Acknowledgements

It all started with a chat over a mug of Redbush tea in a small village of Bubenreuth, where I spent an evening with a cousin of mine discussing our joint research interests in the ethics of oral history, psychosocial and medical research. Thanks, Kerstin! One word led to another and before I knew it, I was beginning to explore issues relating to children fathered by foreign soldiers in recent armed conflicts. This book is the result of the five years of research that followed. Work took me quite literally across the world, to Europe, North America, South East Asia, Africa and Australia; and just as my travel schedule has been extensive, so are my scholarly debts accumulated in the process.

Between 2011 and 2014, an AHRC network grant¹ allowed me to link up with a group of colleagues in order to develop a research strategy. I am grateful to the funders for making this possible; and I am even more indebted to colleagues across many disciplines who contributed to these early conversations and whose insights have pushed a niche subject² onto an international research platform in a way that few of us would have believed possible in the early years. My thanks go to the core research group with Susan Bartels, Heide Glaesmer, Jocelyn Kelly, Philipp Kuwert, Ingvill C. Mochmann, Barbara Stelzl-Marx and to many others who participated in one or more of the workshops. The grant also facilitated the development of the participatory aspects of research with children born of war; beyond the direct contributions to the network through workshop participation, numerous children born of war, in particular those conceived during the Second World War and the post-war occupations, have continued to engage in fruitful discussions throughout. My thanks go to Ute Baur-Timmerbrink, Winfried Behlau, Birgit Michler, Jacqui Maurice and many others who prefer to remain anonymous but who also have never tired of discussing their experiences with us. I am also grateful to Knut Weise for allowing me to reproduce his two paintings *Schattenkinder* and *Distelblüte*, and to Ingvill C. Mochman and Heide Glaesmer for permission to reproduce previously published diagrams that illustrate their methodological contributions to the subject.

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A conference supported by the Volkswagen-Stiftung,⁴ and jointly organised by Heide Glaesmer, Philipp Kuwert and myself, provided us with the welcome opportunity to discuss the emerging research landscape with experienced colleagues, early-stage researchers and with some of the children fathered by Allied soldiers during the Second World War and the post-war occupations. The meeting occurred at a pivotal point in the writing up, and discussions of this fruitful meeting are revisited in some of the book chapters.

Fieldwork carried out by Eunice Apio and Elizabeth Bramley, which fed directly into one of the case studies, was funded by a Marie Curie Fellowship⁵ and a University of Birmingham Undergraduate Research Fellowship respectively. I am indebted to Eunice and Elizabeth, and also to Allen Kiconco, for generously sharing their field notes and research results. They provided invaluable sources for the analysis of Chapter 6.

The University of Birmingham prides itself on its research-led teaching. This book is testimony to the mutually beneficial aspects of such an approach to teaching and learning in Higher Education. While I *hope* that students have benefited from my knowledge, I *know* that I have profited from several year groups of undergraduates and postgraduates who – in more or less heated discussions and conversations – have encouraged me to think and rethink my reasoning and evidence base in the source and data analysis relating to children born of war. More recently, through the generous funding from the European Union, a group of fifteen Ph.D. students⁶ have joined the growing research community around children born of war, and they are pushing the boundaries of this research field. Intensive conversations with these young researchers, as well as the many supervisors and partners in the project, have added interesting new perspectives, and I am particularly grateful to Janine Clarke, Marie Kaiser, Bob McKelvey, Maren Roeger, Benedetta Rossi, Jennifer Scott and Elisa van Ee for their probing questioning. Some of them and unnamed others have read parts of the manuscript, and I am extremely grateful for their constructive comments. Librarians and archivists are among the lifelines of historical research. This project is no different, and staff in numerous archives and libraries in the UK, Germany, France, the Netherlands, the US and Canada have helped me exploit the considerable riches of the written material – published and unpublished.

Beyond all, however, it was the tolerance of my family, Han, Katharina

and Sebastian, which made this book possible. They had to wave goodbye at airports time after time, as I ventured into new research territories (literally and figuratively), disappeared for conferences and workshops, and came up with ideas of how to add yet another new aspect to the project they had hoped would have been concluded years ago. Thank you so much for the patience and good humour with which you accepted your temporary abandonment. This book will allow you to judge for yourselves whether I have spent that time wisely.

Notes

- 1 AHRC: AHJ001554//1.
- 2 Developing among others from the work of the War and Children Identity Project in 2006 in Bergen, Norway, a first research network, the International Network for Interdisciplinary Research on Children Born of War (INIRC), had been engaged in some early work in this field.
- 3 British Academy: SG110078.
- 4 Volkswagenstiftung: AZ_89419.
- 5 FP7-PEOPLE-2011-IIF-911934.
- 6 H2020-MC-CAITN-2014-642571.

At the time of going to press, the author is aware of some controversy surrounding the article mentioned on p. 184, note 124. No specific conclusion has been reached, and the author would advise the reader to seek further information before drawing upon this source.