

was 97p. The Post Office decided to waive this surcharge and applied a new framed mark in red inscribed 'JERSEY POST / CHARGES WAIVED'. This handstamp measures 57 x 32 mm.

THE GERMAN OCCUPATION – THE DEATH OF A CHANNEL ISLANDER - JOHN HENRY INGROUILLE 1920-1945 by Ron Brown

There is a group of Channel Islanders deported during the German Occupation to prison camps in France and Germany, many of whom suffered terrible treatment at the hands of the Germans leading to their deaths. These were the civilian prisoners sent to penal prisons, and in one case Buchenwald Concentration Camp, whose 'heinous' crimes include listening to and distributing BBC news, making 'V' signs and defamatory remarks against the Germans.

The stories of many of these prisoners have been recorded, but that of John Ingrouille has not previously been fully told.

John lived with his parents at Miellette Bay, Vale, Guernsey and worked for the German forces at the Vale Mill (Fig.1). He was denounced to the Germans by two fellow workers, Mrs Brewster and her daughter, who alleged he had incited them to commit sabotage and claimed to have 800 men ready to revolt.

On 31 December 1940 the Military Police arrested John at this home. The following day his father went to the HQ of the Feldkommandantur at Grange Lodge, but could not obtain any information except that his son was in prison. On 2 January 1941 their home was searched during which much damage was caused. The search was repeated several times during that week, on one occasion the Brewsters being present. Nothing incriminating was found except a knife and fork which were confiscated as German property. John's parents and Miss Hampson, who was living with them (referred to in John's letters as "Reenie"), were interrogated in a



brutal manner. It was not until three weeks later that they learned that John was in a Guernsey prison.

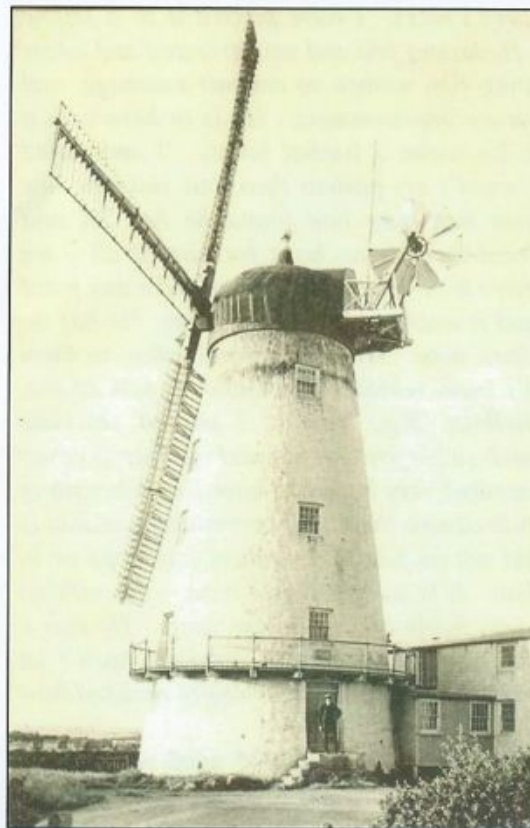


Fig.1. Vale Mill

he faced another trial when the Brewsters again testified against him. His sentence was upheld and he was sent to Brandenburg-(Havel)-Göerden, a penal prison administered by Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

On 1 May 1945 Berlin was captured by the Russians and Brandenburg Prison was liberated. John was sent to a Displaced Persons Camp where he was found by a unit of the British Liberation Army who arranged his repatriation to Guernsey. John's health had been severely undermined during 4½ years imprisonment. On his way home to Guernsey John became ill and was admitted to the British Military Hospital in Brussels where he was diagnosed as suffering from TB and meningitis.

At his trial, held on 11 February 1941, the Brewsters gave evidence against him. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for theft of the knife and fork and five years hard labour for treason. On 7 March 1941 he was sent to Caen Prison in France where he remained until his transfer in June 1942 to Rheinbach Zuchthaus (Penal Prison), Germany. During his time in Caen he spent several weeks in hospital recovering from typhoid fever.

Some time towards the end of 1942 he was transferred to the Wehrmachtunter-Suchungsgefängnis (Armed Forces Investigation Prison), Berlin. On the 8th

