

**The German Occupation
of the Channel Islands
1940–1945**



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by

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BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

The Channel Islands comprise nine islands with the three largest being Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney.

Victor Hugo referred to the Channel Islands as being pieces of France dropped into the sea and scooped up by the English.

He was technically incorrect as the Islands came to the Crown as part of the Duchy of Normandy in 1066 with the loyal toast remaining to this day '**Nôl Duke**', '**Our Duke the Queen**'.

The Islands are divided into the two Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey each presided over by the Sovereign's appointed Bailiff. Each has its own Government and this is one of the reasons for the different occupation stamps issued for Jersey and Guernsey.

The Channel Islands are part of the British Isles but not part of the United Kingdom. The Islands were the only British soil to be occupied by the Germans.



THE GERMAN OCCUPATION

3 September 1939	Great Britain and France declare war on Germany.
September 1939 to May 1940	Period of the 'phoney war'.
10 May 1940	German forces launch attacks on Holland and Belgium and through the Ardennes on France.
12 June 1940	The Germans occupy Paris.
June 1940	Lord Haw Haw broadcasts from Germany <i>'We are coming very soon, you Channel Islanders, to get those potatoes and tomatoes and when we have finished with you there will be nothing left.'</i>
19 June 1940	Announcement made that the Islands were to be demilitarised and voluntary evacuation of the civilian population organised.
30 June 1940	Guernsey occupied.
1 July 1940	Jersey occupied.
9 May 1945	The Channel Islands are liberated.



Photographic postcard taken on 1 July 1940 at Jersey Airport.

The Bailiff, Alexander Coutanche and the Attorney-General, Duret-Aubin (far left) with Staffel Kapitän von Obernitz. Lt. Kern, who had been the first to land in Jersey, looks on smiling (second from right).

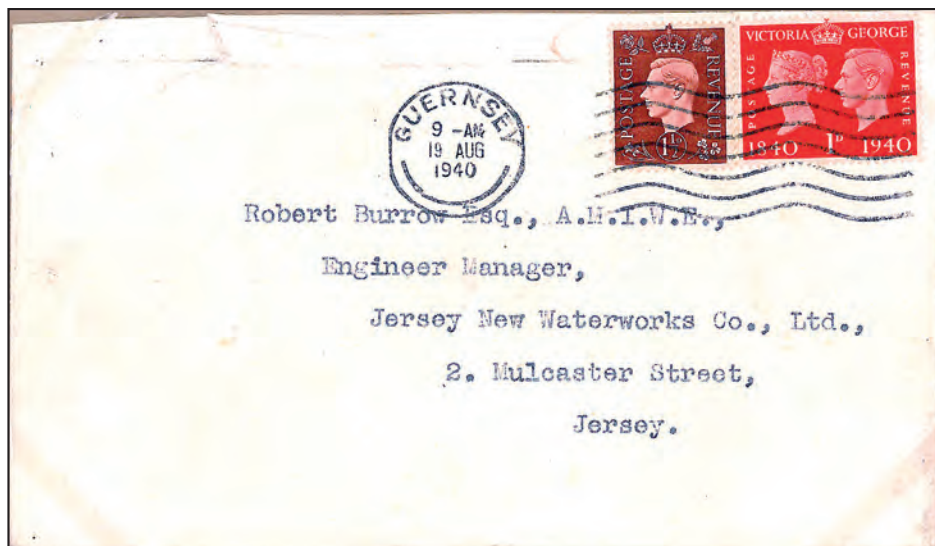
IMPACT OF THE OCCUPATION ON POSTAL SERVICES .

From the date of the occupation all postal services to and from 'the outside world' were suspended whilst the postal services within the Islands remained unaffected.



Cover dated 'JERSEY / 1 JULY / 1940' the day the Island was occupied. Marked 'no postal service'.

GB stamps remained valid in and between the Islands throughout the occupation but mail from the Islands required German stamps with 15pf for postcards and 25pf for letters. Incoming mail required postage from the country of origin at the external postage rate.



Cover dated 'GUERNSEY / 19 AUG / 1940' showing the use of GB stamps during the occupation.

There was no mail service between the Islands and the UK throughout the occupation period although limited postal communications were possible through the Red Cross Civilian Message scheme.

As a result of the occupation no new supplies of stamps or any other postal materials could be obtained from the UK and this immediately led to a shortage of postage stamps especially the 1d and ½d values. The Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey functioned separately and this was reflected in the response made to the lack of availability of new supplies of stamps.

This presentation deals with two aspects of the occupation period

Part 1 OCCUPATION POSTAGE STAMPS

Part 2 'SOME UNTOLD STORIES' illustrating the hardships and sufferings of a small number of Islanders who fell foul of the German authorities and were imprisoned serving their sentences in France and Germany.

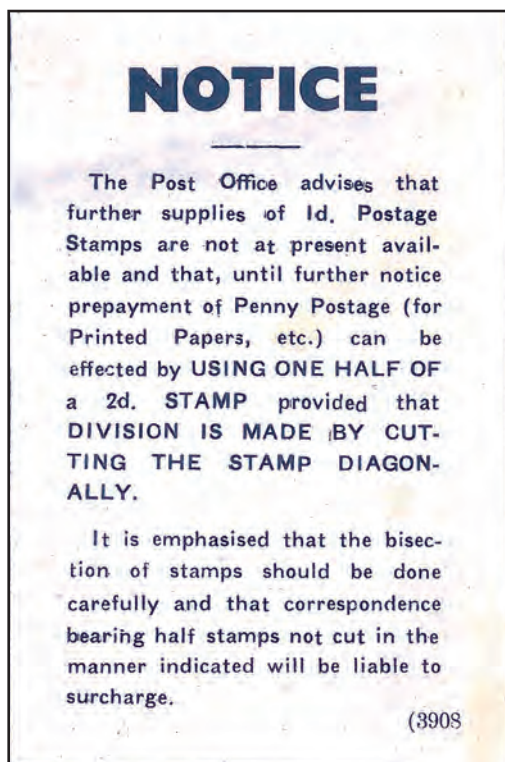
Part 1 – OCCUPATION POSTAGE STAMPS

GUERNSEY

The remaining stocks of GB stamps were lower in Guernsey than Jersey and it was Guernsey which reacted to the situation first.

BISECTS 1941

As the production of new stamps would take several weeks the German authorities suggested that existing stocks of GB 2d stamps should be bisected diagonally with each half being used as a 1d stamp.



***Bisected 2d Centenary
commemorative stamp.***

***Post Office notice advising the public that
the 2d stamps could be bisected diagonally
to provide two 1d stamps.***

GUERNSEY ARMS STAMPS 1941–1943

Locally produced stamps for ½d, 1d and 2½d values were deemed necessary due to the exhaustion of supplies of GB stamps.

The Bailiff of Guernsey, Victor Carey, with German approval requested the Guernsey Press Co Ltd. of 8 Smith Street, St Peter Port, to produce designs for new stamps initially of ½d and 1d values which were in especially short supply.

The stamps were designed by E.W. Vaudin and printed by the Guernsey Press Co Ltd. The stamps contained the Arms of Guernsey and the design was later copied in Jersey. These were the only occupation stamps to be issued in Guernsey.

In 1940 Mr Vaudin, a talented artist and craftsman, held a responsible position with the Guernsey Press Company Ltd who were given the task of designing and printing the postage stamp issues for the Bailiwick of Guernsey.



Mr E.W. Vaudin designer of the Guernsey Arms stamps.

