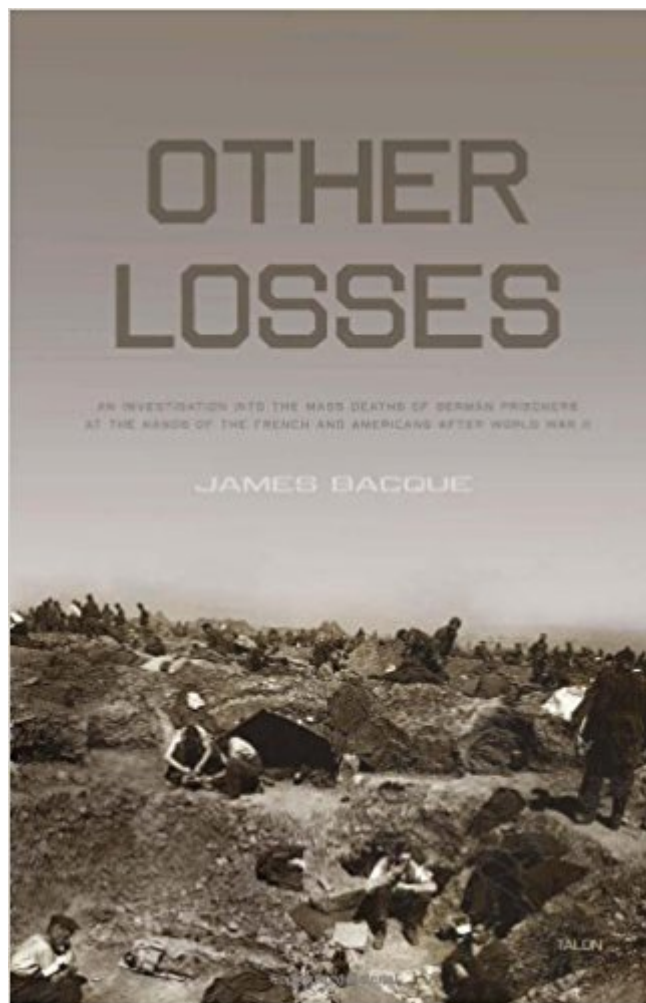


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Other Losses: An Investigation Into The Mass Deaths Of German Prisoners At The Hands Of The French And Americans After World War II



Synopsis

Other Losses caused an international scandal when first published in 1989 by revealing that Allied Supreme Commander Dwight Eisenhower's policies caused the death of some 1,000,000 German captives in American and French internment camps through disease, starvation and exposure from 1944 to 1949, as a direct result of the policies of the western Allies, who, with the Soviets, ruled as the Military Occupation Government over partitioned Germany from May 1945 until 1949. An attempted book-length disputation of Other Losses, was published in 1992, featuring essays by British, American and German revisionist historians (Eisenhower and the German POWs: Facts Against Falsehood, edited by Ambrose & Gantner). However, that same year Bacque flew to Moscow to examine the newly-opened KGB archives, where he found meticulously and exhaustively documented new proof that almost one million German POWs had indeed died in those Western camps. One of the historians who supports Bacque's work is Colonel Ernest F. Fisher, 101st Airborne Division, who in 1945 took part in investigations into allegations of misconduct by U.S. troops in Germany and later became a senior historian with the United States Army. In the foreword to the book he states: "Starting in April 1945, the United States Army and the French Army casually annihilated about one million [German] men, most of them in American camps; Eisenhower's hatred, passed through the lens of a compliant military bureaucracy, produced the horror of death camps unequalled by anything in American military history; How did this enormous war crime come to light? The first clues were uncovered in 1986 by the author James Bacque and his assistant." This updated third edition of Other Losses exists not to accuse, but to remind us that no country can claim an inherent innocence of or exemption from the cruelties of war.

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Customer Reviews

I was not surprised to find that the reviews for this book are polarized to extremes. The dark secrets of Allied war crimes are slowly being unraveled. The crimes against humanity committed during WWII by the Allies are very unsettling as is the stain of slavery on the western world - but however uncomfortable it may be, this sordid piece of history needs to be brought to light. The fire bombing of Dresden, the fire bombing of Japanese women and children, the American Japanese concentration camps, as well as the American Germans and American Italians that were placed in concentration camps like Crystal City (1 out of the 23 continental US camps), the atom bomb which very well may have been dropped weeks after the Japanese had been putting out feelers for surrender, the diplomatic blunders of the Allies that cost the lives of millions (Churchill, Hitler, and the Unnecessary War by Patrick J. Buchanan), Henry Morgenthau's scorched earth policy, the plundering and looting of Germany by enlisted men and officers alike, and Eisenhower's cold blooded murdering of POWs are just the examples that come to mind. The scales of justice are not even and the playing field is not yet level. War crimes are for losers, not winners. Human nature is the same for the victory and vanquished alike. The "winners" are not exempt from the mammalian instinct whereby men and children are killed, women are raped, and goods are plundered - nor are Americans somehow unaffiliated by the savage barbarity that emerges in man at various and predictable intervals - such as war. If you want to find truth in history, you'll have to dig, because the "winners" write it. Except for the Peloponnesian Wars, I don't know of any case in history that deviates from this norm.

In the waning days of World War II in Europe millions of Wehrmacht soldiers were fleeing westward in order to surrender to the Americans and British whom they assumed would give them better treatment than the vindictive Russians closing in from the east. Little did they know that they were walking into a trap that would seal the fate of many of them. In this excellently documented and reasoned book Canadian historian James Bacque takes a look at those fateful days and the inevitable tragedy that resulted in the needless deaths of upwards of one million German prisoners. He takes us behind the scenes to the planning and policy making occurring in the American high command and demonstrates convincingly that what happened was no fluke, but rather deliberate mass murder. If Bacque is right, and I believe he is, then this is the single greatest war crime

committed by American soldiers in American history. And they almost got away with it too. For more than forty years this war crime sat hidden in U.S. Army records obscured by bureaucratic euphemisms such as Other Losses which forms the title of this book. Even today the Pentagon is still covering up the facts by claiming that Other Losses means transfers of prisoners to other commands. And some of the world's most renowned World War II historians such as Stephen Ambrose have participated in this cover-up. Bacque takes us into the prison camps themselves using eyewitness testimony by some of the German prisoners who survived their ordeal and also eyewitness testimony by their American camp guards. Germans were herded by the thousands into open pens surrounded by barbed wire and prison towers. Only a few tents were provided. Most prisoners sat on the ground which turned to mud when the rains of spring came to Germany.

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