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Guide to  
the Microfilm Edition of

THE  
AMERICAN OCCUPATION  
IN GERMANY, 1918-23

A Microfilm Publication by

**SR** *Scholarly Resources Inc.*  
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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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## INTRODUCTION

Serious students of either American military government operations or modern German history now have a valuable resource to assist their research: Scholarly Resources' microfilmed account of American military government in occupied Germany during the years immediately following World War I.

By reproducing two sets of source materials prepared by the American forces in Germany, SR has made available material encompassing the American civil affairs experience in the Rhineland from 1 December 1918 through January 1923, when, having signed a separate peace with Germany some months earlier, the United States withdrew the last of its occupation forces.

The first set, **AMERICAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF OCCUPIED GERMANY, 1918-1920: REPORT OF THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CIVIL AFFAIRS, THIRD ARMY AND AMERICAN FORCES IN GERMANY**, consists of four volumes (1,567 pages) and covers events from the arrival of American occupation forces in Coblenz until the emergence of the Inter-Allied Rhineland High Commission in January 1920. Volume I is a narrative composed of eighteen topical chapters. The account places the American experience in both an historical and geographic context rather than considering it as some abstract military government experiment. Since the scope of this report is restricted to the Rhineland, some of the observations, e.g., "The manure pile is one of the German peasant's most prized possession(s). . ." (p. 190), are necessarily parochial. Far more of the material, however, underscores the universality of the issues (fraternization, disease control, resources management, etc.) the Americans had to address. There are no photographs or maps, and surprisingly few charts or other illustrations.

Volumes II through IV of this same set are appendixes to the first book and consist primarily of various aggregations of documents, as well as some short essays on various topics. Volume II consists of two sections: (1) documents and narrative on the German and Prussian governments, and (2) examples of

military government documents from the experiences of other nations, i.e., Great Britain, France, Belgium, and even Germany. Volume III is devoid of essays, but contains a wide representation of documents outlining American policies in occupied territories. Volume IV contains a few more examples of American orders and letters of instruction, but primarily serves as a catchall for miscellaneous lists (such as the biographies of German officials in American-occupied territory) and documents, ending with thirty-nine pages of vital statistics in tabular form.

This first set of documents was prepared under the supervision of Col. Irvin L. Hunt, America's chief civil affairs officer in the Rhineland, who during the interwar years became a voice crying in the wilderness for greater military acceptance of and preparation for civil affairs duties, lest the Army find itself unprepared for its next military government assignment.