The first printings took place and were available for purchase on the following dates:

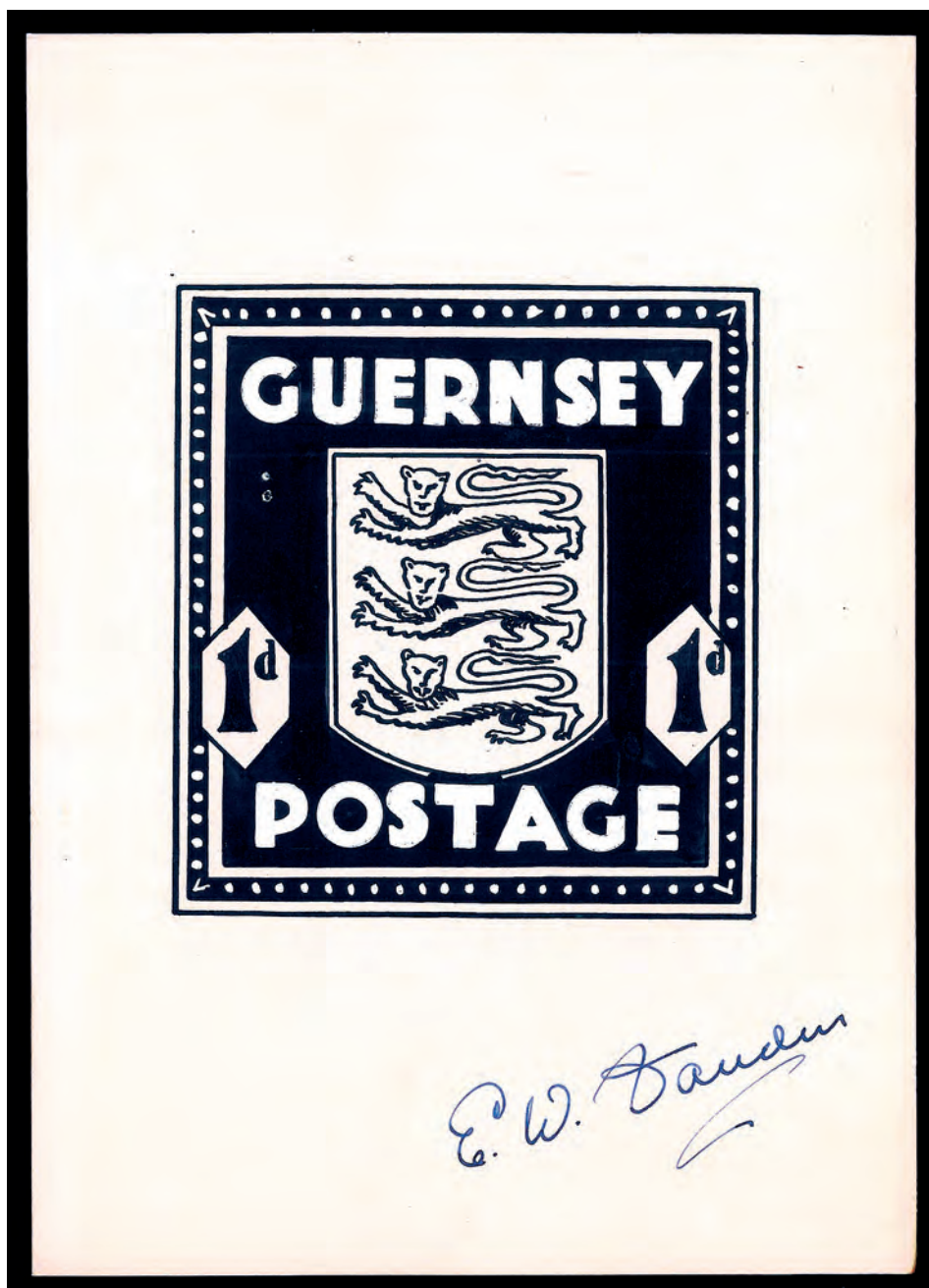


		First Printing	On sale	Number of Printings
1d	-	February 1941	17 February 1941	16
½d	-	March 1941	7 April 1941	13
2½d	-	Not recorded	12 April 1941	4

The printings for each value are identified by an imprint in the bottom margin.

Artwork

The Germans would not allow the stamps to bear the King's head so Mr Vaudin used the Channel Islands Arms which are in fact the Arms of the Sovereign of England. This was not spotted by the Germans who approved the design.



Original artwork signed by the designer E.W. Vaudin.

The first value to be printed was 1d in carmine on white gummed paper manufactured by Samuel Jones of London and was printed on an electronically operated flatbed cylinder machine with each sheet being fed by hand.

Once existing stocks of pre-gummed paper had been exhausted various methods of applying gum were tried with the most successful being brushing on a mixture of gum, dextrine and other adhesive substances by hand.

Once printed each sheet was perforated by a hand fed electrically operated roulette type machine. As the machine only had three perforating wheels each sheet of 60 stamps had to be fed through the machine seven times.

Printings

The form of imprint varied on each printing, but most contained either 120M or 240M which denoted the number of stamps printed in thousands. Therefore 120M signified 120,000 and 240M 240,000. The 1d stamp was the first value to be printed and appeared two months earlier than the similar Jersey stamp. There were a total of 33 printings of the three values.



1d value 1st printing.



1/2d value 1st printing.



*1/2d value 5th printing
on French banknote paper.*



2 1/2d value 1st printing.

The printers had difficulty in obtaining ink supplies and shade variations are evident throughout the printings. The paper generally does not have a watermark, but a supply of watermarked paper was obtained from France in March 1942. This paper turned blue when gummed but nevertheless 120,000 1/2d and 1d stamps were printed on this paper which is referred to as blue 'banknote' paper.

JERSEY

SWASTIKA OVERPRINTS 1940

Orders were given to the acting postmaster in Jersey, Mr O.F. Mourant, by the German Commandant, Captain Gussek, to supply quantities of the then current GB stamps for overprinting with a swastika over 'JERSEY 1940'. The overprinting was first made on the 1940 Postal Centenary issue (all values except the 1d which was not available) by means of a small swastika and type carved from wood. There was only one block available so each stamp had to be overprinted separately.



2d value.



2½d value.



1½d value.



4d value.



5d value.

Wieneke cert

The Wieneke certificate states that the overprinted stamps of the George VI definitives (excepting the 3d value) were auctioned in 1941 as Lot 233 in 108 Köhler-Auktion and therefore this set establishes the basis against which other overprints can be compared.

The Bailiff of Jersey protested to the German Commandant against the defacing of the King's head and the matter was referred to Berlin for guidance. As it was the policy of the Germans to treat the Channel Islanders as courteously as possible the issue was not proceeded with and orders were given for the overprinted stamps to be destroyed. Although most were destroyed, fortuitously for philatelists, a few were not!

Following the overprinting of the centenary stamps a swastika was cast and the rest of the inscription made up in type. The whole was re-cast and forms made for the overprinting. The thirteen values from ½d to 1/- were overprinted in the form of sixty.

The number of overprints is not accurately known, but very few exist.

Bill Newport in his *Stamps and Postal History of the Channel Islands*¹ states 'Two sets to the 1/- [definitives] escaped destruction and both are in the hands of British Collectors'. In 1972 one set was in the Bill Newport collection and the other in the E. Hirsch Collection. Stanley Gibbons Channel Islands postal history catalogue² states that 'Only four complete sets and a few singles are known to have survived. One set is in the Jersey Postal Headquarters archives'.

Collectors should be careful as forgeries abound.

¹ *Stamps and Postal History of the Channel Islands*, Heinemann, London, 1972

² *Channel Islands Stamps and Postal History*, Stanley Gibbons, London, 1979

'BIGWOODS' ESSAYS 1940

At the same time as the Swastika overprints of British stamps were ordered, Jersey printers Bigwoods were commissioned to prepare a 1d postage stamp. The design was prepared by R.W. Cutland and shows the Arms of Jersey, or more correctly the Arms of the King of England, which were given to the Bailiffs of Jersey and Guernsey by King Edward I in 1279 in the form of official seals.

The proofs were printed in sheets of 30 (10 x 3) on white wove unwatermarked paper with wide margins. The sheets were not perforated. A number of these sheets were then overprinted with the swastika over '1940'.



Pair of 'Bigwoods' essays rouletted.

