# LIBERATION



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Having endured 1,773 days of Occupation by German forces, Jersey was finally liberated by the British Troops of Task Force 135 on 9 May 1945.

A t 3.00pm on 8 May a crowd gathered in the Royal Square and listen to a broadcast in which the British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, stated rather prematurely '...and our dear Channel Islands are also to be freed today.'

On the morning of 9 May, the Bailiff, Alexander Coutanche, the Attorney General, CW Duret Aubin, and the Solicitor General, CS Harrison, go with General Major Wulf, the Island Kommandant, to HMS *Beagle*. Just after midday Brigadier AE Snow received the formal surrender of the German garrison on Jersey. The first British troops of Task Force 135 were led ashore in the early afternoon by Lieutenant Colonel Robinson and Captain Hugh Le Brocq. The British set up their headquarters in the Pomme d'Or Hotel and finally raised the British flag.

On Sunday 13 May, the first of over 11,000 German prisoners of war were shipped out to prison camps in England from the beach of St Aubin's Bay.



## Message from the King

A t the end of the Occupation, King George VI sent a message to Jersey congratulating them on their liberation and wishing them luck for the future in rebuilding the Island.

L/C/55/B/9



#### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

To my most loyal people in the Channel Islands, I send my heartfelt greetings.

Ever since my armed forces had to be withdrawn, you have, I know, looked forward with the same confidence as I have to the time of deliverance. We have never been divided in spirit. Our hopes and fears, anxieties and determination have been the same, and we have been bound together by an unshakable conviction that the day would come when the Islands, the oldest possession of the Crown, would be liberated from enemy occupation. That day has now come and, with all my Peoples, I cordially welcome you on your restoration to freedom and to your rightful place with the free nations of the world.

Channel Islanders in their thousands are fighting in my service for the cause of civilisation with their traditional loyalty, courage and devotion. Their task is not yet ended; but for you a new task begins at once-to re-build the fortunes of your beautiful Islands in anticipation of reunion with relatives, friends and neighbours who have been parted from you by the circumstances of war. In this task you can count on the fullest support of my Government.

It is my desire that your ancient privileges and institutions should be maintained and that you should resume as soon as possible your accustomed system of government. Meantime, the immediate situation requires that responsibility for the safety of the Islands and the well-being of the inhabitants should rest upon the Commander of the Armed Forces stationed in the Islands. I feel confident that the Civil Authorities, who have carried so heavy a burden during the past years, will gladly co-operate with him in maintaining good government and securing the distribution of the supplies which he is bringing with him.

It is my earnest hope that the Islands, reinstated in their ancestral relationship to the Crown, will soon regain their former happiness and prosperity.

(Signed) GEORGE R. I.



### Aerial Photograph of Jersey

This aerial photograph was taken in August 1944 as a part of Operation Nestegg. Operation Nestegg was the name of the planned liberation of the Channel Islands and was under the control of Brigadier Alfred Snow.

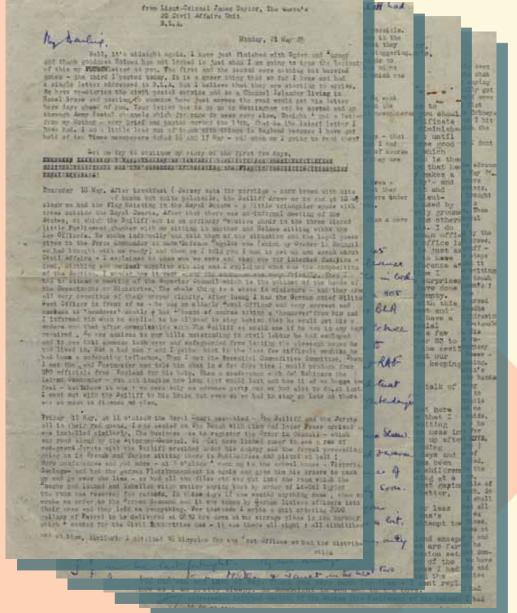
L/C/14/B/8/8

### Account of the Liberation of Jersey

ieutenant Colonel James Taylor was the Senior Officer of the 20, Civil Affairs Unit.

These two letters are to his wife describing the liberation of the Island and what the military authorities were doing.

#### L/C/72/A1 & A2



## LIBERATION

# Identity Card signed by liberating forces

dentity card of Kathleen Alice Davis issued in January 1941. As the Occupation was over and the identity cards were not needed anymore, she asked soldiers from the liberating forces to sign her identity card.

L/F/05/C/1



Mathleon alice (Inhaber) Victoria Residing at .... OF Setins Yalling (Wohnhaft) Born on the 27.6.0 6 at OF Helian (Geboren um) (in) Uceaeg

CARD IDENTITY **IDENTITAETSKARTE** PARTICULARS-NÄHERE ANGABEN. Single, Married, Widow or Widower (Ledig, Verheiratet, Verwitwet) Colour of Hair (Farbo des Haares) Colour of Eyes (Farbe der Augen) Physical Peculiarities (Besondere Merkmale) Jou co.....Signature (Unterschrift) JAN 1941 on Officer

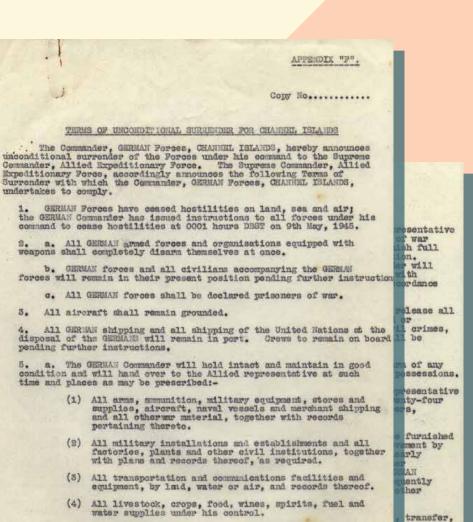
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### Terms of surrender

opy of the terms ∕of unconditional surrender signed by the German and British forces.

L/F/54/C/V/3



(5) All submarine cables, telephones and telegraph installations to be handed over in full working order.

b. The GERMAN Commander shall provide all facilities for movement and land communications of Allied troops and agencies; he will maintain all transportation in good order and repair and will furnish the labour services and plant necessary therefor.

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14. These provisions are drawn up in the ENGLISH and GERMAN languages. The ENGLISH text is authoritative. In case of any question as to the meaning of the provisions the decision of the Allied representatives will prevail. 14.

- 3 -

3.

SIGNED in HMS 'BUILDOG' ST FETER PORT	off	(place)	this ninth	day of	May, 1945.
(month) at 0715 (hour)					

(Neme) (Title) Representing (Commander, GERMAN Forces, CHANNEL IBLANDS)

......Brisedier...Compander. BETTISH FORCES CHAUNEL ISLANDS (Name) (Title) (Allied Representative)