

FOREIGN OFFICE

(CLAIMS)

FILE NO. **HNP** | 734

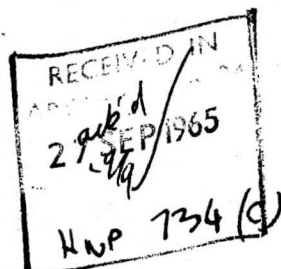
Name of File :—

RN Machon.

Sent to :—	Date	Re- turned	Sent to :—	Date	Re- turned	Sent to :—	Date	Re- turned
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Previous File No.:

HNP/734.



Madonna

Les Bassinieres

Sr Peter Port.

Guernsey.

20.9.65

Miss Wadhams,
Foreign Office.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter dated 28.7.65.

I am most surprised that no trace can be found of my having been imprisoned in Stadelheim, Munich 1944.

Sir Ambrose Sherwell who is now living at "Essex Castle" Alderney, C.I., and was our camp censor can vouch for this - Also at Stadelheim were two Dutchmen one by the name of Ponce, the other Landhuis of Den Haag. There was also a German who came in towards the end of my imprisonment named

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Walter Thoma. of Esenbach Strasse. Munich.
I believe Mr Thoma is now working for the
American government in Munich & has been to
England at least once in 1955/56.

I do not remember the number of
my cell, where after work each day &
from midday Sat. till Monday morning I was
solitary confined. It was almost opposite
the Bibliothe Rooms. Occasionally the person
in charge of this room would throw me a
cold potato across the passageway into my
cell during "Kebel" (latrine emptying time).
Behind the shelf in my cell I pushed a
piece of paper with my mother's ^{name &}
address. MRS MACHON. WENDLEY RAMMONGHE. ^{ST PETER PORT. GUERNSEY}
This should still be there.

It is over 20 years since my release
from Brixton, but I could take you to the

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barracks where I worked for five months, other than the time of cleaning up the GMBH. factory in Munich on I believe April 25th 1944. after heavy bombing the previous day. After working outside for one day only I was brought back because it was realized I was British & must be confined to Prison Security. I returned to the Prison Barrack & continued to work with Walter Thoma until the day of my release. & on that morning I told some the houseboy of one flat of the prison that I would not be going to work that morning because my sentence was finished. He called the warden. I was questioned about this & I presume he contacted the chief of the prison & this was verified I was locked in my cell again. During the morning a warden came to my cell, unlocked it & told me to follow him

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I was taken to the chief's office & to my relief the German censor of Langen, MR HENRY was there & greeted me with "Hallo H^r-Harden"

My clothes were returned to me in exchange for my prison rags & I was released. When I returned to Langen Sir Hubert Stenwell insisted that I be put in Sels Bay to recover. Whilst I was there a H^r GREEN from Jersey came in & was in the bed next to me, & was in an even worse condition than I, having been released from Buchenwald concentration camp.

Even when I finally returned to Britain I could not appreciate that I was free & would not be liable to be taken back to Gradelheim like others, supposedly released, only to return one some trumped up charge.

I saw CAPTAIN BLACK in London in 1945.

and my statement I believe was recorded.

I understand that MR. HENLEY is a magistrate in Munich & could easily be traced; However Sir Ambrose Tennant will corroborate this statement.

CONDITIONS IN PRISON.

Just after dawn each day our cells were unlocked & the German guard shouted "Heute" (Today). Once I had put out the toilet bucket the cell door was locked again. A small flap was opened & a slice of black bread & some substance passing for coffee with no sweetener or milk was pushed through the opening. Two minutes later everyone was herded outside & had to march around a compound. Anyone who fell down was dragged inside & I do not remember seeing them again. We then filed inside & the warden in

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charge asked me something in German which I did not understand; as I could speak only English. Between the wheels, head frames etc. I finally understood they were asking me my trade. I told them cinema projectors whereupon "Hoch hinaus hier" So I said. Electricians. They told me to sit at a bench with about ten other prisoners. I was taught to splice joining steel cable into an eyelet. When I discovered this was for use in German fighters I protested that I was British & this was working against my own nationality. I was transferred to sorting dried peas by the ton, cutting webbing & the leather equipment & separating ferrous & Non ferrous metals.

MR CRANCH of "YALTA." LA COUTURE
ST PETER PORT.
GUERNSEY.

