



**POLICING DURING THE OCCUPATION**  
**1940 - 1945**



**BY**

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**CHIEF OFFICER GUERNSEY POLICE**  
**1942 - 1965**



**Albert Peter Lamy**  
**1902 - 1975**

## **FOREWORD**

Albert Peter LAMY, Esq., MBE, BEM, QPM, had a most distinguished career in the Guernsey Police. He joined the force on 30 July 1928 and at the outbreak of the Second World War Mr LAMY had attained the rank of Clerk Sergeant and Secretary to the Island Police Committee from the 14 August 1939.

On the 16 March 1942 he was appointed Acting Deputy Inspector (Deputy Chief Officer) and four months later on 30 July 1942 was appointed Acting Inspector (Chief Officer). Mr LAMY had the most unenviable task of leading a depleted police force in an Island under German occupation.

After the war Inspector William SCHULPHER returned to the Island having been deported in 1942 to Germany with other English born residents. Mr SCULPHER resumed duty as Chief Officer on 9 August 1945 and Mr LAMY was appointed as his deputy. On the 11 December 1945 Mr LAMY was awarded the British Empire Medal for services rendered during the occupation, On the retirement of Mr SCHULPHER on 23 January 1946 Mr LAMY was appointed Chief Officer.

On the recommendation of the Home Office Mr LAMY was seconded to the Southampton Borough Force, from 9 September 1947 to 11 September 1948, in order that he could be familiarised with modern procedures and developments in the Police Service.

Mr LAMY served as Chief Officer until his retirement on 30 April 1965, and in June of the same year he was made a Member of the British Empire, travelling to Buckingham Palace to receive the award from Her Majesty the Queen.

Since the formation of the Guernsey Police in 1920, no Chief Officer has had to contend with the particularly onerous demands placed upon Mr LAMY. He steered the force through its greatest crisis, when the Island was under enemy occupation.

In trying to appreciate the problems it is fortunate that when Mr LAMY was seconded to Southampton he gave a talk to officers of that force. His notes have survived and are reproduced here in their entirety that others may know and appreciate the valiant and dedicated service he gave to the Island of Guernsey and the Island Police.

The force are justly proud of his achievements in ensuring that the force kept abreast of new methods and technology, a situation that has continued to this day.



Photograph of Mr Lamy when he was the Administration Sergeant taken during the early part of the German occupation, possibly June 1940, in St James Street near the police station. The former St Paul's Church was demolished in 1971.

The identity of the lady is unknown and it is believed that she was the interpreter. The identity of the German soldiers are unknown.

The photograph was purchased in Hamburg in 1989 by Mr M. J. Miller of Calcot, Reading, Berkshire and very kindly donated to the Guernsey Police.  
the Guernsey Police.

Gentlemen:

Before talking of Policing during the occupation it might be as well to give the lay-out of the Channel Islands where these incidents occurred.

As you are no doubt aware the Channel Islands lie to the West of the Cherbourg Peninsula roughly about 100 miles from the English coast.

These Islands have their own peculiar form of self-government, Jersey, the largest and most southern being on its own, and Guernsey, where I am mostly concerned, the next largest Island, has the care of Alderney, Sark and Herm, which together form what is known as "the Bailiwick of Guernsey".

Guernsey is governed by a body known as the States of Guernsey, Alderney in a like manner, and Sark by a body known as the Chief Pleas. The working is on the same lines as that of a watch. The wheels of legislation turn in the Islands of Alderney and Sark. It is then submitted to Guernsey for approval, and finally to Privy Council for final approval. The same thing applies to the laws of Guernsey and Jersey - they being submitted to the Privy Council before becoming actual law.

During the time of the German Blitzkrieg in May - June 1940 the inhabitants of Guernsey were very busy growing and exporting tomatoes, The war seemed far away. Even when the guns could be heard on the French coast the majority of the population had no idea that the war would reach Guernsey.

However on the 19th of June 1940 it was decided to evacuate all children of school age and a number of other people. Also men of military age who wished to join H.M.'s forces were given special facilities to leave the Island.

There was a hectic rush and much confusion until the evacuation period finished on the Saturday, 22nd of June.

A large number of the people left in a panic, giving their houses, motor cars, stock in-trade to all and sundry. Quite a number of farmers turned their cattle loose, so you can well imagine the state of chaos which existed on this particular Saturday. Things got to such a pitch that the population were asked to see reason and seriously consider their position. This had a great effect on lessening the panic and eventually about half of the population remained behind in Guernsey.

The following week communications between Guernsey and the mainland were fairly normal and growers again commenced exporting tomatoes. On the Thursday a German reconnaissance aircraft was seen over the Town, but no great notice was taken of it. But at 6.50 p.m. the following day five German bombers appeared and played havoc with the Harbour and its surroundings. A large number of people were killed and wounded. Whole lines of tomato lorries were set on fire. By a stroke of luck one of the Southern Railway Mailboats which was in the Harbour was not hit. She left at dark crowded to capacity with passengers.

The following day was extremely quiet. People were still suffering from the shock of this sudden raid which was carried out in the form of a normal bombing practice against no opposition.

On the Sunday morning an R.A.F. launch escorted by three Blenheims came to Guernsey with the intention of picking up some G.P.O. personnel. The Officer in charge of the launch came to the

Police Station and while he was there the air raid siren sounded. I was talking to him at the time and he remarked that the wardens were getting jumpy and mistaking his Blenheim escort. I took him to the window and pointed out a large green-grey aircraft carrying a black cross and I asked him whether he identified his Blenheim. You can well imagine his reply. He went off post-haste and we knew later that he did return to England.

During this period three large German aircraft landed on the Guernsey airport. That information reached the Police Station by telephone. At the Police Station there was a letter which had been handed in a few days earlier for my Chief to hand to the Officer Commanding German troops in Guernsey. You can well imagine our feelings on first seeing such an address. However, it was there for delivery and we were told German aircraft were on the aerodrome. So, with my Chief and a couple of other Police officers, we set out for the Airport. On the way we were stopped and told that three Blenheims had appeared on the scene and the three German aircraft had taken off and got away. However, we continued to the Airport and saw the marks of their landing wheels across the grass. They had broken into the Terminal Building and we were then under the impression they had left booby traps with the intention of blowing up the place. We searched and found nothing.

It was a peculiar feeling at the Airport - a place usually so full of noise and bustle was then as quiet as a grave, with only sufficient wind to rattle the hangar door and these noises did not help our peace of mind. However, we found nothing and returned to the Police Station.

At about 8 o'clock the same evening the sirens again sounded and five large German aircraft circled the Island finally landing on the Airport. This time they came to stay. I did not make the journey that evening but Mr Sculpher, my Chief, did with other Police Officers. As they approached the road leading to the Airport they were held up by armed German sentries, who accompanied them the remainder of the distance, riding on the running board. When they reached the Terminal Building they were immediately told to get out of the motor car and stand up against a pile of sandbags and surrounded by soldiers with machine guns. The note was then delivered and German troops, by means of commandeered cars, came to the Town area. They immediately set up their Headquarters at an hotel and asked to see the leading officials of the Island. The following morning there appeared in both local newspapers a Proclamation from the Officer Commanding German troops. (see Appendix I)

Apart from the threat to bomb the Town this appeared extremely mild; but it was a true case of the mailed fist inside the velvet glove.

All Service personnel left in Guernsey were instructed to report to the Police Station in the morning. They did so and were marched to the Royal Hotel and were interned at Castle Cornet, Guernsey for some weeks, and received extremely good treatment, being allowed out on their own at certain hours etc. but in course of time they were removed to a Prisoner of War Camp in Germany.

Before the War we had a small German Colony in Guernsey connected with a firm manufacturing Mohair rugs and one of the principals was a leader in the German Labour Front movement. They were all interned. All Nationals were interned in Guernsey at the outbreak of War, but at the time of the evacuation all the internees were released, with the exception of this small German group, who were sent to England and interned.

