

The German Occupation of Jersey: A WWII History

June
1940

After much deliberation of how Jersey should react to the Second World War, a German air raid on 28 June 1940 resulted in the decision to demilitarise Jersey as to not attract any further bombing (Cruickshank, 2004, p.26).



(Ministry of Defence, n.d.)

July
1940

On 1 July 1940, German troops arrive on Jersey under the command of Captain Gussek, formally beginning the occupation (Sanders, 2005, p. xx).



(Stone, 2025)

August
1940

German law and administration put into force in the Channel Islands. The Fieldkommandantur (Field Command) 515 was based in Jersey, having responsibility for law on all the islands (Cruickshank, 2004, p. 106-107). First Order against the Jews was registered on 23 October, resulting in forced labour and encampment (Sanders, 2005, p.xxii)



(Stone, 2025)

October
1941

The Fortification Order for the Channel Islands issued by the Fuhrer's Office on 29 October 1941. This important directive began the fortification of Jersey with bunkers, strongpoints and batteries from a feared English attack (Saunders, 1989, pp. 222-223; Forty et al., 2016, p. 15).



(Danrok, 2013)

March
1942

Directive 40 is issued by the Fuhrer's Office on 23 March 1943. This formalises the preparation of The Atlantic Wall, a fortification of the coast from Norway to Spain from fear of English attack. Jersey plays a key role, becoming one of the most fortified areas of it (Forty et al., 2016 p. 11; Saunders, 1989, p. 223).



(Man Vyi, 2005)

December
1944

After years of food shortages due to the ceasing of supply lines from mainland Britain, the Red Cross vessel 'Vega' docks at Jersey on 30 December for the first time, carrying 750 tons of supplies saving the population from starvation (Sanders, 2005, p. xxviii).



(BBC News, 2014)

May
1945

On 9 May 1945, one day after VE Day, German forces in the Channel Islands surrender. Brigadier Snow commenced a ceremony on 10 May, of which a public holiday and reenactment of the ceremony take place to this day every year on 9 May (Cruickshank, 2004, pp. 324-325; Carr, 2012, p. 98).



(Visit Jersey, 2025)

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