

Impact case study (REF3)

Institution: University of Cambridge		
Unit of Assessment: UoA15 Archaeology		
Title of case study: Improving our Understanding of Victims of Nazism in the Channel Islands		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: January 2007 to December 2020		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s): Dr Gilly Carr	Role(s) (e.g. job title): Senior Lecturer in Archaeology	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI: January 2003 to present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: August 2013 to July 2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? No		
1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words) German occupation during World War II (WWII) had a profound impact on the heritage, memory and identity of Channel Islanders. While the heritage of occupation has been all-pervasive, it traditionally focused on the occupiers and ordinary islanders. For reasons broadly connected with collaboration, victims of Nazism (Jews, political prisoners and forced labourers) were marginalised and their stories have not been told. University of Cambridge research carried out by Carr has led to fundamental changes in the heritage landscape of the islands, evidenced by museum exhibitions, memorials, commemorations and revised war narratives. It has changed public perception of the occupation, encouraging a more pluralistic understanding of the past, and greatly enriched the lives of victims' descendants.		
2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words) The German occupation of the Channel Islands from 1940 to 1945 has now been shown by Carr [R1,R2,R3] to be similar in many respects to that of occupations elsewhere in Western Europe during WWII: Jews were deported to concentration camps, as were around 250 political prisoners. Sixteen thousand forced and slave labourers were brought to the Islands to build the Atlantic Wall (the concrete bunker system which covers the islands), and 2,200 civilians were deported to German internment camps. Yet, each of these victim groups has previously been marginalised in public memory. Reasons included fear of accusations of collaboration, influence of British war narratives focusing on victory at the expense of victimhood, and the opinion that resisters were 'criminal troublemakers' who risked bringing retribution upon everybody. There were also political sensitivities vis-à-vis collaboration, with roots in the occupation, which have prevented free speech on the issue. University of Cambridge research carried out by Carr from 2007 to 2020 focusses on victims of Nazism during the period 1940 to 1945 and the trajectory of occupation memory and heritage since. It addresses three key areas: 1. Uncovering lost histories relating to the Holocaust and Nazi persecution through extensive family interviews, archival research and field archaeology [R1,R2,R3]. Research findings include the experience of Britons in Nazi prisons and concentration camps, especially as gleaned from compensation testimonies written in 1965. At Carr's instigation, these were released to the National Archives by the Foreign Office in 2016. Her work in this area also includes study of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) suffered by Channel Islanders after release from Nazi prisons and camps, trans-generational memory and the transmission of trauma.		

2. Researching 'guardians of memory' (former political prisoners and others who safeguarded knowledge of victims of Nazism) and the role they played in preserving the memory and reputation of victims [R1,R2,R3,R4]. Carr has studied, distilled, interpreted and publicised the private archives of former political prisoners from each of the Islands, the 'guardians of memory'. This work illuminates the vital surviving thread between the war and the recent past in terms of understanding what happens to memory when subjected to official marginalisation and deliberate exclusion.

3. Theorising marginalised and taboo heritage, including reflecting on her own activism and its impact [R3,R5,R6]. Carr identifies 'taboo heritage', a legacy (in this case of war) that resists heritage creation because of its sensitivity [R6], and observes that it can be overcome through long-term activism, involvement of local government and the passage of time.

The research also demonstrates the importance of 'incremental memory events' [R3,R5]; transforming Alexander Etkind's concept of how profound single events change perceptions of the past, Carr proposes that multiple small events, initiated by activists in multiple spheres, can cumulatively change historical narratives. Moreover, Carr [R3] shows the value of 'reparative heritage', focusing on how 'small acts of repair' (*sensu* Marianne Hirsch and Leo Spitzer) can operate in the heritage sphere to give voice to those whose histories have been denied legitimacy.

Carr's research has enabled authorities in the Channel Islands to open up the sometimes uncomfortable stories of the past and to incorporate the marginalised into the wider cultural heritage landscape.

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

[R1] Carr, G., 2014. *Legacies of Occupation: Archaeology, Heritage and Memory in the Channel Islands*, Springer, Berlin. ISBN 9783319034065. (Peer reviewed monograph with an international publisher; research initiated by a British Academy small grant (2007) of GBP5,138 to Carr for the project Occupation Trench Art and the Narratives of War; publication available from HEI)

[R2] Carr, G., Willmot, L., Sanders, P., 2014. *Protest, Defiance and Resistance in the German Occupied Channel Islands, 1940-1945*, Bloomsbury Academic, London. ISBN 9781472509208. (Peer reviewed monograph with an international publisher; reviews published in *English Historical Review* 2015, *American Historical Review* 2016, *Journal of World History* 2017; research initiated by a British Academy small grant (2010) of GBP6,615 to Carr for the project Resistance during the German Occupation of the Channel Islands; publication available from HEI)