We had collected quite a large amount of information concerning these and this was contained in files in the Police Office. My first duty on the 1st of July was to burn these files in case they fell into enemy hands, and it was a good job I did so, for one of the first demands of the Germans was the whereabouts of this particular Colony, and any files which we might have had on them. Aliens

being my particular duty at the time they came to me for their information. I told the Germans that the files had accompanied the internees when they left the Island and stuck to that story throughout. On numerous occasions they came to me and each time with the same request.

The first days following the 1st of July a very large number of troops were brought in by air - Junkers transports were used for this purpose and there was a continuous stream of aircraft all day long and well into the night bringing in men and equipment. Troops at this time were all in first-class condition, flushed with victory. They bought up as many suit lengths as they could and stated they would be taking them to London to be made up in Saville Row. At that time they gave a date for London as the 15th of August. However they were disappointed.

The set-up at this time was purely military with just a few semi-civilian officers in the personnel, all of whom spoke perfect English. Police were allowed to go about more or less normally, and they did not at first post sentries, except at their various headquarters. During the night a body of men patrolled in an omnibus, but apart from that little other activity was noticed.

Early one morning towards the end of July when their omnibus approached a point near the Cliffs at one point of the Island they found a large number of boulders strewn across the road. They promptly got a man out of bed living nearby and accused him of placing the stones and threatened to shoot him. This poor individual was too frightened to speak and they eventually came to the Police Station and stated that the Police had to find the persons responsible for this act of sabotage. Police Officers went out and after a while a Sergeant came back with a clip of Bren gun ammunition, two fresh fancy cakes in a paper bag bearing the name and address of a Plymouth baker. It was then quite obvious that locals were not responsible. It was apparent that a landing had been made. Rumours then spread about that British soldiers were on the Island.

Police were instructed one morning at 5 o'clock to comb the coasts, find these soldiers and hand them over to the Germans. Police turned out as directed and had quite a good time on the cliffs. Two British soldiers were seen, but that part of the cliff was left severely alone. Ultimately, two or three days later these soldiers gave themselves up and were interned as prisoners of war.

The true story of this happening is that two local British Officers had been sent to the Island and ascertained that a large number of German airmen were quartered in local hotels close to the Airport, and this Commando raid was to attack the hotels and, if possible, to dispose of the airmen.

Unfortunately many things went wrong - (1) Landing troops landed at the wrong point, and (2) the supporting party landed on the wrong Island and to crown it all a German aircraft was overhead seeking to land on the airport but was unable to do so and was discharging Verey lights. The people on the cliff thought they had been seen and attempted to regain their craft by means of small boats, one of which was sunk, and the aircraft eventually crashed across the road. One Guernsey Police Officer, then in the Navy, was actually a member of that Naval party and he was in a boat within sight of the Island at dawn. He was picked up and finished the War in his normal role of British seaman.

During the early period there were many changes in the higher German staff, each one being a little harder than the last. We did not notice this change until one day we suddenly realised we were virtually in prison. Of course at this time the food situation was not too bad as the Island authorities had laid in ample stocks but it did not take the German troops long to dispose of this. It was nothing to see German troops rubbing down their bare backs with pure butter in order to prevent sunburn, or frying food the pan swimming in butter - and tipping the whole lot out when they were

finished.

By this time, although not long had elapsed, we were hoping for the sight of British troops. Information got to the German authorities to the effect that British Officers were on the Island and eventually a notice appeared in the local papers stating that all British Officers on the Island had to give themselves up within a given period. If this was done no repercussions would fall on their various families. I soon had my sight of British soldiers for one afternoon two young officers, known to me, came to the Police Station to give themselves up and it was my unfortunate duty to convey them to prison.

The Germans did not take long to break their promises. These men had been sent to the Island on reconnaissance and had actually been landed and taken off several times. Their parents and all connected with them were promptly arrested and flown to Paris, all wireless sets were confiscated as a punishment. Amongst the people arrested was our present Bailiff, Sir Ambrose Sherwill. A few days before Christmas 1940 they were suddenly told while in prison that the Germans intended taking a lenient view of the situation and they were released and brought back to Guernsey. The two officers concerned were transported to an internment camp, and the wireless sets were returned to the population just before Christmas.

During all this period Police had been operating without passes. The German authorities had been accepting the uniform not bothering about other identification. At that time the issue of all passes was in the hands of the Military and we were issued with three passes to serve the whole of the Force. These took the form of a large map of Guernsey about 18 inches square with certain areas shaded as forbidden territory and attached to each was a note signed by a German officer to the effect that the holder of this pass was permitted to be out at any time during curfew, which was between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. but he was not permitted to be within the shaded areas. These passes were contained in a long cardboard cylinder, somewhat longer than a truncheon, and the Police Officer carrying them had to carry the passes in their truncheon pockets and their truncheons in some other suitable place. Needless to say there were not many policemen on the roads at night.

Shortly after this in the early days of 1941 the German Field Police arrived in Guernsey. Although we had had one or two odd members before they had not appeared as a body. These could be divided into three separate sections; the Military Police operating somewhat on the same lines of our Red-caps, (we had little to do with these at this time); the Feldgendarmerie, something on the lines of our Security Force and the G.F.P. or Geheim Feld Polizei otherwise generally known as the Gestapo.

Most of our early dealings were with the G.F.P. Needless to say they were not popular. One member who spoke perfect English had previously been in the lumber business in Canada, and a favourite pastime of his was to get about in civilian clothes amongst the civilians running down the Germans to get their reaction. Although I said he spoke perfect English it was with a Canadian accent and there were very few people taken in by him.

Our dealings with the Feldgendarmerie were very difficult, particularly at first for they spoke no English and we spoke no German. We had no interpreter and had no intention of providing one. So every time they came to us they had to provide an interpreter. The officer in charge of the section which included Police - and this very much resembled a civil affairs units, was a German aristocrat who had very little use for anything British, and whenever he could he made things difficult for us and all the local authorities. We noticed this particularly for his predecessor was an Austrian Doctor of Law and quite a decent fellow.

By now the Germans could see that the War was not finishing quite as quickly as they expected, so they then made preparations to fortify the Island. Thousands of foreign workmen were brought in, mostly Algerians, but they included every nationality in Europe, even Indo-Chinese. It was rather funny to see these individuals being marched to work. They were dressed mostly in rags, their feet tied up in sacks, and carrying umbrellas. The Germans had not yet provided accommodation for these people so they took over whole streets turning the residents out of their houses for foreign labourers. They were naturally filthy and soon turned their houses into pigstys.

German troops were also commandeering property and the civilian population never knew what minute they would be turned out of their houses. The usual procedure was for a German billeting officer to go round a certain road he fancied, accompanied by a local official, and instruct the people that they had to be out of their houses within 24 hours. Sometimes only 6 hours notice was given. They were told that they could only take their personal clothing, all furniture had to be left. Quite a number of people took furniture and hoped for the best. In some cases they got away with it but often they were made to bring their goods back.

In many cases, particularly where houses were used for offices, any surplus furniture was thrown out in the garden to rot or to be used as firewood, but the owner was not allowed to return to retrieve his belongings. With the coming of the foreign labour we had another section of Police Officers, namely O.T. section, and it was during this period that we had a number of regular German policemen appearing on the island. We naturally thought that they were coming to take over our duties, but fortunately they were only brought on holiday to see the place and did not come near the Police Station.

One day the Germans noticed that one of their large cables had been cut. We were asked to make the usual enquiry. Of course we did with the usual negative result. The Germans then ordered that all men between 18 and 45 would be called upon to provide all night guards to guard this particular cable.

Men were duly warned to attend and Police had to do the supervising. It was the funniest thing imaginable. The guard was responsible for roughly one mile of road. They were taken out in batches and were placed about 30 yards apart, doing two hours on and four off. It was obvious to everyone that this was a silly type of guard, consequently no one took it seriously. After about two weeks the Germans stated that the guards could be withdrawn.

