

## German Americans during World War II

This article has 12 questions to either refresh your memory or update you on the silent American History of German Americans.

1. Did you know that 300,000 permanent resident German Americans were declared as "Enemy Aliens," with the stroke of a pen, during World War II?
2. Did you know that the "Enemy Aliens" were fingerprinted and had mug shots taken like criminals; they were prohibited from flying; they were prohibited from leaving their neighborhood; and they were prohibited from having cameras, rifles, shotguns, and small arms in their possession?
3. Did you know that some 30,000 (this is a floor, not a ceiling) German Americans were arrested and interned by the FBI and Department of Justice?
4. Did you know that those arrested were denied defense attorneys and that their Constitutional Rights were violated?
5. Did you know that thousands of German Americans were deported, repatriated, expatriated and exchanged with our then enemy Germany---this took place while Germany was under siege by the Armed Forces of the United States?
6. Did you know that hundreds, perhaps even a thousand or more, of German Americans, naturalized citizens, were denaturalized by the courts?
7. Did you know that U.S.-born children and infants were sent into harm's way when they were expatriated and exchanged with our enemy, Germany, for POWs, diplomats, and persons caught behind enemy lines?
8. Did you know that one or more of the foregoing actions destroyed German American families?
9. Did you know that many were incarcerated for more than three years after the war had ended?
10. Did you know that the Government of the United States has not enacted, not one Public Law for the German American victims of internment?
11. Did you know that many German American and Japanese American victims were incarcerated in the same internment camps?
12. Did you know that the Government of the United States enacted 11 Public Laws for the Japanese American victims---why was this, because the Japanese Americans received support from the Japanese American civic organizations, similar to the German American Heritage Foundation? For example, Japanese Cultural Centers across the land, including in Hawaii, and the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL).

In spite of the fact that German-Americans have helped build the United States of America, and in wars have given their lives for this great country, they have suffered anti-German discrimination during both world wars---and this continues to this day.

My question to the reader, when will you step up to the plate and speak out for equal treatment of German American former internees and to seek justice for the German American victims of World War II internment and the unconstitutional acts they endured?

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A US-born internee at 12