

L'HORIZON

— BEACH HOTEL & SPA —
ST BRELADE'S BAY, JERSEY

SAMPLE MENU

STARTERS

Pork belly

Lavender honey glazed pork belly, Jersey scallops, brandy infused apples, foraged sea beans, smoked pancetta crumb

Jersey Chancre crab

Jersey Chancre crab, La Mare Pink Gin infused watermelon, cucumber caviar, squid ink tuile

Butternut squash (v)

Butternut squash velouté, local pickled sea herbs, poached Hamptonne hen's egg

MAINS

Brill

Jersey brill, curried mussels, compressed cucumber, beetroot caviar

Steak & oysters

Beef fillet, Jersey oysters, cottage pie, oyster hollandaise, king oyster mushrooms, watercress, essence of beef, horseradish

Cauliflower (v)

La Haule Farm grown cauliflower steak, pickled cauliflower, spring onion champ fritters, crisp onions, Jersey Dairy cave aged Cheddar sauce

DESSERTS

Apple

Green apple mousse, Jersey Black Butter gel, toasted pumpkin seed granola, custard cream

Oranges & lemons

Citrus parfait, lemon balm and curd, candy baby oranges, orange liqueur gel

Chocolate

Dark chocolate ganache, Classic Herd dark chocolate ice cream, Jersey wonder, cinnamon custard

£35 PER PERSON

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Temps passé

A family parted



Local historian Mark Lamerton Picture: DAVID FERGUSON (33197944)

In the second of a three-part series, **Mark Lamerton** continues the wartime stories of his mother as an evacuee and his father who remained in Jersey

AUTHOR of the definitive history of the liberation of the Channel Islands, *Liberated by Force 135*, Mark Lamerton has researched countless archive and contemporary documents but the experiences of his own family provide the raw material for two contrasting stories illustrating the dilemma facing all Islanders in June 1940. Should they remain in the Island or take advantage of the possibility to evacuate?

Many Island families were parted by almost five years of German Occupation. In

this extract Mr Lamerton discusses the experiences of his mother Jean, an evacuee on the south coast of England, separated from her father in Jersey.

Exchanging messages

Jean's mother Trix was able to keep in touch with her husband Phil through the Red Cross message service from late 1940. Jean was so excited to receive one from her Daddy in October 1943 some two months after it had been sent. The message, which was restricted to 25 words, read: 'Hope you had happy birthday, lots nice things. Be good girl, Daddy always thinking of you all. Love Mummy, self, Margaret, Helier. Daddy.'

Jean replied on 18 November 1943, 'Dear Daddy, Have grown big girl am five feet five inches. Doing well at school also with music. Longing to see you. Love Jean, Margaret, Helier.' Phil received the letter on 29 February 1944.

While a pupil at the Bournemouth School for Girls, Jean joined the Red Cross in 1944, undertaking numerous related courses, and took part in the Victory Parade and Drumhead Service at Meyrick Park as part of the VE Day celebrations on Sunday 13 May 1945.

During the Occupation, Phil had planned to escape from Jersey with some other men in September 1944 but was under an



Phil Warder in Dortmund 1946 soon after his posting to Germany to assist with a special communications unit attached to M15 Picture: MARK LAMERTON

by five long years of Occupation



■ Trix, Jean, Margot and Helier with the Cole family on the day the Warders left England for Jersey, 28 August 1945 Picture: MARK LAMERTON

obligation to the Bailiff and could not go with the others who successfully escaped from the Island. Early in 1945 Phil was asked to get a transmitter into working order and send information to England.

Dr McKinstry arranged for the set to be installed in a room at Les Vaux Sanatorium, Grands Vaux.

The sanatorium was opened in December 1942 in order to take the tuberculosis patients from Overdale Hospital during the diphtheria outbreak of 1942-1943. This location had been chosen because the Germans were afraid of tuberculosis and kept well away from the home. The building was raised on tall foundations and this had enabled Phil to get in and out of the room unseen from underneath.

With food strictly rationed, Phil came up with an ingenious method of transporting fresh meat around the Island without it being confiscated by the Germans. He would collect the meat, such as pork, from the farm in a hearse.