Shortly after this another cable was cut in a different part of the Island and I was directed to enquire into it. I went there with a German sergeant major, who was a regular policeman in Breslau, quite a decent old fellow, and an interpreter. It was quite obvious the cable had been cut deliberately and there was little I could do about it. The interpreter, after speaking to the German Policeman, turned to me and said, "Mr Opitz would like to know what you think." I replied, "There is only one thing I can think" and left it at that. He translated to the Policeman and then the interpreter said to me, "Mr Opitz agrees with you. It was rubbed on the railings accidentally." And that was the end of that matter.

Another incident I didn't clear up, but rather put my foot in it, was when apparently some German soldiers chalked on a doorway the words "Deuchtsland Uber Alles" and some local wag had crossed out "Uber" substituting "Unter". I went there with a member of the Feldgendarmerie, who by the way was a Professor in a Berlin University, and a lecturer in the Nazi doctrine. Not knowing German, I did not understand what all the trouble was about, so I asked him what "Deuchtsland Uber Alles" meant, and he said "Germany over all". It struck me very strange that they should have been singing this for years, so without thinking I turned to him and said "You've got a bloody sauce,

haven't you? You over Us" and then realised what I had said. It was too late. We had rather a strong argument and the matter rested there.

By this time we had several thousands of foreign labourers in the Island. On paper they were fed on the same rations as the German troops, but as this paper originated in Berlin, then was sent on to Paris as Headquarters of occupied territory and went through various offices until it finally reached Guernsey, each particular unit taking some "rake-off" from the rations, and their own local unit probably taking the major portion, you can well imagine how little was issued to these poor unfortunates. Their main food was about one pint of very watery soup three times a day together with a hunk of German bread, which, by the way, was very satisfying, and a small portion of German sausage. These meagre rations were insufficient for men doing hard work and consequently they resorted to stealing.

We had three entirely different types of people stealing. The slave labour type who stole mostly growing crops; the German soldier who specialised in milking cows and stole live animals; and the local who had a hand in all things. We were rather lucky in being able to separate these three groups. The slave labourer type invariably wore very badly broken boots and these impressions were found in the neighbourhood of pilfered crops. The German soldier always wore jackboots with the sole heavily hob-nailed, but it also had a peculiar type of heel tip. This was very narrow and easily detectable, which then left us the normal type of boot or shoe of our own population. Although at this time locals were not causing us a great deal of trouble, the food situation had become acute with a majority of local people tightening their belt and hoping for the best. Whenever the narrow heel and broken boot type of prints were found we immediately handed over the enquiry to the German Police. A large number of cases concerning foreign labourers were detected but precious few of the military were ever brought to book.

Civilian Police were not allowed to arrest Germans nor their allies. In the event of a German soldier or civilian being seen committing a crime, or being suspected of a crime, instructions were to follow him and report the facts to the German Police. We usually did this as quickly as we could and they usually delayed their enquiries as long as possible. Of course there was little we could do about this as we adopted the same procedure.

One instance during the early hours of the morning - two local Police Officers were on patrol in the country area when they noticed German soldiers carting household goods from one house to another. Nothing had been reported of this, therefore local Police could take no action, but they got close enough to identify the soldiers and also ascertain their billet.

Next morning information was received to the effect that the first named house had been forcibly entered and a large amount of goods taken. These facts were reported to the German Police, who during the afternoon, acting on information received from us, interviewed suspects and later went with them to the Harbour where all the goods had been packed in wooden cases, labelled and were awaiting shipment to Germany.

We were allowed to arrest the foreign element type, but we could not deal with them. They were a pest. I have already mentioned that they were living on short rations, but the majority of them being Algerians their only god was money. Therefore they would sell their rations and steal others for their own use. We would not have minded but as they were selling a large amount of our growing crops, upon which all Guernsey were dependant, we took a rather dim view of it. I remember one occasion when we arrested 28 of them in one batch and had to engage the services of an omnibus to convey them to their place of detention.

On the 5th of March 1942 the heaviest blow of all fell on the Police Force. Two members of the Force were arrested by the German Police. They had been found in a German Store in the act of stealing. They were taken to the German Police Headquarters and questioned for a short while, and then the whole of the Force was arrested and a German left in charge of the Police Station. The majority were released the same afternoon. German enquiries went on for about two weeks and ultimately 17 men were detained in prison. As the result of these cases it was ascertained that quite a number of these men had been engaged in stealing our own civilian supplies. They all appeared before the German Court for the German offences and those accused of civilian offences were handed over to us for trial.

You can well imagine how we, who had to make the enquiry into this matter, felt. On the one hand the whole Force had been badly let down, but on the other hand we had all been pals for so long, and this did not make a distasteful task any easier. However they were sentenced to terms of imprisonment to run concurrently with their German sentences, and the majority of them served these sentences either in France or Germany. One member was so badly knocked about in Germany that he died from his injuries. We were then left with a very depleted Force. The whole of the civilian population had little room for us, and we then had to pick up from scratch. We recruited where and when we could and on the whole got hold of some fairly good material.

Arising from this Mr Sculpher was suspended from duty and his place was taken by an Inspector. Worse was to follow in July when the new Chief was arrested and imprisoned for receiving some of the stolen property. I was then appointed in charge of the Force. The Germans then contemplated taking entire charge of the Police and each day the Occurrence Book had to be submitted to the German Police for examination. We did not worry unduly about this because the people examining the Book did not know sufficient of the English language to read it, and some of the handwriting, to say the least of it, was not helpful. However, after about a month this practice fell off and we got back to normal, that is, normality compared with Occupation conditions.

At one time the Germans issued an order that Police were required to salute all German Officers, failing which they would be punished. We had very little in our shop windows, but it was strange what attention that little had for the Police at the time German Officers were passing. They rarely had a salute, but of course there were times when this distasteful task could not be dodged. This went on right up to the end of the German Occupation. As you probably know German troops in uniform, wearing headgear, used the normal military salute. If without headgear they gave the Heil Hitler salute. This went on until the attempt on Hitler's life, when normal military salute was abolished and all had to use the Heil Hitler salute.

Before the end of the War a new civilian commander arrived in the Island, the Commandant of the Channel Islands being an admiral and his headquarters were in Guernsey. When this new man arrived he asked me to see him and during conversation he stated that the admiral complained that the British policemen saluted him too stiffly. He didn't want that sort of show. If they just raised their right hand that would be sufficient. In other words that was the Hitler salute, and the suggestion, I thought, very diplomatically put forward. This called for a diplomatic reply. I thought for a moment and told him that whenever a British policeman was required to salute he had to use the military type, therefore there was nothing we could do to alter the form as laid down. He accepted that and that was the end of that.

By now we had the measure of the German Police and whenever possible we played them off one against the other. If the Military Police (Red caps) told us to do something we thought we could get out of we went along to the Feldgendarmarie, told them a story and they, not being too keen on the military section, invariably took our part. If on the other hand the Feldgendarmarie told us to do

something which we did not like we saw the

Gestapo, and told them a story and more often than not the order was countermanded. It was rather funny, we had three German units each disliking the other and because of that dislike we could come between them and upset them. However it paid good dividends and we kept it up and so far as I know the ruse always succeeded.

About this time the Germans suddenly decided to send English born people to Germany. There were certain exceptions - women married to Guernseymen or persons over the age of 70 and young children. They also decided to send all ex-army officers and a few other people who were criminal characters. These people were circulated and told to report to a cinema on a certain day bringing with them their handbaggage. The local authorities did as much as they could by providing rations for the journey, but these people were herded together and marched down to the Harbour and eventually shipped off to Germany. Amongst these people were Mr Schulpher and two police officers who had joined us after the March episode. I had eleven English born men on the Force at that time. I made representations and managed to retain nine.

