

FOREIGN OFFICE

(CLAIMS)

FILE NO. HNP 1234.

Name of File :—

CO Inguemias

Sent to :—	Date	Re- turned	Sent to :—	Date	Re- turned	Sent to :—	Date	Re- turned
H	17/11	21/2						
K	21/12	3/12						
H	20/7							

Previous File No.:

Cecil Oliver DUQUEMIN, 4 Kingsland, Camp-du-Roi, Vale, GUERNSEY, C.I.
October 1964.

At 11 p.m. on January 11th, 1944, when I was living at Victoria Road, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, I was arrested by the German Police for being an active member of the Guernsey Underground News Service, better known as G.U.N.S.

Along with my colleagues in G.U.N.S. I was imprisoned locally before standing trial with them before a German Court, without being allowed any legal defence, and was sentenced to 3 years and 1 month for my part in retaining my radio contrary to German orders, listening to the news bulletins put out by the B.B.C. and contributing to the daily news-sheet G.U.N.S.

Charles Machon who was the originator of the organisation was transported to imprisonment in Berlin where he later died. On June 4, 1944, along with my other colleagues [redacted] Frank Falla and the late Joseph Gillingham, I was sent to Germany, imprisoned at Frankfurt-on-Main and made to work for the Germans. I think it was early in August 1944 in a party of over 50 prisoners, among them 11 Channel Islanders, including Gillingham [redacted] and Falla, we were taken from Frankfurt to Naumburg-on-Saale prison where I was kept until October 1944. Then I was singled out and taken to a labour camp at Bad Durrenburg with other prisoners, though none of my own colleagues, and was forced to work in a factory which was producing shell cases for the Nazi war effort. I had never volunteered for any work under the Germans, least of all anything to do with arms or ammunition, and though I protested strongly that under International Law they were not supposed to do this, they ignored my protests and gave me no option than to do as they told me.

In December 1944 the camp was destroyed by Allied bombing and we were all taken to Halle (Zuchthaus--hard-labour) Prison.

Early in April with about 400 other prisoners I was taken on a forced march to the Sudetenland where we were put into cattle-trucks and, living under the most appalling and primitive conditions, almost like animals, we were moved from station to station, always away from the advancing armies. While in the trucks we had no sanitation on our journeys and though suffering from starvation and malnutrition, we were forced to bury the many prisoners who died in the trucks. Unhappily this was a daily occurrence and we hardly had strength left in us to dig the dead men's graves. We were still in these cattle-trucks when on April 8th, 1944 at Saaz, Sudetenland, we were liberated by the advancing Russian troops and were detained by them until taken over by British prisoners-of-war into a camp at Eichwald, Sudetenland, and I stayed with them when we moved on to Wurzburg, Stuttgart, Strasbourg, Paris and then London to which we were flown. We landed at Hendon and I was transported across London to the Ministry of Health Hostel at Stanmore (Honeypot Lane) and here I told my story to Security Officers before being told I could stay in England until it was possible for me to be returned to Guernsey. I went to relatives at St. Helens in Lancashire where I worked until I was allowed to return to Guernsey and my home in October 1945.

I would like to stress in this brief statement that while I was a political prisoner of the Germans I was never allowed a Red Cross parcel or letter. I was not allowed to write to my wife and child or any other relatives. Not until I got back to England did anyone know where I had been or whether I was alive or dead. The Germans denied me any medical treatment. Of the original members of G.U.N.S., Machon and Gillingham lost their lives; and [redacted] Falla and myself survived; after we had originally been charged with retaining our wireless-sets against German orders to surrender them and spreading 'seditious information'.

THIS IS A COPY
THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN (signed).....
CLOSED FOR (Cecil Oliver Duquemin.)
60 YEARS UNDER FOI
EXEMPTION No. 40

HNP/1234



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SERVICE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHES

3548 Arolsen (Waldeck) Allemagne

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

3548 Arolsen (Waldeck) Germany

INTERNATIONALER SUCHDIENST

3548 Arolsen (Waldeck) Deutschland

Téléphone: Arolsen 434 • Télégrammes: ITS Arolsen

Arolsen, 4th December 1964

Our Ref.: TD-932 257

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

The Foreign Office

L O N D O N, S.W. 1
England

Re: Cyril DUQUEMIN

Dear Sirs,

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

DUQUEMIN, Cecil, born 14 April 1909 in Guernsey, Nationality: British, - was in the "Strafanstalt Frankfurt/Main-Preungesheim" in the year 1944 (exact date unknown).

Document 332/44 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.

**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 Duguemin

Other names Geoff Oliver

Address 1 Kingsland
Camp - Du Roi Vale Guernsey

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?.....

Guernsey
(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)

No.

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)

No.

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

Signature.....

Phyllis

Date.....

24 October 1964