

**On 30th June 1940 aircraft landed the first German soldiers at Guernsey's airport. Alderney was occupied on 2nd July and Sark on the 4th July.**

In September 1942 Hitler ordered that all non-native Channel Islanders, specifically those who were English-born, were to be deported. Many people had less than 12 hours to tie up their affairs including disposing of the contents of their houses and family pets before having to arrive at the harbour with their families.

At their departure from the island the deportees were only allowed to take with them some warm clothes, strong boots, meal dishes, a drinking bowl, a blanket and whatever else they could manage to carry. They were allowed to pack a trunk of clothes, which was to be sent on after them.

A second wave of deportations took place in February 1943 which included former military officers, Jews, Freemasons and others.

By May 1943 there were 16,000 German personnel in Guernsey. These included army units, naval coastal artillery and airforce anti-aircraft units, customs officials, military police, administrators and construction workers.

German troops were under orders to behave courteously. Although some soldiers were frustrated by the lack of action, serving in the Channel Islands was a lot more pleasant than on the Eastern Front.

The islanders had no idea how long the occupation might last or how German rule would affect their lives.