By this time the Germans were enforcing their own penal code in Guernsey. Of course our own local laws were still in operation but one of the strange parts about the German law was that they had nothing to deal with children, and it was strange to see the number of children blamed for some offence they knew nothing about. Of course no further action was taken. Persons arrested by the Germans were sometimes brought before the Court and tried. In other cases of a so-called mild character, statements were taken from all concerned, submitted to a Tribunal outside the Island and eventually the culprit received a notice in German stating that he had only been fined so many Reichmarks or sentenced to a term of imprisonment. He had no opportunity of defending himself and was told he could appeal if he liked, but they advised him not to do so because invariably the sentence was doubled.

One of the peculiar parts of the German Court system was in the case of giving evidence. A witness appeared before the Court and the first question he was asked was whether he was related to the accused. Evidence was then taken in writing and when complete it was read over to him and before signing it he took an oath saying that all he said was true. Of course it could easily be seen that had the evidence not been true, and the witness said so, a statement had already been made and the Court made conversant with it, although I never heard of a statement being retracted after being made.

Our local prison was not big enough to take all these persons serving a short term. The prison contains 35 cells - 29 for men and 6 for women. The women's section was left for our use and the men's block was taken over entirely by the Germans. All cells had at least three occupants, and there came a time when there was a waiting list. This feeling between the various sections was carried into the prison. Prison warders were soldiers pure and simple, thus coming under the control of the military police, and a large proportion of the prisoners had been put there by the Feldgendarmerie, and I know of several instances where local men had been serving sentences for German offences and the guards gave them permission to go out in the evenings to the pictures providing they gave their word of honour to return.

The German Police rarely dealt with cases against civilians when the offence concerned civilian authorities only. These cases were invariably handed over to us for prosecution. Most of them were of a trivial nature and the statements had been extracted, to say the least of it, not in accordance with the Judge's Rules. When such cases came before our Magistrate I always appeared for the prosecution and opened up with words somewhat on these lines, "Sir, this is a case detected by the German Police and handed to us for prosecution". From there I continued in a normal way but from

my opening remarks he knew exactly what I meant and in all cases the offender was either Bound Over or was sentenced to pay a normal fine. This was a rather double-edged weapon, because on one hand we were showing we would not be dictated to by the Germans, but on the other hand some of these people were being given unfair advantage over their fellows, but the fellow taking advantage of the situation usually fell into our clutches at a later date.

We again were in a very difficult position, for except when we had no other course open to us we never handed over a local to the Germans. You will see now how difficult it was with a Police Force recruited under the circumstances ours was to carry out our duties efficiently. The men had had no proper training as policemen and were now being brought up in an atmosphere where they were asked to condone crime. We searched houses and in a number of cases where we searched we came across stolen German goods. Rather than hand these people over to the Germans, in some cases we dropped our side of the prosecution.

One rather amusing incident of this kind was in the country area - the Germans were laying Railway lines. Every night the locals upset most of that day's work by stripping the rails and stealing the sleepers. Up to this point the German Police had not been informed. One day a Constable had reason to search a house in this neighbourhood. He found a shed stacked to the ceiling with the sleepers taken from this Railway. He did not find the article he was looking for and advised the occupant that trouble was bound to come eventually concerning these sleepers and told him to get rid of them within forty-eight hours, and that he would come back and search his premises again.

This man promptly got rid of his sleepers and strangely enough the German Police took up the matter of the lost sleepers the following day. All the houses in the neighbourhood were searched and with the exception of the one visited by the Police Constable sleepers were found in all of them. These people were dealt with by the German Police and were all fined. The man coming under our notice was the only lucky one in the district although there was little doubt that at the time we saw him he had far more on his premises than all the rest put together.

On another occasion Police on patrol found a man stealing coal from a large dump. He was brought in and the facts recorded and after enquiry it was found that this particular dump belonged to the Germans. I took no further action in the matter, but did not tell him that I was dropping the prosecution. I thought it would be better to leave well alone rather than risk trouble by careless talk on his part. However, about a month later the Germans found him stealing their coal and promptly arrested him. You can imagine how worried I was for a while fearing that he would say that he had been picked up by the civilian Police and that we had taken no action. However he did not and that was the end of that matter.

We had quite a large number of people in the Island who apparently thought more of the Germans than they did of their own Nationals. These could be divided into two categories - open collaborators and writers of anonymous letters. In the first category there was an Irishman employed by the Billeting Staff. He knew the Island fairly well and was able to take the Germans to the right places, to get the stuff they required. He was formerly manager of a clothing shop in the Town and beneath this shop was a store.

One night a Police Officer found the door open and the only thing in the store was a wireless set. All wireless sets had been confiscated by the Germans, therefore this set was brought to the Police Station and the fact duly recorded in the Occurrence Book. I felt that although he was a collaborator he was still British and I wanted to give him a chance, but as this incident had been recorded in the Occurrence Book there was always the possibility that the Germans might see it, so I sent for him and showed him the set. He asked me where I had got it. I told him and said that I would take no

action for 24 hours in order to give him an opportunity of thinking out a decent story to cover this matter. He thanked me very much and went off.

Less than ten minutes after he had left the office I had a telephone message from the German Police stating that I had a Wireless Set in the Police Station. I strongly denied this, and they eventually said, "I know you have got a Set. Mr X is here and has just told us about it." So you can see from that he was even more of a collaborator than I first thought him.

Of the other type, the anonymous letter writer, perhaps one of the best instances is that I once received a letter stating that a certain farmer was sheltering a British airman. I knew this farm and all surroundings to be occupied by German troops, they allowing the farmer one or two rooms and therefore it was virtually impossible for him to shelter anyone.

The writer also stated that a similar letter was being sent to the German Police. There was always the possibility that he might have been sheltering someone so I went out immediately in order to be ahead of the Germans. However, when I got there I was quite satisfied there was no one there, and asked the farmer if he could recognise the writing. He stated that he thought he could. It was that of a woman living nearby who had always been causing trouble. It was the farmer's daughter who was supposed to be responsible for hiding this airman and the daughter's name was Eileen.

We had no machinery for dealing with these anonymous letter writers and this was one of the most despicable of them. I knew one of the fellows on the German Police whom I could trust so I gave him the letter and also the name of the suspected writer and asked him if he would go out and frighten her. He did so and about six weeks later I had a further anonymous letter from the same writer stating that Eileen had been a nervous wreck ever since the German Police called on her. I saw Eileen shortly after. There was nothing wrong with her and it was quite obvious we had got the guilty party, but could take no action against her.

Hundreds of such letters were received and the majority of people picked up for being in possession of illicit wireless sets were betrayed to the Germans by these means. As the penalty was usually two years imprisonment, and this in a German prison, it was no light matter to be found in possession of a set, although hundreds of people in the Island had them.

We were now getting very low down on all our commodities and the Black Market was rampant. Rations were insufficient to keep an animal alive. I remember at one time my wife was in hospital and the two boys were boarding at school. I drew my fortnightly ration of groceries for which I paid 2/2d. This consisted of a very small amount of macaroni. I also drew, quite wrongly, vegetable rations for the four of us. By this means I managed to exist.

There was one period of three weeks towards the end of 1944 we were without bread. It will be seen that so little was being issued officially there was a great demand for any food stuffs which could be obtained illicitly. There was one type of Black Market in which we took no interest at all. This consisted of goods illicitly imported by the Germans and sold by them. As this had no adverse affect on the population as a whole we were not interested, But on the other side locally produced foodstuffs, namely meat, butter, eggs, root vegetables etc., came in for stringent attention. The meat ration consisted almost solely of newly born calves slaughtered within fourteen days of birth and issued fortnightly.

We had no salt ration, and although Guernsey is an Island surrounded by salt water we were not allowed to go down to the beaches to gather this for cooking vegetables. Salt water was obtained by authorised persons and retailed to civilians at the rate of 2 1/2d per pint. There were others who

took risks in getting salt water. This was boiled and the residue salt sold for five marks (10/8d) per lb. Butter was sold at the rate of £5 per pound; flour milled from locally produced corn, which was very roughly ground and sold at £1 per pound. Without going any further this will give you some idea of the extent of the Black Market. Cigarettes, made from locally grown tobacco, smelled like a bonfire and tasted like nothing on earth, were sold at 35 marks for a packet of twenty, this being a little under £4.