December 1942, in Berlin,

Major D M Beaugié, a fellow Guernseyman serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps, wrote to his own father on 6 June 1945 *'Thanks for the very interesting GWP (Guernsey Weekly Press). I have passed it to a fellow Ingrouille who is a patient here. He knows you and was arrested and taken to Germany on a charge of inciting two women to commit sabotage, and was sentenced in Berlin to five years imprisonment. He is in here with a chill only I think.'* On 11 June he wrote a further letter. *'I mentioned Ingrouille in my last letter. He wasn't my patient then, but since he has become very ill and I have taken him over and found he has TB and meningitis, poor chap. I am afraid there is no hope for him at all – we would try to get his people over here from Guernsey if there were any point in it, but he recognises nobody and it would only distress them. He has no pain at all and won't live very long now. We sent a notification to them that he is dangerously ill. I don't know whether you know his folk or not. The address is 'Dunromin, Miellette Bay, Vale'. I passed on your Guernsey Weekly Press to him much to his joy and he read it cover to cover before he became delirious and seemed very happy to have had a breath of Guernsey again. If you see his folk assure them that everything possible is being done by us all, but it would not be fair to give them any hope or to encourage them to wish to see him. It is a most tragic case – the saddest I've had over here – just on his way home after all these years. He was a charming fellow – all the sisters fell for him and he certainly hasn't let Guernsey down – he never once complained and never really realised how ill he was. Enough for tonight.'*

John Henry Ingrouille died at 7.00 pm on 13 June 1945 aged twenty-four (the same evening as the note above was written) and was buried in the Military Cemetery at Evere, near Brussels. After 16 months of dedicated effort his parents finally obtained permission for his body to be exhumed and brought home to Guernsey. The reburial took place on 24 October 1946 at the Vale Cemetery with the service being conducted by the Salvation Army.

The letters which John wrote during his captivity show consistent courage and optimism. He never grumbled about the hardships he had to endure, but sought always to reassure his parents that he was in good health and expected to be home soon. He was popular with his fellow prisoners in Caen and Berlin, several of whom tried to get in touch with him after the war and the Padre at the Maison Centrale Prison Infirmary corresponded with his parents for many years after his death.

John's father, writing after the war to a Dutchman who had been a fellow prisoner of John's in Germany, said:-

'I can assure you my Friend that life does not hold much for us, times are bad...my home was destroyed by the Germans so now we have nothing left. We are all alone in this world to face the future and that is unknown to us'.

Twenty years later in 1965, Mr & Mrs Ingrouille, together with other Islanders, benefited from the £1,000,000 paid by the Federal German Government in compensation to victims of persecution and suffering at the hands of the Nazis. A year later they presented a stained glass window to the Vale Parish Church as a memorial to their son. It was dedicated by the Very Rev E L Frossard, Deane of Guernsey on Sunday 13 March 1966.

After the war there was much resentment against the Brewsters. Letters to the Press asked why they were allowed to remain at liberty and they left the Island after being advised to do so. It is difficult to understand the reason for the Brewsters' betrayal – they may have sought to ingratiate themselves to the Germans. The German Court appears to have given credence to their absurd allegations without any corroborative evidence. Perhaps it was hoped the heavy sentence passed against John so early in the Occupation would prove a deterrent.

John Henry Ingrouille 1920-1945 and his pathway to death

Arrested	30 December 1940
Sentenced	11 February 1941
Imprisoned	
30 December 1940 – 7 March 1941	Guernsey
7 March 1941 – Late 1941	Maison d'Arret Caen
Late 1941 – June 1942	Rheinbach Zuchthause Penal Prison, Germany
Late 1942 – Early 1943	Wehrmachtuntersuchgefängler (Armed Forces Investigation Prison) Berlin
Early 1943 – May 1945	Brandenburg (Havel) – Göerden, Berlin (a penal prison administered by Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp).
Released May 1945	Schonbeck displaced persons camp

May 1945 – 13 June 1945

Admitted to the British Military Hospital, Brussels whilst on his way home to Guernsey after over four years of brutal treatment.

John died on 13 June 1945

Following John's arrest on 30 December 1940 he was imprisoned in Guernsey for nine weeks during which time he was not allowed to send or receive letters.

After being sentenced to five years hard labour for sabotage John was transferred to Maison d'Arret, Caen, France on 7 March 1941 and was then allowed to both receive and send letters.

