

Concentration Camp Buchenwald

Aktion Albrecht I: Czech Hostages

At the outbreak of war on September 1, 1939, the Gestapo arrested about 2,000 prominent Czech intellectuals and sent them to Buchenwald as hostages. Their treatment was significantly milder than what ordinary prisoners experienced. Special privileges included exemption from labor, and permission to send and receive mail every week. Most mail from this group bears no evidence of censorship.

Above: An October 27, 1942, postal card mailed by a Czech hostage at Buchenwald to his mother in Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate. Below: A June 12, 1942, clipped portion of an international money order from Czechoslovakia to a Czech prisoner at Buchenwald; June 15 arrival datestamp and purple cachet of the Buchenwald prisoners' money management administration office on the back.

