

(CLAIMS)

HA 11811/30(65)

F. W. Fatta.

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Your Ref.: HNP/763 (HG 11811/18)

The Foreign Office
L O N D O N, S.W. 1
England

RECEIVED
ARCHIVE
11 JAN 1965
HNP/149 (18)

Arolsen, 4th December 1964
o. 34

Re: F.W. FALLA

Dear Sirs,

With reference to your letter dated 4th November 1964, please be advised that the following information is contained in our records:

FALLA, Francis, born 30 March 1911 in Guernsey, Nationality: British, - was in the "Strafanstalt Frankfurt/Main-Preungesheim" in the year 1944 (exact date unknown).

Document 333/44 issued by the "Strafanstalt Frankfurt/Main-Preungesheim" and Document 2 VLs 618/44 issued by the "Oberstaatsanwalt Frankfurt/M."

Documents consulted: Nominal list established by the "Oberstaatsanwalt Frankfurt/Main".

Yours sincerely,

N. Burckhardt

N. Burckhardt
Director of the I.T.S.

Go

From: Francis Walter Falla, 2 Summerland, Collings Road, St. Peter Port,
GUERNSEY, C.I. October 1964.

In my claim against the Federal German Government for persecution suffered under the Nazis, I would like the following to be taken into consideration.

I, with four other Guernseymen (Charles Machon, decd., Joseph Gillingham, decd., [redacted] and Cyril Duquemin were 'tried' by a German Military Court, or Tribunal, May 1944 for: 1 listening to the British news; 2 retaining our radio-sets contrary to German orders; 3 distributing B. B. C. news via a daily news-sheet. This contained the BBC's 9 p.m. news and the 8 a.m. news headlines in a form of the news-sheet G.U.N.S., Guernsey's Underground News Service (one of the few surviving copies of a G.U.N.S. sheet is attached) and was in being from May 1942 to February 1944. We were betrayed to the Nazis by a receiver of the news-sheet, Peter Doyle, an Irish national living in the island. The general heading under which we were 'tried' was "Spreading seditious information and failing to deliver a wireless-set. The five of us were denied any civilian or German military counsel for our defence and before the trial opened the Nazi Prosecutor entered the Court with a sheaf of papers, on the back of which he had enumerated the sentences he was to recommend be inflicted on us--- and this before the Court proceedings were opened. His recommendations totalled nearly 13 years to be shared by the five of us, but at the end of the proceedings this was reduced to 8 years 3 months. Our so-called 'trial' followed interrogation by the German Feldpolizei and then the Gestapo, during which Machon suffered the ultimate in physical and mental torture.

After spending a short time in the local prison in Guernsey we were forcibly transported from Guernsey (under the escort of two members of the Gestapo and three soldiers going on leave to Germany) to the Continent against the hazards of attack from British planes, surface vessels or submarines, in the hold of a vessel carrying German troops and accompanied by an alleged Red Cross ship carrying wounded soldiers, but, like our vessel, carrying no navigation lights. The Nazi guards told us if there was an air-raid we were to stay in the hold (on pain of being shot if we moved) while they would go up on deck.

First we were taken to the Gestapo-administered prison at Frankfurt-on-Main and then Naumburg-on-Saale (July 1944 to April 1945). At Frankfurt opponents of the Reich of all nationalities who were chained in cellar cells and cried like animals, were being executed by the Nazis by guillotine at the rate of 25 per week (June-July 1944). Both Frankfurt and Naumburg were penal prisons administered by the Gestapo, staffed by guards and warders who were ex-soldiers who were either invalided out of the fighting forces or too old to fight. Their ranks were sprinkled with members of the Gestapo. Channel Islanders in Frankfurt included Percy Miller (decd.), Norman Dexter, Gerald Domaille, Walter Laine, Cyril Duquemin [redacted] Joseph Gillingham (decd.)---all from Guernsey; and Jersey men Canon Clifford Cohu, ~~XXXXXX~~ Joseph Tierney, Frederick Page, Joseph Paisnel, William Marsh, George Fox, and Clifford Querree---all of whom died. All but the first four Guernseymen named were transported from Frankfurt to Naumburg in July 1944. We wore prison uniform, like blue dungarees, on the back of which were the red-letter initials JV--Justice Verwultenung, this prisoner has been sentenced. My prison identity disc and number which we wore on strings round our necks, is attached, I was GN 605.

