

From Jerripedia



The funeral service at St Thomas' Church

Scornet's death in the grounds of St Ouen's Manor in 1941 was followed by a belated funeral service in St Thomas' Church after the end of the Occupation and has been

commemorated regularly since the end of the war.

Scornet was one of a group of 16 young Frenchmen who, inspired by a radio broadcast by exiled French leader General Charles de Gaulle in 1940, set sail in an open boat from the north-Brittany port of Dourduff on 13 December 1940 aiming to reach England and join the Free French forces. Some had not even told their parents that they were leaving.

Guernsey

Their escape was beset with bad weather which destroyed their navigational equipment and when they eventually sighted land, they mistook the Guernsey coast for the Isle of Wight and sailed into Vazon Bay jubilantly yet foolhardily singing the Marseillaise.

They were arrested by German troops and sent to Jersey where they were eventually tried by a German war court. Scornet was identified as the ringleader and, together with three others, was sentenced to death. In the event only Scornet was executed and the other members of the party had their sentences reduced to life imprisonment and were sent to prison in Caen and then to camps in Germany.

Scornet's parents were sent for to witness his execution and Catholic priest Pere Mare was asked to administer the last rites as the unfortunate young Frenchmen was put before a firing squad for 'wilfully supporting England in the war against the German Empire'.

In the final letter he was allowed to write to his parents he said: "I believe the end of my existence has come. I will die for France, bravely facing the enemy."

Scornet was buried in Almorah Cemetery in St Helier but following the Liberation his remains were exhumed and on 18 September 1945 a solemn mass was celebrated at St Thomas' Church by Pere Mare, attended by island dignitaries, before the young Frenchman's remains were returned to Brittany for burial in his native town.



Francois Scornet



Francois Scornet has come to be known as one of the heroes of the German Occupation of Jersey, although his only connection with the island was to be tried by a German Court for escaping from France, sentenced to death and executed by firing squad



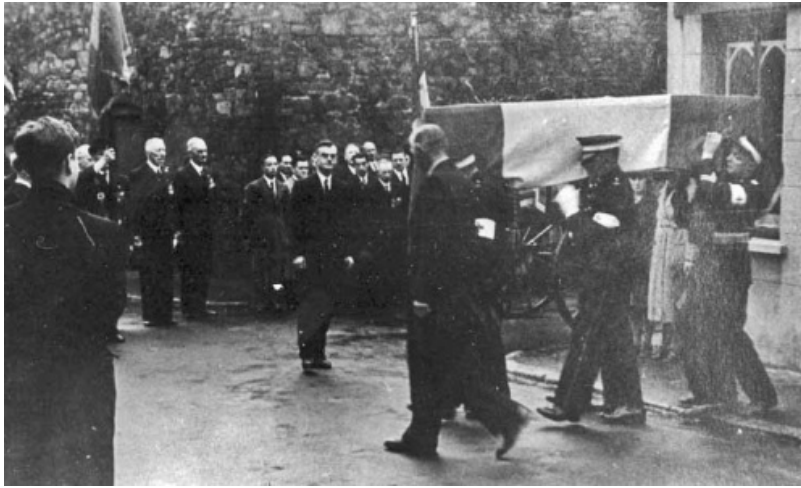
Scornet's companions photographed secretly in prison in Caen



The scene at Scornet's postwar funeral



Francois Scornet



The 1945 funeral service



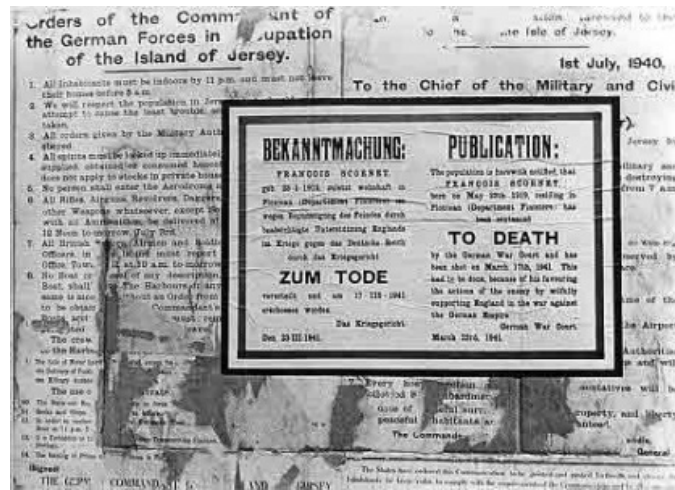
Scornet's death is commemorated every year



This memorial marks the place where Scornet was executed



Another view of the funeral - picture Evening Post



A notice regarding the execution of Scornet



A memorial service to honour the bravery of Francois Scornet