



Resistance & Co-Operation

Resistance was very difficult on such small islands and penalties were severe. Those who had to live or work alongside the Germans had little option but to co-operate. Even so, some individuals risked making acts of resistance.

Minor acts of sabotage and subversion were commonplace, whilst active resistance to occupation took several forms, including distributing news from the BBC, obtaining details of military installations, harbouring OT workers and Allied agents and attempting escape by boat. All such activities carried the risk of imprisonment or even death.

Many Islanders showed resistance by treating the German troops with silent contempt. Most people however, simply wanted to get on with their lives and saw a passive co-operation as the only way to maintain a safe and stable existence. A small number collaborated with the enemy. The most despised, even by the Germans, were those who informed against their neighbours, sometimes just to settle old scores.

For their part, the ordinary German soldiers wished only to carry out their duties with the minimum of disruption. There were many examples of soldiers seeing Islanders, particularly children, suffering hardship and responding with individual acts of kindness that could have brought them punishment from superiors.

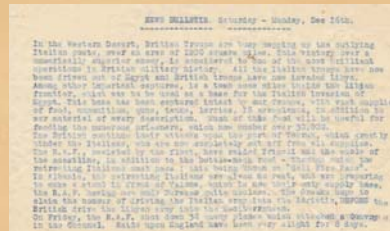
REWARD

A REWARD WILL BE GIVEN to any person giving information about anyone who marks on any visible place the letter V or any other words or signs calculated to offend the German Authorities
Eighth day of July 1941

**KOMMANDANTUR 515
Schumacher KOMMANDANT**



German soldiers and civilians alike stop to listen to a military band playing in Candie Gardens.



In 1942 five Guernseymen formed the Guernsey Underground News Service (GUNS) which produced a clandestine daily news sheet based on BBC broadcasts. In 1944 they were betrayed by an informer, and after interrogations by the Gestapo they were sent to German prisons where one of the five, Charles Machon, died. This is one of the newssheets, typed on very thin paper.



In 1943 bodies from the British cruiser HMS Charybdis, sunk off Brittany, were washed ashore in Guernsey. The German authorities allowed them a full military funeral, but were not prepared for the thousands of Islanders who appeared at the funeral to show their spontaneous and undiminished support for Great Britain.

The daubing of "V for Victory" signs was a commonplace minor act of resistance. Irritated, the Germans eventually retaliated by painting their own version of the "V"!