

ACC 10000/143/2585

149.01/GB

BIRE GERALDO BEAUMONT

MAY 1945

0095

SECRET

File

To: AC of S, G-2, HMC
Major HARVEY, Security Branch
HQ Allied Commission

Mr AM WILLIAMS
HM Consul

275 PS Section
Phone 478445 Ext 16
Ref: SEC/8/6
22 May 45

Subject: BEED Gerald Beaumont

Security Division Rec'd 25/4 Book No 7608 File No 14901-GB Action
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1. Herewith preliminary interrogation report on a/n Br subject (Channel Islands) who recently arrived at IDPSC Camp ex SPITAL Internee Camp, AUSTRIA .
2. The report appears to establish fairly clearly that subject did work for the Germans and would therefore seem to warrant further proceedings against him.
3. Your instructions are requested.

FIELD.

MR. JFS
Capt.,
Int Corps.

0096

To: O.C. 276 F.S.S.
From J. MARTIN Sgt.

Subject:-

BIRD Gerald Beaumont

1. BIRD Gerald Beaumont, a British subject, born at Thurnscoe near Rotherham, Yorkshire, and formerly resident of Jersey, Channel Islands was interrogated at Refugee Centre/Citta and the following is an account of his activities since the outbreak of war Sept. 1939.
2. BIRD was formerly employed in a coal mine near Rotherham and came to the Channel Islands in 1937 to work as an agricultural labourer on Jersey. He remained on the island and on September 3.1939 he was employed as a driver by a local haulage contractor.
3. In March 1940 he reported and registered under the conscription act and asked to join the R.A.F. He was not called up immediately so he returned to his work on Jersey.
4. In June 1940 the Germans made raids on the island and some scheme of evacuation was put into force. BIRD however did not appear to make any serious attempts to get away, expecting that men of the of the conscription class would be automatically evacuated from the island. A certain Major Lamy, who was in charge of registration under the conscription act, apparently advised him to wait, as there would be a chance to get away from the island. In the general confusion at the time this scheme fell through and when the Germans landed on the island on 1 July 1940, BIRD was still on the island and was unable to get away.
5. For a short while BIRD was unemployed, but in August 1940 the State of Jersey organised a labour bureau of which two Jersey State officials, Lecoq and Lequesne, were the leading figures. BIRD obtained work through this scheme at 29/11 per week. He did drainage work, road repairs, digging gun pits on Jersey airfield and building air raid shelters. He worked under a foreman from Jersey and received his pay from the State Labour Bureau. He claims that he was badly treated and over-worked. 2
6. In November 1941, BIRD commenced working for the Germans as a truck driver on a truck which had been requisitioned by the Germans. He worked under a German officer and received 45/- per week and better conditions. He still received his pay through the Jersey State Labour Bureau. In August 1942 the Germans tightened up their control of labour on Jersey

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6. In November 1941, BIRD commenced working for the Germans as a truck driver on a truck which had been requisitioned by the Germans. He worked under a German officer and received 45/- per week and better conditions. He still received his pay through the Jersey State Labour Bureau. In August 1942 the Germans tightened up their control of labour on Jersey and BIRD was then paid at the rate of 40 marks per day. He was still a truck driver and carried building materials about the island.

7. On 23 December 1942 he refused to drive the truck because of the bad state of repair it was in, and for this he was sacked by the Germans. For a short period he was unemployed and could find no work to meet his expenses and in June 1943 returned to work for the Germans.

8. On 1 July⁴³ he was sent to the island of Alderney and was employed as truck driver and carried building materials, camouflage equipment and food. He still received 40 marks a day. He left Alderney shortly after a visit to Jersey and Guernsey and on his return got drunk on German cognac and sang anti-German songs. He was arrested and sentenced to six months imprisonment and after 8 weeks in prison on Alderney he was transferred to prisons at St Lo, Liseaux near Caen, where he made a short escape during an air raid. Recaptured, he was then transferred

- 2 -

to a prison near Paris, where he was interrogated by the Germans and accused of being an escaped Allied airman. From this prison he claims to have been sent to Buchenwald where he remained 5 weeks. In December 1944 he was again transferred to an internment camp at Sargen and later to a camp in Silesia.

9. In January 1945 a few days before the Russian advance into Silesia, BIRD was transferred to a camp at Spittal in Austria where he remained until liberated by the advance of the 8th Army.

10. BIRD has no papers in his possession and his story and dates are rather vague. He claims that on the Channel Islands, to live it was necessary to work for the Germans who paid and treated their workers better than some of the islanders did. After the arrival of the Germans on the island, an order was made for all subjects born in England to submit their names to the Jersey State officials. Shortly after this was done, a large number of these people were removed from the island. BIRD however does not seem to have been effected by this order.

Field.

J. Martin
5618814 Sgt.

19 May 45.

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