These were not from the sheets of 30 as they have large margins on both sides. This is the only known pair of such essays.



Without overprint.



Overprinted with swastika over '1940'.

JERSEY ARMS STAMPS 1941–1943

It was anticipated that existing stocks of GB stamps would soon be exhausted and, as a result, in January 1941 The Bailiff of Jersey requested Major N.V.L. Rybot to produce a design for a stamp of 1d value. The design of the stamp was based on the Guernsey 1d 'Arms' already issued. The stamps were printed in the letter press department of the *Jersey Evening Post* in Charles Street, St Helier and were printed in sheets of 60 in a 6 x 10 format. It was intended to issue both ½d and 1d values, but it was considered that the 1d value was more urgent and was therefore the first value printed. The 1d value was issued on 1 April 1941 followed by the ½d value on 29 January 1942. Both remained postally valid until 13 February 1946.



**Original artwork of 1d value in black on thick white laid paper.
Signed by the designer and dated 1941.**

Significance of 'A' 'A' and 'B' 'B'

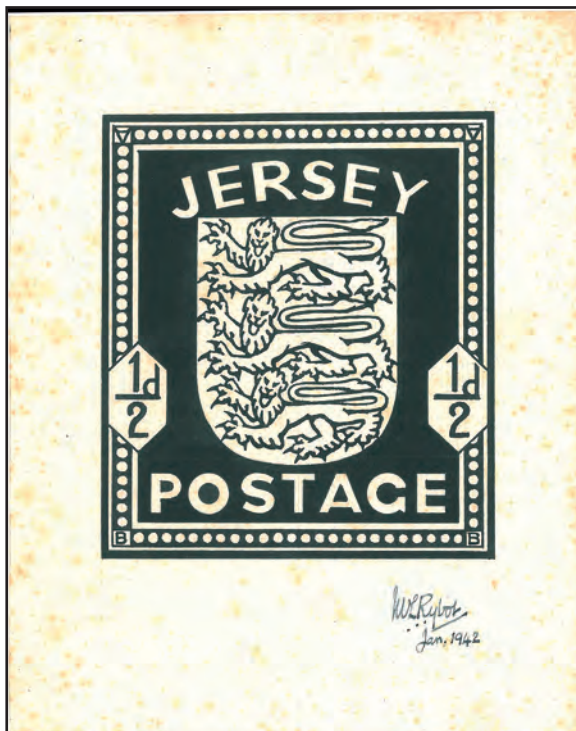
The 1d value has an initial 'A' in each corner and the ½d value has the initial 'A' in the upper corners and 'B' in the lower corners.



Artwork for the 1d value prepared by Major N V L Rybot.



Enlargement of the 1d value stamp with 'A' in each corner.



Artwork for the ½d value.



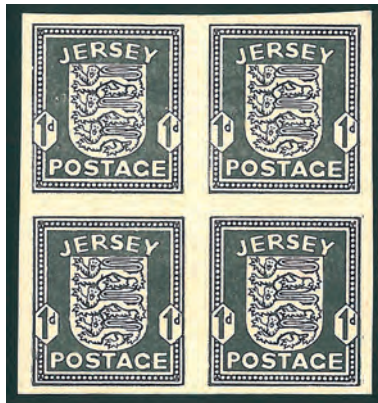
Enlargement of the ½d value with 'A' in upper corners and 'B' in lower corners.

After the war Major Rybot wrote *On the 1d stamp are the initials "A" "A" in the corners. These stand for "Ad Avernum! Adolphé Artox" – "To hell with you atrocious Adolf".*

The initials on the ½d stamp ["A" in the upper corners and "B" in the lower corners] stand for *"Atrocious Adolf and Bloody Benito."* "Naturally I was unable to make my little joke public at the time. Having been had up for deportation twice I had to be careful."

Plate Proofs

Plate proofs exist on both thick card and paper.



*Plate proofs of 1d value
on thick card.*



*Plate proofs of 1/2d value
on cream paper.*

Printed Stamps

1d value issued 1 April 1941 1,030,622 stamps were printed between March 1941 and May 1943.

1/2d value issued 29 January 1942 703,500 stamps were printed between January 1942 and May 1943.



*All sheets of the 1d value bore the same
imprint "EVENING POST," JERSEY. 17/3/41.*



*All sheets of the 1/2d value bore the same imprint
"EVENING POST," JERSEY. JANUARY 1942.*

The Jersey Evening Post was not a specialist stamp printer and the stamps were printed over a period of approximately 15 months when required and when paper, ink and gum were available.

Much of the information with regard to the printing of the Jersey Arms stamps has not previously been published and was obtained from meetings with Maurice Green who worked on the production of the stamps during the occupation.

Perforations

Each row of perforations was made by hand, one row at a time, and the space between each row was judged by eye leading to variations between the spacing of the perforations. The average distance between the horizontal rows of perforations was 25½mm, but can vary between approximately 23½mm and 27mm. Each sheet required 18 rows of perforations.

The sheets were perforated 11. The perforating machine comprised a wooden flat bed and a hinged arm resembling a guillotine onto which was attached a single row of metal pins. The bed housed a corresponding row of holes which took the pins when the arm was brought down.



*Maurice Green demonstrating the operation of the perforating machine.
(Maurice passed away in 2015).*

Maurice Green worked on the production of the Jersey Arms stamps during the occupation.



Corner imprint block with missing row of horizontal perforations.

Due to the fact each sheet required 18 separate rows of perforations by hand, misplaced perforations are not uncommon and complete rows were sometimes missed.

JERSEY VIEWS OR PICTORIAL STAMPS 1943–1944



Old Jersey Farmhouse.



Portelet Bay.



Corbiere.



Elizabeth Castle.

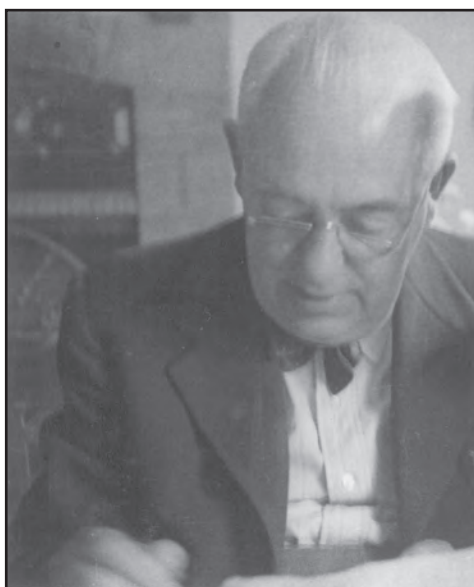


Mount Orgueil Castle.



Gathering Vraic.

A local artist of repute, Edmund Blampied, was commissioned to prepare a series of designs for the six stamps and these were first approved by the Bailiff and then submitted to the Field Commandant on 6 January 1943 for his approval and were duly approved on 7 January 1943.

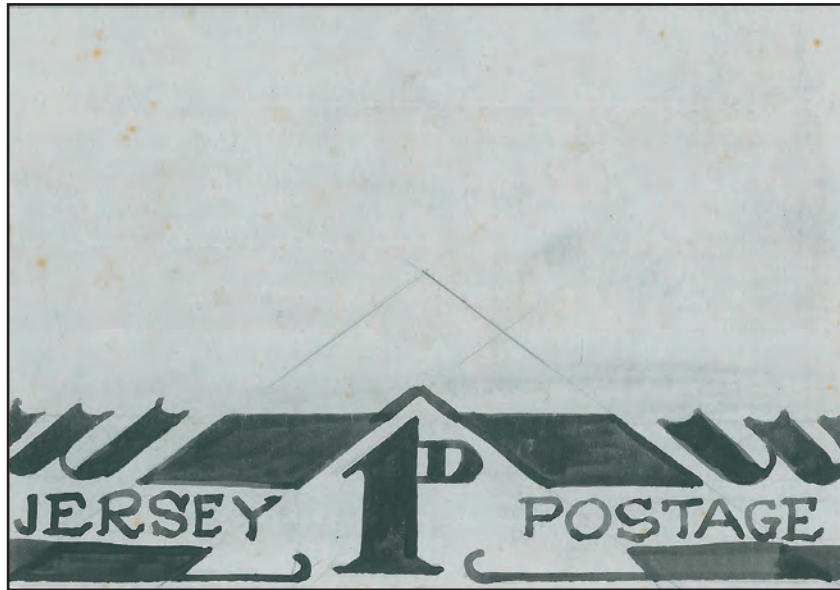


Edmund Blampied.