All areas of root crops, as well as the numbers of all animals, were registered. Therefore producers had to find some means of satisfying the Authorities when their stocks were found to be deficient. The usual procedure in the case of cattle was to strike a deal with a Black Marketeer, leave the animal in a certain field overnight when it would be collected and promptly slaughtered and distributed, and about two days later the farmer would report to the Police that an animal had been stolen the previous night. We had actual proof in two cases of this kind and prosecuted. Although we knew it was going on in most cases we were unable to prove it.

Of course there were cases of genuine stealing. With regard to root crops the Germans by now were actively engaged in stealing potatoes. Their method was just to walk along a field, pull up stalks and whatever potatoes came with them. As soon as this happened the unscrupulous farmer would promptly clear a big patch and hide them, reporting to the Police that his crops had been pilfered and thereby getting a variation of his registration.

We managed to prove one or two of these, but again it was extremely difficult. One farmer, who was growing potatoes in a greenhouse, reported that the whole of the crop had been lifted overnight. This greenhouse was 260 feet in length by 32 feet wide and not one potato was left in the place. Although we could prove nothing against him we were quite satisfied that this could not have been done by any person working in the dark.

The persons slaughtering cattle had the greatest difficulty in disposing of the skins. They usually employed the same means by digging a hole, burying the skin and entrails and when complete dowsing the whole of the area in water, We detected quite a number like this but they usually employed the same method and made it fairly easy for us.

We had very little solid fuel and we were issued with a meagre supply of logs. These logs came from freshly cut trees and it was impossible to burn them until they had dried out. Gas was firstly rationed to so many feet per person per household per day. It was not enough for the usual household and many persons disconnected their meters and connected the two pipes with a piece of old bicycle tubing. These offences were usually detected by the Gas Company's Inspector when checking the meters. In the event of going over the top of the ration to any large extent the supply was discontinued.

However we ran out of gas and electricity and those having candles were considered fortunate. Our ration for use at the Police Station was one candle per day. The usual procedure being that office staff went off when dark and the Enquiry Office left in the dark until about 6 or 7 p.m. when the candle was lighted for an hour to write up any afternoon reports, put out until 10 p.m. when it was used until such time as the final day's reports were entered up and then extinguished again, the stub saved for emergency use during the night.

Water was also very scarce owing to lack of fuel for pumping purposes and people were told that they were not allowed to use water for flush tanks. If detected it would be regarded as an act of sabotage and they would be imprisoned. The usual expression when pulling the flush tank was "One for Hitler".

At this time all commodities were in very short supply. We had been unable to obtain torch batteries and the only means of illumination available for the Police Officer on patrol was his cigarette lighter, You can well imagine the difficulties which arose. The black-out was 100% effective owing to the fact that no artificial illumination was available at night. The only way a Police Officer could examine premises was by a sense of touch, and when in doubt, use his lighter. It so happened that there was very little in the shops and therefore less risk of breaks. We supplied an all-night guard for the main food stores. Rations were issued to the shops weekly and as these rations were so small and the people eager to obtain them they did not remain long in the shops.

Apart from trousers and boots Police uniforms in use at the time of the Occupation were still being used in May 1945. We were able to obtain a very shoddy material from France. This was made into trousers and after it had been used about a month it began to turn red, and was of little use. It was quite a common occurrence to see a Police Officer walking about with a patch on his trousers.

Boots were made locally, the leather being obtained from the animals slaughtered in the Island. The skins were sent to France, turned into leather and returned to Guernsey. As we had so little meat consequently we had little foot wear. Other garments such as tunics, capes, overcoats, helmets etc were in constant use. We had no option when taking recruits except to get a man to fit the existing uniform, therefore if the uniform was cut down the next man using that had to be either the same build or smaller, and during this period there was quite a bit of coming and going.

Bicycle tyres and tubes were unobtainable. Men doing country patrols used pieces of hose or rope wired on to the wheels as tyres. You can well imagine the comfort these men enjoyed when on patrol.

Food by now was very short and consequently working hours had to be reduced. This was Island wide and a Police Officer's day was reduced to six hours.

We did this by bringing half the relief on at the normal time 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and the other half two hours later. As an additional help we established country sub-stations thus enabling men to work the area nearest to them. This system worked very effectively.

One matter touching on the question of bicycles occurred shortly after "D" Day when the Allied Forces had over-run St Malo and the neighbourhood, thus cutting off the Channel Islands. One Police Constable had been on night patrol and his bicycle completely packed up under him. He 'phoned the Sergeant at 6 a.m. telling him that he would be late reporting and giving the reason and stated that he would not be long as he knew where he could get another bicycle. This Police Constable had regularly met a German major at the same point each morning; the German using a very good bicycle. The afternoon before this incident occurred a British destroyer had brought up off the Island under cover of a white flag and asked the German Garrison to surrender as the situation was now hopeless. The Garrison did nothing of the kind, but this was not known to the general population. Consequently all sorts of rumours were about.

However, on this particular occasion the Police Officer waited for the German Major. He duly arrived and the PC went up to him and said, "I want your bicycle. You will have no further use for it. The War is over, you have lost." He took the bicycle and the German Major asked what he was supposed to do. The Policeman replied, "Walk the same as I have had to do," and went off with the bicycle. When he arrived at the Station the Sergeant asked him where he had obtained the bicycle and he told him the story, whereupon he was informed that the War was not over so he had better

prepare for the worst when the German realised it. However, the War did not finish for 12 months and nothing further was heard of the incident. The Major must have either been pro-British or else he had previously stolen the bicycle.

Petrol rationing was very rigid. The Germans were also afraid that in the case of invasion too many private vehicles would be on the road causing congestion so they combined economy and strategy and had very few cars on the road. I remember on one occasion I had to go with other Island officials to the German Headquarters when they were definitely going to take more vehicles off the road. We, at that time, had a Wolseley car and two motorcycles. I was told that we had to take our car off the road. I said it was impossible and gave various reasons which they believed, but after, as a compromise, I said we would do away with the car provided we could have a smaller vehicle. They promptly agreed to this and we purchased a half-ton van, but ever after we used the van, two motorcycles and the car. They granted a permit for the extra vehicle and continued to permit the car. This went on right to the end of the War and they never realised they had given us an extra vehicle.

German troops were getting short of food and were stealing more than ever. We often kept observations on farms throughout the night accompanied by a member of the German Police. They were armed and did not hesitate to use their weapons if necessary. On one occasion when we were unable to supply a man one member of the German Police, together with the farmer's son, kept observation in the stable nearby. During the night two soldiers entered. The German policeman came from his hiding place and chased them but lost sight of them around a corner. As he passed one of the intruders jumped out, grabbed his pistol and promptly shot him dead. This man then threw the pistol away and tackled the young farmer. He had him on the ground attempting to cut his throat, in fact several cuts were inflicted when the second man appeared on the scene and tried to get his accomplice away. However the farmer got to his feet and they again had a scuffle against the wall.

The farmer's mother came out with a pitch fork and by this time the farmer was feeling the effects of his wounds and told his mother to stick the German with the pitch fork. She was nervous and had cause to be. She attempted to wound the German but owing to her nervousness stuck the fork in her son's arm. This enabled both soldiers to get away. Enquiries were immediately instituted and a soldier's Identity Card was found. Later the same day the soldier who had shot the Policeman was arrested. The second man was never found, although they knew his name, and it has been suggested that the arrested man, knowing his friend had lost his Identity Card, had killed him and disposed of the body, leaving no trace, believing the story that 'dead men tell no tales'. However he was tried, sentenced to death and executed within three days of the happening.

