

**More than 10.5 million.....**



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**INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE**

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**SERVICE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHES**

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**INTERNATIONALER SUCHDIENST**

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ITS

Internationaler Suchdienst


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**60 Years of History and Benefit of the Personal Documentary  
Material about the Former Civilian Persecutees of the Na-  
tional Socialist Regime Preserved in Bad Arolsen**

Charles-Claude Biedermann



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As at 17<sup>th</sup> March 2003, the International Tracing Service, during its six decades of activity exclusively in the interest of the former persecutees of the Second World War, has so far issued a total of

..... 10.611.163 replies.

**60 Years of History and Benefit of the Personal Documentary Material about the Former Civilian Persecutees of the National Socialist Regime Preserved in Bad Arolsen**

**LONDON**  
1943

**BAD AROLSEN**  
2003

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## Preface

The endeavours on the occasion of the international Red Cross Conference in Tokyo in 1934 to embody a protection for the civilian population in case of a conflict in a law were unsuccessful. Only in 1949, with the adoption of the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention, and when its supplementary protocols came into force in 1977, this goal was achieved. The absence of respective rules during the Second World War required the establishment of a special service for the registration of the numerous civilians affected by the events.

The second chapter of this account is concerned with the history of the Tracing Service that has had its home in Bad Arolsen already for many decades. By way of introduction, the foundation of a special "registration office" at the British Red Cross in London in 1943 – that is exactly 60 years ago – is described, which was supposed to be exclusively devoted to the civilian persecutees of the Second World War that was still at the height of action.

Whoever had dared at the time to predict a development towards an operative tracing service with temporarily far more than 1,000 staff members and, above all, a full performance still at the beginning of the next millennium, would surely have met with a lack of understanding. In spite of all regularly recurring prophecies of a forthcoming end of the activities, still more than 400 employees – that is an institution in the dimensions of a medium-size company – are on duty for the concerns of the already mentioned group of persons untiringly every day in the anniversary year 2003. This Service, exclusively created at the time for the victims of the National Socialist persecution, would like to continue its work at least as long as there is still a need on the part of the entitled inquirers.

In the last decades, the surroundings of and the expectations towards the International Tracing Service (ITS) have changed to a great extent. An adjustment to the situation became inevitable. More

and more former persecutees are dependent on a fast reply due to their meanwhile rather advanced average age. The solution to this problem at the "classic" ITS of the early years would have been an augmentation of the personnel, connected with an extension of the infrastructure required for that. In the middle of the 1990s, totally new prospects opened up fortunately. The International Commission for the International Tracing Service (IC/ITS) decided on the conversion from previously pure paper archives into a completely electronic operation even before the enormous increase in the figures of incoming mail. Within the scope of the necessary adaptation, or as a logical consequence thereof, practically all steps of work at the Tracing Service are therefore changing little by little.

The following chapters describe the fulfilment of the various mandates of the Tracing Service in the course of time. The pleasant result beforehand: in the year 2002, the ITS dispatched far more than ½ a million replies to the inquirers. Surely the best proof of the correctness of the decision not only to perform single tasks by means of information technology, but to implement an "integral workflow", which presupposes the readiness for a conversion of nearly all steps of work. Even though this comprehensive task has not yet been completed entirely, already now a way back would not be conceivable any more. The following account is based on an article of the undersigned, brought up to date and extended, which was published in the "Archivalische Zeitschrift" (archival journal; issued by the executive board of the State Archives of Bavaria) in spring 2002.

Ch.-Cl. Biedermann

Bad Arolsen, in spring 2003

## Introduction

With Hitler's seizure of power on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1933, the "world" was to undergo fundamental changes not only for the winners of the election, but also for the opponents of the National Socialists, very soon. While some people had the impression that a time of "unlimited opportunities" had begun, others soon had to fear for many things – even for their own lives. The Enabling Act (Law for the Remedy of the Hardship of People and State), which had already come into force on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1933, made it possible for the members of the NSDAP already incredibly early to create, by means of inactivating the Reichstag, i.e. the parliament of the German Reich, an essential prerequisite to guarantee the assumption of absolute power in the state<sup>1</sup>.

With the authorization of the Reich's Government to pass laws without debate and adoption by the parliament, an essential basis of democracy – the separation of legislative and executive power in the state – had been abandoned<sup>2</sup>. The result of the lacking separation of legislative and executive power was that, even less than half a year later, two laws, among others, came into force: the "law against the new formation of political parties" and that "for the prevention of offspring with hereditary diseases" (both on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1933), which soon resulted in a division – only of the German population for the time being – into persecutors and persecutees.

These laws only, together with further ordinances as, for instance, the "Reichstag fire ordinance", were the necessary basis for the creation of the National Socialist dictatorship in Germany that was to last for 12 years<sup>3</sup>. If, besides this, the ideological intentions, which had been clearly formulated already much earlier, are taken into consideration, the tragedy unmistakably began to emerge, at least to some extent, as of 1933 at the latest. From today's point of view, it is

nonetheless hardly comprehensible that, within the shortest time after the assumption of power, the firm conviction was prevailing, according to which the nationalistic state had to endeavour everything "to declare incapable of procreation anything that is obviously diseased in any way and subject to a hereditary taint and therefore a burden otherwise and to also put this into practice"<sup>4</sup>, and that a law concerning offspring with hereditary diseases came into force.

Even though, still in the middle of the 1930s, a majority of the people were not to believe or did not want to believe in the evil, nonetheless the rumour about the opening of new camps, where the National Socialists locked up unsuitable citizens, somehow came to the attention of many of them. These camps included places of detention like Camp Börgermoor – which was already described as early as 1935<sup>5</sup> – or the pre-war concentration camps, often no longer known today, e.g. Oranienburg, Sachsenburg and Lichtenburg, up to the early and large concentration camps like Dachau and Buchenwald, which were gaining increasing importance still during the war.