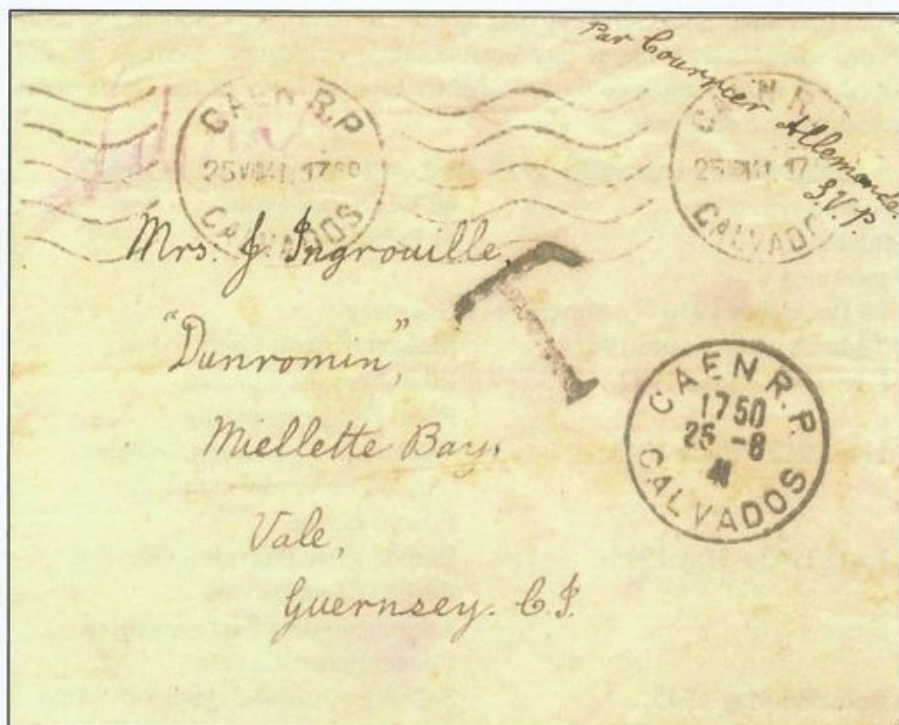


Fig.2.

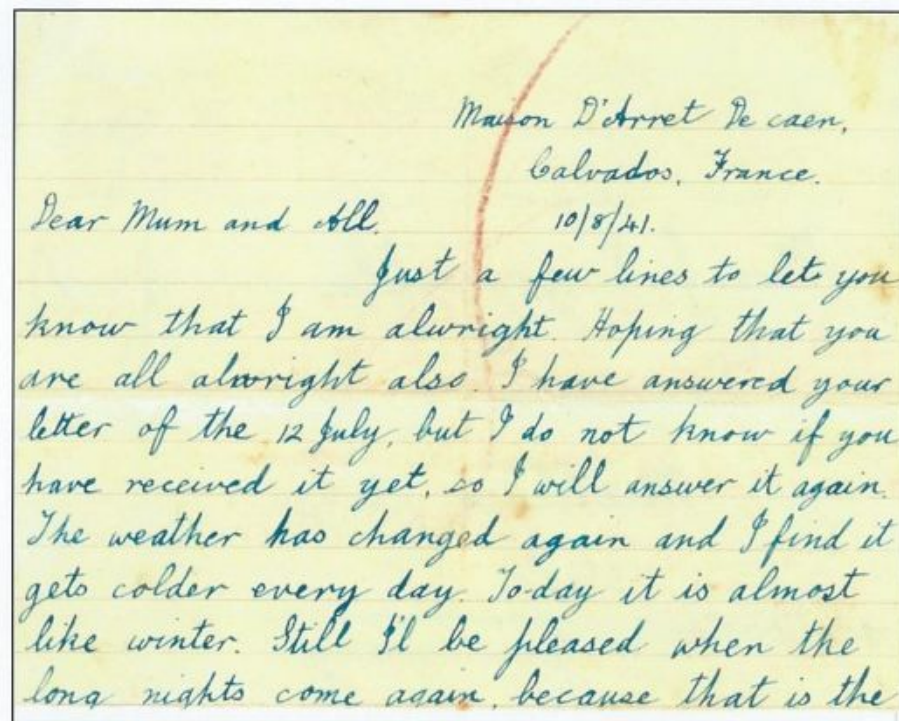


Fig.2a.

Fig. 2a is a letter from John in Maison d'Arret, Caen addressed to his mother in Guernsey dated 10 August 1941. The letter is postmarked 25 August and received 20 September, a journey time of over five weeks. Unlike prisoner of war and internee mail which was post free, postage was required on letters to and from civilian prisons. This cover is unstamped and received the French 'T' (taxe) mark showing postage was due, but no surcharge was made.

The endorsement 'Per Courier Allemand S.V.P.' has not previously been recorded on Channel Islands mail, nor was it necessary as there was no other way to send mail to the Channel Islands except through the Feldpost system.



Fig.3.

Fig. 3 is a further cover from Maison d' Arret, Caen to his mother in Guernsey. A 1f stamp has been attached. The correct postage rate was 4f, but the letter was not surcharged. The red crayon mark at the top left appears on the other correspondence from Caen prison and is probably a censor mark. 'acheminer' (forward) has been added in blue crayon beside Guernsey.

Fig. 4 is a cover datestamped 1 January 1942 from Maison Centrale, Caen. Progress is being made with postage and the letter now has stamps to the value of 2f 50c (correct rate 4f)! Again the letter is not surcharged. The letter was probably posted outside the prison as it is datestamped Caen 1 January 1942 and backstamped Jersey 5 January, a journey time of only four days.



Fig.4.

In September 1945, when answering a letter from a Dutch friend of John's who had been with him in Brandenburg prison, his father said that their house had been destroyed by the Germans. This may be why John's letters to his parents, after the end of 1941, were sent to a new address – 'La Moye, Vale' instead of 'Dunromin, La Miellette, Vale'.

Fig. 5 on the next page is a printed letter form from the Maison Centrale Infirmary dated 2 December 1941. John says he is suffering from influenza which was incorrect as he was later diagnosed as having typhoid fever and was in hospital for 7 or 8 weeks. The letter had to be in French and was probably written by one of the nuns at the hospital. The letter is signed by John 'Votre fils qui pense a vous souvent. John xxx' (Your son who often thinks of you).

