

# GUERNSEY OCCUPIED 1940-45

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### TO THE PEOPLE OF THE ISLAND OF GUERNSEY.

Most of you will have seen the Proclamation issued by the General Officer Commanding the German Army in France warning us all of the consequences which would result from any acts of sabotage which might be perpetrated in this Island.

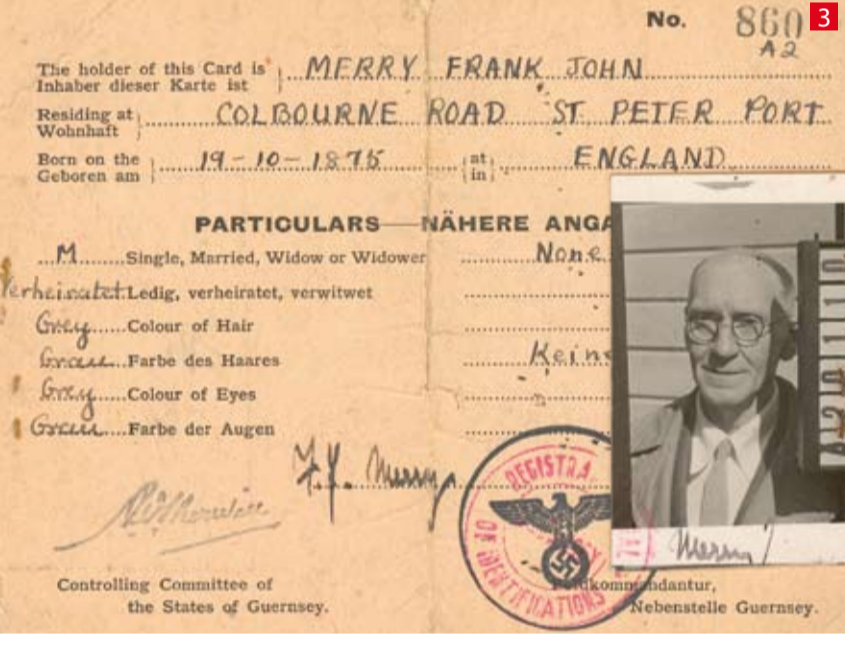
I have no doubt that the majority of the islanders of all stations in life realize the stupidity of such acts and the dangers in which they involve not only those concerned but the whole population.

I look to them to impress these dangers on any who appear not to appreciate as yet the necessity of refraining from interference of any kind with equipment and property in German use. Any such acts of interference would be damaging to the welfare of Guernsey and are to be condemned by all right thinking people.

I should also like to draw the attention of those who have been accorded the privilege of fishing of the dire consequences should they attempt to escape from the Island in their boats. This might mean that all fishing would be immediately prohibited to the great detriment of the population and that, if caught, severe punishment would be meted out.

Up to the present time the general behaviour of the inhabitants has been both correct and dignified, and consequently the Local Officials, who are constantly faced with the solution of many important and difficult problems, have been able to carry on the government of the Island with the co-operation of the German Officials for the general well-being of the population as a whole. This state of affairs can only continue if every member of the community will contribute his or her share by assisting the Authorities in every way possible.

VICTOR G. CAREY,  
Baillif of Guernsey.  
May 28th, 1941.



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

**Verordnung**  
zur Durchsetzung der Verordnung zur Regelung des Verkehrsverkehrs in Guernsey (Verordnung vom 12. März 1942) (VVO) vom 12. März 1942.

**Order of the 21st May, 1942**  
for execution of the Order of March 12th, 1942, regarding Road Traffic in the occupied territory of Guernsey (VVO) (VVOBZ) page 201.

Other regulations include:  
- Verbot eines Fahrzeuges oder Lastkraftwagen auf dem Fahrbahnrand (No Entry)  
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4 Photograph of Guernsey people gathered 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, Pivals Library

5 Detail of a photograph of Guernsese 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, Pivals 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

# ISOLATION & RESTRICTIONS

## Everyone over the age of 14 had to carry an identity card. No one was allowed out at night after the curfew hour and access to areas near military installations was banned.

All mail and news was censored. Cameras were confiscated. Permits had to be obtained from the German authorities for many normal daily activities, including travel in the islands. Food, petrol and fuel were all rationed.

The German authorities banned all direct communication with Britain. People separated from relatives and friends on the mainland could keep in touch only by means of infrequent messages sent via the Red Cross. These were limited to a maximum of 25 words. For many this lack of contact was the hardest thing to bear.

Isolation was completed with the banning of wireless sets. BBC broadcasts had been the only way of finding out how the war was going, but in 1940 all wireless sets were confiscated after islanders helped two Allied agents to escape. The sets were later returned but were permanently taken away in 1942. Many people made their own crystal sets which had to be carefully hidden from the Germans.

Some businesses closed down when trade and communications with suppliers and customers in England were cut. Farms, schools and medical services kept going under the scrutiny of German authorities.

The Germans were always afraid that islanders would escape with military information and so fishing boats operated under tight restrictions and were allowed out only with a German escort aboard. A fifth of the catch had to be handed over to the German forces.

Medical supplies grew scarce. Diabetics were unable to obtain their essential daily injection of insulin and several died. The lack of soap led to concern about the spread of disease.

## News from England

For the Channel Islands

### GERMAN FRONT LINE BATTERED

WATCHERS on this coastline will never forget the skins of moving light and fire which they have seen night after night in recent weeks enveloping, like an Aurora Borealis of the south, the ports where the Germans are massed for their attempted invasion.

### AMERICAN VIEW

Latest in the Gallup survey of U.S. public opinion was the question: "Recently the Germans claimed they had shot down 427 English planes in one week, and lost only 89 of their own. Do you think this was accurate?" Voting was No 86%, Yes 3%, Don't know 11%.

### ESCAPE FROM GUERNSEY

A PARTY of eight men have successfully escaped from Guernsey in a 20 ft. boat. The London press is leading their adventures.

### STRANGLEHOLD BY THE NAVY

SEA-POWER, decisive factor of our strength in the Middle East is in the hands of Britain. September has brought more proofs of this.

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