To the same extent as the effects of the new laws became more noticeable, and more and more persons concerned lost their rights, the number of those who found themselves deprived of their liberty rose constantly. Apart from some fluctuations – as the great wave of arrests immediately after the "Reichskristallnacht" on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> November 1938 and the releases in the weeks and months afterwards –, this became more and more evident during the entire time of persecution with an upward tendency. By the end of the despotic rule, people from the most various countries were to be affected by that. From the very beginning, the rulers had endeavoured to exactly record the facts in writing. This even still at a time when, partly, no paper at all or only paper of very poor quality was available. Due to the effects of the war or at the end of the war, many of these valuable records were destroyed by order of the rulers at the time. However,

thanks to the will to meticulously record, if possible, all stages of the persecution, the ITS has nonetheless a considerable part of this documentation at its disposal today. The following account is an attempt to describe the benefit of these records for the former persecutees over all the years. The problems of the physical preservation of the documents as well as efforts for a better accessibility of the "masses of paper" are to be pointed out as well.

## History of the International Tracing Service

The ITS in Bad Arolsen was established in order to help the former civilian persecutees of the Second World War in asserting their rights. From the very beginning, and still today, this humanitarian mandate has been in the foreground of all endeavours. Even though the name “Tracing Service”, as regards the work, is completely outdated – presently the proportion of tracing cases amounts to ca. 1 % of the processed cases –, the institution in Arolsen remains to be predominantly an operative service in the interest of the persons concerned. How, and why already this early, did the establishment of such an institution come about?

A large part of the European population was scattered to many parts of the world due to the turmoil of war, and a chaos that had to be coped with became apparent for the forthcoming end of World War II. In 1943, the foreign relations department at the British Red Cross in London was changed into a tracing bureau. The Central Tracing Agency (ACT) of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, that had already an index of names at its disposal from the most different previous conflicts and was therefore able to contribute its experiences, played a decisive part in the foundation of this tracing bureau.

The Allied Military Authorities had to register thousands upon thousands of displaced civilians in the liberated territories, in France, for example, as early as in 1944. The SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces) in Versailles gave orders – after assuming the direction of the tracing bureau – to register all displaced persons (DPs) on so-called “DP-cards”.

In addition to the registrations carried out after the war, the responsible offices also endeavoured to obtain the lists of names of the persons imprisoned in concentration camps. The UNRRA (United

Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) that had been established by President Roosevelt in Washington in 1943 played a considerable part in this. It also placed the necessary personnel at disposal.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 1945, the UNRRA and SHAEF were moved from Versailles to Frankfurt am Main, where the SHAEF was dissolved in July 1945. Successor of the tracing bureau became the "Combined Displaced Persons Executive".

In September 1945, the Allied Control Council charged the UNRRA with the task to establish a "Central Tracing Bureau" (CTB) with the objectives to take up the search for missing military and civilian persons from those countries that belong to the United Nations and to start the collection and preservation of all documents referring to this group of persons as well as the reunion of families torn apart<sup>6</sup>.

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 1945, Sir Frederick E. Morgan, Lieutenant-General, Chief of Operations Germany, proposed to the UNRRA to transfer the Central Tracing Bureau from Frankfurt to Arolsen. Colonel J. R. Bowring was appointed director.

Why Arolsen of all places? Arolsen was not destroyed and had larger buildings as well as intact telegraph and telephone facilities at its disposal and was situated in the middle of the four occupation zones. The transfer itself took place between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> January 1946. From then on, the name of the tracing bureau was: UNRRA Central Tracing Bureau, Arolsen.

On the basis of the order to all German offices, issued by the Allies on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1945, the former had to compile, with several copies, lists of names of nationals of the countries represented in the United Nations who had their residence in Germany during World War II or at the time of the registration. These registration records

were to be handed over to regional collecting points, the Central Tracing Bureau in Arolsen was supposed to receive a copy.

The UNRRA that had chiefly been entrusted with the repatriation matters of the persons displaced during the war stopped its work in 1947.

The PCIRO (Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization) took over the institution in Arolsen in July 1947. Briefly afterwards, the PCIRO Headquarters in Geneva decided on the official name “International Tracing Service” (ITS / Service International de Recherches – SIR / Internationaler Suchdienst – ISD) that is still valid today. Until March 1951, the ITS was subordinate to the IRO (International Refugee Organization) which discontinued its work at that time, because it was predominantly responsible for the emigration of displaced persons who had not returned to their home countries for the most various reasons.

While it was directed by the IRO, far more than 1,000 employees worked for the ITS, in addition to personnel of the Allied Forces also former persecutees themselves and German citizens. After the dissolution of the IRO, the staff at the ITS diminished to a number of ca. 300.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 1951, the Allied High Commission for Germany (HICOG) took charge of the ITS and directed it until the Occupation Statute ended on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1955 and the HICOG was dissolved.

During its work in Arolsen, the ITS has changed its location several times. One of its seats were the former SS-barracks, which were completely intact after the end of the war and had enough room for the enormous masses of records and for the large number of employees.

During the time of the HICOG, a decision was taken about the construction of an own building for the ITS. On 20<sup>th</sup> August 1952, the ITS celebrated the topping-out ceremony in the presence of the

Minister for Expellees, Dr. Hans Lukaschek, and at the end of 1952, the employees took up their work in the new building on the Große Allee 5-9. Still today, this house is the main building besides five additional annexes in the immediate vicinity and one small branch office in Berlin.

In 1954, the Allied Western Powers prepared the revocation of the Occupation Statute within the scope of the so-called "Paris Agreements". This also entailed the necessity of finding a solution for the continued existence of the ITS that had not nearly finished its work yet.