[illegible]

Le 2. decembre 1941.

Nom et prénoms : Jahn Ingrouille

N° d'écrou 1250 Atelier : Inoculés. P.A.

Chère album et tous
je vous envoie ces quelques lignes
pour vous faire savoir que je suis
changer de prison, je suis toujours
à Caen mais à la maison centrale,
nous sommes maintenant plusieurs

ensemble dans une grande salle, au nous
pouvons faire à peu près ce que l'on veut,
Ne soyez ^{pas} surpris que je vous écris cette lettre
en Français parce que si j'écris en Anglais
il faut que la lettre aille à Paris pour
être traduite, et cela demande deux ou trois
semaines, et si vous pouvez, tâchez de
m'écrire en Français aussi, je recevrais
vos lettres plus vite. si vous me pouvez

N. B. — Les familles qui adresseront leurs lettres au Directeur devront mettre celles destinées aux détenus sous une seconde enveloppe portant le nom et le numéro du destinataire.

(*) Désignation de l'établissement

Fig.5.

Translation.

Nebenstelle Guernsey
der
Feldkommandantur 515.

21.4.1942.

To
The Bailiff of Guernsey.

With reference to your letter of the 26th February, 1942, I beg to inform you that the request for reprieve in favour of John Ingrouille has been submitted to the Military Commander in France. A decision has not yet been pronounced.

(Signed) FÜRST VON OTTINGEN.

Rittmeister.

Translation.

Nebenstelle Guernsey
der
Feldkommandantur 51

15.5.1942.

To the Bailiff of Guernsey.

Re: Request for Grace for John Henry Ingrouille.
Your letter of 26.2.42.

I beg to inform you that by decision of the Superior Command of the Army, dated 13.4.42, the request for grace has been rejected.

(Signed) DR. BROSCH.

Kriegsverwaltungsrat.

Fig.6.

Fig. 6 is a translation of two letters in April and May 1942 sent to John's parents informing them that the appeal had been rejected.

After the dismissal of the appeal John was transferred at some time in June 1942 from Caen to Rheinbach Penal Prison in Germany.

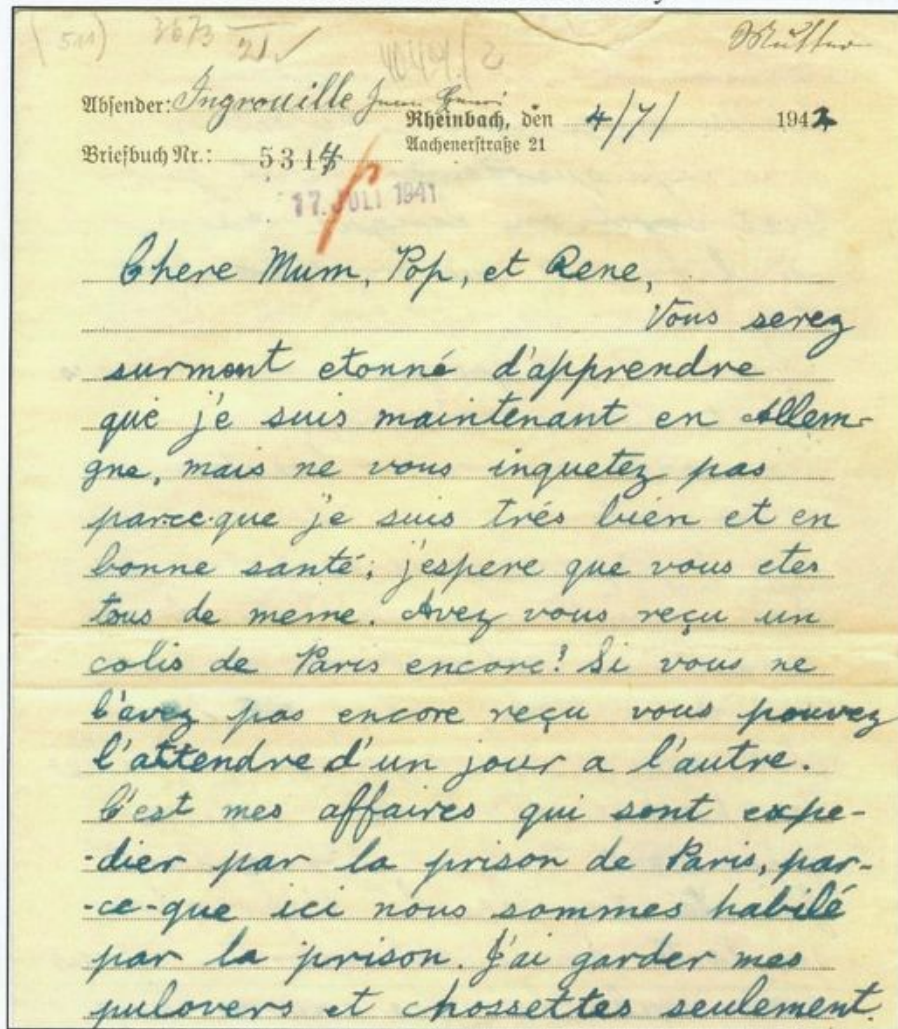


Fig.7.

