

GUERNSEY OCCUPIED 1940-45



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 impose these dangers on any who appear not to appreciate as yet the necessity of refraining from interference 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 29th, 1941.



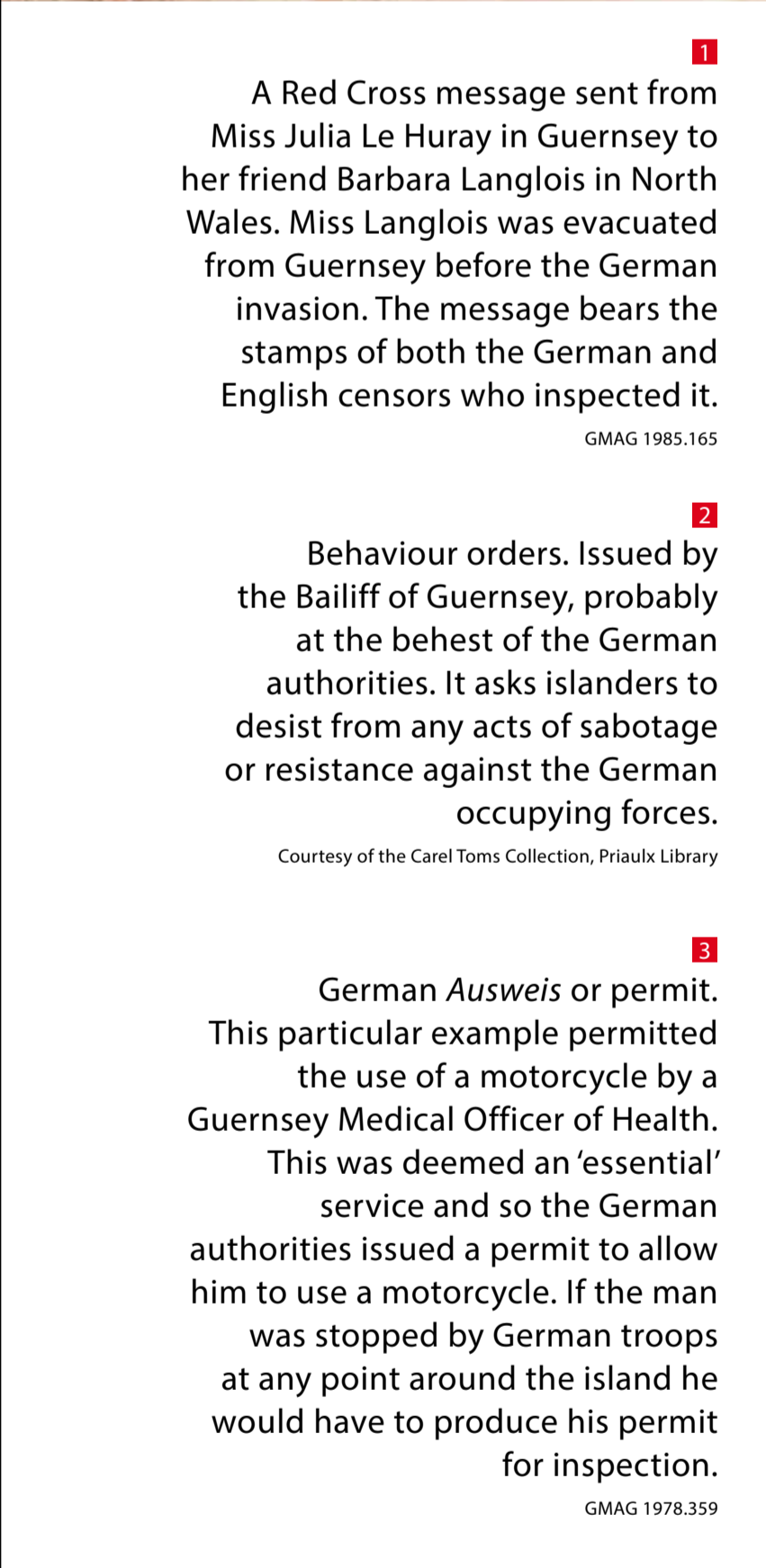
A Red Cross message sent from Miss Julia Le Huray in Guernsey to her friend Barbara Langlois in North Wales. Miss Langlois was evacuated from Guernsey before the German invasion. The message bears the stamps of both the German and English censors who inspected it.

