

GUERNSEY OCCUPIED 1940-45

6

1945- LIBERATION

Planning for the liberation of the Channel Islands began at the end of 1943. Although the invasion of France in June 1944 by-passed the islands, the original intention was to recover them by force.

Alternative plans, codenamed 'Operation Nest Egg' were also devised and it was these that were eventually put into operation. The plans depended on the unconditional surrender of German forces in Europe, and included highly detailed arrangements for putting the islands back on their feet. A military administration would govern until the islands themselves were in a position to do so.

Early in the morning after Churchill's VE Day announcement the representative of the German forces in the Channel Islands signed an unconditional surrender on board HMS Bulldog, anchored off Guernsey.

Operation Nest Egg and the Liberation of the Channel Islands was carried out by Force 135, a British task force of 6,000 men. The first troops landed in Guernsey and Jersey on 9th May and were greeted by cheering crowds. Although Sark was officially liberated on 10th May no troops were available to be sent there and the Dame of Sark was put in temporary charge of the German garrison. Alderney was liberated on 19th May.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth made a special visit to the Islands on 7th June 1945.



1
Photograph of Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, taken during World War II.
Courtesy World Wide Web

2
Photograph of burnt-out tomato lorries on the White Rock Jetty, St. Peter Port harbour. The aftermath of the bombing raid by the German Luftwaffe on 28th June 1940.
Photographic Archive - Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

3
Photograph of the ruins of the St. Peter Port harbour clock tower and weighbridge. The aftermath of the bombing raid by the German Luftwaffe on the 28th June 1940.
Photographic Archive - Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

4
Photograph of Guernsey people gathering at St. Peter Port harbour ready to be evacuated. The people are carrying whatever belongings they can manage to take with them.
Courtesy of the Carol Toms Collection, Pinauls Library

5
Detail of a photograph of Guernsey men gathered in St. Peter Port to await evacuation in June 1940. These men would subsequently volunteer for the British armed forces when they reached England.
Courtesy of the Carol Toms Collection, Pinauls Library

6
Photograph showing plumes of smoke rising from the White Rock Jetty, St. Peter Port harbour. The German Luftwaffe's bombing raid left numerous tomato lorries on fire and many people killed or injured.
Photographic Archive - Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