Fig. 7 is John's first letter from Rheinbach Zuchthaus (Prison for capital offenders) dated 4 July 1942 was received in Guernsey on 18 July, a journey time of only two weeks. Fig.7a is the accompanying envelope.

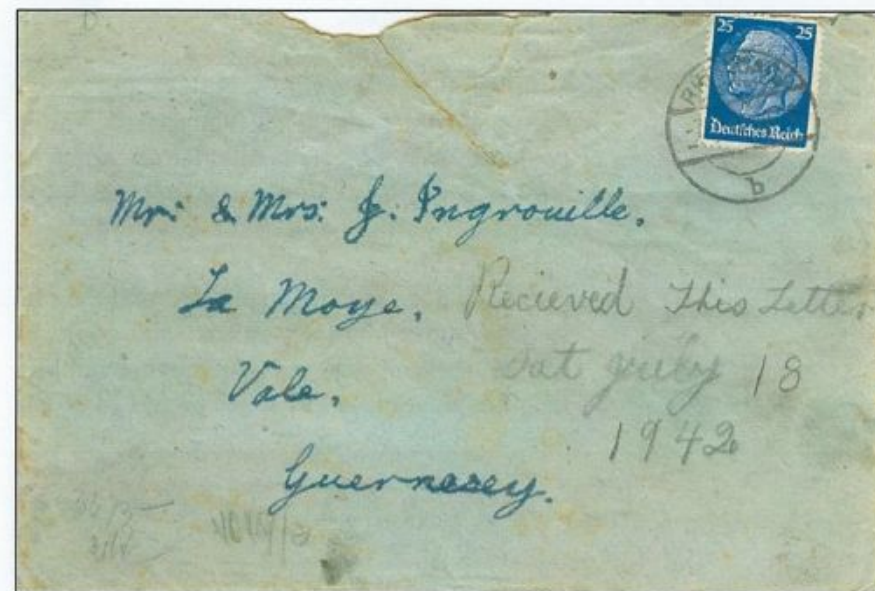


Fig.7a.

John was transferred from Caen to Rheinbach via Paris and in his letter, written in French, he asks his parents whether they had received a parcel of his clothes which was despatched by the 'Prison de Paris' as similar to his experience at Rheinbach he had to wear prison uniform.



Reverse side of envelope Fig.7a reduced in size

(To be continued in the December Journal)

The German Occupation – The death of a Channel Islander – John Henry Ingrouille 1920 – 1945 by Ron Brown (Continued).

Genau zu beachten!

1. **Briefe.** Die Gefangenen dürfen alle 6 Wochen einen Brief schreiben und ebenso einen Brief mäßigen Umfangs nur von den nächsten Angehörigen empfangen. In den ersten 6 Monaten, vom Tage der Einlieferung in die hiesige Anstalt ab gerechnet, darf der Gefangene weder einen Brief schreiben noch empfangen. (Ausgenommen ist der Zugangsbrief). Briefe, die in kürzeren Zeiträumen eingehen, werden nicht ausgehändigt. In dringenden Angelegenheiten kann der Anstaltsleiter ausnahmsweise einen Brief außerhalb der Frist zulassen. Glückwunsch- und Ansichtskarten dürfen nicht zugesandt werden. Briefpapier, freimarken, Zeitungsausschnitte oder andere den Briefen beigelegte Gegenstände werden den Gefangenen nicht ausgehändigt. Geldsendungen sind an die persönliche Anschrift des Gefangenen zu richten.
2. **Besuche.** Besuch ist den nächsten Angehörigen alle 4 Monate, aber nur einer Person, gestattet. In den ersten 6 Monaten, vom Tage der Einlieferung in die hiesige Anstalt abgerechnet, darf der Gefangene keinen Besuch erhalten. Es ist zweckmäßig, die Besuchsgenehmigung vor dem Besuch schriftlich bei der Verwaltung zu beantragen. Kinder unter 16 Jahren werden beim Besuch unter keinen Umständen zugelassen.
3. **Besuchszeit.** Die Besuchszeit ist Dienstags und freitags von 9 – 13 und 15 – 17 Uhr und Sonntags von 10 – 14 Uhr.
4. **Pakete oder Päckchen** dürfen, auch zu Weihnachten, zum Geburts- oder Namens-tage, an Gefangene nicht übersandt werden. Die Übersendung von Bekleidungs-stücken und sonstigen Gegenständen ist nur dann gestattet, wenn der Anstaltsleiter die Genehmigung hierzu erteilt. Diese Genehmigung ist stets vorher rechtzeitig einzuholen. Bei Nichtbeachtung wird jede Sendung auf Kosten des Absenders oder des Gefangenen zurückgewiesen oder der örtlichen Fürsorgestelle zur Verfügung gestellt.
5. **Die Angehörigen** der Gefangenen werden vor entlassenen Gefangenen, die behaupten, deren Beauftragte oder Beamte zu sein, und die um Aushän-digung von Geld, Kleidern, Lebens- und Genußmitteln bitten, dringlichst ge-warnt. Im eigenen Interesse empfiehlt es sich, solche Personen der Polizei zu übergeben.
6. Bei allen Anfragen an die Verwaltung ist Rückporto beizufügen.

