



States of Alderney

Media Release

For immediate release: 17th June 2019

Statement regarding Adolf Island broadcast on the Smithsonian Channel

The States of Alderney reiterates the statement made by its Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee in November 2017: “We welcome academic research and supervised archaeological investigation which is carried out to high professional standards.”

In March 2015, the States of Alderney directed its Building and Development Control Committee to take steps to give legal protection to the Lager Sylt Camp. In 2017 the States adopted a Code of Archaeological practice to guide any future archaeological work. The States also requested full and immediate release of any World War Two records held in the UK and other countries that could shed more light on what happened in Alderney.

Next month the States will be welcoming Lord Pickles, Special Envoy for post Holocaust affairs to discuss how the lessons from Alderney’s war time history are commemorated as part of the UK’s wider international commitments.

Much valuable historical research into the German occupation of Alderney has been carried out since the Second World War which has included research based on records of burials, German records and witness testimony. The Island’s population was evacuated before the German occupation began. The Germans fortified the Island under Hitler’s Atlantic Wall directive, establishing labour camps including slave labourers. There is no definitive account of everything that happened in Alderney but much has been pieced together through the records and publications that do exist. There were hundreds of recorded deaths and burials which, after the War, were exhumed for reburial in France and elsewhere. Undoubtedly there are other deaths which occurred and there may be undiscovered burials on land.

Alderney remembers and honours those who were brought to the island as slave labourers and died on the island through the Hammond Memorial and an annual service of remembrance.

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