



Liberation

On 8th May 1945 - VE Day - Churchill announced that "our dear Channel Islands will be freed today". Liberation had come after five long years



Crowds greet the liberating forces.

Planning for the liberation of the Channel Islands began at the end of 1943. Although the invasion of France in June 1944 by-passed the Islands the intention originally was to recover them by force.

Alternative plans, codenamed "Operation Nest Egg" were also devised and it was these that were, in the event, put into operation. The plans depended on the unconditional surrender of German forces in Europe, and included highly detailed arrangements for putting the Islands back on their feet. A military administration would govern until the Islands themselves were in a position to do so.

Early in the morning after Churchill's VE Day announcement, the representative of the German forces in the Channel Islands signed an unconditional surrender on board HMS Bulldog, anchored off Guernsey.



The Islanders immediate needs on Liberation were anticipated and specially selected items - food, medical supplies and clothing, were loaded onto vehicles, ready to be driven straight off the landing ships when Force 135 arrived. More supplies followed on the first transport ships.

The liberation, Operation Nest Egg, was carried out by Force 135, a British task force of 6000 men. The first troops landed in Guernsey and Jersey on 9th May and were greeted by cheering crowds. Although Sark was officially liberated on 10th May no troops were available to be sent there and the Dame of Sark was put in temporary charge of the German garrison. Alderney was liberated on 19th May.



King George V and Queen Elizabeth meet the children of Guernsey in Candie Gardens, 7th June 1945.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth made a special visit to the Islands on 7th June 1945.



Early in the morning of 9th May 1945 Generalmajor Heine, the Deputy of Vice-Admiral Huffmeier, arrives on board HMS Bulldog to sign the unconditional surrender document. His authorisation is checked by Captain Herzmark of the Intelligence Corps.