



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SERVICE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHES

3548 Arolsen (Waldeck) - Allemagne

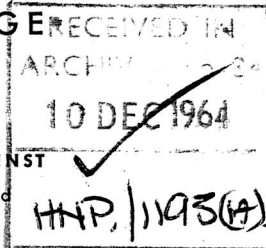
INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

3548 Arolsen (Waldeck) Germany

INTERNATIONALER SUCHDIENST

3548 Arolsen (Waldeck) Deutschland

Téléphone: Arolsen 434 • Télégramme: ITS Arolsen



DOKUMENTEN-AUSZUG
über Aufenthalt in ehemaligen
Konzentrations- und Arbeitslagern

EXTRAIT DE DOCUMENTS
sur le séjour dans les anciens camps
de concentration ou de travail

EXCERPT FROM DOCUMENTS
about the stay in former concen-
tration or labour camps

Ihr Akt.-Z.
Votre Réf.
Your Ref.

Unser Akt.-Z.
Notre Réf.
Our Ref.

TD-924 912

Name
Nom
Name SYMES -----

Vornamen
Prénoms
First names William Henry -----

Staatsangehörigkeit
Nationalité
Nationality British -----

Geburtsdatum
Date de naissance
Date of birth 15.4.1907 -----

Geburtsort
Lieu de naissance
Place of birth Guernsey (Isle) -----

Beruf
Profession
Profession merchant, innkeeper -----

Namen der Eltern
Noms des parents
Parents' names not indicated -----

Religion Protestant -----

Zuletzt bekannter ständiger Wohnsitz
Dernière adresse connue
Last permanent residence Rowbarton-Tauton, Somerset, Ruolway-Street 1 -----

Verhaftet am
Arrêté le
Arrested on 10 November 1941 -----

in
à
in not indicated -----

durch
par
by not indicated -----

wurde eingeliefert in das Konz.-Lager
est entré au camp de concentration
entered concentration camp Buchenwald -----

Häftlingsnummer
No. de détenu
Prisoner's No. 42446 -----

am
le
on 24 January 1944 -----

von
venant de
coming from "BDS" Paris ("Aktion Meerscham") -----

Kategorie, oder Grund für die Inhaftierung
Catégorie, ou raison donnée pour l'incarcération
Category, or reason given for incarceration "Politisch" (*political) -----

Überstellt
Transféré
Transferred not indicated -----

Letzte Eintragung in KZ.-Unterlagen
Dernière inscription dans la documentation
Last information in C. C. records

On 6 November 1944 he was released from Concentration
Camp Buchenwald to Internment Camp Biberach/Riss -----

Bemerkungen
Remarques
Remarks

The "Zugangsliste" bears the remark Comp. (*Compiègne) No. 23169 ---

Geprüfte Unterlagen
Documents consultés
Records consulted

"Häftlingspersonalkarte, Effektenkarte, Effektenverzeichnis, Post-
kontrollkarte, Häftlingspersonalbogen, Revierkarte, Geldkarte,
2x Nummernkarte, Zugangsbuch, Veränderungsmeldungen, Zugangsliste,
Lagerarztuntersuchungen" and correspondence of Concentration Camp
Buchenwald. -----

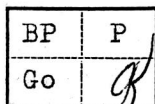
3548 Arolsen, 19th June 1964

Abgesandt an
Expédié à
Dispatched to

The British Embassy

53 B O N N

A. Opitz
A. OPITZ
Section des Archives



Der ITS übernimmt für die Richtigkeit und Vollständigkeit des Inhalts der Dokumente, die zur Ausstellung dieses Dokumenten-
Auszuges verwendet wurden, keine Gewähr.

- * Erklärung des I.S.D., erscheint nicht in den Originalunterlagen.
- * Explication fournie par le S.I.R. mais ne figurant pas sur les documents originaux.
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Votre Réf.
Your Ref.

Unser Akt.-Z.
Notre Réf.
Our Ref.

TD-924 912

Name **SYMES** ----- Vornamen **William Henry** ----- Staatsangehörigkeit **British** -----
 Nom Name Prénoms First names Nationalité Nationality
 Geburtsdatum **15.4.1907** ----- Geburtsort **Guernsey (Isle)-** ----- Beruf **merchant, innkeeper-**
 Date de naissance Date of birth Lieu de naissance Place of birth Profession Profession
 Namen der Eltern **not indicated** ----- Religion **Protestant** -----
 Noms des parents Parents' names
 Zuletzt bekannter ständiger Wohnsitz **Rowbarton-Tauton, Somerset, Ruolway-Street 1** -----
 Dernière adresse connue Last permanent residence
 Verhaftet am **10 November 1941-** in **not indicated** ----- durch **not indicated** -----
 Arrêté le Arrusted on à in par by
 wurde eingeliefert in das Konz.-Lager **Buchenwald** ----- Häftlingsnummer **42446** -----
 est entré au camp de concentration entered concentration camp No. de détenu Prisoner's No.
 am **24 January 1944** ----- von **"BDS" Paris ("Aktion Meerscham")** -----
 le on venant de coming from
 Kategorie, oder Grund für die Inhaftierung **"Politisch" (*political)** -----
 Catégorie, ou raison donnée pour l'incarcération Category, or reason given for incarceration
 Überstellt **not indicated** -----
 Transféré Transferred