The German Policeman was buried with full military honours and I was instructed by the Island authorities to attend the funeral and place a wreath on behalf of the inhabitants. I did so but it was one of the most uncomfortable times I have ever had - the ceremony conducted in a language I knew nothing about and the only person there who did not, to say nothing of being the only Britisher amongst a crowd of German soldiers. However, the Policeman who lost his life was there on our behalf and it was the least I could do.

We had one outstanding criminal during this period - a young Frenchman about 20 years old, one of the finest cat burglars you could wish to find. His M.O. was always the same - up the side of a building, through a skylight or removing slates or tiles from the roof. On many occasions there were easier ways of access but he just couldn't leave his usual M.O. alone. He first came to our notice after a series of breaks into German stores and one isolated case in a local store. However he was arrested, placed in prison and had not been in there long when he escaped.

We began to get further cases of breaking and entering - the same M.O. - and I was constantly asking the German Police what had become of this Frenchman. They told me that he was then serving a sentence in France, but could give me no information as to how he had been caught. However, I kept on that Binet, this being the man's name, was responsible for the breaks, and one day the Germans called me to the prison and I was immediately greeted with "Mr Lamy, you are right, you are right," and was then informed that Binet was in the Island. One of his accomplices had been arrested and told them the whole story.

The search was intensified and eventually a factory was broken into and the goods recovered in a large derelict house nearby. The whole of the building was searched without result, for this was carried out at night, simply with the aid of German torches, and as it was considered that he would come back to collect the spoils, so many men were left in various parts of the house. Eventually a noise was heard and they thought Binet had returned to the house. The torches were switched on but he could not be found. He was arrested the following day by local police and it was then ascertained that at the time we were searching the house he was on the peak of the roof, therefore outside the beam of the torches, and the noise the watchers heard was Binet leaving the house, not entering it. He was one of the foreign labourers in the Island and his usual procedure was that after doing a job he went to one of the labour camps and hid for some days until things got quiet, when he would then dispose of his spoils, living rough until such time he decided to do another job and then repeated the procedure.

I was the unfortunate witness of the German Third Degree methods at this time. Binet had been taken to prison and three German Police Officers came to interrogate him. They came armed with a rubber hose about half an inch thick, very flexible, and in turn the three of them got at him. By the time they had finished he was just a crying wreck. Another of their methods was to leave a man in the cells all night with lights on, a couple of nights later the lights would be left off and they would come along in the early hours of the morning, wake him up and question him. Of course it was quite obvious that waking under these conditions it was easy to extract a statement, just the kind of statement they wanted. Often statements were taken from accomplices incriminating another, the statement would then be prepared, brought along to the accused, told to read it, that it was true and he had to sign it. These statements were often signed just for the sake of peace and quietness, the prison sentence being the lesser of two evils.

The O.T. had their own prison - strangely enough the first was in a house known as "Paradise". It may have been paradise before 1940 but it was far from paradise at this particular time, and as the prisoners grew in numbers so other houses were requisitioned and they were all numbered Paradise 1, Paradise 2, etc. At Paradise 2 there was a big German jailer, standing about 6' 4" - a real brute of a man. Although he treated his prisoners brutally they did whatever they were asked or told to do, simply because they were afraid. We had quite a large number of cases of stealing in this area, particularly fowls, rabbits and pigs. We made numerous enquiries and one day after a pig had been reported stolen found a trail of blood leading to the barbed wire of the prison.

I have already mentioned the lack of co-operation between the Feldgendarmarie and the O.T. Police. We reported the matter to the Feldgendarmarie who went to the prison and questioned the prisoners. They stated that the jailer had been sending them out at night time to steal on condition they brought him the proceeds,

and they had done so with the pig. The jailer was arrested, sentenced to a long term of imprisonment and died very shortly afterwards in the local prison. Whether his death was natural or not was never established, but it seems strange that a big man like him should die so suddenly.

We had one case in the country where a man was watching his field of potatoes - quite a number had been pilfered and he decided to keep watch with his son. He noticed someone digging his crops, and he immediately gave chase and found it was a German soldier. He was just within striking distance when the soldier turned round and shot him dead. The facts were immediately reported to the Police. We made enquiry as far as we were able and eventually traced the soldier to a certain hotel where he was billeted. Of course we had no right of entry and the German Police then took over, being satisfied that it was a soldier. However, they made numerous enquiries, attempted to blind us with science, but made no effort or real headway. Consequently the matter was never cleared up.

We had another double murder towards the end of the War. In this case an old couple, husband and wife both over 60 years, were brutally murdered for two Red Cross parcels and four cockerels. These people each had their throat cut, one had 12 wounds and the other 14 wounds on the head. One of the most brutal murders you can ever wish to see. It was known that German soldiers frequented the house and that they had been there on the night of the murder.

The matter was immediately handed to the German Police who made up their minds that a German soldier could not have done it and it must have been one of the Georgians in the army. A large number of these men had been absorbed into the German army and there were many detachments in the neighbourhood. However, the troops close to this particular house were Germans. We were lucky to find the weapon which caused the head wounds. This had been thrown away in a field of corn and had been stolen from a nearby farm.

About three weeks later the War finished. We took up the enquiry and searched the house and grounds occupied by the German troops. After digging we found a Guard Book which contained the names of the persons who were in that house that night. We made enquiries amongst the German troops and felt pretty certain that the people we were after had been quartered in that house. However, the British Authorities had then commenced sending German soldiers to a Prisoner of War Camp and it so happened that this particular detachment with the four men had been sent away. I made repeated requests to the Prisoner of War Department to trace these men but unfortunately in the chaos nothing happened.

Our most serious difficulty in connection with offences committed by German troops was that our local people would give statements stating that they had seen German soldiers and we in turn would forward that to the German Police for enquiry by them. One or two of these Police Officers - I will mention some of them later - took up a bullying attitude towards these witnesses, who would first become indecisive and then in a number of cases retract their statements, They would then immediately be fined by the Germans for telling lies about the German Forces. Of course this did not happen in all cases, but knowledge got about and many people were afraid to give statements implicating German troops.

We had quite a mixed bag within the German Police - one a Sergeant Major, who in peace time was a Policeman in Dresden. He was one of the worst types you can wish to meet. He was a bully and I always thought him a drug addict. I suppose amongst all the German Police in the Island he had the worst name, and moreover, he was hated by all his companions. Another member, who in private life was a professor in a Berlin University, was an out and out Nazi. He used to spend his spare time going round to various detachments lecturing on the Nazi doctrine. I had many a political argument with him, but he would hear nothing good about the British way of life. Apart from that he was not a bad type of fellow, although I could never stand him.

About 12 months after the end of the War I had a letter from him, somewhat on these lines, "Dear Mr Lamy, do you remember me? I was with the Feldgendarmerie. We have lost the war. I am sorry." After a while I replied taking up my old attitude and much on the lines as "I told you so".

I thought that would be the last I would hear of him, but it wasn't. I had a prompt reply wherein he was defending the Nazi regime. However, I left it at that and didn't answer the letter, and have heard nothing from him since.

We had others who were without doubt pro-British - one an Austrian nobleman who came to the Island in 1941 when Germany was on the crest of the wave, but he could say nothing good about Germans. At first I did not trust him, but he proved by his actions that he was sincere. Many times he came to the Police Station and told me that the German Police had had an anonymous letter and were going to raid a certain place. With this knowledge we were able to warn people beforehand.

During the War we were unable to obtain sugar and saccharine was almost as scarce, and you may well believe very expensive. German Police knew saccharine was being imported into the Island illicitly and were out to break the ring, but little did they know that the "King Pin" was in their midst. This Austrian always carried his supplies around in his satchel and did quite a bit of good; he always said he was a merchant not a soldier. He certainly lived up to it. Another, a member of the Gestapo, was before the War a missionary in Hong Kong. His wife was South African and two of his three children were born on British territory. He told me that he had more friends and relations in London than he had in Germany. He certainly lived up to his creed, and whenever he could do a good turn he did it.