In addition to suffering starvation and malnutrition, we were deprived of ALL HUMAN RIGHTS.

At no time were we visited by any member of a Neutral, Protecting Power.

We were denied any and all medical attention.

Our relatives were not informed where we were or even whether we were alive or dead. My repeated requests to the Commandant of the prison that the Bailiffs of Jersey and Guernsey be informed that 11 Channel Islanders at Naumburg were alive (eventually only [redacted] Cyril Duquemin and myself did survive) was flatly refused. When our kinsmen died relatives were not informed. First news of their deaths came from me in a letter sent to the Editor of the Jersey 'Evening Post' (copy attached) when I got back to England (see also accompanying copy of my article in the Guernsey 'Evening Press', of which I was Assistant Editor at the time of my arrest.

(ctd.

THIS IS A COPY
THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN
CLOSED FOR
60 YEARS UNDER FOI
EXEMPTION No. 40

Francis W. Falla..2..

At no time did we receive Red Cross parcels, messages or letters--and we were barred from writing letters to our relatives or anyone.

We had no English books to read and I was refused either the Bible or some shorthand books I had brought to Germany with my other belongings in my case. The refusals were repeated by the prison Commandant.

When I contracted pneumonia I was refused even an aspirin as I was an "Englander", though they were freely given to German Nationals, and was denied medical attention from the Sanitat (German prison Doctor). As a result when released by the Americans on April 14, 1945, I was told by an American doctor I might have lived a fortnight and my companion, [redacted] might have lived a week---but no more. Clifford Querree of Jersey released at the same time, died a fortnight later. As a result of the pneumonia I suffered a spot on one lung and a cloud over the other (see document attached from ex-Guernsey doctor, Dr. Edward Aubert). Also as a result of this, when I returned to Guernsey in August 1945 instead of continuing my desk job as Assistant Editor on the local paper I was advised to take a Chief Reporter's post so I could get more fresh air. Also I was barred from indulging my two hobbies (and still am): tennis and sea-bathing. As a result of the lack of medical attention when I needed it, today I suffer bronchial trouble and fibrocitis.

During my imprisonment I received no wages as the firm I worked for, the 'Evening Press' could not afford to pay my wages as their finances had been reduced by the Nazis and I lost about £600 which I would have received in salary. The Gestapo forbade the 'Evening Press' on pain of heavy penalty to pay any of my wages to my widowed mother (now dead).

In addition to the expected maltreatment inflicted on me by the Nazis (being kicked around and ill-treated) two days before liberation by the Americans I with 53 other prisoners and completely against any International Law, was allowed out of the prison for the first time in ten months (during which time I had seen neither man, woman nor child of the outside world), I was forced to dig for live, unexploded bombs at the Nazi oil-centre of KRUMPA (about 30 kilometres from Naumburg). With four prisoners to each bombhole and a German warder guarding us and urging us on, we bared our bomb over 6 ft. into the earth after two days' digging--and then Patton's Tanks passed through Naumburg and we were liberated the next day. And this after the prison authorities now stripped of their Nazi insignia, had told the Americans there were no British or Americans in the prison.