Due to the lack of paper, inks and gum the stamps, although designed in Jersey, were printed by the French official printers in Paris.

	First printing	Total printed
½d views	1 June 1943	480,000
1d views	1 June 1943	840,000
1½d views	8 June 1943	360,000
2d views	8 June 1943	360,000
3½d views	28 June 1943	720,000
3d views	24 June 1943	360,000

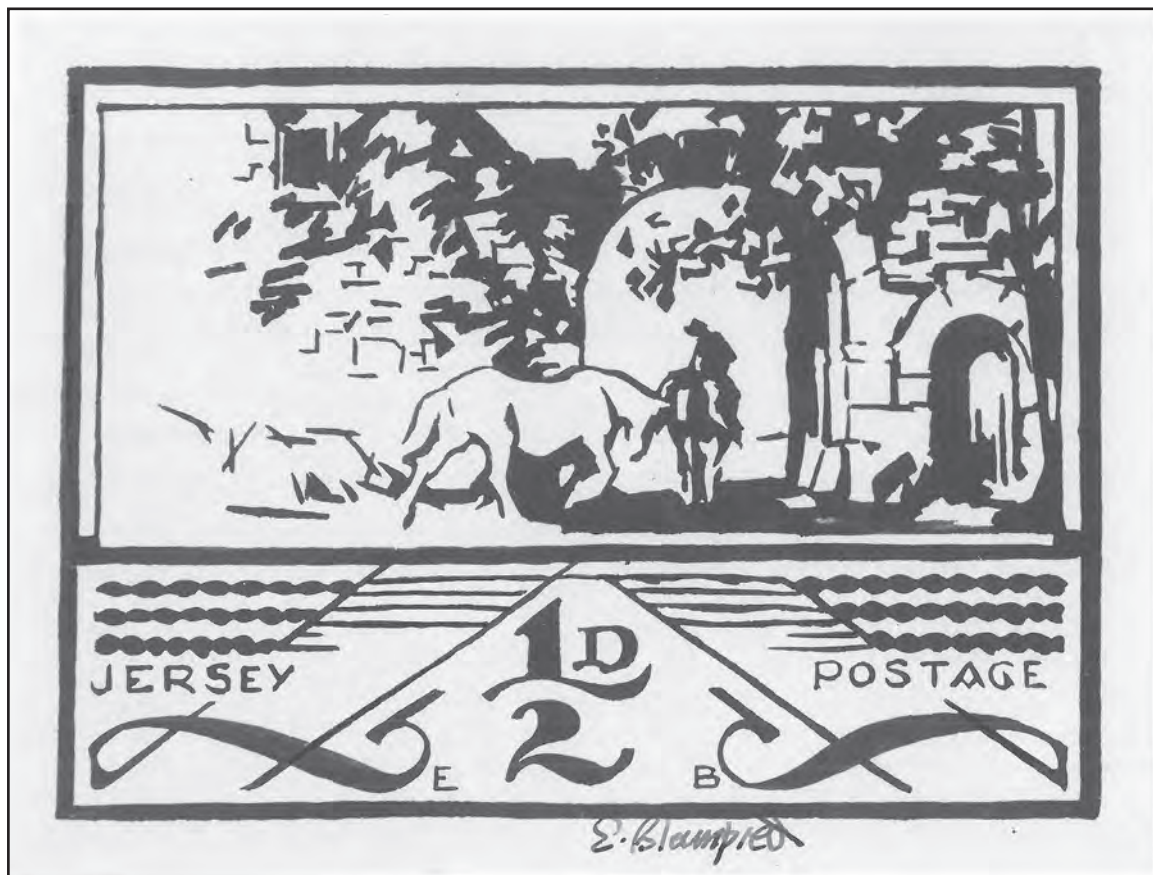
Artwork



Artwork for the value section of the 1d views stamp prepared by the designer Edmund Blampied. This design was not adopted, but is not dissimilar to the design eventually adopted.

Photographic Essays

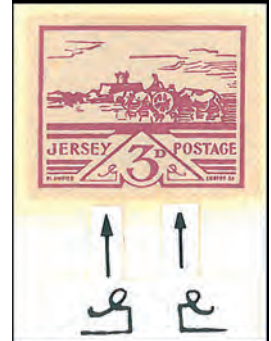
Photographic essays were produced for all six values.



Photographic essay of 1/2d value signed by the designer Edmund Blampied whose initials are incorporated in the design.

Royal Cypher 'GR' in 3d Value

*As regards the 3d stamp
and that portion of its design
suggestive of the Royal Cypher G.R.
— well it was intentional —
but there was nothing plucky
about the intention — it just
amused me to "chance it."*



Part of a letter written post war by the designer Edmund Blampied.

This letter dated 24 July 1945 from the designer, Edmund Blampied, refers to the incorporation of the Royal Cypher in the 3d value. '...as regards the 3d stamp and that portion of its design suggestive of the Royal Cypher GR — well it was intentional — but there was nothing plucky about the intention — it just amused me to chance it.'



Photographic essay signed by Edmund Blampied.

Composite Essays

Composite essays for all six values were then produced in Paris by the engraver Henri Cortot.



Composite essay of the 1½d value with the names of the Jersey designer 'Blampied' and the French engraver 'Cortot.'



Composite essay of the 2d value.

Henri Cortot copied and altered Edmund Blampied's artwork, partly by hand and partly by photography, and from these copies plates for the actual stamps were prepared.

Half Size Essays

With a view to economy, the stamps were originally intended to be produced in the same size as the French definitive issues turned sideways.

These are referred to as 'half size essays' being half the size of the final printed stamp.

Half size die proof essays were produced in several colours and the majority of the half size essays are of the ½d value. The essays exist with or without a large surrounding border in the same colour as the stamp.



Half size essay in blue.



Half size essay in black.

Half size proof essays were also produced with two colours.



Half size essay.

Full Size Proofs

The French printers advised against the 'half' sized stamps and the size was increased. Proofs were produced for all six values, but as this size was not in production in France, new plates had to be made and the cost paid for by the Jersey authorities.



Proof of ½d value in issued colour on coarse grey paper resembling newsprint.

Epreuves de Luxe Proofs

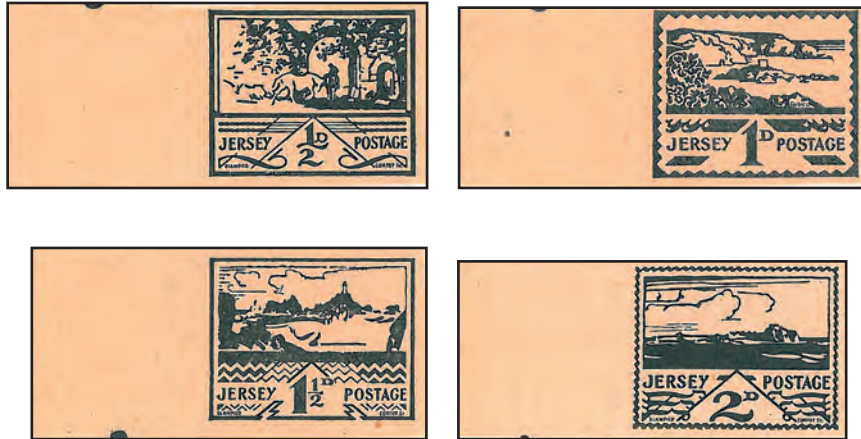


Epreuves de Luxe Proof of the ½d value.