Luckily for him the German guards at the checkpoints never asked to look inside the coffin.

Mail addressed to the German authorities was also intercepted at the Post Office by Phil and his colleagues. Many of these were from local informers, informing on other local inhabitants. Luckily these never reached their intended destination.

Phil kept some of these letters for years after the Occupation and would show them to anyone who showed an interest, as he couldn't believe this despicable behaviour between Islanders. Eventually he parted with them, together with other Occupation souvenirs, and they were put on display at Richard Mayne's St Peter's Bunker Museum until it closed in 1997.

Liberation

On 8 May 1945, Phil, the GPO lineman in Jersey, decided to take over without waiting for liberation and, presenting himself at the Island's GPO repeater station (Verstärkungsamt) which the Germans had incorporated into a substantial bunker at Trinity Gardens, St Helier, informed the officer in charge of the guard that he intended to take over the building on behalf of the British Post Office.

The officer clicked his heels, saluted, and said, 'Very good, Mr Warder,' and the repeater station was once more British property.

After Liberation Day, 9 May 1945, and as soon as the postal service had resumed a flurry of letter writing and exchange of postcards commenced between the family. Phil lost no time replying to the first let-

ters he received from Trix and children on 18 May 1945. The contents are as follows:

'My Dearest Trix and children, How wonderful my love to be able to write you as I wish what a great day for us, the excitement has been too great for me to explain and I hardly know how to write you. I am bubbling over with joy. How lovely to have your letter also those from Jean and Margaret, the photo was wonderful so much so that I am still looking at and wondering how the children have grown, in particular Jean. I shouldn't have known her.

'So pleased that Margaret got over her operation OK, Helier looks very well, has he finished wearing his glasses, you my pet haven't altered much, looking a little older perhaps as we all are. I am wonderfully proud of you and I feel you have had all the troubles to keep the family going, however you have never despaired thank God and here we are again. Shall soon be reunited.

'You can realise I have had rather a tough time, but never mind, we are still British and proud of it too. I have lost an awful lot of weight and you talk of your silver hair, mine is very limited at the moment.

'Your house is as you left it with all the contents, clothing, linen, etc. I had to give

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I have had rather a tough time, but never mind, we are still British and proud of it too

some children's clothing away to those less fortunate, ones who had none. I have put a lovely window in the front attic and had the room painted etc, it's lovely. The whole of the bungalows at Ouaisné were taken by the Germans, they stole everything decent. I was supposed to go to Germany but managed to escape it by the skin of my teeth.

'Don't worry about sending money darling, have enough spare for you. If you see Mr Holmes ask him to bring some whisky for me, doesn't matter about the price, it will do me good. I am trying to come over as soon as possible, but there is such a lot to do, and only me to do it, as usual. All my love to you and children, God bless you. I have to hurry to catch the mail. Hope all have been kind to you.

'All my love you and children. Your loving husband, Phil, xxxxx.'

Some days later Phil was excited and

thrilled to hear Trix's voice again over the phone after five long, weary years. He was calling from the instrument room at the Post Office and was sorry that it wasn't a clear line but the fact of hearing Trix was all that mattered.

He explained that the circuits (speech) to the mainland were not yet completed, and he had used a made-up line, using the radio link from G.U. to Weymouth, then via the usual route. GPO engineers were working at G.U. and actually the military wouldn't allow civilian traffic over the circuits for security reasons, only telegrams; however, this was a special favour.

The letters and phone calls continued until Trix, Jean, Margot and Helier returned to Jersey on 28 August 1945. The Warder family were finally reunited. Trix soon returned to her job at the Post Office in Broad Street.

Some months later Phil was commissioned in the Control Commission and posted to Germany to assist with a special communications unit attached to M5. During the Occupation he had learnt to speak German, which came in handy.

Phil retired from the Post Office in 1960 after 45 years' service to the Crown and was awarded the Imperial Service Medal. Phil and Trix celebrated their Diamond wedding on 26 December 1985. Phil died on 4 January 1986 aged 89 years and Trix on 27 September 1987 aged 88 years.

Find out more

■ For more on Mark Lamerton and Liberated by Force 135, or to order a copy, visit force135.je.

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