[R3] Carr, G., 2019. *Victims of Nazism in the Channel Islands: A Legitimate Heritage?*, Bloomsbury Academic, London. ISBN 9781474245654. (Peer reviewed monograph with an international publisher; research supported by an EVZ Foundation grant (2015 to 2019) of EUR50,000 (GBP34,376) to Carr for the project British Victims of Nazi Persecution: Channel Islander Testimonies of Forced Labour and Imprisonment in Nazi Prisons and Concentration Camps; REF2 submission)

[R4] Carr, G., 2015. Islands of war, guardians of memory: The afterlife of the German occupation in the British Channel Islands, in: Carr, G., Reeves, K. (Eds.), *Heritage and Memory of War: Responses from Small Islands*, Routledge, London, pp. 75-91. ISBN 9781138831728. (Peer reviewed chapter with an international publisher; publication available from HEI)

[R5] Carr, G., 2016. "Have you been offended?" Holocaust memory in the Channel Islands at HMD 70, *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History* 22, 44-64. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17504902.2015.1103026>. (Peer reviewed international journal article; research supported by the abovementioned grant from the EVZ Foundation)

[R6] Carr, G., Sturdy Colls, C., 2016. Taboo and sensitive heritage: Labour camps, burials and the role of activism in the Channel Islands, *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 22, 702-715. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2016.1191524>. (Peer reviewed international journal article; research supported by a British Academy grant (2015 to 2016) of GBP9,700 to Carr for the project A Tale of Two Camps)

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

German occupation during WWII shapes the identity of Channel Islanders. Occupation heritage is everywhere, yet that relating to victims of Nazism was, at the start of Carr's research, nascent in Jersey and almost absent in Guernsey. Proceeding with sensitivity, her research at the University of Cambridge instigated fundamental change in how the occupation is understood and displayed. Her pathways to impact entailed outreach (e.g. excavation of a labour camp, memorial, digital and television projects, museum exhibitions, public lectures and locating the graves of deportees for descendants) and formal advisory roles for Heritage organisations (e.g. the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation). The impact is in three interrelated areas: The cultural, heritage and arts landscape; heritage infrastructure; and personal family histories.

1. The Cultural, Heritage and Arts Landscape:

In 2015, Carr's research led to the creation of a memorial to Guernsey Islanders who died in Nazi prisons and camps for acts of resistance [E1]. In 2016, she successfully petitioned the Foreign Office to open closed files relating to all British (including Channel Islands) victims of Nazism [E2]. Concurrently, Guernsey parliament passed a Holocaust Resolution ensuring that Holocaust Memorial Day and Holocaust education take place.

Also in 2016, Carr's research on a Jersey woman who hid a Jewish refugee led to a successful application for Dorothea Weber to be honoured as *Righteous Among the Nations* by Israel, with a memorial unveiled by the Israeli Ambassador (Figure 1). Following application by Carr, Weber was also recognised as a *British Hero of the Holocaust* by the Foreign Office [E3]. The research led to the novel *Hedy's War* (HarperCollins 2020) by Jenny Lecoat (born in Jersey), purchased by the publisher for a six-figure sum. Lecoat writes of how Carr '*... emailed me [2015] to draw my attention to this story ... [her] research ... was invaluable, adding depth, detail and authenticity to my own work*' [E4].

In 2017, a Blue Plaque commemorated the Guernsey Underground News Service (GUNS), whose members were deported to Nazi prisons [E1]. Carr documented those involved, found the graves of members lost in Germany, liaised with families and wrote the application.

The Chief Executive of Jersey Heritage explains [E1], '*the work and impact of Dr Carr in the field of Occupation memorialisation has...raise(d) the profile of victims of Nazism in the Channel Islands and...create(d) a more diverse heritage landscape.*' As a result, '*public conversation about the Occupation story in Jersey has developed extremely positively to include new stories researched by Dr Carr.*'

2. Heritage Infrastructure

Carr's research has transformed heritage infrastructure in the Channel Islands – improving local understanding, tourism and international relations. Jersey Heritage's Chief Executive [E1] attributes '*a significant body of heritage and public history infrastructure including museum displays, memorials, publications, walks, plaques, websites and broadcasts*' directly to Carr's work. '*The Occupation period is of great significance in the Island's cultural memory and destination value in terms of tourism.*' '*Jersey Heritage contact with visitors, which is infused with ... [Carr's research], is around 250,000 per year*' [E1].