an den Vorstand
des Zuchthauses
Rheinbach

Der Vorstand des Zuchthauses
Rheinbach

Fig.8.

Figure 8 on the above page is the prison regulations which were enclosed in the previous cover. During his first six months in Rheinbach John was only allowed to send one letter, but could receive a letter every six weeks.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY.

1. **LETTERS.** Prisoners may write one letter every six weeks and likewise receive one letter of moderate length from close relatives. During the first 6 Months dating from the admission in this establishment, the prisoner may neither write nor receive any letter (with the exception of the letter announcing arrival). Letters arriving at short intervals will not be delivered. In urgent cases, the Chief of the establishment may exceptionally allow a letter ~~xx~~ outside the time limit. Greetings-cards and picture-cards may not be sent. Note paper, stamps, newspaper cuttings or other enclosures will not be delivered to the prisoner. Sendings of money are to be addressed to the prisoner's personal address.

2. **VISITS.** Visits are permitted to closest relatives every 4 months, but only for one person. During the first six months dating from admission in the establishment, the prisoner may not receive any visit. It is advisable to send an application for permission to the Administration before the visit. Children under 16 years of age will be admitted under no circumstances.

3. **VISITING TIME.** Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-13 and 15-17 o'clock and Sundays from 10 - 14.

4. **Parcels,** large or small, may not be sent to prisoners, even at Christmas, for birth day etc. The sending of articles of clothing and other objects ~~xxx~~ is only permitted with the authorisation of the Chief of the Establishment. This authorisation must in all cases be obtained beforehand. In case of non-compliance, every parcel will be returned at the sender's or the prisoner's expense, or given to local charity.

5. Relatives of ~~xxx~~ prisoners are warned against released prisoners who may pretend to act on their behalf and ask for money, clothes or foodstuffs. It is recommended to relatives, in their own interest, to deliver such persons to the police.

6. Any enquiries addressed to the Administration are to be accompanied by ~~xxxxxx~~ postage for answer.

The Chief of the Prison,
Rheinbach.

Fig.9.

Figure 9 above is an English translation of the Rheinbach prison rules.

In late 1942 John was transferred to the Wermachtunter-Suchungsgefängnis (Armed Forces Investigation prison) Berlin and was re-tried in No. 2 Court, Reiche Court martial, Berlin where his original sentence was upheld.

78. 11. 1942

Beglaubigte Abschrift.

Berlin-Charlottenburg 5, den
Ingebeilstraße 4-10
Secured: 30 06 81

Verfassen.

Der Oberreichskriegsanwalt
Reichskriegsgericht
St. (R. 1) I 258/42

I. In der Strafsache gegen den Heizer John Henry in der Strafsache aus Gernsey, zur Zeit im Wermachtunter-Suchungsgefängnis Berlin Nr. 40, Lehnstr. 3, ist Termin zur Hauptverhandlung vor dem 2. Senat des Reichskriegsgerichts in Berlin-Charlottenburg 5, Sitzgelegenheit 8-10, auf den 8. Dezember 1942, 9,30 Uhr, anberaumt.

II. Die Angeklagten Ingebeil ist der Rechtsanwalt Dr. Kurt Valentin, Berlin 7 39, Berrlingerstr. 2, Fernruf: 22-32 23, ein Verteidiger von Amts wegen beigeordnet.

III. - VII. pp.-

Im Auftrage
gez. Freiherr von Reust
Oberstkriegsgerichtsrat.

Beglaubigt:
Müller
Reichskriegsgerichtsobersprekter.

Dem

Fig.10.

Figure 10 above is a Notice from the Judge Advocate General of the Reiche requiring John to attend his re-trial.

Der Oberreichskriegsanwalt
StPL.(RKA).I. 208.1.42.

Berlin-Charlottenburg, den 6.1.143
Witzlebenstr. 4/10
Fernruf: 30 0681

An
den englischen Staatsangehörigen
John Henry Ingonville

Das gegen Sie durch den 2. Senat des Reichskriegsgerichts
am 8.12.42. ergangene Urteil ist durch den Gerichtsherrn
am 29.12.42. bestätigt worden und damit rechtskräftig.

Im Auftrage
Berkenbreier
Reichskriegsgerichtsamt

Fig.11.