We had two others from Frankfurt - boozing pals. They were true German, but anti-Hitler and they would do anything they could to help. I remember on one occasion meeting them in the street - one evening - one of them although not drunk had been drinking more than was good for him. They called me across the street and the sober one said, "So and So is not very happy. The R.A.F. bombed his house in Frankfurt." I naturally thought they would be leading off at me about the R.A.F., but instead of that he lead off about Hitler. He said, "I don't blame the RAF. This is War. If that b ... \*, Hitler hadn't started it I wouldn't be here today." Strangely enough that was the attitude of at least 50% of the German troops in the Island.

During 1944 we recorded 2,900 cases of stealing food stuffs. The greatest portion of this was attributed to German troops. Prior to "D" Day their rations were adequate but they always augmented as far as possible by stealing, particularly growing crops. From "D" Day onwards they were forced to tighten their belts as their source of supply had been cut off, and as the year progressed larcenies became heavier and heavier. We reported the cases to the German Police for enquiry, but unless we were in a position to trace the goods to a certain billet we had little satisfaction, although on many occasions we were able to trace stolen cattle, and when they were detected they were very severely dealt with.

After "D" Day when things were really scarce the Germans made it an offence for any soldier found guilty of stealing food stuffs to be punished with death. This sentence was carried out on many occasions, but only in connection with stealing goods of German origin. Sometime before "D" Day all Police were issued with a special pass to enable them to come to the Police Station in case of invasion, and at the same time a number of local officials, one of whom was the Chief Officer of Police, were to be regarded as hostages for the good behaviour of the population in case of invasion. Needless to say the invasion did not take place, and we all breathed freely again.

In the early hours of "D" Day, about 3.30 a.m., I was awakened at home by a Police Officer and

told that I had to get all the men to the Station and report to Headquarters when this had been completed. All 'phones had been cut off, so our mobilisation plans went by the board, and it meant a personal call in each case. However, they were all in by 5 a.m. I went up to the German Headquarters to report. When I arrived I found that the front door was locked and I was admitted through a French window into one of the rooms. The staff were all congregated round a table on which was a map of the Cherbourg Peninsula.

The room was lighted by candles and aircraft were droning overhead the whole time. Of course we guessed what was happening and from the map I had some idea of the locality. In the early days of the War we had a German aircraft flying over the Island all night, so by way of trying to gather information I asked how long that

plane was going to continue flying over the Island. One of them looked at me very old-fashioned and said, "I don't know, but I think there is more than one." However, that was all the information I gained. Nothing further happened, and I was told to keep the men until later when I would receive further instructions. Later in the day I was told the men had to be congregated at the Police Station twice daily - 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and I had to report to Headquarters at those times.

About this time we were receiving continual attention from the R.A.F. bombing and machine-gunning shipping in the Harbour; also Fort George which overlooked the Harbour. This Fort contained four Radar installations and the R.A.F. were doing their best to put them out of action. Unfortunately the bombs did not all fall on the target and some fell on adjoining property, fortunately with no civilian casualties. As we had no telephone communication, and when these raids occurred had no means of notifying the Police on duty, I arranged for all men to be quartered in and near the Police Station.

We kept this up for about two weeks after "D" Day. As you may depend the men made themselves quite at home and one of them brought along a piano accordion. The German official to whom I had to report was named Zachau. Each time I returned from reporting at 4 o'clock I saw the men and told them to carry on, and they made up a song to the tune of "O God our help in ages past". I forget the whole of the song but the first line was "We are old Zachau's army", and this burst out on every occasion they were told to carry on. You can well imagine how far their voices sounded when 60 men were singing lustily - it was heard quite a distance, and at times quite a crowd would stop to listen, including German soldiers, but we had no repercussions as they probably did not understand sufficient English.

About this time the Germans could see that they were likely to be cut off and they sent our section (civilian) of the German Police back home. We then had to deal with the military Section. We previously had had no dealings with them and there was little love between us. Things did not run very smoothly for a while.

About December 1944 Island food stocks and medical supplies were at their lowest ebb. We had practically nothing to eat. Hospitals had almost exhausted their supplies and it was impossible to obtain any from the Continent. Patients were only served with one meal a day and other meals had to be provided by their friends and relatives, about the only thing they could be supplied with were various kinds of vegetables. Only the most severe operations could be performed in order to conserve supplies of anaesthetics, gut etc.

It then became apparent that some drastic action was necessary and it was arranged that one man would get away from the Island and give a true report of the conditions. This man was an ex-Mercantile Captain, who was then acting as a fisherman, and he made the arrangements. There were

few of us in the scheme because it was risky to trust too many. It was arranged that a meeting of the States would be called and one member gave notice that he would ask the President of the Board of Health, the President of the Essential Commodities Committee, for a true state of the Island stocks. Statements were made in detail - I have a copy of these - and the matter stated publicly at a meeting of the States. I attended that day and Captain Noyon, who was to take back the information, was also present. As soon as the meeting was over he went to his boat and fooled the Germans, who always accompanied fishermen on their expeditions, and set out. It was all arranged that if everything went well the following day a relative of his would come to me and report him, and his boat, missing. He was duly reported missing and of course the facts had to be reported to the German Authorities, but he got safely away and eventually the first Red Cross supplies were sent to us.

Stealing was now rife and the German Authorities suggested that the Police Force be armed. The suggestion was put to me by the local official, but I refused point blank. Of course I knew what would happen. German troops were doing most of the stealing and it would soon develop into a shooting match. I would be the poor unfortunate to stand the initial racket, and deaths of German soldiers would be placed on the heads of the local officials, so the matter ended there. By this time all Germans and locals were in the same boat and living simply on the Island's resources, the Germans taking a major proportion. German Police, as I already stated, were not co-operative and we began to ignore them. There were many cases where Police and German soldiers clashed. Truncheons and bayonets were drawn. There were minor casualties on both sides, but neither side

spoke of them. The local officials were also taking the same attitude. A letter was sent to the German Commandant which in point said that as they were unable to feed us it was their duty to surrender. I have a copy of that letter, also a copy of the reply sent by the Germans. Both make very interesting reading.

Just before Christmas the first Red Cross ship came to the Island, and except for the St John Ambulance personnel no local people were allowed near the ship, the whole of the loading and transport to store being carried out by German troops. The cases were brought to a large hall for examination by German customs but they would never open a package unless local Police were present. These parcels contained all the foods we had thought about but had not seen for years - raisins, tinned fruit, jam etc., to say nothing of soap. Although the Germans were very short of food I don't think we had one case where goods were stolen from these parcels, either in transit or at the store.

We had also been without bread for three weeks and this consignment contained tons of pure white flour. Up to the time when supplies ran out we had been using oat flour and all sorts of muck containing husks, dirt and anything we could put in. You can imagine how the people felt when they received their first loaf of pure white flour.

Our troubles then commenced. German troops seeing these parcels naturally envied them. While they were in the various shops awaiting distribution we provided all-night guards of Regular Police and Special Constables and had no trouble, but they were all distributed at stated periods - one per person per month. Of course a family of any size would naturally, on the day of distribution, have a large number of these packages in the house. Large numbers of houses were broken into and the parcels stolen until the people got wise to it and when retiring at night every scrap of food stuffs in the house was taken to the bedroom. Even this did not stop the Germans, because on many occasions they broke in and held persons up at the point of a pistol, stealing the Red Cross supplies. I have already told you how two people were murdered for two parcels.

From this time onwards until the end of the War we had regular supplies from the British Red Cross Association. I remember on one occasion one case of babies' layettes were sent by the British Consul in Lisbon, Portugal. The case was lined with newspapers containing numerous photographs, and the Gestapo chief suddenly pounced on it as propaganda. He didn't make a very good job of it for in the bottom of the case was quite a number of recent copies of "The Daily Mail". You can imagine that these were quickly snapped up. One of them contained particulars of a Guernseyman who had recently been awarded the George Cross in connection with an ammunition explosion in the Midlands.

