

**Name: Stanley George Green**

**Born: 27 December 1900**

### **Stanley's Story**

Stanley Green was born in Bristol and is best known as a manager and projectionist of a cinema in Jersey who was deported to Buchenwald for spying.



Stanley had three children who he encouraged to have a sense of defiance against the occupiers; they printed a popular Christmas card with a hidden V-for-victory and subversive verse inside. His son, Leslie, was deported to Laufen internment camp in September 1942 because he had turned 18 and was born outside the Channel Islands; he therefore met the criteria for deportation.

In January 1944, Stanley was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment for failure to hand in a radio and cameras – both forbidden items. He was correctly suspected but not actually convicted of espionage. In Jersey, army veterans and members of the Air Raid Precaution (ARP) service had secretly collected intelligence about and mapped the locations of German fortifications. Stanley photographed these plans and produced a miniaturised negative barely larger than a postage stamp, which was smuggled out of the island by a man deported to Laufen internment camp. These were then given to another man due to be repatriated to England and the information thereby reached British Intelligence.

Stanley was sent to a series of prisons in France including St-Lô, Fort de Villeneuve St George, and Fresnes. He was then transferred to Buchenwald concentration camp in August 1944, a place where he received very little food and had bad dysentery. He experienced violence in the camp, at one point being hit in the mouth with a rifle, which broke five of his teeth. Through the Buchenwald underground movement, he managed to get a letter to his son Leslie at Laufen, who made an application towards the end of 1944 to the Swedish Red Cross to have him released to that camp. He arrived in Laufen on 10 January 1945.

Leslie wrote in his memoirs about the day he saw his father again. *'There, standing waiting for me was as pitiable a sight as one can imagine. Here was my Dad, his clothes badly worn, his body a mere skeleton and having great difficulty holding his shaven head erect ... he smiled and held out his hand, which I took eagerly, yet trying not to grasp his bony fingers too tightly for fear I might hurt him.'* Both father and son were fortunate to return to Jersey in 1945.

### **Things to discuss**

- Why were acts of espionage relatively rare during the German occupation of the Channel Islands? Why was it undertaken mostly by veterans of the First World War? What does it tell us about Stanley's character that he was involved?
- We might categorize people who lived in occupied territories as victims, perpetrators, bystanders, upstanders and rescuers. Which was Stanley and did his category change over time? What does this tell you about categorizing other people?
- Stanley had a strong Christian faith which helped him endure his experience in Buchenwald. How do you think having a faith can help in such circumstances?