As was customary with French printed stamps, the printers produced *Epreuves de Luxe* sets of the six values in their issued colours.

The *Epreuves de Luxe* proofs were printed onto thick cream gloss paper 144mm x 120mm and, for protection, covered with tissue paper. There are cut outs in the centre at the bottom with a half moon between diamonds. To the right of the cut outs is printed, in issued colour, 'Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres-Poste, Paris'.

'Mise en Train' Proofs



Proofs of four values — ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2d.

These are not strictly 'Proofs' as the stamps had already been proofed and finally approved.

'Mise en Train' means 'put in motion' or 'make ready for action'. The prints represent trial runs to ensure the correct setting of machines prior to commencing production.

The French Government printing works always used a special pink paper and black ink for this purpose so that the prints could not be mistaken for proofs.

These trial runs were usually destroyed. However, it is understood, two partly crumpled sheets of the ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2d values apparently survived. The 2½d and 3d values were destroyed in the normal way – by incineration.

The complete series therefore consists of 120 examples of each of the ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2d values, of which the majority are creased.



The 120 examples comprised two whole sheets of each value and for many years they were in the possession of Professor Yves Maxime Danan, at the Sorbonne, a leading French philatelist. They were offered to the Jersey Post Office on its inauguration in October 1969, but were declined by the Postal Committee. Subsequently they were purchased privately by a member of the Committee and broken up to produce less than 80 passably presentable sets.

Pair of proofs of the 1d value which have two additional rows above the top row of the sheet. The proofs were printed by hand and the roller was slightly over-run, producing the two additional rows. The fainter impression was due to the fact that the printing plate would have only been inked for one double sheet proof.

These additional rows were in fact the bottom rows of the plate which can be seen from the thicker bar under each stamp.

Tomato Wrapping Paper Envelopes

Due to the paper shortage during the occupation the Islanders had to improvise and produce their own envelopes. Various different types of paper were used, but the most common was tomato paper. These envelopes were usually made so that part of the design appeared on the flap as a 'V' for Victory when the envelope was opened.



Tomato wrapping paper envelope.

Part 2 – ‘SOME UNTOLD STORIES’

CIVILIAN PRISONERS

There is a group of Channel Islanders who mostly suffered terrible treatment at the hands of the Germans. They were the civilian prisoners who were sent to penal prisons and concentration camps in France and Germany. Their ‘heinous’ crimes included listening to the BBC, making ‘V’ signs and uttering defamatory remarks against the Germans.

Correspondence with the prisoners who went to German prisons is scarce which is partly explained by Frank Falla, a journalist on the Guernsey newspaper, *The Star*, who survived Frankfurt-on-Main and Naumburg-on Saale prisons ‘*much of the mail was sent in good faith by people in the Channel Islands to their loved ones in prisons and camps and was not delivered by the Germans, but dumped or burned – this was part of the punishment*’. He also writes in his book, *The Silent War*, ‘*For a whole year we were not allowed to send or receive letters or have any communication with our loved ones in the world outside, even that Godsend ... the stereotyped Red Cross message was prohibited and none of us ever saw a Red Cross parcel*’.

Those prisoners sent to French prisons fared better in both their treatment and the frequency of receiving and sending letters.

Displayed is some of the correspondence relating to a number of these civilian prisoners

Prisoner	Prisons	Outcome
George Fox	Fort d’Hauteville, Dijon, Saarbrücken, Frankfurt - Preungestheim Naumburg-on-Saale	Died 11 March 1945, Age 51 from starvation and brutal treatment
Mrs Winifred Green (known affectionately as “Mrs Churchill”)	Maison D’Arrett, Caen	Released 31 January 1942
John Ingrouille	Maison D’Arrett, Caen Rheinbach Zuchthaus Brandenburg – (Havel) – Göerden, Berlin (administered by Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp) Schonbeck Displaced Persons Camp British Military Hospital, Brussels, Belgium	Died 13 June 1945, Age 25 from meningitis and T.B. after five years of brutal treatment
Percy Miller	Fort d’Hauteville, Dijon Frankfurt-on-Main	Died August 1944, Age 61 from starvation and brutal treatment
John Nicolle	Fort d’Hauteville, Dijon Saarbrücken Zweibrücken Bochum Dortmond	Died 1944 from starvation and brutal treatment
Clifford Queree	Fort d’Hauteville, Dijon Frankfurt-on-Main, Naumburg-on-Saale	Died 1 May 1945, Age 40 from starvation and brutal treatment
William Symes	Fort de Romainville, Paris Buchenwald Concentration Camp Laufen Internment Camp	Survived

George Fox

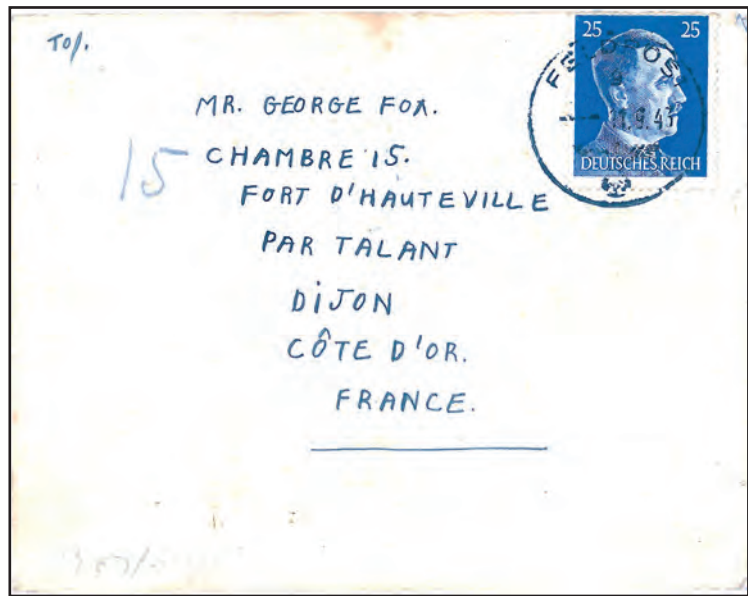
George Fox was born in St Helier on 22 May 1896. He was originally a cabinet maker, but was employed as a kitchen helper during the occupation.

George was tried by decree of the Court of Field Command 515 on 26 June 1943 and received a two year sentence for '**continual larceny**', most likely bread and other foodstuffs belonging to the Germans. He was transferred to Fort d'Hauteville, Dijon on 13 July 1943.

George was transferred to Saarbrücken prison and then to Frankfurt Preungestheim arriving on 6 January 1944 and finally to Naumburg-on-Saale.

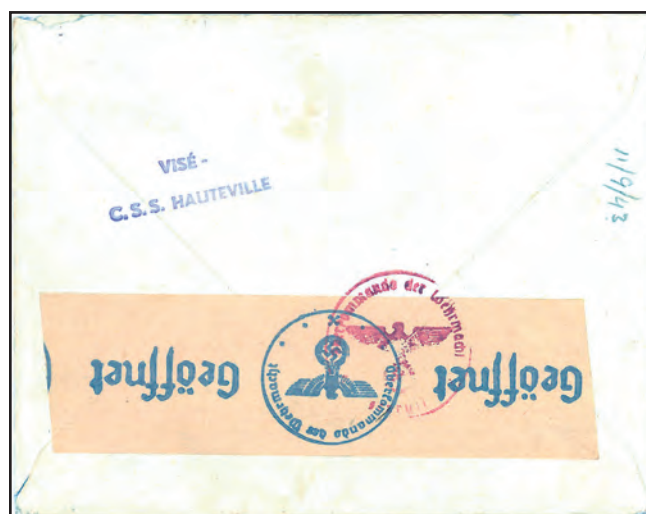


George Fox.