Letzte Eintragung in KZ.-Unterlagen **On 6 November 1944 he was released from Concentration**
 Dernière inscription dans la documentation **Camp Buchenwald to Internment Camp Biberach/Riss** -----
 Last information in C. C. records

Bemerkungen **The "Zugangsliste" bears the remark Comp. (*Compiègne) No. 23169** ---
 Remarques Remarks

Geprüfte Unterlagen
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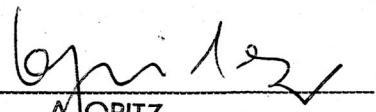
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 Buchenwald. -----

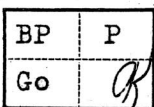
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From: William Symes, Milestone Terrace, Les Banques, St. Peter Port,
Guernsey, C. I. October 1964.

I was arrested by the Gestapo in Guernsey at the end of October--beginning of November 1941; then taken to prison in Jersey; from there to Paris, where I was first at Cherche Midi and then Fresnes; and then on to Bordeaux; and finally Bayonne.

The charge against me was that of supplying and passing on information regarding the Germans, their occupation and defences of Guernsey, ~~via~~ via a courier who came to the island in a small boat from Granville. He then went to Bayonne from where, I presume, he mailed the information to a receiver at San Sebastian, Spain, who, somehow, passed on the facts to London. The Nazis confronted me with the courier in Bayonne.

It was during 1942 that I faced trial by a German Military Court at Biarritz. I was not allowed legal defence and defended myself against the charges. I was tried alone. During this period I was handcuffed and in a darkened cell in solitary confinement. Of course before the trial opened I was guilty in the Germans' eyes and according to their law. At the end of it they still found me guilty and sentenced me to a concentration camp for the duration of the war.

Excluding Jersey and Paris, my prison and concentration camp stays lasting from 1941--45 were:--

Villa Chagrin, Bayonne. Here the prison officials were humane but the Gestapo were bestial in the extreme. I regret I have none of their names. It was in this area that the Kommandant I believe was the cause of saving me from being shot out of hand by the Gestapo.

After this I was transferred to Compiègne Concentration camp. The conditions here were terrible and I was placed in solitary confinement after the camp had been bombed.

From here I was taken to the hostage camp at Romainville Les Lilas, a fort. This, too, was a hostage camp which proved, possibly, an even greater strain than a concentration camp. This was a reprisal unit. Here the camp officials were good within their limits, but the Gestapo and Police were brutal at every given opportunity and on the many occasions they created.

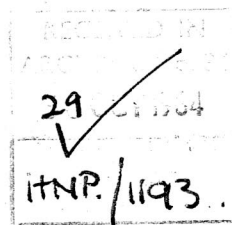
My next move was to the infamous Buchenwald Concentration Camp and there is little or nothing I can add to what is already so well known about it. My number was 42,446. It is very difficult to even attempt to say how long I was in these camps and prisons for time mattered little and communication with the outside world or even my wife from Bayonne and Buchenwald was utterly impossible and I was denied all other human rights. However, I was allowed to communicate with my wife while I was at Compiègne and Romainville.

Following representations to the Germans by the British Government, I was released from Buchenwald about April 1945 (at the time I weighed 83 lb. compared with the 151 lb. I scaled when in Guernsey and, strangely, I have never regained my true weight) and went first to Biberach and then Laufen Internment Camps and I was at the latter when Liberation came. Had I not been sent from Buchenwald when the British Government gained my release I would surely have died. Happily today I suffer no apparent illness or disability as a result of my ill-treatment and neglect at the hands of the Nazis, but the mental suffering is still with me resulting in my having a complex.

The above is only a brief outline of my prison and concentration camp experiences. The full records which go more into detail are in the files of the War Office, M.I.9 and were taken from me by Captain A. P. Dunn and Lieut.-Col. L. Winterbottom, OBE, if confirmation or background facts are needed.

(signed) *W. H. Symes*

(William Henry Symes).



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 SYMES.

Other names WILLIAM HENRY.

Address 1 MINESTONE TERRACE.
BANQUES. 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)

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? *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. H. Seamed*

Date *14 Oct 1964*