Figure 11 above confirms that the verdict at John's trial on the 8th December 1942 was upheld on the 29th December 1942.

In early 1943 John was transferred to Brandenburg (Havel) – Göerden which was a 'Zuch Haus' (Penal prison) connected with Brandenburg (Havel), which was an Arbeits Kommando administered from Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp.

20/4/43. This post-card has come back to me insufficiently stamped so the prison authorities are re-sending it again. Love John

Ans: John H. Ingonville. 1765/42
Brandenburg (Havel) - Göerden
Winterfeldtallee. 22.

Postkarte
111
75

Mr. & Mrs. J. Ingonville.
La Moye, Vale,
Guernsey. (Channel Island).

Wohnung
(Straße und Hausnummer)

6
6
DEUTSCHES REICH

Fig.12.

Figure 12 above is a postcard from Brandenburg (Havel) – Göerden with incorrect postage of 6pf instead of 15pf. The postcard was returned to John who added '20/4/43 This postcard has come back to me insufficiently stamped so the prison authorities are re-sending it again' although there is no indication of additional postage having been added.

Figure 13 below on the next page is a postcard dated 18 April 1943 from Brandenburg with the correct postage of 15pf.



Fig.13.



Fig.14.

Figure 14 is a letter postmarked 22nd April 1943 addressed to John's parents in Guernsey. The letter is not in John's handwriting, although his name is shown on the back as the sender together with his prison number and address. As it is endorsed 'Via Cherbourg – Granville' it would seem to have been written by someone else who was familiar with the routing of mail to the Channel Islands. It was most likely posted outside the prison – John was only allowed to send the official prison postcards.

The cover has received the Frankfurt (e) machine transit censor mark. In all foreign mail censor offices 'A' (Auslandsbriefprüfstelle) preceded the identifying office letter. Riemer states that the mark on the above cover was in use between March – June 1944 and is relatively rare. Here, however, the postmark is eleven months earlier than noted by Riemer. A small boxed cachet 254 of an individual Frankfurt censor appears twice on the reverse.

Finally, after 4½ years of imprisonment, John was liberated from Brandenburg prison in April 1945 and transferred to a displaced persons camp in Schonbeck where he was found when a detachment of Glasgow Highlanders took over administration of the camp from the Americans. On 29th May he wrote to his parents telling them he was free, was with the British Army, and hoped to be home soon.



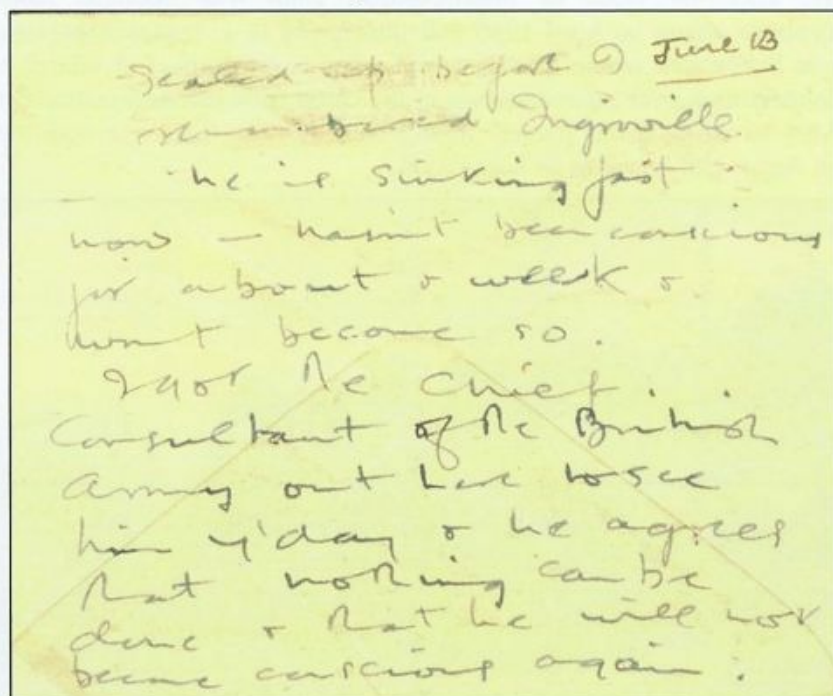
Fig.15.

Figure 15 above shows Capt. J.H.Crook with a group of Russians at the displaced persons camp in Schonbeck awaiting repatriation.

Within a week of obtaining his freedom John was admitted to the British Military Hospital in Brussels where it was thought he was suffering from a chill. A week after his admission John died of TB and meningitis.

Major D.M.Beauié, a Guernseyman serving with the Royal Medical Corps, wrote two letters to his own Father in Guernsey with details of John Ingrouille. The letters were dated 6th and 11th June 1945.

