

French Colonial Soldiers in German Captivity during World War II

This book discusses the experience of nearly 100,000 French colonial prisoners of war captured by Nazi Germany during World War II. Raffael Scheck shows that the German treatment of French colonial soldiers improved dramatically after initial abuses, leading the French authorities in 1945 to believe that there was a possible German plot to instigate a rebellion in the French empire. Scheck illustrates that the colonial prisoners' contradictory experiences with French authorities, French civilians, and German guards created strong demands for equal rights at the end of the war, leading to clashes with a colonial administration eager to reintegrate them into a discriminatory routine.

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To my parents, Florian Scheck and Monika Scheck (1935–2014), and to Sophia Scheck





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Map

1. Frontstalags in France, July 1941

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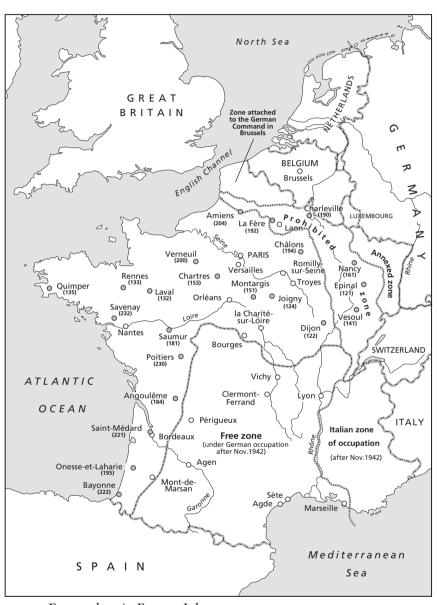
The book is dedicated to my parents Florian and Monika Scheck, who inspired a love of classical music, reading, and learning in me, and to my thoughtful and intellectually curious daughter Sophia (born 2005), my only child who has not yet had a book dedicated to her. My father taught me French during a summer vacation when I was eight, and I want him to know how much I have come to appreciate this despite my passionate protests at the time. The dedication to my mother has taken a sad note because she passed away on July 20, 2014, during the production phase of this manuscript. I will always be grateful for her kindness and generosity.



Abbreviations

AD	Archives departementales
AN	Archives nationales de France (French national archives),
	Pierrefitte-sur-Seine (formerly Paris)
ANOM	Archives nationales d'outre-mer (French overseas archives),
	Aix-en-Provence
BA-MA	Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv (German military archives), Freiburg
	im Breisgau
HIA	Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva
MAE	Ministère des affaires étrangères (French foreign ministry),
	La Courneuve
MBF	Militärbefehlshaber Frankreich (Military Commander in France)
NACP	National Archives, College Park, Maryland
OKW	Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (German Armed Forces
	High Command)
OT	Organisation Todt
PAAA	Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes (Political Archive
	of the German Foreign Office), Berlin
SDPG	Service diplomatique des prisonniers de guerre (Diplomatic
	service for POWs, a.k.a. Scapini Mission)
SHD	Service historique de la défense (French military archives),
	Vincennes





MAP 1. Frontstalags in France, July 1941

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