Cover to George Fox datestamped 11.9.43 addressed to Fort d'Hauteville prison with 25pfg postage.

Paris German censor label and prison cachet in violet 'VISÉ/C.S.S. HAUTEVILLE'.



reverse.

George Fox died on 11 March 1945 of starvation and ill treatment, aged 51, and left behind four children.

Percy Miller

Percy Miller was an ex-London CID detective-sergeant who was sentenced in August 1943 to 15 months imprisonment for listening to the BBC on the radio. He was first imprisoned at Fort d'Hauteville, Dijon, France before being transferred to Frankfurt-on-Main Prison where he died.

30/2/71

"La Turque."
Vale,
Guernsey.
C. J.

22-11-43.

My Dearest Dad,

We were very pleased to receive your two letters on Friday, no, we have not heard from Mr Vaudin, we had a Red Cross from Mr & Mrs Oliver last Wednesday, their message as follows - Hope all are well, all well here, Did you know Betty got a son, Regards to Mother & Father 3-8-43 our reply. We're all well, did

5 5 20 20
DEUTSCHES REICH DEUTSCHES REICH

Mr P. W. Miller,
Fort Hauteville,
Chamber 15,
Port Talant,
Cote D'or,
Dijon. 13¹²/₁₄₃
France.

21

30/2/71

Letter with feldpost datestamp dated '23.11.43' to Fort d'Hauteville Prison, Dijon, France.

Percy Miller

12. Apr. 1944

Abs. Müller Percy Religion R. Abt. 60115

Richtlinien für Angehörige! — Genau beachten!

Besuche: Alle 2 Monate und im allgemeinen nur von Eltern, Großeltern, Kindern, Geschwistern und Ehegatten. — Personen unter 16 Jahren werden nicht zugelassen. — Besuchsschein unbedingt erforderlich, daher rechtzeitig durch den Gefangenen beantragen. Nur die auf dem Besuchsschein bezeichneten Personen — Höchstzahl 2 — werden zugelassen. Ausweis über die Person erforderlich.

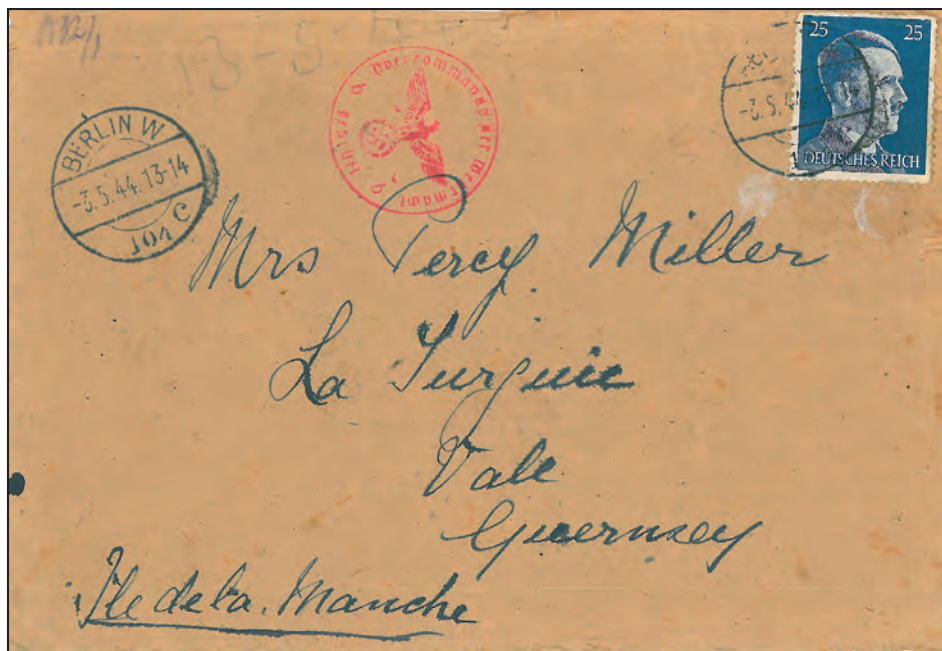
Briefe: Der Gefangene darf alle Monat 1 Brief schreiben und 2 Briefe empfangen. Darüber hinaus einlaufende Briefe werden nicht ausgehändigt, desgleichen Briefe, die den Umfang eines Normalbriefbogens überschreiten. Den Briefen dürfen nicht beigelegt werden: Geld, Briefmarken, Lichtbilder und Zeitungsausschnitte. Briefe in deutscher Sprache und lesbar schreiben! Briefumschläge ohne Futter verwenden! — In dringenden Angelegenheiten, die außerhalb des zulässigen Briefverkehrs erledigt werden müssen, können sich die Angehörigen an den Vorstand des Strafgefängnisses wenden.

Pakete: Lebens- und Genußmittel dürfen grundsätzlich — auch für Festtage — nicht zugesandt werden. Gebrauchsgegenstände wie Kleider usw. nur nach ausdrücklicher Genehmigung durch den Vorstand. Bei Nichtbefolgung dieser Vorschrift erfolgt Rücksendung auf Kosten und Gefahr des Absenders.

Geldsendungen und Briefe: Nur an die persönliche Anschrift des Gefangenen.

Vorsicht bei Besuchen entlassener Gefangener, die vielfach Betrugsabsichten haben und sich bisweilen als Gefängnisbeamte ausgeben. Sofortige polizeiliche Feststellung erwünscht!

My Dear Mum Evelyn & Sid ^{6.4.44}
 Here I am again fairly well, but no news from you since early December, perhaps my letter got lost. I have written two from here asking Evelyn to send in an appeal for you for some remission of sentence for me, if she can't do



Letter from Frankfurt to his wife dated 6 April 1944 (postmarked 3 May 1944).

Percy Miller was transferred from Dijon to Frankfurt-on-Main penal prison in late 1943.

Percy died in Frankfurt Prison one month before he was due for release.

Below is an extract describing his death written by Norman Dexter, who was also from Guernsey and served 18 months for possessing a wireless set.

'Percy Miller from Guernsey died in Frankfurt. After being seen passing a note he was put in a cell composed only of bars and a small wooden bed and given a diet of bread and water for two weeks. This proved too much for him and he died a raving lunatic. I heard him raving from my cell which was some distance from his'.

John Whitley Nicolle

Arrested by the German Secret Field Police 5 March 1943 and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for spreading BBC news. He was sent to Fort d'Hauteville, Dijon, France and then to Saarbrücken in Germany. On 27 December 1943 he was moved to Zweibrücken, on 17 April 1944 to Bochum and finally on 21 April 1944 to the penal prison at Dortmund.



John Nicolle.

Dijon, le 18 septembre 1945
10, rue Philippe de Roures.

My dear Mistress Nicolle,

Don't be sad if you have not yet received any answer from Jeanne-Marie. Be quiet! You never hurt her and you will remain, dear Madam Nicolle, the best friend of my daughter.

But she was very tired last month and now she spends some days of vacation by her aunt's home in Annecy (Haute Savoie) where is her grand father too.

We just receive today your lovely letter and we have open it to answer immediately, because we think you can be anxious about her long silence.

Jeanne-Marie will be back here for the next week and will write you soon. You can be sure that we shall never forget our friends of Jersey. The memory of your dear husband, victim of the hated "Boches" still remain in our hearts. He was our friend, a great and courageous friend with ever high spirit, in spite of his physical and moral sufferings in hospital and in jail in the "Fort d'Hauteville". He was an exemplar for us and for the other fellows.

Dijon to Jersey. Letter to John's widow from Dijon dated 18 September 1945.

Whilst at Fort d'Hauteville prison John spent some time in Dijon Hospital. This is a moving letter from Dijon dated 18 Sept 1945 to his wife from a French lady visitor to the prison. The letter reads ... 'The memory of your dear husband, victim of the hated 'Boches' still remain in our hearts. He was our friend, a great and courageous friend with ever high spirit in spite of his physical and moral sufferings in hospital and in jail in the 'Fort d'Hautville'. He was an example for us and for the other fellows'.