The "Deutschlandvertrag" concluded on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1952 regulated the relations between the Federal Republic of Germany on the one hand and the three Western Occupying Powers on the other hand. With the termination of the Occupation Statute, it came into force on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1955.

On 14<sup>th</sup> December 1955, the announcement, dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 1955, regarding the agreement about the establishment of an IC/ITS that came into force on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1955 – like the "Deutschlandvertrag" – appeared in the Federal Law Gazette, issued by the Federal Minister of Justice. In addition to the agreement itself, the announcement also includes the arrangements concerning the relations between the International Commission for the International Tracing Service and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Likewise published therein is the exchange of Notes between Federal Chancellor Adenauer and the Ambassadors of the United States, of the French Republic and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in which Chancellor Adenauer states, among other things, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1955: "The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is prepared to accede to the agreement added in the enclosure, by which an International Commission is appointed, with the task to guarantee the cooperation between the governments in-

volved in questions regarding the ITS and to set up guidelines for the work of the ITS”<sup>7</sup>.

Federal Chancellor Adenauer wrote in a further exchange of Notes to the President of the ICRC, Dr. Paul Ruegger: “The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, of the French Republic, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the United States of America have, according to the exchange of Notes about the continuation of the work of the ITS and in the spirit of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, agreed to ask the ICRC to assume, at the time when the above-mentioned agreement on the settlement of matters arising out of war and occupation comes into force, the responsibility for the direction and administration of the ITS for the purpose of continuing the work presently done by the ITS,..... first of all for the duration of five years.” ICRC-President Ruegger answered: “The International Committee of the Red Cross is going to fulfil the task assigned to it true to its tradition and to the principles of impartiality and neutrality”<sup>8</sup>.

After a prolongation by another 5 years, the IC/ITS decided in 1973 that the activity of the International Tracing Service should continue for an unlimited period of time. For the employees, who had again and again been confronted with an impending closure of the International Tracing Service, this meant an enormous relief. Until 1955, the employees had been classified in different categories and had received different salaries for the same work. As of 1955, the collective agreement for the civilian employees of the Allied Armed Forces in the Federal Republic of Germany has been applied to the ITS-staff. Today, this collective agreement is still valid for ca. 30,000 employed persons in the Federal Republic of Germany. In the last years, the ITS-personnel has almost doubled. Since the middle of the 1980s, the number of incoming inquiries has increased to such an extent that an orderly processing of the requests was doomed to fail

without an augmentation of the staff. The Federal Ministry of the Interior has approved several limited measures beyond plan. Today, almost 450 employees are working for the ITS.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September 1990, the "Two+Four Agreement" about the final regulation in respect of Germany was signed in Moscow. This invalidates the agreement of 26<sup>th</sup> May 1952 about the relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the three Western Powers. By means of the suspension of the rights and responsibility of the four Powers in respect of Berlin and Germany as a whole, the sovereignty of Germany is established. In an exchange of Notes between the Foreign Office and the Ambassadors of the French Republic, of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of 27<sup>th</sup> September 1990, however, it is determined that, among other things, the provision of the Seventh Part Article 1 in the Transition Agreement continues to be effective: "The Federal Republic of Germany assumes the obligation to guarantee the continuation of the work that is presently being carried out by the International Tracing Service."<sup>9</sup>

Only very late, the ITS was assigned a legal status: Today, the ITS is an institution that has received its legal capacity by means of an act under international law of the signatory states (*sui generis*). The latter was transferred into German Law by the German Legislator in 1993 (Law about the Agreement of 15<sup>th</sup> July 1993 concerning the Legal Status of the International Tracing Service in Arolsen)<sup>10</sup>. A legal capacity that is thus valid in civil law at least.

The IC/ITS consists of 11 member states today. To date, it has assigned first priority to the humanitarian work of all activities at the ITS.

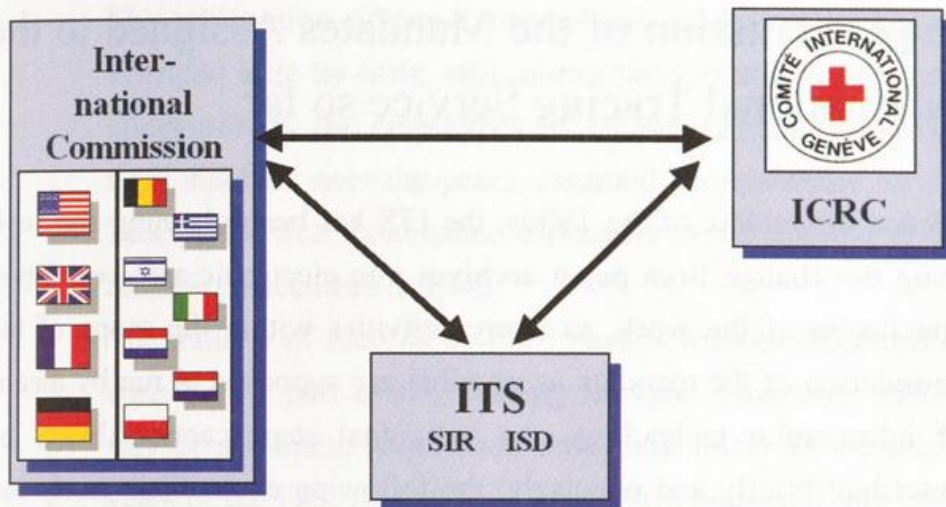


Illustration 1: Organs of the International Tracing Service

The direction and administration is still incumbent on the ICRC today, which has confirmed again and again that – as long as the humanitarian mandate has priority – it will perform its neutral and impartial function. In connection with the issuing of information to the persons concerned, the seal of the ICRC warrants the neutral quotation of the information from the documents preserved at the ITS. Without certification by a lawyer, the confirmations are acknowledged worldwide by the pension authorities, the numerous foundations, funds, associations and organizations.

