

GUERNSEY OCCUPIED 1940-45

7

THE AFTERMATH

Clearing-up operations in the islands took many months.

All the German troops became prisoners of war. Mines, guns, ordnance, equipment and machinery used by the Germans were removed. Many local homes had to be repaired or rebuilt and the economy put on the road to recovery. Most of the concrete fortifications were too large to destroy and so were left and stand to this day as stark reminders of this dark chapter in the islands' history.

Those deportees who were repatriated during 1944 or liberated in 1945 from the internment camps were obliged to return to England. It was not until August 1945 that they were able to begin returning to their island homes.

Evacuees, who had spent the best part of 5 years in England, began returning to the islands in July 1945.



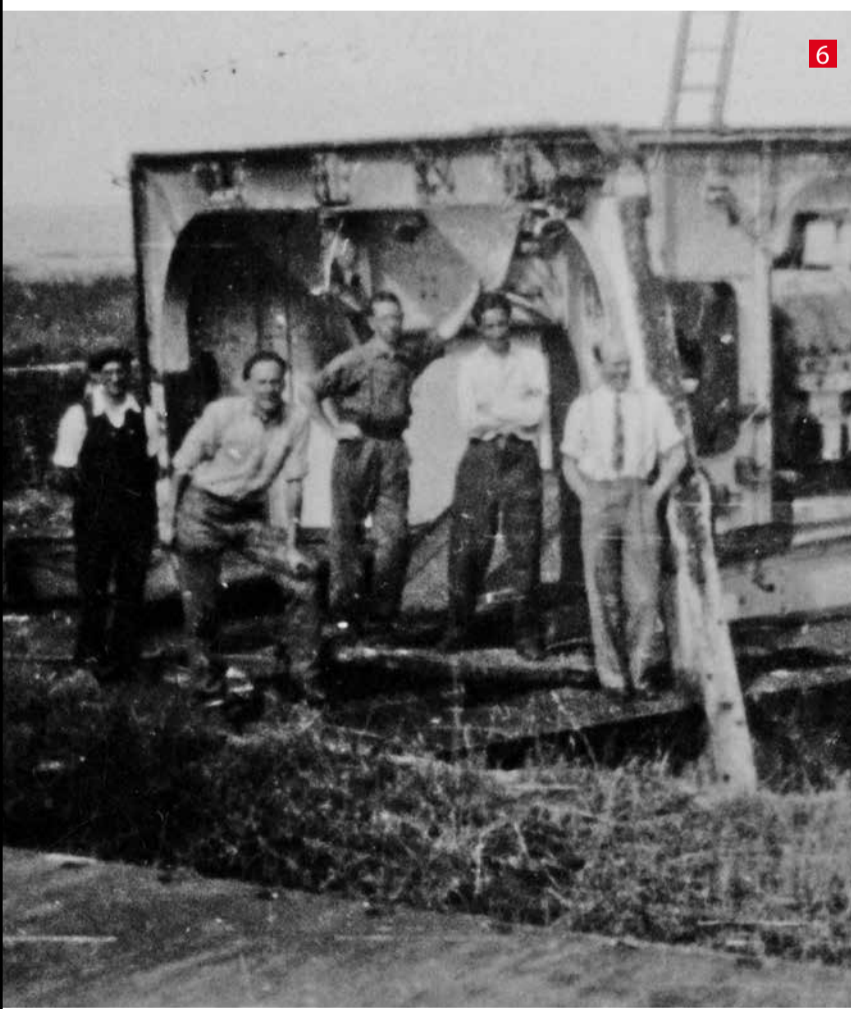
1
Photograph of a steam locomotive. The locomotive was used by the German occupying forces to pull supply wagons on the German railway that ran around the island's East, North and West coasts. It was scrapped after liberation.
Photographic Archive - Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

2
Photograph of the Mirus battery. A Guernsey man sits his young son on the end of one of the huge 30.5cm guns of the Mirus battery at the Frie Baton, Guernsey. The photograph was taken some time after the island was liberated as the camouflage netting and steel framework over the guns has collapsed. Circa 1946.
Photographic Archive - Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery



4
Photograph of a large artillery piece. A Guernsey family pose for a photograph on one of the many large artillery pieces which remained in the German fortifications after the island was liberated. Circa 1945/6.
Photographic Archive - Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

5
Photograph of salvaged steel from German armoured turrets on the jetty in St. Peter Port harbour. From 1946 onwards many of the large artillery pieces and armoured bunker turrets were cut up for scrap by contractors.
Photographic Archive - Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery



3
Photograph of the Mirus battery. A group of Guernsey women stand next to one of the camouflaged 30.5cm guns of the Mirus battery at the Frie Baton, Guernsey. Such proximity to a military site would have been unthinkable during the occupation. However after the liberation islanders took the opportunity to explore the German fortifications. Circa late 1945.
Photographic Archive - Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

6
Photograph of the rear of a partially dismantled 30.5cm gun of the Mirus battery, the Frie Baton, Guernsey. From 1946 onwards contractors systematically cut up the large German artillery pieces for scrap. Circa 1946.
Photographic Archive - Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

7
Photograph of islanders waiting to welcome home friends and family. Islanders dressed in their best clothes wait on the quayside. When deportees and evacuees began arriving back in the islands they were welcomed with great celebration. Circa late 1945.
Photographic Archive - Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

