



Deportation

Over 900 civilians were deported from the Bailiwick of Guernsey to German internment camps in Europe.

In September 1942, in retaliation for the internment by Britain in 1941 of German nationals in Iran working against the Allies, Hitler ordered the deportation from the Channel Islands of all people born on the British mainland, together with their families.

Those selected for deportation were given only 24 hours notice of their departure and the announcement caused great distress. Deportees were sent in batches to three camps in Southern Germany. Single men went to Laufen; married couples, families and single women went to Biberach and Wurzach.

In the internment camps deportees were allowed to elect their own leaders and were left to manage their own affairs. Rations were meagre but from December 1942 they were supplemented by regular Red Cross food parcels. In this respect the deportees fared better than many of those who remained at home. On the other hand deportees suffered complete loss of liberty and were left in no doubt that they were held as hostages of the Nazi regime.

Liberation of the internment camps began on 23rd April 1945 but it was some months before the internees were back home.

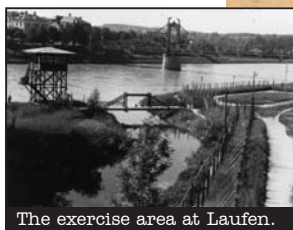
Some people were deported from Guernsey as political prisoners for various 'crimes' against the occupying force. These ranged from making "V for Victory" signs, listening to BBC broadcasts, operating the underground news service and assisting British agents. The lot of these prisoners was particularly harsh and not all survived their treatment in German prisons.



Crowded conditions in a hut at Laufen.



The camp orchestra at Laufen.



The exercise area at Laufen.

*Christmas Greetings from Schloss Laufen
CHEERIO-ALL.
Room 76277.*



The Liberation of Biberach 23rd April 1945