## Implementation of the Mandates Assigned to the International Tracing Service so far

Since the middle of the 1990s, the ITS has been planning and realizing the change from paper archives into electronic archives. Upon conclusion of the work, as many activities within the scope of the completion of the mandate as possible are supposed to run by means of information technology. As individual steps cannot always be described briefly and concisely, the following expositions partly use representations in the form of illustrations.

### The Mandate of Assembling

The name "Assembling" refers to any receipt of personal records that document a proof about the persecution suffered, i.e. the life of hardship of a person concerned. The ITS also uses the term "Document Acquisition" for this. An expression that is not quite correct, since, from the very beginning, funds have never been available for purchasing such records. The more individual pieces of evidence the ITS has at its disposal, the more of the desired confirmations may be issued. The large amount of documents on hand today is a reflection of the success of the endeavours over decades. It is also a proof of the excellent cooperation with a large number of third offices that have decided to actively support the humanitarian work in Arolsen.

The presumably most convincing reason for letting the ITS have valuable material – in the original or as copies – gratuitously is probably the fact that the ITS issues its confirmations to the inquirers free of any charge as well.

The document acquisition may be subdivided, from the point of view of the ITS, into three completely different variants:

- The registration of non-German persons in the territories, liberated little by little, still during the war and in the years afterwards by the employees of all the different organizations that had, over the years, assumed responsibility for the Tracing Service, established especially in the interest of the civilian persecutees in 1943.
- The transfer of records by third parties without direct influence on the part of the Tracing Service. This very fruitful way of document acquisition only took effect in the initial years of the ITS. At that time, the Allies entrusted this institution brought into being by themselves with larger stocks, which had fallen into their hands in the form of booty. This either immediately after their takeover or only after an evaluation of their own, e.g. for the numerous court trials like those at the "Internationaler Militärgerichtshof" (International Military Court) in Nuremberg (IMG), the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trials, etc.
- The active collection of personal records since 1955, in accordance with the mandate set down in the Bonn Agreements. A task that had only been implemented to a limited extent in the first 25 years, because many offices – particularly in foreign countries – were not yet willing during those years, and partly are still not today, to admit an inspection of their stocks or even a duplication. One obstacle that had always been in the way of a takeover of larger amounts were the limited own financial means for this purpose. Although a purchase had never come into consideration, the restricted funds available for travel expenses impeded the implementation of the planned operations, particularly abroad, at that time and still obstruct them today. In the rarest cases, the ITS is granted the privilege of taking over

original documents still today. Mostly, the specialists from Bad Arolsen have to content themselves with sorting the records out on the spot and then taking them over as paper copy or on microfilm. As the confirmations and the Excerpts from Documents of the ITS with the seal of the ICRC are acknowledged worldwide without certification by a lawyer, an ITS-employee must have had the original in his hands at least once before the duplication and subsequent inventory-taking. Only few third offices are willing to give originals out of the house for the purpose of a duplication, which is why this task is chiefly fulfilled on the spot and therefore requires travelling.

Since the 1980s, only the third variant of the receipt of records has been topical. This, however, fortunately with a gradually increasing significance. The ITS is endeavouring to trace and take over as many pieces of evidence as possible at specialized archives, communities, penal institutions, firms, etc., since a successful conclusion of the processing in Arolsen directly depends on the efforts in the fulfilment of this mandate. The objective is not only to collect as many documents as possible, but above all to collect such documents that contain names, which have so far been completely lacking at the Tracing Service.

The actual work is performed as follows:

1. Writing to third offices that, within the scope of the case processing, have given a positive reply to an ITS-request regarding an individual inquiry, for which the respective evidence was not available in Bad Arolsen.

If the caseworkers cannot ascertain any traces in the ITS-documentation for an inquirer, they write, if the former employer or place of employment are mentioned, to this firm or its successor company and/or to the residents' registra-

tion office. If the answer is positive, it can be assumed that further valuable personal information is on hand there.

2. Systematic registration of materials in an exactly defined geographic area, above all in the Federal Republic of Germany, but also in Austria and partly in Poland and the Ukraine.

Here, the Document Acquisition Section set up particularly for this purpose writes, without a previous indication on the part of an inquirer, from Bad Arolsen to potential “owners” in an exactly defined area. The result are subsequent coordinated trips to several offices.

As far as the acquisition of records from public offices is concerned, the approval of the respective data protection commissioner is necessary in the run-up. If, for example, an office raised objections in spite of the written consent available at the beginning of the work – as it happened in Austria in 2000 – this could bring a current operation to a complete standstill. Fortunately, the doubts were clarified and resolved by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior quickly.

3. Specific acquisition at individual offices in foreign countries. A selective proceeding is usually possible where larger stocks of one single office are known and/or become accessible for the Tracing Service for the first time. With the political changes in Europe at the beginning of the 1990s, the ITS succeeded in gaining access to many documents that had been closed so far, but that are important for the provision of evidence for the persons concerned. One of the first successes, and meaning a turning point in this field, was the permission given in Moscow in late autumn 1989 – by the then still existing USSR – for a duplication of the 44 Auschwitz death books that had been preserved. Just as in

the case of this particular operation, the ITS is again and again asked, before taking up the work, to sign a contract that exactly regulates the utilization of the copies. This way, the offices handing over the documents make sure of the maintenance of the power of disposal for themselves over the stock to be acquired.

