

FOREIGN OFFICE

1965

(CLAIMS)

FILE N^o. HNP /1722.

Name of File :—

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#65	2/3/8							
11/06	11/06	11/06						

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CAEN, le 24 avril 1965

Monsieur le Consul Général,

Par lettre HB/PH/KA 52/3/65 du 5 avril, vous avez bien voulu me demander des renseignements au sujet du statut de la prison de CAEN sous l'occupation Allemande.

Il y avait et il y a toujours à Caen, deux établissements pénitentiaires.

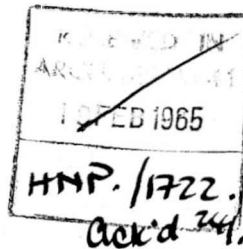
La Maison Centrale située 35, rue Général Moulin destinée aux emprisonnements de longue durée, qui n'a jamais connu d'autre contrôle que celui de l'Autorité Française.

La Maison d'Arrêt, rue Général Duparge, qui sert aux détentions préventives et aux peines de courte durée. A la Maison d'Arrêt il y eût des hommes et des femmes incarcérés sur ordre de l'Autorité Allemande dans des quartiers spéciaux uniquement surveillés par l'occupant.

Espérant avoir répondu à votre préoccupation, je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Consul Général, à l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Monsieur Harold BRAHAM
Consul de Grande-Bretagne
PARIS

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 DAMARELL

Other names WILLIAM ALFRED

Address 23 ROUGEVAL 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? NO (If so, please attach marriage certificate and birth or naturalisation certificate of husband)
- (c) By naturalisation? NO (If so, please attach certificate)
- (d) By some other method? NO (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)

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

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?.....NO.....
(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.....W. R. Damarrell.....

Date.....15-2-1965.....

From: DAMARELL, William Alfred, 23 Rougeval Road, St. Peter Port,
Guernsey, G.I. 16th February 1965.

In July 1941 I was walking up Lefebvre Street, St. Peter Port, when, on the pavement I was accosted by three German Unteroffiziers. They had expected me, a man older than they, to get off the pavement to make way for them. This I did not do. I stood my ground, as I had every right to do for though they occupied the island it still was ours. One of the Germans became so incensed by my passive-resistant attitude that he swiped out at me with his fist and knocked me to the ground. I got up immediately and did exactly the same to him. Then he went for his revolver, but fortunately one of his colleagues restrained him.

As a result of defending myself against his unprovoked assault, I was arrested by the Feldgendarmarie and confined to the local prison. I was twice taken from there to the Feldkommandantur by three Nazis and grilled before being hauled before a full German Court Martial in what was the Island's Magistrate's Court. Tried at the same time as myself was [redacted] whose case you know about and she will bear out the fact that we were allowed no vicilian defence. The officer in charge of the "trial" was, I believe, General Mueller who came up from Jersey and one of the panel of 7 sitting with him included a prince, it could well have been Prince Oettingen-Wallerstein.

After the farce of a trial I was sentenced to 11 months' imprisonment. Then, early in September, along with [redacted] I was taken by German ship to Jersey where I was imprisoned for a week till September 11th, to await transport to France (I had been in Guernsey prison for 10 days.)

I was then taken from Jersey to Granville and then on to Maison d'Arret, at Caen, Calvados, a French prison administered by the Nazis, and detained as a political prisoner.

While here I had contact with a [redacted] a British Consular Officer, who was most kind to me and can bear out my story and experiences. Later he was sent to Jersey and, I believe later, the internment camp at Biberach.

In Caen like the others I was ill-treated by the Nazis and suffered malnutrition and strvation. Medical attention of a sort was obtainable from a French doctor, but this only if you could pay for it. The conditions in the cells were degrading and insanitary, a tin bucket being the only, communal, means of sanitation. We were locked up in our cells for as long as 23½ hours a day, practically every day. I learned from [redacted] that, while at Caen the Germans had designated me as a Hostage, along with seven others, so that had the people of Guernsey given any great trouble to the Germans, I could have been taken out and shot, as were some people of other nationalities.

I was at Caen from September 1941 until July 1942 and did my full sentence for what was described as the crime of "Abusing the German Army".

After this I was returned to Guernsey. Then in February 1943 the Germans rooted me up again and, though I was Guernsey-born they shipped me along with the English residents to internment in Laufen. After trying to reason with the Nazis I was told that the reason for my being taken to Laufen was the fact that, in the view of the Germans, I was "an undesirable".

Green?

green?

ferrets?

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

Damarell, William Alfred.

2.

It must be stressed here that the treatment I received at Laufen was princely when compared with what I suffered at prison in Caen. I have no complaint against Laufen, but plenty about my treatment in France for there I was treated as a criminal when, after all, I had only done what any true British subject would have done when provoked to the extreme by the Nazi unteroffizier..

I was liberated from Laufen by the Americans on 4th May 1945 and by devious means made my own way back to England via Paris, Dieppe and Newhaven to London and then Bolton where I joined my wife.

When in Paris I called on the British Consul and he obtained for me a visa from the French authorities. I have no doubt that somewhere there might be record of this fact and also the interrogation I received from civilian officers when I landed at Newhaven and before I was allowed to continue my journey. With my wife I returned to my home in Guernsey on October 2nd, 1945.

In my particular case I feel the Germans had no right to send me to France to serve a sentence which could easily have been served in the local prison. Then again, I was a citizen of Guernsey having been born here and the Nazis had no right to deport me to the internment camp at Laufen, along with English residents in this island. By doing this they punished twice for one and the same original crime. This, I feel, was an injustice.

(signed *W. A. Damarell*.....)

(William Alfred Damarell.)

NOTE: The application form I have filled in was kindly supplied to me by [REDACTED] of 2 Summerland, Collings Road, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, and at my dictation he has typed out these facts for me.

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

From: DAMARELL, William Alfred, 23 Rougeval Road, St. Peter Port,
Guernsey, G.I. 16th February 1965.

In July 1941 I was walking up Lefebvre Street, St. Peter Port, when, on the pavement I was accosted by three German Unteroffiziers. They had expected me, a man older than they, to get off the pavement to make way for them. This I did not do. I stood my ground, as I had every right to do for though they occupied the island it still was ours. One of the Germans became so incensed by my passive-resistant attitude that he swiped out at me with his fist and knocked me to the ground. I got up immediately and did exactly the same to him. Then he went for his revolver, but fortunately one of his colleagues restrained him.

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