GMAG 1985.165



Behaviour orders. Issued by the Baillif of Guernsey, probably at the behest of the German authorities. It asks islanders to desist from any acts of sabotage or resistance against the German occupying forces.

Courtesy of the Carol Toms Collection, Private Library



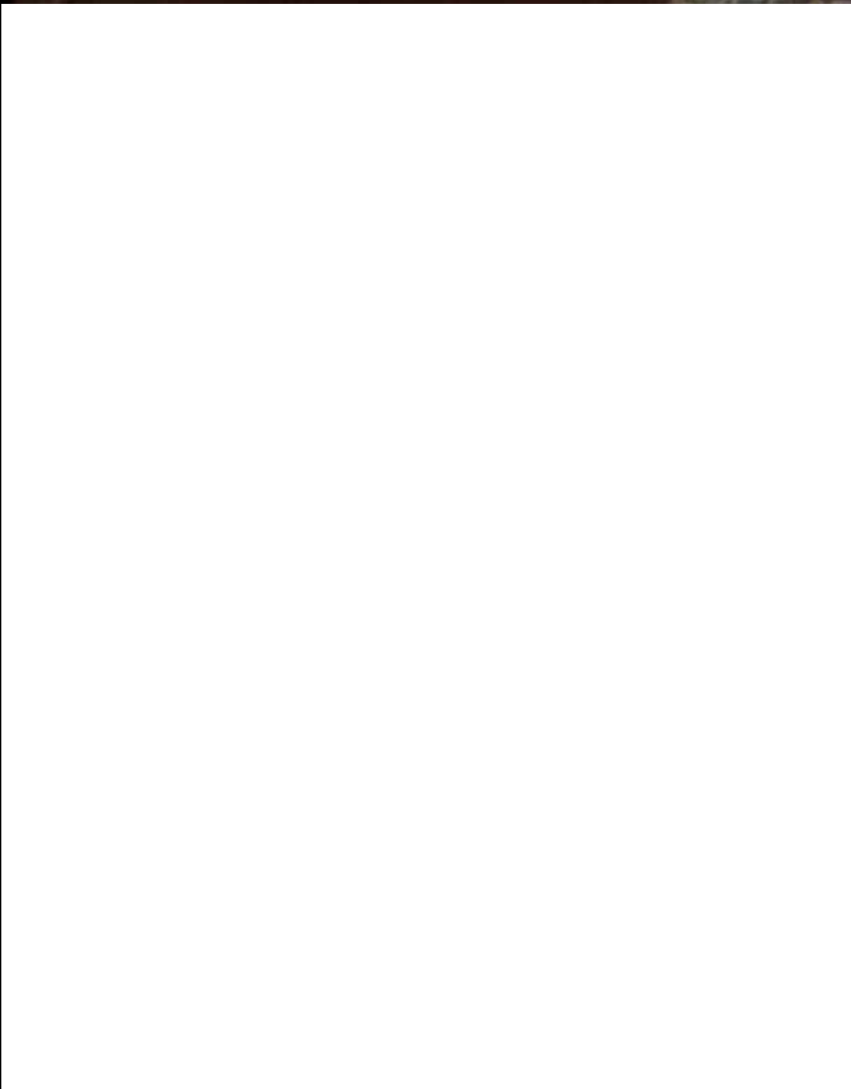
German Ausweis or permit. This particular example permitted the use of a motorcycle by a Guernsey Medical Officer of Health. This was deemed an 'essential' service and so the German authorities issued a permit to allow him to use a motorcycle. If the man was stopped by German troops at any point around the island he would have to produce his permit for inspection.