John Nicolle died in Dortmund from starvation and overwork plus the very brutal treatment he received. A Belgium friend who was with him at Bochum said 'Bochum camp was bad but it was a palace compared to Dortmund'.

Clifford Queree

Clifford Queree was sentenced in 1943 for buying bread after being betrayed by a friend who was caught stealing bread from the Germans. He was first sent to Fort d'Hauteville Prison, Dijon, France and then to Frankfurt-on-Main on 16 April 1945 and Naumberg-on-Saale in Germany.



Clifford Queree.



Cover addressed to Clifford Queree at Chambre(6) Fort d'Hauteville Dijon, France with Feldpost datestamp 11 Sept 1943.

The address 'Par Talon' is incorrect and should be 'Par Talant' a suburb to the north-west of Dijon.

Clifford was alive when Naumberg Prison was liberated on 14 April 1945, but died shortly afterwards on 1 May 1945 as the result of ill treatment. Clifford was 40 years old.

William Symes

William Symes ran 'The Drive', a hostelry in St Peter Port, frequented by sailors from ships bringing supplies from France. Crew members who were Maquis carried back messages to be forwarded to England via an agent in Spain. By this route he had transmitted information passed to him by his cousin, Lt. James Symes, who was captured while on a reconnaissance raid on the Island in September 1940. In 1943, after one of the messages was intercepted by the Gestapo, he was arrested and deported to Fort de Romainville prison, France. In January 1944 he was transferred to Buchenwald concentration camp. He smuggled out a postcard to his wife in Taunton and against all the odds it reached England. It led to an official demand to the German authorities for him to be moved to conditions more fitting to a British subject. He was transferred to Laufen internment camp, where he remained until it was liberated on 4 May 1945.

Lettersheet written 18.5.43 from William Symes in Fort de Romainville prison, France, to his wife in Taunton. He is delighted to have received what appears to be his first letter from his wife.

Although he was a political prisoner, William Symes had been allowed to use a Kriegsgefangenenpost (Prisoner of War mail) lettersheet, which was sent to England through the Red Cross. The postmark 9.6.43 shows that it took four weeks to reach Geneva.



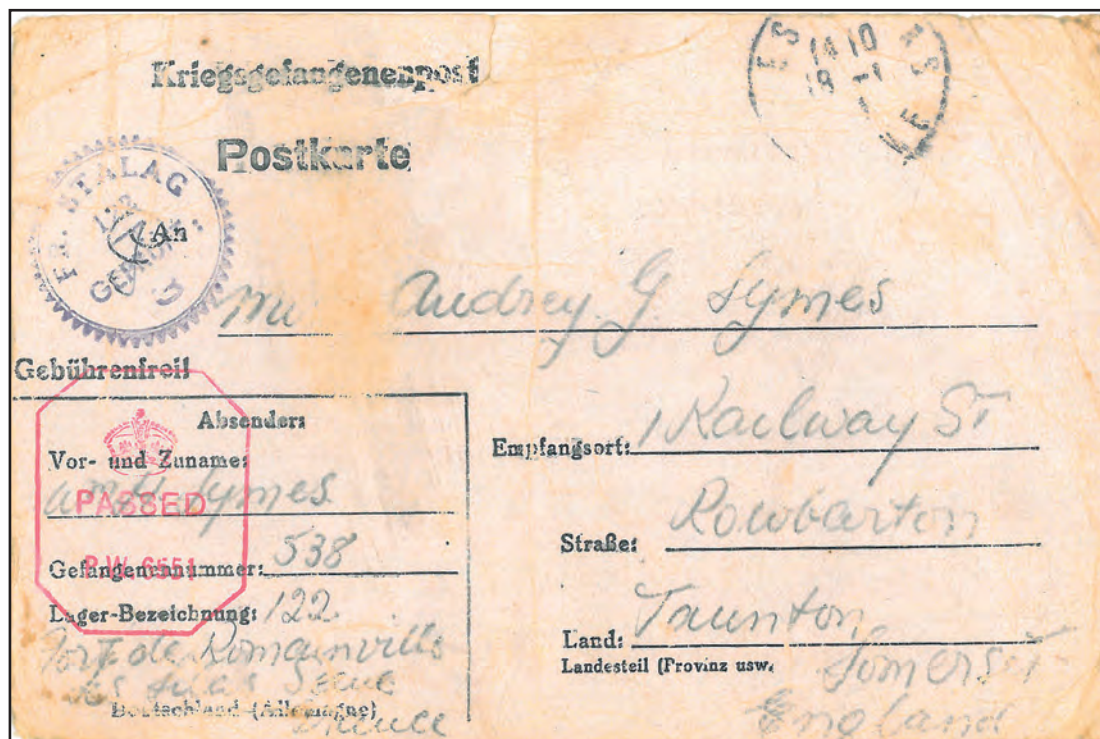
Lettersheet from William Symes to his wife in England.

Fort de Romainville was located in a suburb to the east of Paris, Les Lilas, Seine.

Fort de Romainville, opened 12 June 1941 and closed 10 August 1944, was a security prison where inmates were selected at random as hostages to be shot as reprisals. Many prisoners were Jews, men, women and children, on their way to the transit camp at Drancy and thence to the death camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau and Sobibor in Poland.

William Symes

The last communication sent by William Symes from Fort de Romainville was a postcard to his daughter in Taunton. Written on 13 January 1944, the postcard went through the French civilian postal system and was postmarked Les Lilas, Seine, 18.1.44. The card bears the censor cachet 'FR. STALAG 122 GEPRUFT'.



Last postcard from William to his daughter before his transfer to Buchenwald Concentration Camp.

On the card to his daughter he says *'I have all this time to tell you that this is my last card from here. We are leaving for a destination unknown. All my pals go with me.'* The unknown destination was Buchenwald concentration camp, from which the British Government eventually secured his transfer to Laufen Internment camp where he remained until the camp was liberated on 4 May 1945.

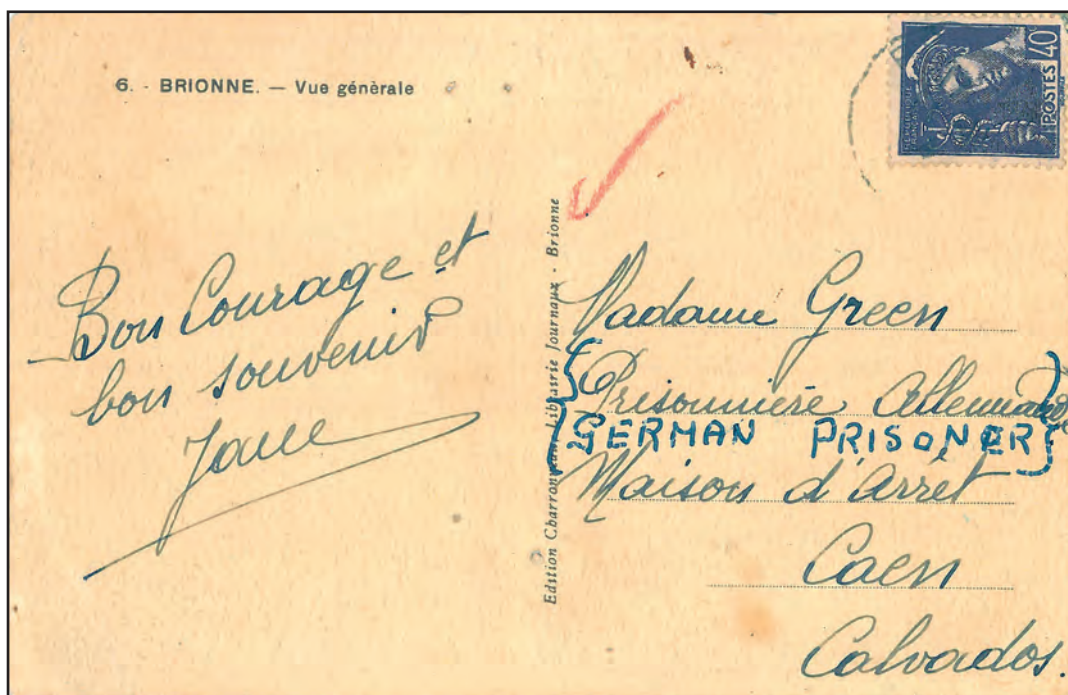
Mrs Winifred Green

Winifred Green worked at the Royal Hotel where the chef was an ardent Nazi and to his frequent 'Heil Hitler' she replied 'Heil Churchill'. Told one day to stop saying 'Heil Churchill' for a second helping of rice pudding she replied 'To hell with Hitler for the sake of a rice pudding – and one made with skimmed milk at that'.