After sealing the second letter Major Beauié wrote on the back of the envelope (see Figure 16 below) – 'June 13 sealed up before I remembered Ingrouille – he is sinking fast now – hasn't been conscious for about a week and won't become so. I got the Chief Consultant of the British Army out here to see him yesterday and he agrees that nothing will be done and that he will not become conscious again'.



Sealed up before 9 June 13
 remembered Ingrouille.
 he is sinking fast
 now – hasn't been conscious
 for about a week &
 won't become so.
 Got the Chief
 Consultant of the British
 Army out here to see
 him y'day & he agrees
 that nothing can be
 done & that he will not
 become conscious again.

Fig.16.

John Henry Ingrouille died at 7.30pm on 13 June 1945 aged just 24.

I wish to acknowledge the Late Joan Flood, a member of the Channel Islands Specialists' Society, who assembled this collection of letters and carried out extensive research enabling the article to be written.

Mulready envelope to Cherbourg from Jersey?

by Alan Moorcroft FRPSL

I was interested to read Tony Peter's response, in vol.32 No.3. concerning the Mulready envelope to Cherbourg, shown again below.



Looking at the illustration of the cover again I notice that it is endorsed '10g' (in manuscript between the datestamp and the illustrated lion) which would equate to a French inland charge for 1840 of 8 dec – Granville to Cherbourg just over 100km. If, as seems highly probable, it was posted on board a ship from Jersey it would also have attracted a sea postage charge of 1dec – thus explaining the total 9dec charge. This accords with the scale of charges the Late Barrie Jay RDP, FRPSL and I published in Vol.10 No.3 and Vol.22 No.2,

I have referred to the French Postal history specialist, Chris Hitchin, who confirmed this calculation and explained this accords with the postal charges published in 'Les Relations De La France Avec L'Angleterre Tome 1 by Michele Chauvet, pages 53-85.

the foot in fine unmounted mint condition. Please contact the Editor or Brian directly on email brian.sole@btinternet.com or **Tel: 01932 220677** **Andy Mazzara** in the USA is still looking for the Guernsey Imprint u/m blocks of ½d Light Green Arms (1st printing), and the ½d Bright Green Arms (6th printing) – if you can help please contact the Editor.

John Henry Ingrouille – a last word.

by Ron Brown

Following my article serialised in the last two Journals I have received some interesting copy papers and a photograph via the Mark Lamerton collection. These include copies of statements taken by Lieutenant Barber, a police officer, serving with No. 20 Civil Affairs Unit, Force 135, who was stationed in Guernsey and Alderney pictured on the right. One of Barber's tasks was to look into the Ingrouille case.



Signed statements were taken in July 1945 from both John's parents and also from a close friend of many years, Alice M. Hubert. The salient points from these statements are summarized hereunder:

"We married in 1920 and had one son, John, born in 1921. Prior to the occupation of the Island by the Germans our son was employed as a worker in glass houses and on the land and also went to Jersey during 1940 to help with the potato crop there. When the Germans came our son was still living at home and went to work for a Mr Collis at Paradise, Vale and then went on to work for the Germans as a cook at The Mill, Vale. He seemed quite happy in this work and had an officer to whom he worked and seemed to quite like him who used to take him out shopping quite a lot and to the pictures. He never complained of ill treatment by the Germans. Also working in the kitchen was a woman named Nellie BREWSTER and her daughter Frances. Shortly before Christmas 1940 our son brought home a knife and fork for safety which he said belonged to his officer as he was going away and would give it back to him when he returned putting them in his chest of drawers in his bedroom.

At 5.00pm on the 31st December two Germans came to the front door and searched John's bedroom looking for a gun. John was taken by the Germans a half hour later as they said he had stolen a knife and fork. Two days later two Germans returned with another and Mrs BREWSTER and subsequent visits were also made. Mrs BREWSTER confirmed to the

Germans that the knife and fork were those she had mentioned. When asked why John had been taken one German said that they had not lost a gun, but that John must have had something as he told Nellie BREWSTER he had got 800 men ready to shoot us. Some five or six weeks later further visits were made by the Germans asking for John's friends which we could not respond to and then a Guernsey policemen called for John's ration cards and then another advised later that John had been taken to Jersey to be tried there by the Germans. We then had a letter from our son stating that he would sue Mrs BREWSTER and her daughter for the lies they had told about him. We then heard that our son had been sentenced to five years in prison and was to be taken to France. We remembered John saying once that he had seen Mrs BREWSTER one day coming out of one of the German's bedrooms with only her dressing gown on. We believe it was partly through this episode Mrs BREWSTER told the Germans lies about our son. To our knowledge he never did anything to justify being arrested by the Germans. He never mentioned anything against the Germans and we are positive he had no intention whatever of getting together 800 men to shoot the Germans"

1870 Ballon Monté Ville de Paris to Jersey

by David Gurney FRPSL

At a Royal Philatelic Society London regional meeting at Crowborough last August Michael Berry showed this fascinating letter dated 12th December 1870, the 87th day of the Siege of Paris, addressed to a Monsieur Henri

