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**WORLD WAR II · TIME-LIFE BOOKS · ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

**BY LEONARD MOSLEY**  
**AND THE EDITORS OF TIME-LIFE BOOKS**

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**THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN**

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RAF fighter pilots at an airdrome in southern England scramble for their airplanes after being alerted to the approach of German attackers. At the height of the Battle of Britain, in August 1940, Britain's overworked pilots flew up to seven sorties per day, and were often on call around the clock in the bone-wearying struggle to fend off the numerically superior Luftwaffe.



# THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN



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**HITLER'S NIBBLE AT THE CHANNEL**



*British bobbies on the German-occupied Channel Island of Guernsey stand uneasily in the path of a German sentry patrolling the waterfront.*

# COURTEOUS CONQUEST OF POLITE LITTLE ISLANDS

It was a Sunday morning at the end of June 1940, when the first armed German arrived on Guernsey, one of a group of tiny British islands set down in the English Channel just off the French coast. Landing a plane on Guernsey's grassy airfield, the German drew his pistol and alighted. Suddenly, three British planes buzzed by overhead. The interloper nervously scrambled back to his aircraft, dropping the revolver, and took off. Later that day, however, another German plane touched down, and this time three men got out. One carefully retrieved the gun; another announced to an unruffled policeman that they intended to take over the island.

Thus began Hitler's occupation of the Channel Islands, which was undertaken to create stepping stones for the invasion of Britain, and ended with the Islands being the only bits of native British territory to be seized by the Germans during World War II. By the general standards of Nazi takeovers, it was a strangely peaceable, polite conquest, at least in the early stages. The bobby at the airport was actually expecting both the airmen and the German ground troops who soon arrived by boat. So was just about everybody else in the Channel Islands. Since Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark were within 30 miles of France, newly conquered by Hitler, and nearly 80 miles from Britain, His Majesty's Government considered them indefensible—and so informed the residents (*left*).

Not that the occupation lacked certain discomforts for the natives: a curfew; liquor prohibition; Nazi films in movie houses; the construction of bristling shore and anti-aircraft defenses. But generally, the islanders, obeying their leaders, were careful to show no hostility. When one old Guernseyite stood in his doorway with a rifle threatening to "shoot the first German who tries to come in," his relatives gently disarmed him. And the Dame of Sark (*right*), feudal ruler of her two-square-mile fief, was so relaxed with the invaders that it was hard to tell just who had conquered whom. When one of the visitors asked if she were not frightened, she sweetly replied, in German, "Is there any need to be afraid of German officers?"

*This notice of military abandonment was signed by King George VI and posted around the Channel Islands two weeks before the Nazis arrived.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE KING TO THE BAILIFFS OF JERSEY AND GUERNSEY

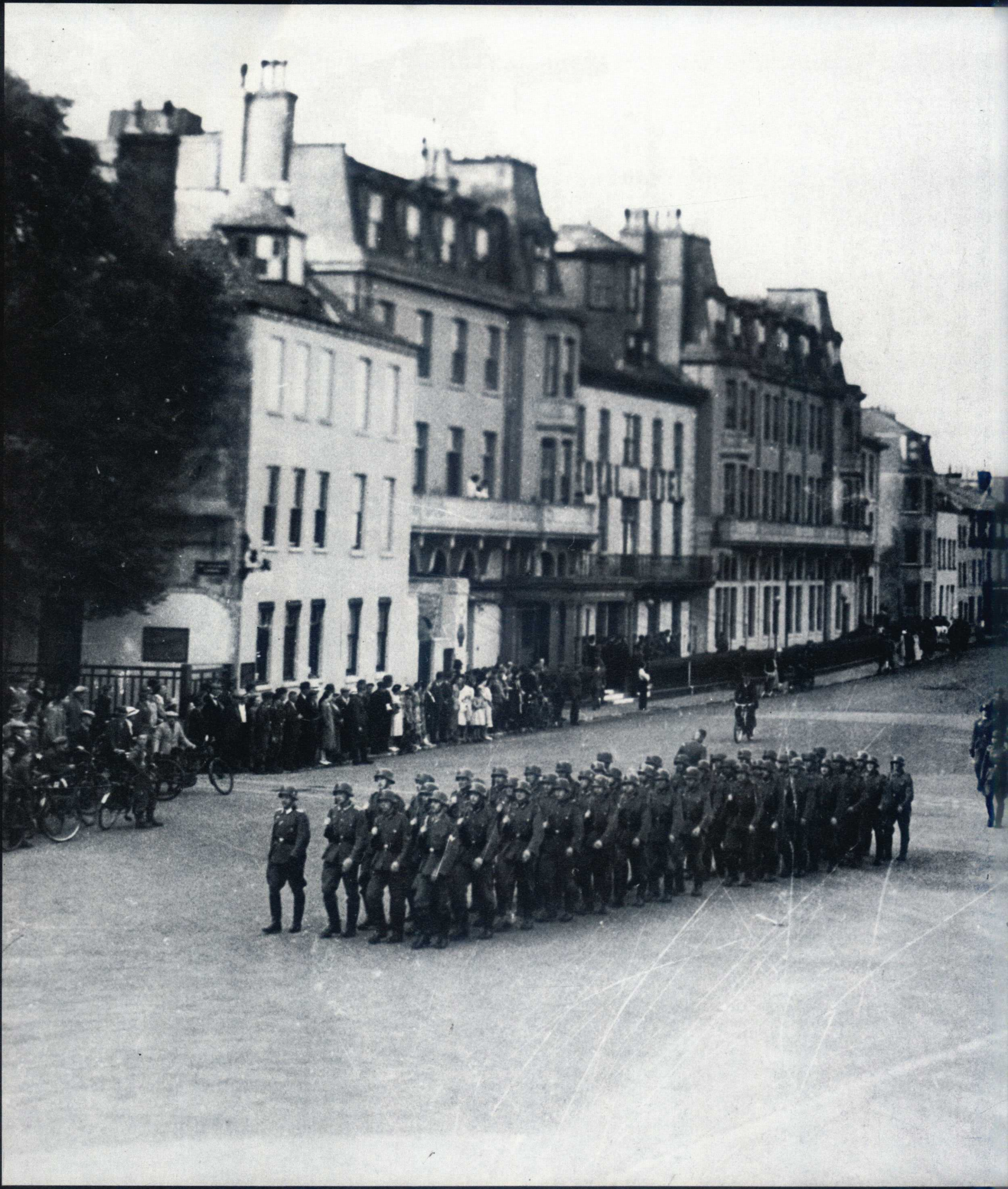
For strategic reasons it has been found necessary to withdraw the Armed Forces from the Channel Islands.

