

# OCCUPATION



The first official contact - the Attorney General and Bailiff at the airport

The German Army invaded Norway and Denmark in April 1940 and Belgium, Holland and France in May. On 1 July 1940 the Germans arrived in the island.

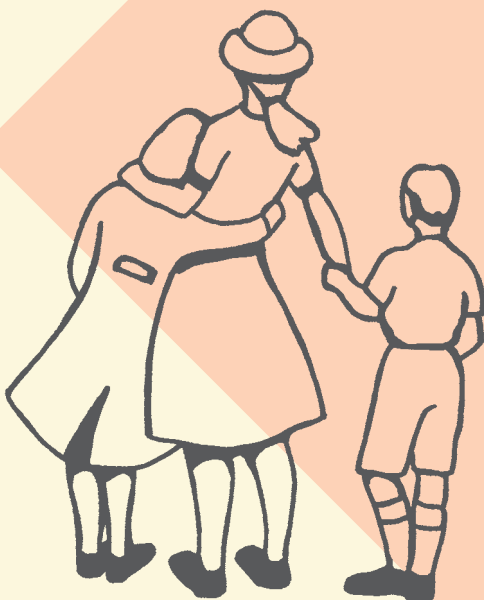
The German ultimatum demanded that white crosses of surrender be painted in prominent places such as the Royal Square and the Airport.

The Attorney General, CW Duret-Aubin, was among the Crown Officers who met the German invaders at the States Airport on the morning of 1 July 1940.

The Town Hall, 'der Rathaus' in German, became a favourite site for propaganda photographs of German troops and British policemen working together.

The Observation Tower at La Corbière was built as part of the 1941-44 fortification programme. By May 1945 over 67,000 mines were laid around the island.

Much of the fortification work was carried out by the Organisation Todt which used up to 6,000 slave workers, mainly Russians and Spanish Republicans. British Intelligence estimated the death rate amongst slave workers to be 40%.



## War strikes home

This telegram was sent by the Lieutenant Governor to the Prime Minister on the 27 June 1940 describing the situation in Jersey as the German aircraft bombed the island. It had not been made public that the island had been demilitarised so the Germans still saw Jersey as a potential threat whose defences needed to be tested.

POST OFFICE INLAND <b>TELEGRAM</b>		FOR POSTAGE STAMPS	Charge	Counter number <b>8A</b>
Profile	Handed in	For conditions of acceptance, see over SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS	Chargeable words	To
If you wish to pay for a reply insert R.P. here		ADDRESS UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE HOME OFFICE LONDON		
ENEMY AIRCRAFT BOMBED PORT OF SAINT HELIER AND OTHER DISTRICTS IN JERSEY THIS EVENING ABOUT SEVEN STOP AT LEAST THREE KILLED AND SEVERAL WOUNDED STOP THREE AT LEAST KILLED AND SEVERAL WOUNDED STOP MATERIAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY				
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR		SENT LO P.M. BY PHONE		
Please write on the back of this form, the telephone number, or name and address of the sender, if not to be telegraphed <b>27.6.40</b>				

## War crimes testimony

This testimony was given by the Bailiff, Alexander Moncrieff Coutanche, at the war crimes trials of Colonel Oberst Knackfuss and General Muller. In it he describes the bombing raid of the 28 June when the island had been fully demilitarised. The Germans met with no resistance and yet still carried out an air raid on Jersey killing ten people and injuring nine.

IN THE MATTER OF GERMAN WAR CRIMES  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF ALEXANDER MONCRIEFF COUTANCHE.

