



# Occupation

The Channel Islands were occupied without resistance. The Germans intended the occupation of the Islands to be a model for their planned conquest of Britain. Civilians would be treated fairly provided that they co-operated with the military authorities.

On 30th June 1940 aircraft landed the first German soldiers at Guernsey's airport. Alderney was occupied on 2nd July and Sark on the 4th July.

The Germans rapidly imposed their rule on the Islands. Property, transport and supplies were requisitioned. Newspapers were taken over and censorship introduced. Clocks were changed to Central European Time. Traffic had to drive on the right and notices and road signs appeared in both English and German. German currency and metric measures were introduced alongside their English equivalents. The teaching of German became compulsory in schools and anti-German books were banned.

By May 1943 there were 16000 German personnel in Guernsey. These included army units, naval coastal artillery and airforce anti-aircraft units, customs officials, military police, administrators and construction workers.

German troops were under orders to behave courteously. Although some soldiers were frustrated by the lack of action, serving in the Channel Islands was a lot more pleasant than on the Eastern Front.

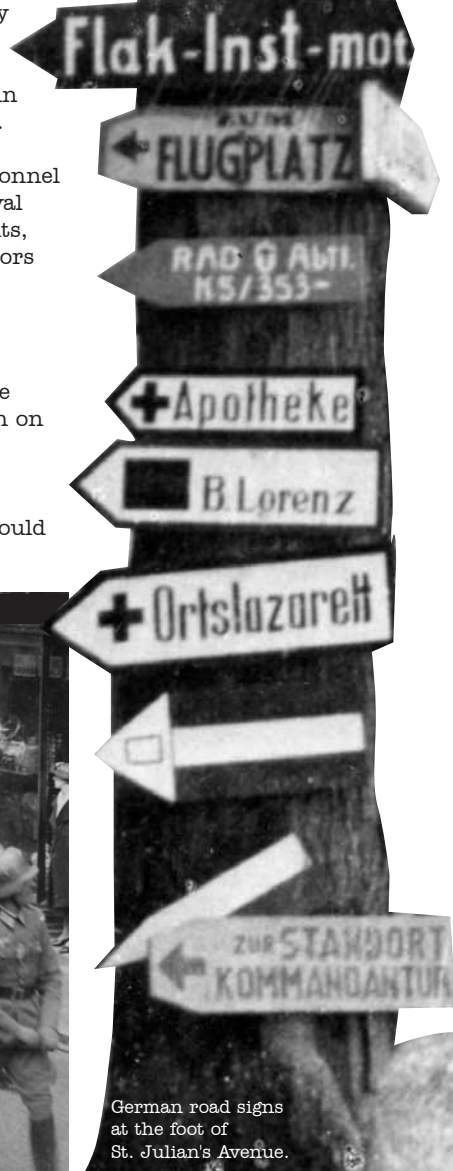
The Islanders had no idea how long the occupation might last or how German rule would affect their lives.



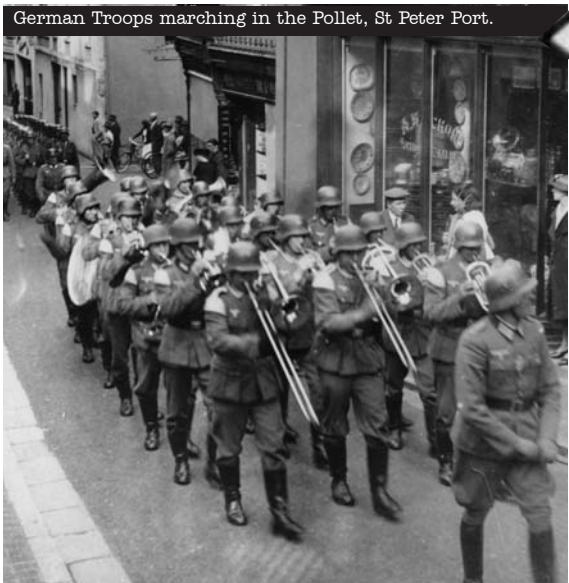
The swastika flies on Guernsey's airport building.



The Gaumont Cinema with placards for a German propaganda film "Victory in the West".



German road signs at the foot of St. Julian's Avenue.



German Troops marching in the Pollet, St Peter Port.