I deeply regret this necessity and I wish to assure My people in the Islands that, in taking this decision, My Government has not been unmindful of their position. It is in their interest that this step should be taken in present circumstances.

The long association of the Islands with the Crown and the loyal service the people of the Islands have rendered to my ancestors and Myself are guarantees that the link between us will remain unbroken and I know that My people in the Islands will look forward with the same confidence as I do to the day when the resolute fortitude with which we face our present difficulties will reap the reward of Victory.



*The Dame of Sark, the hereditary head of the Channel Island bearing the same name, meets with German officers in the courtyard of her estate.*





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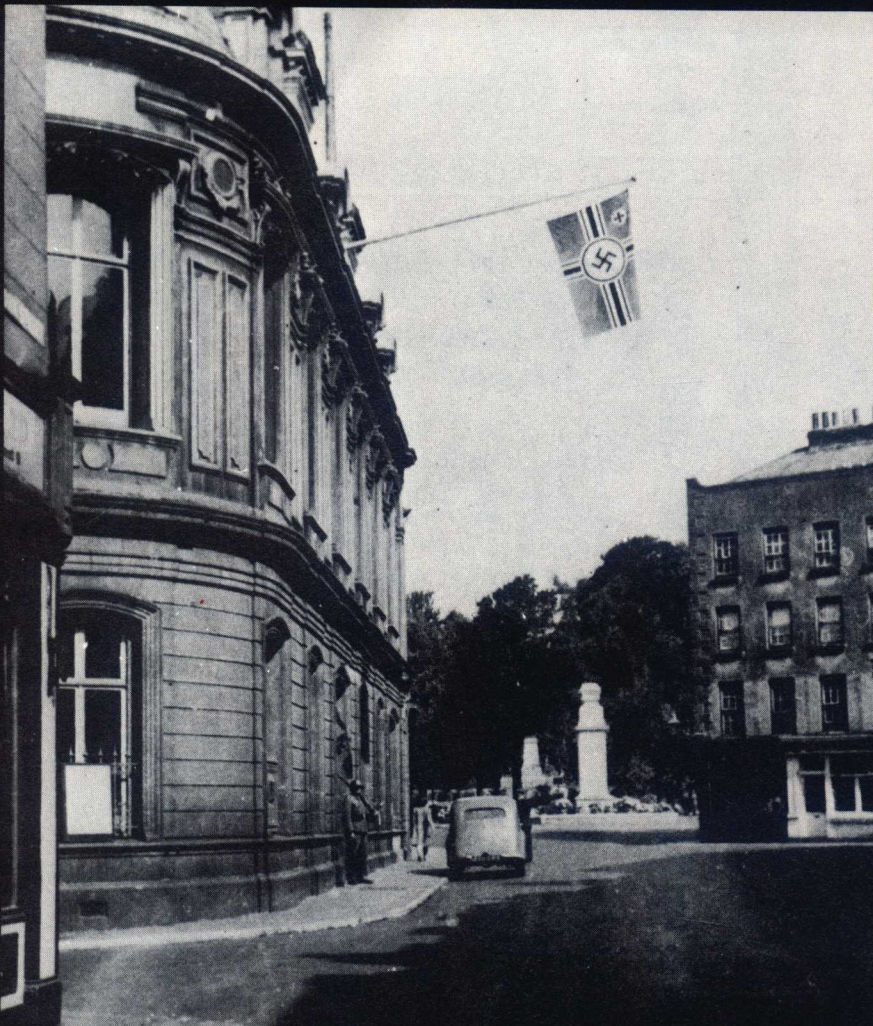
NO. 18,972 REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. POSTAGE 1d. GUERNSEY, MONDAY, JULY 1, 1940. TELEPHONE 1400 (FIVE LINES). G.P.A. 15.