I, Alexander Moncrieff Coutanche, Bailiff of Jersey, make oath and say as follows:-

- On Thursday, June 27th, 1940, an aircraft which was identified visually as being German, flew low over the island of Jersey on, apparently, a reconnaissance flight. It was not fired upon in any way whatsoever nor did the aircraft itself make any use whatsoever of its armament.
- On Friday, June 28th, 1940, six German aircraft approached Jersey between 6.30 p.m. and 7 p.m., coming in from the South East. They dropped bombs in the close vicinity of La Hogue Harbour and proceeded westwards to attack St. Helier's Harbour where they again dropped bombs. The civil population were machine-gunned from a low altitude between La Hogue and St. Helier and again in the vicinity of the quays at St. Helier. The aircraft then proceeded westwards, returning half an hour or so later to drop more bombs on the harbour of St. Helier and to machine-gun from an even lower altitude. In some places the aircraft when machine-gunning were flying at little more than roof-top height.
- At no time during the course of the attack were the aircraft fired on from land, sea or air.
- The casualties suffered by the civil population during the course of the raid were as follows:-  
Killed .... 11.  
Injured .... 9.  
Substantial damage was done to property.

/ s.

ALEX. COUTANCHE

- 2 -

- On Saturday, June 29th, 1940, during the morning, German aircraft again appeared over the island and there was some machine-gunning. There were no casualties. The aircraft were not fired on in any way.
- The Commander of the German Air Forces in Normandy on July 1st, 1940, was General von Richthofen, and his signature appeared on the Ultimatum demanding capitulation, which was dropped on the island in the early hours of that day.
- After the arrival of the German Forces on the island on July 1st, 1940, no conversations took place between the German Military and the Insular Civil Authorities with regard to the matters referred to in this affidavit.

Sworn before me at St. Helier, Jersey,  
this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 1940.

(Signed) FRANK E. HADDOCK.  
Major.

An Officer of the Judge Advocate  
General's Office and a Commissioner  
for Oaths.

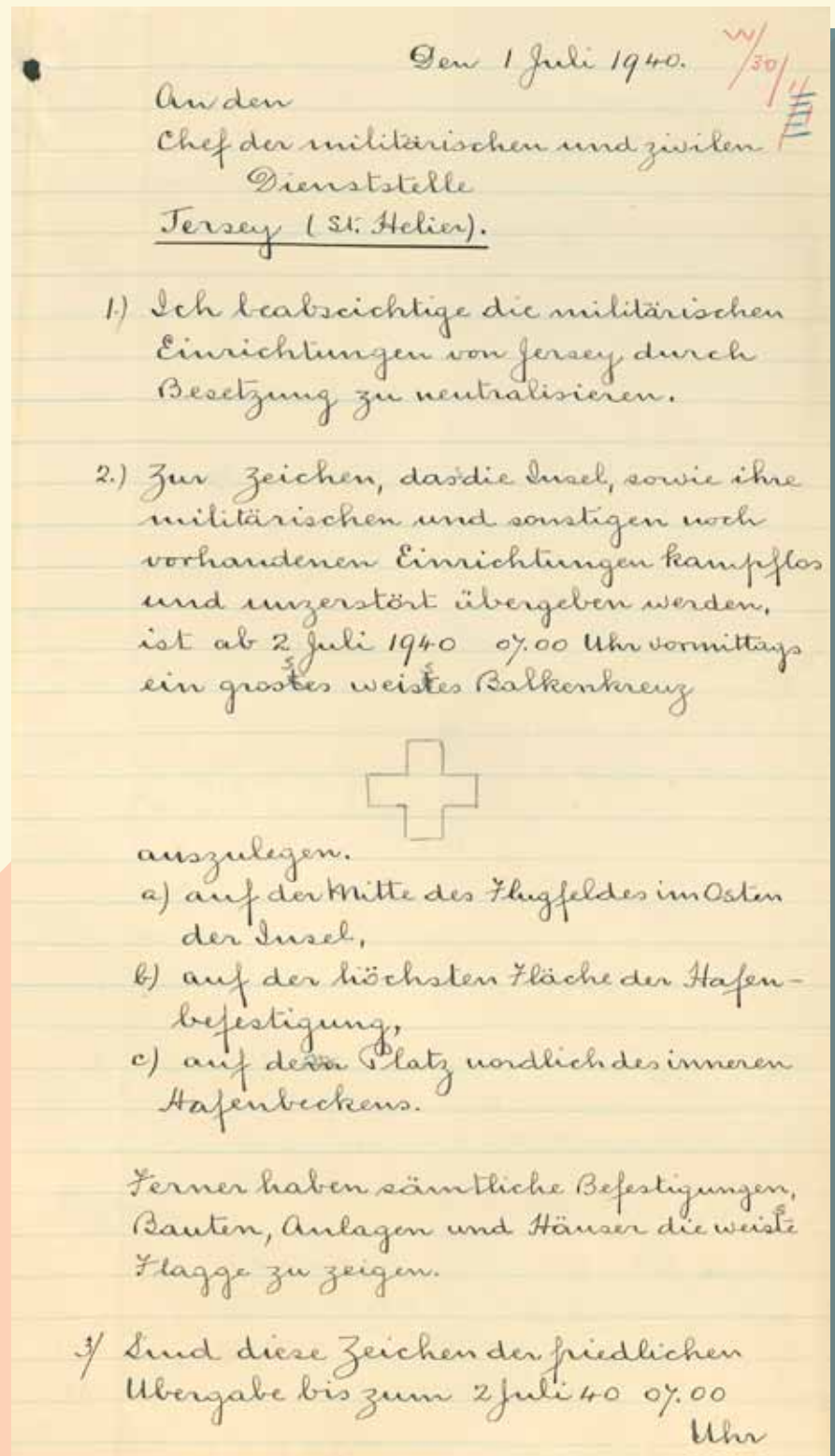
A. M. COUTANCHE.