**Hitherto performed respectively planned document acquisition**  
(ca. 300 linear metres of new records per year)

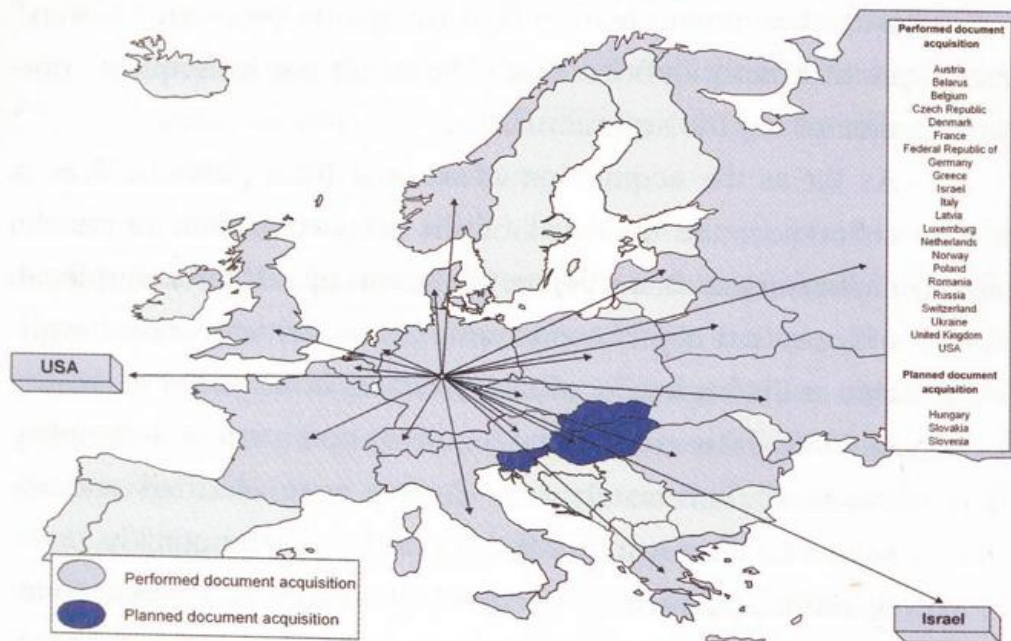


Illustration 2: Worldwide document acquisition

The Document Acquisition Section has three employees who plan the operations independently and completely. This undertaking requires a considerable degree of flexibility, because often, in spite of long months of preparation of the individual operations, doors again and again open suddenly to records, which represent a valuable supplementation to the available stock and thus require preferential action.

The teams driving out are recruited from the entire staff. Depending on the region and knowledge of languages, these are newly composed in each case. Throughout the year, trips take place from Arolsen and from the Berlin branch office to the old and new federal states, to Austria and Poland. Furthermore, trips by plane to archives, for example in Israel, Belarus, Russia, the Ukraine etc., have been necessary in the last years.

Until the middle of 2001, the employees had to rely on a duplication of the documents by means of transportable microfilm cameras. After a longer period of testing and in the course of the conversion of as many working steps as possible to an electronic procedure, it became feasible to take a completely new method – that had been developed according to a catalogue of requirements compiled by the ITS – into operation. This permits a fast injection of the gained information into the available ITS-database. The new digital registration system will be described in detail in the text about the future document acquisition.

## The Mandate of Classification

The stock of documents at the ITS amounts to approximately 25,000 linear metres of paper lined up vertically sheet to sheet and is stored in 17 different record units. This stock represents the basis of any kind of assistance on the part of the ITS. Confirmations and Excerpts from Documents about the persecution suffered as a whole or about a specific part of the persecution logically can only be issued if respective pieces of evidence, that is personal records, are available. Only these make it possible, more than half a century after the events, to unmistakably identify the individual and to supply unmistakable information about the former place of stay and/or the work on the territory of the Third Reich.

The available stock of documents is therefore a reliable image – though unfortunately only an incomplete one – of the complexity of the persecution. Just as diverse as the individual fates suffered were, just as different are the stocks of documents that have been preserved until today. Not only optically in respect of the format, but in particular as far as the significance and thus the value as evidence is concerned. Even within one and the same category, the preserved stock varies considerably.

The gaps, the most different sizes and the quality of the material itself are presently causing enormous problems regarding the electronic registration and the restoration, which will be subject of the account later on.

The employees of the first hour – often former persecutees themselves and therefore having a command of the many languages (especially Slavic ones) – had been endeavouring right from the beginning to bring all records into a special order (adapted from the original registrations). The alphabetically-phonetically extremely varying registrations of one and the same person in partly more than 20 dif-

ferent documents were to be and still are to be brought together. A special classification system for this task had to be developed, since it was not possible, particularly regarding list material (where many names are compiled on one sheet), to file all documents for one person together in one dossier.

The archival order chosen since then represents in some respects a reflection of the chronology of the events during and after the war. Exceptions are the relatively few records of the pre-war time. These are exclusively preserved in the so-called Concentration Camp Documents Section. Often, the individual document units do not permit any conclusions regarding the receipt of the records themselves, since, in respect of the original as well as of the present-day accessions, it is extremely seldom that a complete category of material has found its way to Bad Arolsen. Still today, there are new records again and again about registrations in the concentration camps, which emerge only now or become accessible at all.

The finally chosen three rough subdivisions are based on a common division into individual documents and list material. Such a partition had to be made, because otherwise the connection of the registrations for one and the same person would hardly be possible. This filing system, however, presupposes a central access.

### Central Index of Names

The key to the extensive and most various records of the ITS is the Central Index of Names. Since information is available here from a very large number of countries, the most different spellings of the names rendered it necessary to develop an own research system. Thanks to the originally elaborated and, in the course of the years, more and more refined alphabetical-phonetic order, it is possible to trace all available references to registrations in the records them-

selves relating to one person relatively fast. Presently, this Index holds more than ca. 47 million individual references for altogether more than 17 million former civilian persecutees. These key figures alone already speak for themselves, as far as the extent of the numerous documents stored in Bad Arolsen is concerned.