Things went on much the same towards the end of the War. The Officer in charge of the German Police was a young man, about 25 years, he could see the 'red light', and was doing his best to assist us but was opposed by his men. We were not getting anywhere with enquiries so I wrote to the German Headquarters and told them that their Police were not assisting us in preventing stealing of food stuffs. They passed it on to this Officer and the next I saw of him he cried to me because I had written to his Chief telling him that he was not doing his duty, and his men were saying he was pro-British. However, that was only a dig, but had very little effect.

The Island was very heavily armed but at that time we had about 12,000 troops stationed here. From "D" Day all the population were hoping for an invasion, but as time went on it seemed quite apparent that the British Government had other ideas. During the rapid offensive through France and Germany the R.A.F. came over each night, and we called them the "Newspaper Planes". They dropped containers with papers printed in German showing the latest state of the advance - real up to the minute stuff. It was an offence for anyone, British or German, to be in possession of these. We were able to get a copy of every leaflet dropped - even one canister which fell in a German billet and failed to explode. A Police Officer made out he did not know it was a German billet and under their noses extracted a bundle.

As we were the only people allowed out after curfew we were the only people, with a few exceptions, to get possession of these. In the early days Police Officers distributed them amongst their friends and of course their friends told their friends and eventually the Police Station became somewhat on the lines of a newsagent.

People would come every morning to get their paper. As the stream was so constant I had to discontinue the distribution for fear of trouble arising. These leaflets, being so up to the minute, even showed the surrender of the Luneberg Heath, and although it was a serious offence to be in possession of wireless sets most people had their own crystal sets - mine was contained in an electric light joint box.

At that time the A.E.F. programme were putting out hourly programmes. On the last Sunday of the War news came over to the effect that the War would finish at one minute after twelve on the Tuesday night. On the Monday afternoon a British Destroyer came off the Island and asked the Germans to surrender there and then. This was refused and they were told that unless they got away immediately they would be blown out of the water. However, the Destroyer went off and on that Monday night the Germans were out in force, manning guns and doing everything possible to counter an invasion. You can well imagine our thoughts after waiting so long to think that now the War was over we would be in the midst of fighting, and we really expected it because the Commandant of the Channel Islands was a fanatical Nazi Admiral.

However, the next morning at 10 o'clock I was in the Police Station feeling rather miserable and looking out of the window when I noticed a German Staff car draw up outside the Court buildings and two naval officers go in. I came away from the window and later saw Sir John Leale, who was

President of the Controlling Committee, which acted somewhat on the same lines as the Cabinet, with his head down looking rather glum.

I suspected the worst and ran over to his office to hear it. When I got there he was all smiles, came across, shook hands and said, "The Germans have informed the Bailiff that the War so far as we are concerned is over at 3 o'clock this afternoon and that we can fly our flags." Of course that put a different complexion on it. Flags went out immediately and so did hundreds of other flags which people were carrying and the Town was packed. There was very little demonstration. The people were too stunned to demonstrate. They were walking about the Town carrying flags and the German soldiers walking about the Town going about their normal duties ~ neither one side taking notice of the other.

I was then in a very difficult position because although the Germans said the War was over so far as we were concerned at 3 o'clock it did not terminate until midnight. We had no Allied troops in the Island and I was responsible for law and order. Shortly after 3 o'clock I had a telephone message from the German Authorities stating that the position had now changed. Instead of me asking them - they had to ask me certain things. Shortly after that I had another telephone message. I had heard several guns firing and the message was from German Headquarters asking why they were firing. I told them I did not know and it was their business to see that they did not fire, and requested them to put the German Police on the enquiry. However it transpired that they were only emptying the rounds left in the barrels.

I only had one incident which might have proved ugly. A number of locals living near a German Battery had gone out and pulled down the German Flag, hoisting the Union Jack. The Germans in turn promptly pulled down the Union Jack and hoisted the German Swastika again. This went on for a short while and the Germans notified me of it. I was afraid that any German, finger trigger conscious, might pull a gun thereby starting something we could never cope with. I sent a couple of Police Officers down to tell the locals that there was very little we could do. We would have British troops in the next day, and to wait a little while thereby saving loss of blood. Fortunately they saw sense and thus no further trouble arose. The Germans were confined to their barracks that night and everything passed off peacefully.

The following morning another official and I went down to the Harbour to meet the incoming troops. This detachment was composed of three officers and 20 men. You can imagine our feelings when they came ashore. On looking at their dress and equipment I felt much like Rip Van Winkle ~ everything had been revised during the War. We had no knowledge of it and we felt like school children asking various questions. The answer would appear quite obvious to the people coming in, but not quite so obvious to we who had missed all these things during the past five years.

I arranged with the Officer commanding the troops for the surrender of the German Admiral. I had looked forward to this for years. I arranged for this to take place at 3 p.m. Unfortunately the main body of troops which included Civilian Affairs was due at the same time and my duty was to meet them - unfortunately I missed the surrender.

The behaviour of the German troops was all that could be desired apart from stealing, which is natural with a large body of men and the unusual circumstances, it could be more or less expected. During the whole of the period I rarely saw a German soldier drunk about the streets although they did have many drinking bouts but these occurred in their billets. It was very unusual to hear a soldier whistle after a woman in the street and during the whole period we only had two cases of rape - one occurred within the first week of the Occupation, and he was sentenced to death, the other some years later. We reported the facts to the German Police. The man was arrested and sentenced to five years imprisonment. He appealed and the sentence was changed to 8 years, but

although we had made the enquiry I am very doubtful if it was a case of rape. I think the girl was a consenting party.

There was one incident worthy of note which happened on the previous day at 3 o'clock. The Officer in Charge of the German Police came to the Station and handed me his sword, I have that, and later the same afternoon the Gestapo Chief sent down his pistol. These and a German Police Breastplate are the only souvenirs I have of five years under German rule.

**Island Police**  
(Regular Members) 1942



Top Row (Left to Right): PC F Le Cocq, A/Sergt. R Kimber, A/Sergt. H Pugh, Sergt. H Dyson, PC R Marsh.  
Bottom Row (Left to Right): Sergt. H Bull, Det Sergt. E Pill, Inspector A Lamy, Sergt. C Le Lievre, Clerk Sergt. E Plevin

APPENDIX I

ORDERS OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE GERMAN FORCES IN  
OCCUPATION OF THE ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

- 1 . All inhabitants must be indoors by 11 p.m. and must not leave their homes before 6 a.m.
- 2 . We will respect the population in Guernsey, but should anyone attempt to cause the least trouble, serious measures will be taken and the Town bombed.
3. All orders given by the Military are to be strictly obeyed.
4. All spirits must be locked up immediately, and no spirits may be supplied, obtained or consumed henceforth. This prohibition does not apply to stocks in private houses.
5. No person shall enter the aerodrome at La Villiaze.

6. All rifles, airguns, pistols, revolvers, daggers, sporting guns, and all other weapons whatsoever, except souvenirs, must, together with all ammunition be delivered at the Royal Hotel by 12 noon today, July 1.
7. All British sailors, airmen, and soldiers on leave in this Island must report at the Police Station at 9 am. Today, and must then report at the Royal Hotel.
8. No boat or vessel of any description, including any fishing boat, shall leave the harbours or any other place where the same is moored, without an order from the Military Authority, to be obtained at the Royal Hotel. All boats arriving from Jersey, from Sark, or from Herm, or elsewhere, must remain in harbour until permitted by the Military Authority to leave. The crew will remain on board. The Master will report to the Harbour Master, St Peter Port, and will obey his instructions.
9. The sale of motor spirit is prohibited, except for use on essential services, such as doctors' vehicles, the delivery of foodstuffs, and sanitary services where such vehicles are in possession of a permit from the Military Authority to obtain supplies. The vehicles must be brought to the Royal Hotel by 12 noon today to receive the necessary permission. The use of cars for private purposes is forbidden.
10. The blackout regulations already in force must be observed as before.
11. Banks and shops will open as usual.

(Signed) The German Commandant of the, Island of Guernsey.

July 1/1940,