## Notice to surrender

On 1 July 1940 three notices demanding the unconditional surrender of Jersey were dropped on different parts of the Island. These notices were in German and were signed by General Richthofen, the Commander of the German Air Force in Normandy. This is a copy of one of these notices.

B/A/W30/1





## A warning

During the Occupation, Organisation Todt forced workers were employed to complete work on defences for the Germans.

As can be seen by this note the Germans were worried about workers escaping and integrating into Jersey society and Islanders were under threat of punishment if they did help the workers.

B/A/W50/48A/D1/Y2

W50/48

Feldkommandantur 515  
Mil. Vorw. Gr.-  
Az. Pol c2/3.  
F.  
An

Jersey, den 25.2.1942.

1. Bailiff der Insel Jersey,  
St. Helier

2. Bailiff der Insel Guernsey,  
St. Peter-Port.

Betr. Ueberwachung der in Lagern eingesetzten spanischen Arbeiter.

Ich ersuche alle Spanier, bei denen der Verdacht besteht, dass sie aus einem Lager der OT entwichen sind, festzunehmen und der nächsten deutschen Polizeidienststelle zu übergeben. Es muss verhindert werden, dass solche entwichene Arbeiter auf irgendwelche Angaben hin, neue Identitätskarten, sonstige Ausweispapiere oder gar Lebensmittelkarten bekommen, mit deren Hilfe sie sich hier eine zeitlang durchschlagen oder anderwärts Arbeit finden können.

Der Feldkommandant:  
J.V.  
*Dr. Casper*  
O.K.V.R. A

Field Command 515  
Az. Pol c2/3

TRANSLATION

25th February 1942 W50/48

The Bailiff of Jersey.  
Control of Spanish workmen lodged in the camps.

I request that any Spanish workman, where there is reason for supposing that he has slipped away from an O.T. camp, be arrested and handed over to the nearest German police authority. Such workmen who slip away must be prevented from obtaining on any pretext whatever, new identity cards, other documents of identification or even ration books with the assistance of which they might be able to live here for some time or find other work.

For the Field Commandant,  
Dr. Casper, O.K.V.R.

*The A.G.*  
*For necessary action please*  
*27th Feb 1942.*

*P.B.*