## ORDERS OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE GERMAN FORCES IN OCCUPATION OF THE ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

- (1)—ALL INHABITANTS MUST BE INDOORS BY 11 P.M. AND MUST NOT LEAVE THEIR HOMES BEFORE 6 A.M.
- (2)—WE WILL RESPECT THE POPULATION IN GUERNSEY; BUT, SHOULD ANYONE ATTEMPT TO CAUSE THE LEAST TROUBLE, SERIOUS MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN AND THE TOWN WILL BE BOMBED.
- (3)—ALL ORDERS GIVEN BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITY ARE TO BE STRICTLY OBEYED.
- (4)—ALL SPIRITS MUST BE LOCKED UP IMMEDIATELY, AND NO SPIRITS MAY BE SUPPLIED, OBTAINED OR CONSUMED HENCEFORTH. THIS PROHIBITION DOES NOT APPLY TO STOCKS IN PRIVATE HOUSES.
- (5)—NO PERSON SHALL ENTER THE AERODROME AT LA VILLIAZE.
- (6)—ALL RIFLES, AIRGUNS, PISTOLS, REVOLVERS, DAGGERS, SPORTING GUNS, AND ALL OTHER WEAPONS WHATSOEVER, EXCEPT SOUVENIRS, MUST, TOGETHER WITH ALL AMMUNITION, BE DELIVERED AT THE ROYAL HOTEL BY 12 NOON TO-DAY, JULY 1.
- (7)—ALL BRITISH SAILORS, AIRMEN AND SOLDIERS ON LEAVE IN THIS ISLAND MUST REPORT AT THE POLICE STATION AT 9 A.M. TO-DAY, AND MUST THEN REPORT AT THE ROYAL HOTEL.
- (8)—NO BOAT OR VESSEL OF ANY DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING ANY FISHING BOAT, SHALL LEAVE THE HARBOUR OR ANY OTHER PLACE WHERE THE SAME IS MOORED, WITHOUT AN ORDER FROM THE MILITARY AUTHORITY, TO BE OBTAINED AT THE ROYAL HOTEL. ALL BOATS ARRIVING FROM JERSEY, FROM SARK OR FROM HERM, OR ELSEWHERE, MUST REMAIN IN HARBOUR UNTIL PERMITTED BY THE MILITARY TO LEAVE.  
THE CREWS WILL REMAIN ON BOARD. THE MASTER WILL REPORT TO THE HARBOURMASTER, ST. PETER-PORT, AND WILL OBEY HIS INSTRUCTIONS.
- (9)—THE SALE OF MOTOR SPIRIT IS PROHIBITED, EXCEPT FOR USE ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES, SUCH AS DOCTORS' VEHICLES, THE DELIVERY OF FOODSTUFFS, AND SANITARY SERVICES WHERE SUCH VEHICLES ARE IN POSSESSION OF A PERMIT FROM THE MILITARY AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN SUPPLIES.  
THESE VEHICLES MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE ROYAL HOTEL BY 12 NOON TO-DAY TO RECEIVE THE NECESSARY PERMISSION.  
THE USE OF CARS FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES IS FORBIDDEN.
- (10)—THE BLACK-OUT REGULATIONS ALREADY IN FORCE MUST BE OBSERVED AS BEFORE.
- (11)—BANKS AND SHOPS WILL BE OPEN AS USUAL.

(Signed) THE GERMAN COMMANDANT OF THE ISLAND OF GUERNSEY  
JULY 1, 1940.

Guernseyites watch German troops marching through the streets of Saint Peter Port (left) the island's main town. On the day following the invasion, the Wehrmacht commandant took over the local newspaper and printed and distributed special copies (above), which set down precisely what was to be expected of the conquered. The islanders complied fully, although some of them mocked the arms regulation by buying toy pistols and presenting them to the Germans. Though courteous, the occupiers were deadly serious; subsequent proclamations prescribed the death sentence for anyone possessing pigeons—which the Germans believed could be used to send secret messages to Britain.



*A Nazi flag proclaims Jersey's Town Hall to be the German headquarters on the island.*



*Posted under a portrait of the Führer, billboards on a Guernsey*



*On the island of Guernsey, a German soldier stands guard at a former British installation.*



# MONT PALACE



  
**Sieg  
im  
Westen**  
Ein Film des Oberkommandos der Heere

AIR RAID  
SHELTER



movie theater advertise a Nazi film called *Sieg im Westen*—*Victory in the West*—that extolled recent German feats of arms in the Low Countries and France.