Allied Internment Camps in Occupied Germany

Between 1945 and 1950, approximately 130,000 Germans were interned in the Soviet zone of occupied Germany, including in former Nazi concentration camps. One-third of detainees died, prompting comparisons with Nazi terror. But what about the western zones, where the Americans, British, and French also detained hundreds of thousands of Germans without trial? This first in-depth study compares internment by all four occupying powers, asking who was interned, how they were treated, and when and why they were arrested and released. It confirms the incomparably appalling conditions and death rates in the Soviet camps but identifies similarities in other respects. Andrew H. Beattie argues that internment everywhere was an inherently extrajudicial measure with punitive and preventative dimensions that aimed to eradicate Nazism and create a new Germany. By recognizing its true nature and extent, he suggests that denazification was more severe and coercive but also more differentiated and complex than previously thought.

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*Extrajudicial Detention in the Name of Denazification, 1945–1950*

Andrew H. Beattie

*University of New South Wales*
To Melanie
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In early 2016, I was still committed to writing only a comparative history of internment’s reception, not its ‘actual’ history. But as I struggled with word count and continued to encounter scholarship and journal peer reviewers wedded to (in my view) inaccurate understandings of Soviet and/or western internment, I realized there were things I wanted to say about internment and that I could and must write separate books. I would like to thank Robert Buch and Ronan McDonald for a crucial conversation in that realization process and to humbly acknowledge an ARC assessor’s rectitude in suggesting several years
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### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACA</td>
<td>Allied Control Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC (BE)</td>
<td>Allied Commission for Austria (British Element)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACC</td>
<td>Allied Control Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACICR</td>
<td>Archives du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge, Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEKR</td>
<td>Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Düsseldorf</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEM</td>
<td>Archiv des Erzbistums München und Freising Munich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAB</td>
<td>Bundesarchiv Berlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>BDM</td>
<td>Bund Deutscher Mädel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BHAM</td>
<td>Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Munich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCS</td>
<td>Combined Chiefs of Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDU</td>
<td>Christian Democratic Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIC</td>
<td>Counter Intelligence Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIE</td>
<td>Civilian Internment Enclosure</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIAC</td>
<td>Directorate of Internal Affairs and Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>DP</td>
<td>displaced person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DzD</td>
<td>Dokumente zur Deutschlandsverwaltung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAC</td>
<td>European Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EKD</td>
<td>Evangelical Church in Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELAB</td>
<td>Evangelisches Landespredikat Archiv in Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EZA</td>
<td>Evangelisches Zentralarchiv, Berlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>FO</td>
<td>Foreign Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORD</td>
<td>Foreign Office Research Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRG</td>
<td>Federal Republic of Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRUS</td>
<td>Foreign Relations of the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDR</td>
<td>German Democratic Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gestapo</td>
<td>Secret State Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPU</td>
<td>State Political Directorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>GULAG</td>
<td>Main Administration of Corrective Labour Camps and Labour Settlements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
xii  List of Abbreviations

GUPVI  Main Administration for POW and Internee Affairs
HHStA  Hessisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Wiesbaden
HStAS  Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart
ICRC   International Committee of the Red Cross
IMT    International Military Tribunal
JCS    Joint Chiefs of Staff
KPD    Communist Party of Germany
LAELKB Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche in Bayern, Nuremberg
LDPD   Liberal Democratic Party of Germany
LKAB   Landeskirchliches Archiv Bielefeld
LKAD   Landeskirchenarchiv Dresden
LKAE   Landeskirchenarchiv Eisenach
LKAK   Landeskirchliches Archiv Kiel
LKAS   Landeskirchliches Archiv Stuttgart
MVD    Ministry for Internal Affairs
NADSC  Nazi Arrest and Denazification Subcommittee
NCO    non-commissioned officer
NDPD   National Democratic Party of Germany
NKVD   People’s Commissariat for Internal Affairs
NL     Nachlass
NLAH   Niedersächsisches Landesarchiv Hanover
NSDAP  National Socialist German Workers’ Party
OMGUS  Office of Military Government, United States
POW    prisoner of war
PSC    Public Safety Committee
RSHA   Reichssicherheitshauptamt
SA     Sturmabteilung
SD     Sicherheitsdienst
SED    Socialist Unity Party of Germany
SHAEF  Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces
SMAD   Soviet Military Administration in Germany
SMERSH Special Methods of Spy Detection
SMT    Soviet Military Tribunal
SPD    Social Democratic Party of Germany
SS     Schutzstaffel
StAH   Staatsarchiv Hamburg
StAL   Staatsarchiv Ludwigsburg
TNA    The National Archives of the United Kingdom, London
ZAEKHN Zentralarchiv der Evangelischen Kirche in Hessen und Nassau, Darmstadt