After two weeks in hospital (I had to leave before my time due to there being so many foreigners in need of urgent attention from such camps as Buchenwald and Dachau) I stayed with the Americans (see attached documents) at their transit camp, the Schwarzes Ross Hotel in Naumburg where I ran the kitchen for them, with another prisoner, a Swede looking after the bedrooms. I wished to return home without delay to let my mother and everyone know I had survived, but the Americans forbade [redacted] and I to move and said "When you look something like human beings and your relatives can bear the sight of you, we will see you get back home" (from 11st 11b. I had gone down to 8st. 6lb. and was just skin-and-bone hanging together, God knows how!). Thus, in June 1945 with [redacted] I was flown back to England (Croydon) via Halle and Brussels. On Thursday, June 7, 1945 in Brussels [redacted] and I were interrogated by Mr. Darvell Wilson at the Consul-General's office. He facilitated our return to England after tickets had been issued us from the Shell Building in Brussels. On Friday, June 8, 1945, after staying at the Artillery Barracks overnight we boarded the 12.30 Brussels-to-Croydon passenger plane. Landing at Croydon at 2 p.m. we were transported across London to the Ministry of Health Hostel, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, where we were interrogated by Security Officers. I then travelled to Manchester to await return to Guernsey and stayed with my sister-in-law (my brother had been killed on the aircraft-carrier HMS Dasher) and eventually arrived back in Guernsey on July 28th, 1945. I was given my first Red Cross parcel in Guernsey in August 1945.

ENCLOSURES.

(signed) F. W. Falla.

(Francis Walter Falla.)

Guernsey, October 1964.

THIS IS A COPY
THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN
CLOSED FOR
60 YEARS UNDER FOI
EXEMPTION No. 40

**FORM A for use by
surviving victims of
Nazi persecution**

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A BRITISH
VICTIM OF NAZI PERSECUTION**

- N.B.*—1. Before completing this form it is important to read carefully the attached Notes for Guidance and then to answer all questions fully.
2. Please attach all documentary evidence to the form. All documents sent will be returned.
3. All applications must be received before the 31st of July, 1965.
4. Acceptance of an application for registration does not constitute a right to participate in the distribution.

SECTION ONE—IDENTITY

Surname FALLA,

Other names FRANCIS WALTER.

Address 2 SUMMERLAND, COLLINGS ROAD,
ST. PETER PORT, GUERNSEY, C.I.

SECTION TWO—NATIONALITY

1. How did you acquire British nationality?
(Please write YES opposite the method that applies and delete the others)
- (a) By birth? YES (If so, please attach birth certificate)
- (b) By marriage? — (If so, please attach marriage certificate and birth or naturalisation certificate of husband)
- (c) By naturalisation? — (If so, please attach certificate)
- (d) By some other method? — (If so, please give full details)
2. If you are not British by birth what was your previous nationality? —
- Do you still retain that nationality? —
- If not, when and how did you lose it? —
(Please attach all documentary evidence)

3. If you are a dual-national—

(a) Where were you ordinarily resident on the 9th of June, 1964? _____

(Please attach all available evidence, e.g., receipts for rent or rates, &c.)

(b) Have you been in Crown Service under Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom?
(If so, please give full details and dates) *No.*

(c) Are you the holder of a British passport? (If so, please give number and full details)

*6406 (HAVE NOT RENEWED
ISSUED: 9th MARCH 1957.
IN
GUERNSEY.*

SECTION THREE—PERSECUTION

1. Please give, on a separate sheet, the following details of your imprisonment:

- (a) Name of camp or other place of detention, its situation, its general conditions and régime;
- (b) Dates of imprisonment and of release; prison number; reasons for imprisonment and circumstances in which it arose;
- (c) If you are suffering permanent disability as a result of treatment received during your imprisonment please give full details of its nature and cause;
- (d) Any other information you consider useful and relevant.
(Please attach all documentary evidence)

2. Have you at any time received any payment in respect of this persecution? _____
(If YES please give full details)

I HEREBY DECLARE that all the above statements are to the best of my knowledge and recollection true in all particulars.

Signature

J. W. Fella.

Date

19th October 1964.

C O P Y.

Dr. E. F. Aubert.

Telephone:
Groombridge 284.

St. Lukes,
Burrswood,
Groombridge,
nr. Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.

28th August 1964.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

re: Mr. Frank W. Falla,
2 Summerland, Collings Road,
St. Peter Port, GUERNSEY, C.I.