The origin of this Index is the registration of the displaced persons, after their liberation in the DP-camps, on so-called DP-3 cards. All subsequent registrations of the names in the actual documents or from the correspondence (card-indexing of inquiries) of more than half a century are united in one place here. The Central Index of Names thus consists of a certain part of original registration records as well as of reference cards written by the ITS itself, which have the same paper format.

For two years now, all checks of the requests in the Central Index of Names have been made exclusively by computer. The prerequisite for this paperless, efficient processing form was the desire to achieve an electronic research in the entire stock of information and documentation of the ITS. In 1998, this automation project consistently began with the scanning of front and reverse sides of the ca. 47 million index cards of the Central Index of Names. It took even less than two years to capture all index card images on hard disk. The entire index, which – distributed over several rooms – takes ca. 136 m<sup>2</sup> of space, may now be found in a steel cabinet, only half filled, of even less than 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space. The required individual software for the research in the digitized Central Index of Names was created by the firm “Zentrum für Neue Ingenieur- und Softwaretechnologien (ZNT)” in Burghausen. The difficult translation of the alphabetical-phonetic system into the program represented a particular challenge in this connection.

In view of this procedure, which, superficially seen, is little spectacular and which had already soon been integrated in the daily busi-

ness of the ITS, the difficulties and strains the employees of the ITS had to cope with, in order to reduce this "paper mountain" within less than two years, are easily forgotten. Owing to the permanent use of the equipment in shifts, among other things, scanner problems (jamming, dust, electronic failures) took turns with problems of the server (long backup times, failures of components) and general organizational difficulties.

In this connection, the decisive aim of making the scanned index card-images researchable, i.e. of providing them with an index capable of searching, consisting of family name, first name and date of birth of the "card-indexed" person, had been achieved in concept by the EDP and management consulting firm "Ossenberg & Schneider", Remagen, accompanying the overall project, already in the run-up. A completely automatic character recognition was inconceivable due to the differences of the cards in respect of size, layout and writing (in many cases even in handwriting). Likewise, a completely manual input of the index data had to be ruled out; the estimated expenditure of time of more than 200 years of work for one person was neither to be performed by the own personnel nor to be financed as a business service. By using an existing database as well as an "intelligent" automatic recognition and interpretation of the index cards drawn up with this database application, it was possible to generate a partial index working by means of supportive bases. Together with the strictly maintained sequence information, a specific and efficient search in the stock of the scanned index cards as well as of the meanwhile added new data records is rendered feasible.

The efforts have been worthwhile. The access to this stock, which is now available immediately at the workstations by computer, has not only become faster many times over, but certain steps of work – e.g. the alphabetization and insertion of new cards, more than 1 million per year after all – have even been cancelled without replace-

ment. Moreover, the possibility has arisen to react very flexibly to changing quantitative requirements. A considerable advantage, which has become very obvious particularly recently within the scope of the checks for the indemnification fund for forced labourers. While, in the conventional working method, strict limits were set to the parallel use of the Central Index of Names due to the spatial conditions, the number of employees assigned for checks may now be increased almost at will. Restrictions are, at the most, imposed by the capacity of the servers at disposal and of the internal network.

### Stock of Documents of the International Tracing Service

The records left to the ITS are filed according to the needs of the tracing service work – and not, as often assumed, according to certain criteria, e.g. camps, geographic names, categories of persecution, nationalities etc. –, namely in three groups:

- Concentration Camp Documents,
- Wartime Documents,
- Post-War Documents.

The original cards, which are contained in the Central Index of Names as registrations of the Allies, would actually also have to be filed here. These are automatically taken into consideration in the processing of every inquiry. As they cannot be administered and checked apart from the other indexes, an exclusion from the following separate subdivision of the original records is justified.

## Concentration Camp Documents

The name itself already roughly describes the actual stock. Concerned are exclusively the registrations of persecutees in the early camps of the pre-war time, the concentration camps during the events themselves, up to the late liberation of Camp Mauthausen on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1945 respectively of numerous outlying or sub-commandos in the days after (Commando Brünnlitz of Camp Gross-Rosen, according to the statement of a prisoner, even as late as on 09.05.45) as well as, to a very small extent, registrations made by the Allies immediately after the liberation of the same.

According to German jurisdiction, based on the Register of Places of Detention under the Reichsführer-SS<sup>11</sup>, 22 camps with more than 1,000 outlying and sub-commandos belong to this category. Although of less significance in respect of the quantity, the available collection of the Gestapo Indexes should also be mentioned for the sake of completeness. These registrations, which also unmistakably document an arrest or detention, are subdivided for their part into two own categories:

- Deportation records. These chiefly include the names of Jews from Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, former Czechoslovakia etc.
- Prison records. They concern the registration of predominantly non-German inmates in the prisons.

Unfortunately, owing to the turmoil of war, only a fragmentary collection is at disposal particularly regarding this material as well. Furthermore, this stock consists of preserved registrations in the ghettos and transit camps.

Even though the procedure was not uniform everywhere, certain forms of registration still repeat themselves within the mentioned

types of persecution, which had their own registration criteria outside the civilian registration system. These are, for example:

#### Individual documents

- Prisoners' personal cards and sheets
- Effect cards
- Infirmary cards
- Labour assignment cards
- Mail control cards
- Money administration cards
- Writing room cards
- Death certificates
- Prison index
- Military Government of Germany

#### Concentration Camp Inmates Questionnaires

#### List material

- Lists of arrival
- Reports on changes in the number of prisoners
- Transport lists
- Lists of examinations by the camp physician
- Premium lists
- Block transfers
- Prisoners' infirmary lists

The mentioned individual and list records are a random selection within various possible arrangements. For example, in addition to the infirmary cards, the lists about medical examinations of prisoners for different purposes, discharge orders, lists about pseudo-medical experiments like typhus experiments etc. could be enumerated in the field of medicine. In respect of the reports on changes in the number of prisoners, for instance, all registrations about deceased prisoners,

number books, lists about changes of names and prisoner's numbers, diverse registers of names, reports on escapes, and registrations about recaptured prisoners etc. would also have to be testified to. As a complete stock of documents is lacking for any of the camps, partly only a fragmentary collection is on hand, depending on the place of persecution. Extremely different and more detailed registrations also exist regarding the examples of the two other categories cited below. In the appendix, a selection of the concentration camp, wartime and post-war documents preserved at the ITS is presented. Also at this point, it should once again be clearly emphasized that all of the chosen records are available in the most different quantities. The examples given as well as the remaining stock do not claim to be complete, neither regarding individual places of persecution nor for the total stock of documents. If the ITS possessed all records drawn up at that time, the stock would be many times larger today.

