



Island Leaders

Those left in charge of the civilian population had a difficult task. They had to find ways of meeting the German demands without compromising the safety and morale of the Islanders.

The States of Guernsey set up a Controlling Committee of eight members to run the Island's affairs. Its President was Ambrose Sherwill, the King's Attorney-General (replaced by John Leale after Sherwill was deported). The Bailiff, Victor Carey, elderly and in poor health, vested his authority in the Controlling Committee but took on the civil duties of the Lieutenant-Governor who had been evacuated before the occupation.

Sherwill, and Dame Sybil Hathaway, the Seigneur of Sark, dealt with the military authorities on a daily basis. The Dame was respected by the highest German authority, even if she did not always obtain the undivided support of the Sarkese.

In general the German commandants were found to be polite and fair. Colonel Graf von Schmettow was military commander-in-chief and Island Commandant from September 1940. The Feldkommandant (in charge of civil administration) for most of the occupation was Colonel Knackfuss.

In February 1945 von Schmettow was recalled to Germany and Vice-Admiral Huffmeier, a fanatical Nazi, took over as Commandant.



Colonel Graf von Schmettow, Island Commandant from September 1940 until February 1945.



The Royal Court in session shortly after occupation in 1940. Seated on the right of the Bailiff, Victor Carey, is Major Lanz, the first German officer to be in command of civil affairs.



The Seigneur of Sark, Dame Sibyl Hathaway, talks to German officers at the Seigneurie.



Victor Carey, Bailiff of Guernsey.