

**Name: Esther Pauline Lloyd**

**Born: 31 July 1906, Walthamstow, London**

### **Esther's Story**

Esther was born in London to Beryl and Bernard Silver. She moved to Jersey three years before the German occupation of the Channel Islands. Esther married Charles Lloyd and had two children, David and Miriam. Billy was Protestant, and on her marriage Esther renounced her Jewish faith. Both of their children were brought up as Protestants.



The German Army occupied Jersey on 1 July 1940. As part of the First Order of the Regulations against the Jews, Esther registered along with 11 others in Jersey as Jewish. Esther chose to register and afterwards came to regret her decision. She wrote in her diary "6 May 1943 – *never shall I be honest again if I had not declared myself this wouldn't have happened – it's dreadful.*"

On 3 October 1942, British forces led a small raid on the island of Sark and two German soldiers were killed. In December, Hitler ordered the deportation of 'non-indigenous British Channel Islanders' as a reprisal for these deaths. In February 1943, over 100 people were deported from the Channel Islands, joining those deported in September 1942 to civilian internment camps. In total, 2,200 were deported. Esther was one of those targeted for deportation because of her Jewish heritage. Although her husband and children were meant to be deported too they were not ultimately included in the transport due to Billy's ill health.

On 12 February 1943 Esther was transported to Compiègne transit camp outside Paris, and then on to Biberach civilian internment camp in southern Germany. During her internment, Esther kept a diary recording her experiences, her depression at her internment and her despair at being separated from her family.

On 21 April 1943, Esther wrote to the commandant of Compiègne appealing for her release from the camp and return to Jersey. Amazingly, after a long wait and a change of camp, her appeal was successful. She returned to Jersey on 24 April 1944. On her return, Esther complained about her deportation to the Bailiff of Jersey claiming that she did not have the prerequisite number of grandparents to be considered Jewish according to Nazi classifications. In response Clifford Orange, Chief Aliens Officer, replied to say that the responsibility for registering as a Jew rested with the individual concerned. This was not Esther's recollection of the handling her registration process by Orange. Esther Lloyd survived the war and her diaries can now be read at the Wiener Library, London.

### **Things to discuss**

- Why did Esther choose to register with the German authorities in 1940? Why were Esther's husband and children included in the lists for deportation?
- Esther was able to keep a diary during her time in the camps. How is Esther's diary useful to us when trying to find out about what happened to the Jews of the Channel Islands?
- Esther had British nationality and thus was sent to an internment camp rather than a far worse concentration camp. What does this tell us about Nazi racial ideology? Why might Esther have been treated differently from a Polish Jew without British nationality?