Following denunciation by the chef she was arrested on 13 September 1941 and sentenced to six months imprisonment. She spent five days in a cell in Granville before being transferred to 'Maison D'Arret, Caen'.



Winifred Green. (Mrs Churchill).



Postcard sent to Mrs Green at 'Maison D'Arret, Caen' by a French well wisher.

On appeal Winifred Green's sentence was reduced and she was released on 31 Jan 1942.

On her return to Jersey Winifred Green became known as 'Mrs Churchill'.

John Henry Ingrouille 1920–1945



John Ingrouille. The stories of many of the civilian prisoners have been recorded, but that of John Ingrouille has not previously been fully told. John lived with his parents at Miellette Bay, Vale, Guernsey and worked for the German forces at the Vale Mill. He was denounced to the Germans by two fellow workers, Mrs Brewster and her daughter, who alleged he had incited them to commit sabotage and claimed to have 800 men ready to revolt.

On 31 December 1940 the Military Police arrested John at his home. The following day his father went to the HQ of the Feldkommandantur at Grange Lodge, but could not obtain any information except that his son was in prison. On 2 January 1941 their home was searched during which much damage was caused. The search was repeated several times during that week, on one occasion the Brewsters being present. Nothing incriminating was found except a knife and fork which were confiscated as German property. John's parents and Miss Hampson, who was living with them (referred to in John's letters as "Reenie"), were interrogated in a brutal manner. It was not until three weeks later that they learned that John was in a Guernsey prison.

At his trial, held on 11 February 1941, the Brewsters gave evidence against him. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for theft of the knife and fork and five years hard labour for treason. On 7 March 1941 he was sent to Caen Prison in France where he remained until his transfer in June 1942 to Rheinbach Zuchthaus (Penal Prison), Germany. During his time in Caen he spent several weeks in hospital recovering from typhoid fever.

Some time towards the end of 1942 he was transferred to the Wehrmachtunter-Suchungsgefängnis (Armed Forces Investigation Prison), Berlin. On 8 December 1942, in Berlin, he faced another trial when the Brewsters again testified against him. His sentence was upheld and he was sent to Brandenburg-(Havel)-Görden, a penal prison administered by Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

On 1 May 1945 Berlin was captured by the Russians and Brandenburg Prison was liberated. John was sent to a Displaced Persons Camp where he was found by a unit of the British Liberation Army who arranged his repatriation to Guernsey. John's health had been severely undermined during 4½ years imprisonment. On his way home to Guernsey John became ill and was admitted to the British Military Hospital in Brussels and was diagnosed as suffering from T.B. and meningitis.

John Henry Ingrouille 1920–1945



Cover from John from Maison d'Arrêt de Caen, to his mother.

Letter written on 10 Aug 1941, postmarked 25 Aug 1941 and received 20 Sept 1941.

POW and internee mail was carried free, but postage had to be paid on mail to and from civilian prisoners. This cover was unstamped and received the French 'taxe' mark, but no surcharge was made. The endorsement 'per courier Allemand S.V.P.' was unnecessary as there was no other way to send mail to the Channel Islands. This has not been recorded on any other Channel Island mail.



A further cover from Maison d'Arret, Caen to his mother in Guernsey.

A 1f stamp has been attached. The correct postage rate was 4f, but the letter was not surcharged. The red crayon mark at the top left appears on the other correspondence from Caen prison and is probably a censor mark. 'acheminer' (forward) has been added in blue crayon beside Guernsey.

John Henry Ingrouille 1920–1945

Sometime in June 1942 John was transferred from Caen to Rheinbach Penal Prison in Germany.



John's first letter from Rheinbach Zuchthaus (Prison for capital offenders) dated 4 July 1942 which was received in Guernsey on 18 July a journey time of only two weeks.

John was transferred from Caen to Rheinbach via Paris and in his letter, written in French, he asks his parents whether they had received a parcel of his clothes, which was despatched by the 'Prison de Paris' as at Rheinbach he had to wear prison uniform.

John Henry Ingrouille 1920–1945

John was transferred to Brandenburg (Havel)- Görden to Guernsey. (Received 5.2.44). This was a penal prison administered by Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.



Postcard written 18.4.43 from Brandenburg (Havel)-Görden.

Although this card was written on 18 April, the Frankfurt postmark is for 10 June, nearly two months later, and received on 21 June.

This prison was liberated by the Russians in April 1945.

John was sent to a Displaced Persons Camp where he was found there by a British Officer who arranged for his repatriation, but he died of T.B. and meningitis in the British Military Hospital in Brussels on his way home to Guernsey.

The letters which John wrote during captivity show consistent courage and optimism. He never grumbled about the hardships he had to endure, but sought always to reassure his parents that he was in good health and expected to be home soon. He was popular with his fellow prisoners in Caen and Berlin, several of whom tried to get in touch with him after the war. The Padre at the Maison Centrale Prison Infirmary wrote to his parents for many years after his death and Dr Beaugié a fellow Guernseyman who was an Army Doctor on the Staff of the British Military Hospital in Brussels, wrote of him: *'It's a most tragic case, the saddest I've had over here...He was a charming fellow, all the Sisters fell for him and he certainly hasn't let Guernsey down. He never complained...'*

**John Ingrouille died in the British Military Hospital in Brussels, age 24,
after five years of brutal treatment.**

Concentration Camp Prisoners

The Royal Courts in both Jersey and Guernsey registered orders against Jews and a number were deported to concentration camps where they were murdered. Surprisingly a number of civilian prisoners were also sent to concentration camps when they had only received sentences of as little as two years for crimes such as stealing supplies from the Germans, having radio sets or disseminating BBC news broadcasts.

Cannon Clifford Cahu	Died at Spergau Concentration Camp
Mrs Louisa Gould	Died in the gas ovens at Ravensbruck (female camp)
Maurice Gould	Died at Wittlich
Stanley Green	Imprisoned at Belsen and survived
Marianne Grunfeld	Died at Auschwitz-Birkenau
Herbert Gullichan	Imprisoned at Wolfenbuttel and survived
James Houillebecq	Died at Neuengamme
Harold Le Druillence	Imprisoned at Neuengamme, Wilhenshaven and Belsen. He was the sole British survivor from Belsen
Frank Le Villio	Imprisoned at Neuengamme and died shortly after the liberation
Rossi Mariel	Died at Dachau
June Sinclair	Died in the gas ovens at Ravensbruck (female camp)
Auguste Spitz	Died at Auschwitz-Birkenau
Theresa Steiner	Died at Auschwitz-Birkenau
William Symes*	Imprisoned at Buchenwald and survived
Gourdan Paul	Imprisoned at Buchenwald and survived
J T W Quick	Imprisoned at Buchenwald and survived
Joseph Tierney	Died at Celle

*Both Stanley Green and William Symes were subsequently transferred to Channel Island Internment Camps in Germany and returned to the Islands after the war.

Marianne Grunfeld, Auguste Spitz and Theresa Steiner deported from Guernsey in 1942 were the first Jews to be sent from British soil to an extermination camp.