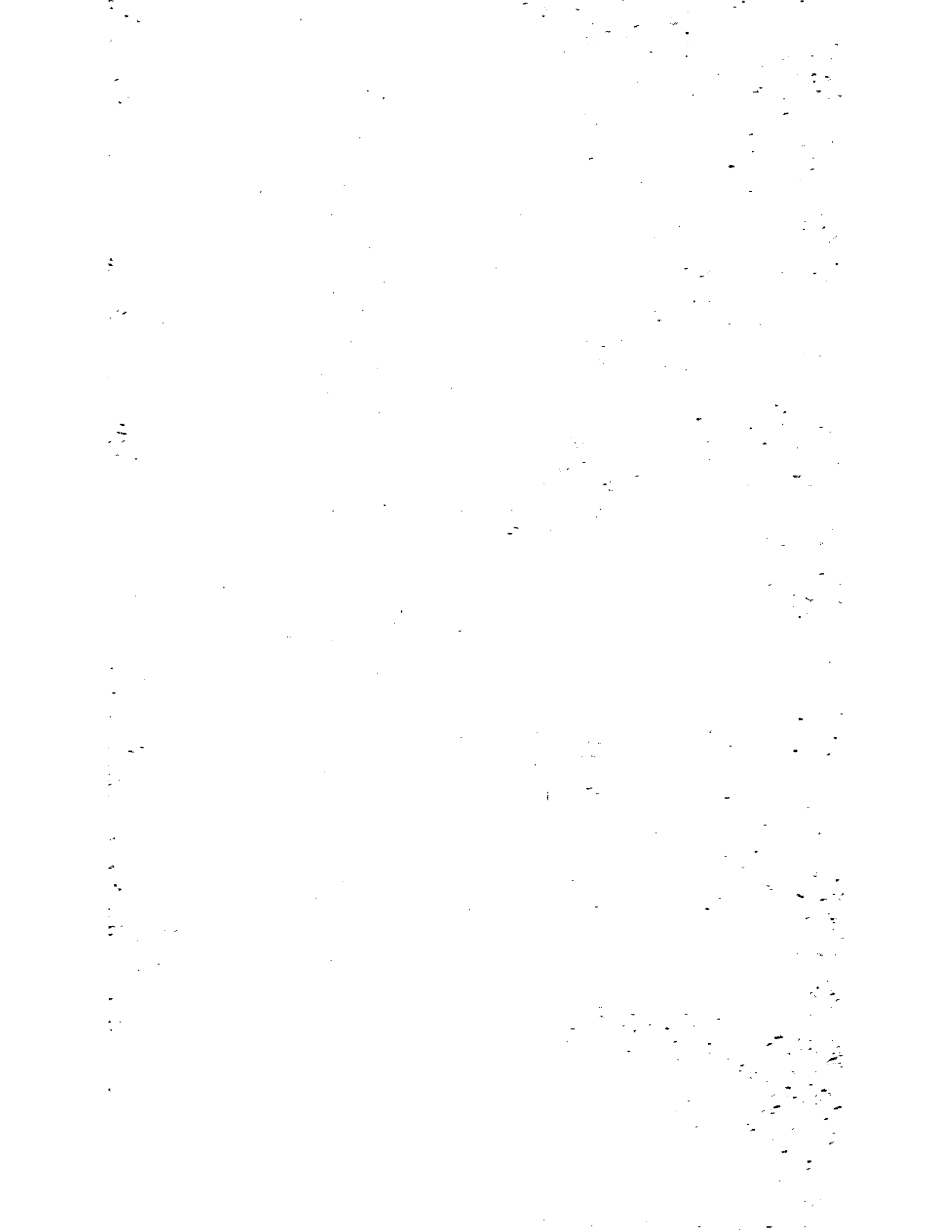
The second set of source materials reproduced here consists of three volumes compiled by the assistant chief of staff for intelligence (G-2), American Forces in Germany: AMERICAN REPRESENTATION IN OCCUPIED GERMANY, 1920-1921, Volumes I and II, and the single-volume AMERICAN REPRESENTATION IN OCCUPIED GERMANY, 1922-1923. All three books (1,113 pages) are meant to be companion volumes to the first set, although the format is somewhat different. Again, there are no photographs or maps.

Volume I is divided into two parts: (1) a narrative of the main events of 1920-1921 in Germany, including the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles, the Kapp Putsch, and the imposition of sanctions; and (2) a discussion of the organization, powers, and activities of the Inter-Allied Rhineland High Commission. There are eleven short appendixes to this section, treating various activities of the commission in more detail. Volume II continues the narrative through twenty-six more chapters, a few as limited in focus as "Disposition of Enemy Ammunition" (Chp. 12), but most being more broadly instructive, such as "Food Supply of the Civil Population" (Chp. 7), and "Interallied Commissions" (Chp. 14). The third and final volume in the series covers the same type of civil affairs concerns for the period January 1922-February 1923. Like the 1918-1920 set—and unlike many government reports—the AMERICAN REPRESENTATION IN OCCUPIED GERMANY is written and organized in a way that facilitates rather than impedes research. The tables of contents are especially good,

growing more detailed with each successive volume.

By making the above source materials available on microfilm, Scholarly Resources continues its welcome practice of encouraging the study of American military government operations in their historical context.

Arnold G. Fisch, Jr.  
Military Historian



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