	Russian		
237	B. Rieaux	Russian		3.12.42
238	S. Pawnel	Russian		7. 2.44
239	M. Amarij	Russian		8. 2.44
240	Unknown	Russian		
241	A. Szepa	Russian	3. 6.1924	28. 2.44
242	D. Korikij	Russian		26. 2.44
243	P. Keenofontow	Russian	4. 5.1913	26. 2.44
244	R. Brauning	German	31. 1.1900	26. 2.44
245	N. Pobrawka	Russian		29. 2.44
R/245	P. Masztohu	Russian		20.11.42
246	B. Krikun	Russian	12. 9.1919	29. 2.44
R/246	P. Bassanetz	Russian		20.11.42
247	W. Saliany	Russian	14. 1.1921	7. 4.44
R/247	I. Gubin	Russian		18.11.42
248	E. Fledsduk	Russian	1908	7. 4.44
R/248	H. Schlehoff	Russian		6. 1.43
249	J. Bessagnij	Russian	26. 9.1923	18. 4.44
R/249	I. Kutsin	Russian		17.11.42
250	M. Bernikow	Russian	10. 9.1921	29. 4.44
R/250	I. Dukow	Russian		22.11.42
251	W. Poberezhnjuk	Russian		29. 4.44
252	E. Kalewski	Polish	27.11.1909	7. 5.44
253	K. Jitschuek	Russian	11. 4.1922	11. 5.44
R/253	W. Willcoats	Russian		19.11.42
254	N. Stushuk	Russian	2. 8.1922	15. 5.44
R/254	I. Kowaltschuk	Russian		20.11.42

German lists of some of the 387 slave workers identified, others were dumped out to sea.



Harbor Memorials to Citizens of Guernsey

IV




Memorial
those who
protested
resisted



"Cost" of Occupation for Guernsey

IV



CHANNEL ISLAND DEPORTEES





Deportations of Islanders

Marianne Grunfeld

Feldkommandantur 515.

Bekanntmachung

Auf höhere Anordnung werden folgende britische Staatsangehörige evakuiert und nach Deutschland überführt :

- a) Personen, die ihren festen Wohnsitz nicht auf den Kanalinseln haben, z.B. vom Kriegsausbruch dort Ueberraschte,
- b) alle nicht auf der Insel geborenen Männer von 16 — 70 Jahren, die englischer Volkszugehörigkeit sind, mit ihren Familien.

Nähere Weisungen ergehen von der Feldkommandantur 515.

Der Feldkommandant :

KNACKFUSS,
Oberst.

Jersey, den 15. September 1942.

NOTICE

By order of higher authorities the following British Subjects will be evacuated and transferred to Germany :

- a) Persons who have their permanent residence not on the Channel Islands, for instance, those who have been caught here by the outbreak of the war,
- b) all those men not born on the Channel Islands and 16 to 70 years of age who belong to the English people, together with their families.

Detailed instructions will be given by the Feldkommandantur 515.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deportations_from_the_German-occupied_Channel_Islands

Suggested Reading, Movies & Channel Island Websites

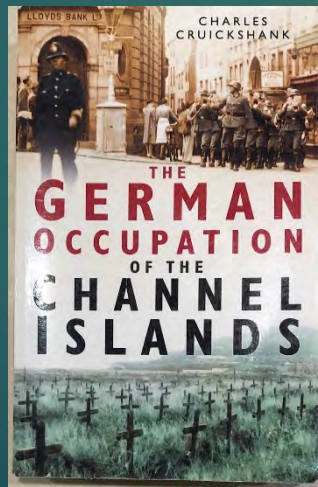
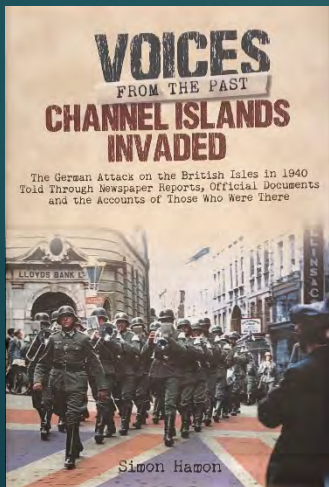
Recommended Books

Simon Hamon, *Voices from the Past: Channel Islands Invaded*

Frontline Books (2015)

"This story came from the mouths and pens of those who lived through the occupation"

Charles Cruickshank, *The German Occupation of the Channel Islands* History Press (2009)



Video Clip & Websites of Interest

- Liberation Day events 2020 (video)
<https://www.visitguernsey.com/heritage75>
- German Underground Hospital
<http://www.germanundergroundhospital.co.uk/>
- Nazi Occupation of the Islands of Guernsey
<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Nazi-Occupation-Channel-Islands-WWII/>
- Deportations from the German-occupied Channel Islands
<http://www.museums.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=113836&p=0>
- The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (from book) on Netflix
<https://www.netflix.com/title/80223371>
- About Movie: *Another Mother's Son*:
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-4344518/Another-Mother-s-Son-gripping-story-Jersey-WWII.html>
- Link for list of more Channel Occupation books:
https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/35097.Stories_of_the_German_Occupation_of_the_Channel_Islands

Continued . . .



FOR MORE DETAILS GO TO “VISIT GUERNSEY” WITH ADDITIONAL CLIPS

Invasion: <https://movie.visitguernsey.com/invasion.html>

Fortifications: <https://movie.visitguernsey.com/fortification.html>

Slave Labor: <https://movie.visitguernsey.com/fortification.html>

Evacuation etc.: <https://movie.visitguernsey.com/evacuation.html>

Selected Bibliography & Online Sources



One of the main passages off the main square in St Peter Port

Charles Cruickshank, *The German Occupation of the Channel Islands* History Press (2009)

Simon Hamon, *Voices from the Past: Channel Islands Invaded* Frontline Books (2015)

Photos, (unless otherwise credited) were taken by me in Sept. 2019 while visiting Guernsey

Websites:

- Liberation Day events 2020 (video) <https://www.visitguernsey.com/heritage75>
- German Underground Hospital <http://www.germanundergroundhospital.co.uk/>
- Nazi Occupation of the Islands of Guernsey
<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Nazi-Occupation-Channel-Islands-WWII/>
- Deportations from the German-occupied Channel Islands
<http://www.museums.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=113836&p=0>
- About Movie: *Another Mother's Son*:
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-4344518/Another-Mother-s-Son-gripping-story-Jersey-WWII.html>
- Link for list of more Channel Occupation books:
https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/35097.Stories_of_the_German_Occupation_of_the_Channel_Islands

Video clip: *Another Mother's Son* go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Va6mILX4dk>

75th Anniversary Liberation of Guernsey wreath laying go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OWbx4pE2cc&feature=youtu.be>

Gilly Carr and Resistance Movement "Forgotten Heroes" go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHEHvUAI_B8