The aforementioned records constitute a stock of more than 5 million individual documents in index form and more than 6,000 files with list material. As the term concentration camp only covers a certain type of this category, the expression places of detention would be more accurate.

Completely lacking are registrations of:

- deaths at the time of the arresting
- victims of the mass executions by the task forces
- victims of the selections in the Camps Auschwitz and Lublin-Majdanek
- persons committed to the Camps Belzec, Chelmno (Kulmhof), Maly Trostinec, Riga-Jungfernhof, Sobibor and Treblinka, and
- the numerous persons who perished during the evacuation marches, also called death marches.

Many deaths of civilians were never even registered as such during the Second World War at all, which is why they cannot leave any traces at the ITS.

### Digression about the close cooperation with the Special Registry Office

From all those people who claimed for compensation, the bureaucracy that had soon returned after the war demanded a proof. The prerequisite for the settlement of administrative steps by the relatives was the provision of confirmations at the ITS. For attestations of deaths in the concentration camps, the Special Registry Office had to be contacted as well. After these camps had been dissolved, the camps' own "registry offices" did not exist any longer. The registers of the same had for a large part been destroyed or were abroad beyond reach. Besides this, many deaths had only been documented insufficiently, which made this matter even more difficult.

The legislator, the Land Hessen, declared the Special Registry Office in Arolsen responsible "for the documentation of the deaths in the concentration camps...., as far as they are reported by the IRO"<sup>12</sup> by means of the "Zweite Hessische Verordnung" (second Hessian decree) of 1<sup>st</sup> September 1949. By the change of the "Personenstandsgesetz" (personal status law) in 1951, the validity of this regulation was extended to the entire territory of the Federal Republic<sup>13</sup>. As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1971, the Special Registry Office has been affiliated with the Registry Office in Bad Arolsen. It is thus subordinate to the municipal authorities of this town that also supervise its work ("Dienstaufsicht"). The government supervision ("Fachaufsicht") is incumbent on the "Landrat" (head of the administration) of the Rural District

Waldeck-Frankenberg as inferior and the "Regierungspräsident" (chief administrator of the region) in Kassel as superior supervisory authority. The Land Hessen continues to pay for the costs of the Special Registry Office.

§ 43a of the "Personenstandsgesetz (PStG)" defines as the task of the Special Registry Office the documentation of the deaths of prisoners of former German concentration camps<sup>14</sup>. This determines the field of work for the registrars of the Special Registry Office. The documentation of deaths in the ghettos does not belong to the field of work. The sphere of responsibility, however, also includes the concentration camps in foreign countries. Only such deaths in concentration camps are documented that had not been documented before and about which documents may in fact be obtained.

The work is done reciprocally, following the principle of the division of labour in

1. the document inspection office
2. the documentation of the deaths.

The document inspection office was created at the time as an innovation in the system of registry offices. It is entitled, in addition to the "deutsche Dienststelle für die Benachrichtigung der nächsten Angehörigen von Gefallenen der ehemaligen deutschen Wehrmacht (WASSt)" (German office for the notification of the next-of-kin of members of the former German Wehrmacht who were killed in action) and any person who witnessed the death or is informed about it from his/her own knowledge, to report deaths in the concentration camps. It provides the flexibility required due to the special nature of the concentration camp deaths, because not all records available

reveal the proof of death in a way that is sufficient for a documentation according to §§ 32 and 33 PStG and thus proceedings according to § 45 PStG become unnecessary.

In spite of an extensive documentation, the ITS holds the complete registration of all names only for two camps, namely for Dachau and Buchenwald. Of all other former places of persecution, the Tracing Service has collections at its disposal of extremely differing sizes, i.e. from mediocre or scanty up to no registrations at all.

In 2003, with the advanced introduction of the electronic processing at the ITS, a cooperation between the Special Registry Office and the Tracing Service in this field has also been started on, which will bring about a considerable facilitation. In respect of the inquiries concerned, in which the inquirer asks for a death certificate of a relative and the ITS has the exact information about the death at its disposal, the necessary data may be conveyed electronically. In this connection, it has not been clarified yet how the examination of the original documents will turn out to be made in future.

Which fatal consequences may occur, if general conclusions are drawn particularly on the basis of incompletely available information, is shown, among other things, by the controversy about the interpretation of the figures published by the Special Registry Office in its annual report about the death certificates issued. The passionate trials before the different Canadian courts at the end of the 1980s speak volumes for this. There, the public prosecutor's office found itself compelled to correct historically untenable conclusions. For most of the records preserved at the ITS reservations are therefore necessary in respect of any attempt of gathering absolutely secured statistical findings from the still available recorded material.