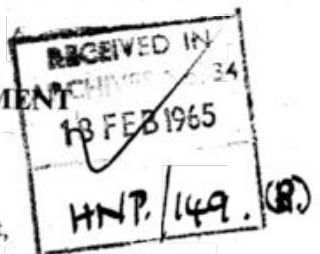
Mr. Falla was my patient from the time of my return to Guernsey in the Spring of 1947 until I left the island in 1962. I saw the x-rays taken by the German doctors and by the Medical Officer of Health of Guernsey, Dr. R. W. Revell. Although I did not see Mr. Falla myself on his return to Guernsey from Germany, I had reports from one of my partners, Dr. R. B. Sutcliffe and from his mother, as well as from himself, as to his state at the time. He was in very poor physical and nervous state, and in addition to the effects of malnutrition, he also had active bilateral pulmonary tuberculosis. He told me he had fallen ill with what was thought to be pneumonia while in prison, and that he was denied any medical attention. The abnormal pulmonary shadows were first seen on the x-ray taken by the German Hospital authorities, and they were confirmed by German and American Red Cross doctors, as well as by Dr. Revell in Guernsey and subsequently by myself. His privations and sufferings caused him great mental stress and for two years after his return to Guernsey he was the victim of violent nightmares in which he thought he was still in prison and from which he would wake up covered in sweat. He had, of course, to be advised to give up tennis and sunbathing, two healthy pastimes which he had greatly enjoyed. Even today he is not physically strong man and the scars left by his sufferings in two German prisons are literally still with him.

(signed) E. F. Aubert.

FOREIGN OFFICE

APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION FOR DISABLEMENT
RESULTING FROM NAZI PERSECUTION

FOREIGN OFFICE,
Claims Department,
Charles House,
5 Lower Regent Street,
London, S.W.1.



Date of issue of form

29th JANUARY, 1965.

Reference

HNP/149

NOTE.—The particulars given by the applicant on this form will be checked
from official records

1. Name F A L L A, Francis Walter.
(Surname first in BLOCK CAPITALS)
2. (a) Permanent address 2 Summerland, Collings Road, St. Peter Port,
(b) Present address (if different) ----- GUERNSEY, G.I.
3. Date of birth 30th March 1911
4. National Insurance Number

None.				
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5. If you served in the Armed Forces, please give particulars of last period of service:
(a) Unit or Ship No. (b) Rank None (c) Official No. None
6. Have you at any time claimed or been granted any pension, gratuity or allowance for injury or disablement sustained as a soldier, sailor, airman, member of the Mercantile Marine, fishing, pilotage or light vessel service, Home Guard, or for a war injury sustained as a civilian?
(~~XXXX~~ No) No. If so, please give particulars of the award and, if known, the reference on the official notification None.
7. Have you received any payment in respect of any injury sustained since 1945? If so, please give particulars No.
8. What is the nature of the wound, injury or disease for which you claim? Bronchial.
9. If a wound or injury, give a brief account of where and how it was inflicted See attached.
10. If a disease, when and where did you first begin to suffer from it? May 1945.
11. Did you suffer from the condition claimed or anything like it before your subjection to Nazi persecution? No.
12. Do you claim that your disability—
(a) Was caused by Nazi persecution? Yes.
(b) Although existing previously was made worse by Nazi persecution? Did not exist prior to imprisonment.
13. Please give the full name and address of your present doctor (private ~~XXXXXX~~)
Dr. H. B. Jones (successor to Dr. E. F. Aubert), 18 New Street,
St. Peter Port, Guernsey.

NOTE! The National Health Service does NOT operate in Guernsey. A restricted health service was started in the island in January 1965, but it does not cover the cost of doctor.

2

14. Please give below particulars of any medical treatment you have obtained.

If living overseas, state your address in the United Kingdom at the time of any medical treatment in the United Kingdom.