Carr reworked the permanent exhibition on the German occupation at Jersey Museum to emphasise Jews and political prisoners (2015) and designed a resistance Heritage Trail for Jersey (2016) [E1]. In Guernsey, her research has '*served to reset the narrative on the war years, in particular shifting the focus back on the islanders rather than the occupiers. Her work with the Deportees Association and the town of Biberach in Germany to which many were deported has helped recognition of this sometimes forgotten group of islanders, and supported the strong links that have developed...*' (Guernsey's Head of Heritage Services, [E1]). In 2018, Biberach Museum and Guernsey Museums & Galleries (GMG) drew on Carr's work for an exhibition in Germany attracting 4,000 visitors. In 2019, GMG hosted the exhibition *On British Soil: Victims of Nazi Persecution in the Channel Islands*, based on Carr's research and also shown at the Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust & Genocide in London (Figure 1) [E5]. Guernsey's Head of Heritage Services [E1] writes that it '*was one of the hardest-hitting exhibitions Guernsey had mounted for a decade and was seen by around 5,000 visitors including local schools*'. Visitor-book feedback shows the impact of the exhibition; one child commented '*I really didn't know it [the war] was that bad*' [E1].



Figure 1. Left: Exhibition on Victims of Nazi Persecution held at Guernsey Museums & Galleries and the Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust & Genocide (image: Jonathan Bartlett); Right: Memorial for Dorothea Weber, declared *Righteous Among the Nations* (Israel) and *British Hero of the Holocaust* (UK) (image: Gilly Carr).

3. Personal Family Histories

Carr's research has touched profoundly the lives of descendants of resisters who disappeared in captivity. Funded by the EVZ Foundation (Berlin) between 2015 and 2019, she created a website documenting every deported Islander, with educational materials (used to support teacher training in collaboration with the Holocaust Educational Trust) and archival material from the Channel Islands, UK, France, Germany and elsewhere [E6]. She also carried out extensive archival research to find the graves of Islanders, including Joseph Gillingham (2016), Joseph Tierney (2016), Charles Machon (2017) and Pierre Salomon (2018). Gillingham and Machon had been members of GUNS, Tierney produced news-sheets from BBC radio reports and Salomon fought against the Germans in the French army. All disappeared in captivity.

In 2015 and 2016, the BBC travelled with Carr to Germany and the Czech Republic to film documentaries reuniting the families of Gillingham and Tierney with the last resting places of their ancestors [E7]. The daughters of Tierney and Gillingham attest to the personal impact [E8]. Tierney's daughter writes: '*My family and I cannot thank Dr Carr enough, her exceptional diligence ... trace[d] my Dad's journey, finding his grave and finally after 73 years we have closure.*'

The documentaries changed cultural attitudes and created international and intergenerational dialogue around the treatment and fate of prisoners in Germany. Joseph Gillingham's daughter travelled repeatedly to Halle – the place of her father's internment and death – to speak to school and university students about his life [E8].

The cumulative reach and significance of Carr's research are widely recognised. In 2019, the Channel Islands appointed her their representative in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (she has been a UK-wide delegate since 2016, for the Foreign Office) [E9]. Carr is one of the eight-person, government-appointed, advisory team overseeing content of the new approximately GBP50,000,000 UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London [E10]. On 22 July 2020, the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) took the decision to award Carr its Heritage Prize [E11].

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

[E1] Testimonials: Heritage managers from Guernsey (Head of Heritage Services, Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery) and Jersey (Chief Executive of Jersey Heritage)

[E2] Blog (National Archives): Compensation Documents Released, <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/compensation-nazi-persecution/>

[E3] News article (BBC): Dorothea Weber Honoured <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-42795152>

[E4] Testimonial and related news article (The Bookseller): Author of *Hedy's War*, HarperCollins US Makes Major Pre-empt on Jenny Lecoat's Début from Polygon <https://www.thebookseller.com/news/harpercollins-us-makes-major-pre-empt-jenny-lecoats-debut-novel-polygon-1163926#>

[E5] Testimonial: Senior Curator (Exhibitions/Education), Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust & Genocide

[E6] Website: Frank Falla Archive www.frankfallaarchive.org

[E7] News article (BBC): Lost WWII Resistance Heroes' Graves Found <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-guernsey-36039498>

[E8] Testimonials: Daughters of victims of Nazism from Jersey and Guernsey

[E9] News article (gov.gg): Carr Appointed Channel Islands International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Representative <https://gov.gg/article/172201/Dr-Gilly-Carr-appointed-as-Channel-Islands-International-Holocaust-Remembrance-Alliance-representative>

[E10] Letter: Appointment of Carr to the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation Academic Advisory Board

[E11] Email: Secretary of the European Association of Archaeologists regarding the EAA Heritage Prize 2020