VI

MR F STROOBANT of. TUDOR CLOSE
BLANCHE PIERRE LANE ST MARTINS. GUERNSEY
MR. W. ARROWSMITH. 7 VICTORIA RD. ST PETER PORT "

are three Guernsey people who remember
me going to MUNICH and returning to
Lancaster.

Yours faithfully,

Royal Macdon



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SERVICE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHE

3548 Arolsen - République fédérale d'Allemagne

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

3548 Arolsen - Federal Republic of Germany

INTERNATIONALER SUCHDIENST

3548 Arolsen - Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Téléphone: Arolsen 434 - Télégrammes: ITS Arolsen



BP/Go

Arolsen, 14th July 1965

The Foreign Office

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

Our Ref. : File 209/182
Your Ref. : HNP/734
(HG 11811/28)

Re : MACHON Roy Noverraz
born 7 September 1920 at
Guernsey

Dear Sirs,

With reference to your letter dated 14th June 1965, we very much regret that no information concerning the above-named person is available within the records of the International Tracing Service Arolsen.

Regarding your request for information about the Prison Stadelheim, we only know that an "Untersuchungshaftanstalt" and "Strafgefängnisse" are situated in München-Stadelheim, but we are not in possession of any documents from there.

A check of the documents held by the Central Tracing Agency of the I.C.R.C., Geneva revealed the information given on the attached certificate.

Yours faithfully,

N. Burckhardt

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

Enclosure : 1



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

AGENCE CENTRALE DE RECHERCHES

Chèques postaux I.5527
Téléphone 33 30 60
Télégr. : Intercroixrouge

Rappeler dans la réponse :
Serv. brit./LR/RW

GENÈVE, le 23.6.1965
7, AVENUE DE LA PAIX

INFORMATION IN POSSESSION OF THE CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

I.C.R.C.

HNP/73⁴

MACHON Roy

Born 7.9.20 Guernsey

British civilian internee

1.10.43 Captured Guernsey

5.10.43 Arrived Ilag VII no 1130



3. If you are a dual-national—

(a) Where were you ordinarily resident on the 9th of June, 1964? N/A.

(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)

I was a civilian here in 1940 after having served in "The Royal Guernsey Militia" 1/9/39 to approx Feb 1940 when it was disbanded.

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

*YES.
BRITISH PASSPORT NO 2525 GUERNSEY AND ITS -
- DEPENDENCIES)
ISSUED 12th MAY 1950
EXPIRED 12th MAY 1955 - NOT RENEWED.*

SECTION THREE—PERSECUTION

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

- Name of camp or other place of detention, its situation, its general conditions and régime;
- Dates of imprisonment and of release; prison number; reasons for imprisonment and circumstances in which it arose;
- If you are suffering permanent disability as a result of treatment received during your imprisonment please give full details of its nature and cause;
- 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 R. Lachow

Date 12th April 1965.

MNP/734. QUOTE.

From: Roy N. Machon, "Madonna", Baissieres, St. Peter Port, Guernsey.
10th April 1965.

In June 1943 while I was working as an operator at Guernsey's Regal (now Odeon) Cinema, I was pounced on by the Germans and questioned by two of them about pieces of copper and silver which they found strewn about the workshop. Obviously they knew what they were looking for, and must have been given information about my activities. I had for some time, following the launching of Britain's V-sign campaign, been making V buttonhole badges from coins which some people wore openly and others hid behind the lapels of their coats. I tried to bluff my way out of answering their pointed questions, but it was of no avail and eventually, because I sensed they knew far more than I was willing to tell them, I did give them the truth. They had told me, too, that unless I told them the truth, they would have to beat it out of me.

When they asked me if I had a radio-set, I answered 'No', but after searching my tool-box they found a paper headed "News", with the B.B.C. news in shorthand. I told them I knew nothing of this, but after much pushing around and rough treatment, I admitted, as cover, that I had had radios in the workshop in the past as from time to time German officers had given me theirs to repair.

I was then arrested, locked in a cell at the local prison, and made to do 'solitary' for 3 weeks and 2 days.