GMAG 1978.359



Road sign instruction sheet. Being under German occupation, the Channel Islands were subject to German road laws. This instruction sheet was printed on German orders by the Guernsey Evening Press and is a list of new road signs that were introduced around the island by the German authorities. All road users were required to drive on the right hand side of the road.

GMAG 1978.358



Personnel identity card. Issued to Guernsman Frank John Merry. All islanders had to carry an identity card with their photograph in it at all times. If stopped by German forces they had to produce this card if ordered to do so.

Document 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.

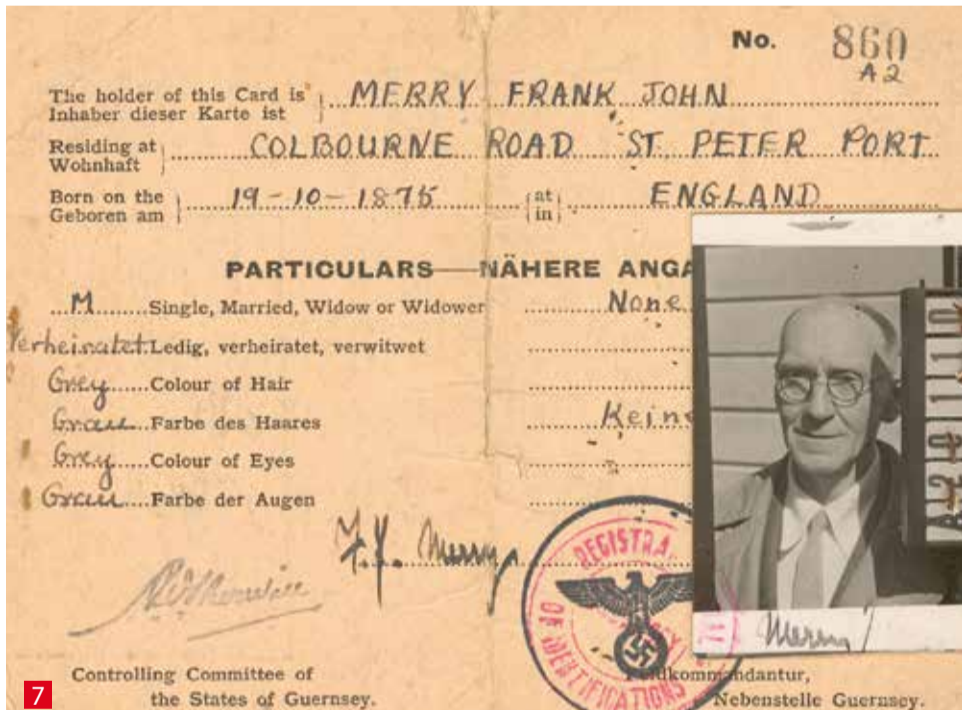
The German authorities banned all direct communication with Britain. People separated from relatives and friends on the mainland could keep in touch only by means of infrequent messages sent via the Red Cross. These were limited to a maximum of 25 words. For many this lack of contact was the hardest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

BOMBS FOR BERLIN

The systematic destruction of Germany's war industry by the R.A.F. has continued steadily in the second half of September.

AMERICAN VIEW

Slitting his Neck Out "YOU'RE TELLING ME!"

LEAVES AND NEWS

AUTUMN leaves are falling as well as your copies of News from England. They may seem a gloomy enough reminder that the summer is over and a second war winter is setting in—this one under the alien heel of Germans bent on world dominion.

ESCAPE FROM GUERNSEY

Eight Reach Britain

STRANGLEHOLD BY THE NAVY

SEA-POWER, decisive factor of all great wars, remains firmly in the hands of Britain. September has brought more proofs of this.

More and More

Loans inflated by the enemy were only 21 per cent of the total involved.

