

Overview of the form types used in the context of the foreigner tracing campaign in Bavaria and Hesse

In 1945/1946, German authorities, companies, hospitals, social insurance funds, and other bodies in all four occupation zones began to draw up lists for the foreigner tracing campaign on the orders of the Allies. These lists contained information on persons who did not hold German citizenship and who had been living within the geographical area these bodies were responsible for from 1939 onwards, had died there, or were still living there. The information gathered about the foreigners registered there – who included civilian forced laborers, foreign concentration camp prisoners, and prisoners of war, for example – and about the expropriations of German Jews was used for various purposes, one of which was to help clarify their fates.

In Hesse and Bavaria, a large number of the lists that were drawn up in the context of the foreigner tracing campaign used preprinted forms – so-called form types. In Bavaria, these form types were numbered from 1 to 11; in Hesse, they were marked with letters A to K. Each of the numbers and letters stand for a specific type of information. Lists marked with the number 4 (Bavaria) or the letter D (Hesse), for example, contain information on foreigners' gravesites, while lists marked 5 or E1 list marriages of non-Germans.

As the numbers and letters convey important information about the fate of the persons named on the lists, the following overview specifies the various form types:

Information on the tracing offices card / form type		Document category / content
Bavaria	Hesse	
1	A	Prisoners of war and labor details
2	B	Foreigners present in the area during the registration process
3	C	Foreigners who died during the war
4	D	Gravesites of foreigners
5	E1	Marriages of foreigners
6	E2	Non-German births
7	F	Foreigners present in the area – permanently or temporarily – during the war
8	G	Inventories of personal property of foreigners and especially of German Jews
9	H	Records from medical institutions and health authorities about foreigners

10	J	Records from courts and authorities about foreigners and German Jews
11	K	Lists of foreigners, compiled from files of social insurance funds and employment offices

Some of the lists came to the International Tracing Service, the predecessor to the Arolsen Archives, in the early 1950s and can be viewed in collection 2.1.1 of the Arolsen Archives online archive <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/archive/2-1-1/?p=1>.