Then came my so-called 'trial'. This was conducted in German, which I did not know, but the German Court continued despite my protests. At the end of it I was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, and told I could appeal if I wished. I was advised by the Chief Warder on the civil side of the prison not to appeal--as this would only gain me an extended sentence. Taken back to my cell I was subjected to further rough treatment and asked to sign a series of papers---possibly the German-language version of my 'trial'---but I refused to sign anything unless it were written in English. I was released after a month in prison. Later I learned that had I appealed against my sentence I would have been confined to prison for 3 months---for that was the time taken by an appeal.

About 6 weeks after my release I had an order from the Feldkommandantur saying that I would be deported to Germany on 1st October 1943.

On the evening of 30th September 1943 I organised a farewell party which ended with everyone loudly singing British songs and the National Anthem. This was interrupted by Nazi soldiers who arrested me again and I was confined to prison. At 6.30 p.m. the next day two other Guernseymen and I were taken to a German doctor who examined our bodies and asked us if we felt well. (I did not learn until after the war that some civilian had interceded on behalf of myself and laid the seed in an effort to make the Nazis believe I was a little mad---thinking I might thus be held in Guernsey and not sent to Germany.) We were then taken to St. Peter Port Harbour, put into the hold of a German ship, the hatch of which was battened down over us. We left Guernsey during that night and the following day were landed at St. Malo. Five days later we arrived at Laufen OBB in Germany.

Then like a bolt from the blue, in December 1943 I was told that I (in my absence) had been 'tried' and found guilty of holding a

(continued.....

Roy Machon --- 2.

FORBIDDEN POLITICAL MEETING and singing FORBIDDEN SONGS. For this offence I was sentenced to 5 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

I asked the Laufen Camp Senior Mr. Ambrose J. Sherwill (now Sir Ambrose Sherwill) for his advice in my predicament and he told me not to appeal as I could have my sentence doubled. I did, later however, go through the motions of appealing against sentence, but this brought no result for it was conducted entirely in German. The 'appeal' was in Munich in December 1943.

I was taken back to Laufen, until February 1944 when I was transferred to Stadelheim Prison, Munich, along with 3,000 other prisoners. Here I was stripped of my civilian clothing and given a pair of patched trousers and an old coat bearing a red or orange diamond of coloured material which was sewn onto the back of the jacket.

Without option I was put to work with a mixed nationality number of prisoners--I was the only one who spoke English--splicing steel cable from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day with one break for 'soup'. The cable was being used for Messerschmitt fighter planes. When I discovered this I pointed out to the head of the Prison that under every known Treaty or Convention it was illegal to employ anyone in this capacity.

If any of us prisoners did not move quickly enough in the execution of this work we were punished by the guards who hit us about the head and neck with some heavy metal object or prison keys which they carried in a bunch. So many hittings about the head did I suffer that I sustained a permanent injury which resulted in deafness. Today I have to wear a deaf aid which cost me just over £50. Doctors have said there is no cure for this deafness and attribute it to the beatings for, when I entered prison I had perfect hearing and was a normally healthy being.

One of the men mainly responsible for the injury I suffered was called Maeller.

On Mondays and Thursdays in the prison guards would call out 10 to 20 names and these prisoners would be marched out to do work outside the prison. Many times of that number, only 5 would return. The rest were either sent for further sentences, 10--15 years, or just killed where they stood.

One such, a Pole, had his head cut off for stealing 10 Reichmarks from a German.

Mondays and Thursdays, too, were trial days. Tuesdays and Fridays were the days of killings. On Wednesdays and Fridays we were given a small piece of blood sausage or a small piece of meat in our soup. It was commonly known and spoken about by prisoners, that we were eating the flesh and blood of fellow-prisoners who had been killed by the Nazis.

During my imprisonment I was in 'solitary' for the whole 5 months, except for the last two weeks. When my time had been served I was collected from the prison by the German Censor of Ilag VII and taken back to Laufen and put straight into the hospital for several weeks. We were eventually released by the Americans on May 4, 1945.

I have no complaint about my treatment at Laufen for we were allowed Red Cross parcels and letters. In prison ~~no one~~ from any Protecting Power came to see us; we were not allowed Red Cross parcels; no-one however ill or near-dying was given medical treatment; and I had only two letters from my Mother. Attached is a photograph given me by one of the Nazi guards in Munich prison. He told me this would happen to me if I did any sabotage. (signed) *Roy Machon* (R. N. MACHON).