Full names and addresses of doctors and hospitals	Nature of illness	Dates of admission or first attendance	Dates of discharge or last attendance
(1) DOCTORS Any doctor (private or N.H.S.) if different from the doctor named at 13 above. (a) Before your subjection to Nazi persecution:	None	None	None.
(b) Since your subjection to Nazi persecution:	Doctors Rowan W. Revell, M.O.H. (decd.); Edward P. Aubert (not in practise in Guernsey, now); and H. B. Jones (see over).		
(2) HOSPITALS (see Note below) (a) Before your subjection to Nazi persecution:	None	None	None
(b) Since your subjection to Nazi persecution:	The Princess Elizabeth Hospital, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, in January 1960 for the removal of my gall-bladder, "I. P."		

NOTE.—Give the name and address of each hospital (but not of the hospital doctors) and add "I.P." or "O.P." to indicate whether the treatment was "in-patient" or "out-patient". If you are at present receiving hospital treatment, show this at (2)(b): the entry in the last column should be "Not yet completed".

15. Add here any further statement you wish to make in support of your claim. If this space is insufficient and a separate sheet is used this should be signed and dated by you and securely attached to this form.

Please refer to attached brief details.

DECLARATION

NOTE.—Before signing the Declaration please make sure that the questions have been answered correctly (dashes or ticks are not sufficient). This will save correspondence and delay.

I HEREBY DECLARE that to the best of my knowledge and belief the answers to the questions of this form are true and complete. I HEREBY AUTHORISE the doctors and hospitals named to make the relevant medical records available at the request of the Foreign Office to help the consideration of my claim for compensation as a victim of Nazi persecution. I ALSO CONSENT to other Government Departments supplying extracts from any records which are held by them and which are required by the Foreign Office in dealing with this claim.

J. H. Fella
(Usual signature of applicant)

Date 12 February 1965.

From: Francis W. FALLA, 2 Summerland, Collings Road, St. Peter Port,
Guernsey, C.I. 9/2/65.

Ref: HNP/149.

MEDICAL HISTORY.

On October 10th, 1945, I was examined by the Island's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Rowan W. Revell (now deceased), in whose office I had worked for four months during 1943. He did this as a friend as I had no personal doctor up to the time I went to Germany.

At his request I was X-rayed on October 11th, 1945 when he confirmed what an American Red Cross and a German doctor had said after the X-ray taken in Germany, namely that, as a result of the pneumonia I had suffered while in prison at Naumburg, and for which I was denied any medical attention, I had incurred a spot on one lung and a 'cloud' over the other. Dr. Revell advised me, as had the other two doctors previously, that I should if possible spend two years in Switzerland which would go a long way to repairing the damage.

This was quite impossible. I had no money at all and had returned to the Guernsey Evening Press when I got back to Guernsey to keep myself and my pensionless, widowed mother. My sister, Mrs. Miriam Russell, whose husband had already joined up, evacuated in June 1940 with two small children and was expecting a third. Owing to the worry of leaving home, coupled with her condition, she contracted meningitis and died in Manchester in July 1940. My brother, Leslie Falla, lost his life on the aircraft-carrier H.M.S. Dasher, so I was my mother's only means of support.

When Dr. Revell realised that I could not go to Switzerland he told me to take life as easy as possible, to give up tennis, swimming and sun-bathing, not to ride in buses and to work as far as possible in the open air. Consequently I gave up my job as Assistant Editor of the local paper (where were possibilities of eventual Editorship) to take the post of Chief Reporter which offered more work in the open air. I did make progress, which was periodically checked by X-ray and Dr. Revell, but only at the expense of giving up all my sporting interests including walking in Guernsey's annual 20-mile road walking race, my best time being 3 hours 25 minutes for the 20 miles in 1937. I have not swum since my return from Germany, nor have I sunbathed. In October 1946 Dr. Revell secured me a daily allowance of one pint of full-cream milk when the general population were still having skimmed milk. This required a special medical certificate and followed another X-ray.

Although I am much better than I ever expected to be I am now very bronchial, unable to walk far for lack of breath and with a very 'wheezy' chest. I am sure that this condition is a direct result of my experiences in the German prison and the lack of medical treatment there. Drugs were available in the prison for German prisoners, but when we English prisoners had need of and asked for them, we were told they were all for the Wehrmacht--- and the prison doctor even refused me aspirins....