## Wartime Documents

Although the name for this category of records is correct, it is still also misleading. Considered chronologically, the concentration camp documents would also have to be counted as belonging to these. Those responsible at the ITS at that time chose this terminology exclusively for all registrations of persons who were recorded outside the already enumerated camps during the war. Chiefly concerned are therefore forced labourers who had to be registered according to the guidelines of the public registration system. In accordance with Order No. 163 of the occupation forces to all German offices, these had to register retrospectively all foreigners, who had resided on the territory of today's Federal Republic of Germany in the time from 1939-1945, in all four zones immediately after the war. The documents and records of the authorities, like personal status records and staff lists of former employers, contained an inconceivable "mass of data" for numerous nationalities. This impressive collection of documents as far as its quantity is concerned is subdivided as follows:

### Individual documents

- Personal status records  
(registry office documentation)
- Wartime index  
(e.g. individual records of the employers, sickness funds, registration offices etc.)

### List material about

- deceased foreigners
- graves of foreigners
- marriages of foreigners

- births of non-Germans
- inventory registers of all personal assets left by foreigners
- legal and official files about foreigners
- employment lists of former employers
- reports on times of insurance

The restriction, according to which registrations that were lost due to the effects of the war are lacking, applies here as well. Besides this, the ITS unfortunately did not always receive a duplicate of the collection that had presumably been compiled completely at the time, which is why confirmations for single communities or parts of the same on the basis of this documentation are impossible.

Nevertheless, the records taken over represent an impressive quantity:

- ca. 2 million lists
- 1.8 million individual documents and cards
- 300,000 registrations of the Berlin Index
- 20,000 cards of the "Organisation Todt".

### Post-War Documents

The registration of all persons, from then on to be designated as former civilian persecutees of the National Socialist Regime, was incumbent on the initially mentioned successor organizations of the SHAEF. In addition to these, many other institutions endeavoured to achieve an as complete registration of individual groups of persecutees as possible. Representative of all, the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) should be mentioned.

Thanks to the help granted in the repatriation respectively the assistance in the efforts for a successful emigration, the registrations available in Bad Arolsen cover the time up to the emigration by plane or embarkation on the transoceanic steamers (the so-called shipping lists).

The catalogue of post-war registrations is composed as follows:

#### Individual documents

- DP-2 Index
- CM-1 (care and maintenance) sheets

#### List material

- registration lists
- repatriation lists
- emigration lists.

The total number of these persons registered in the years 1945-1952 amounts to a little more than:

- 3.5 million cards of the DP-2 Index
- 350,000 CM-1 sheets and
- 1.7 million sheets of list material.

As a characteristic of classification, the subdivision according to places in alphabetical and within these in chronological order was chosen. An additional criterion of classification is the subdivision into DP-lists Europe and DP-lists overseas.

In summary, the collection of personal documents of the ITS is subdivided – depending on the type or category of persecution – as it is shown by the following illustration. One and the same former persecutee may well have belonged to several of these categories or have gone through various stages within one and the same category.

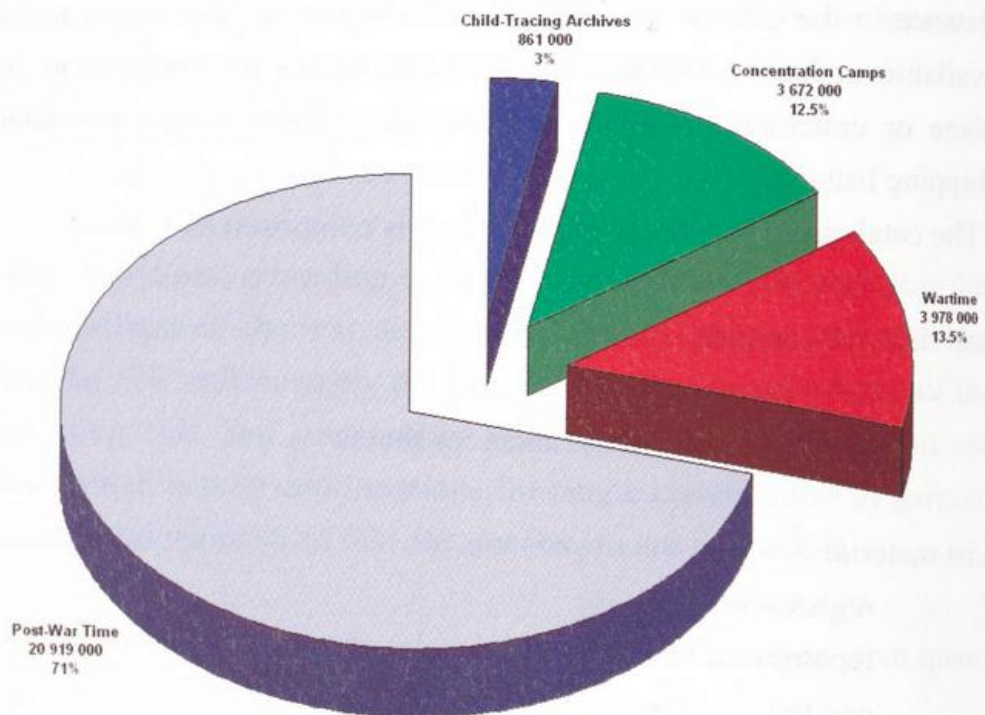


Illustration 3: The stock of personal data of the ITS

All pieces of information about the persecution available at the ITS are important for the provision of evidence by the persons concerned. Considered from this point of view, a valuation of the different categories is not possible. The large number of post-war records, however, are of special significance, because, in addition to the actual evidence, they also furnish the proof of having survived at the end of the war. This represents, above all, the basis of any promising and thus sensible investigations regarding the further fate, in the course of which an odyssey through several countries, or even continents, has often not been unusual.

## The Mandate of Preservation

The expression “preservation” used in the Bonn Agreements for the third mandate may be understood in two senses from an archive-technical point of view. The “mandators”, when they assigned this task, did – as is unmistakably documented by the concurrent translation into the French language – not only determine the securing of the information, but above all the physical preservation of the documents, which is tantamount to a preservation of the original stock.

The records stored in Arolsen, as far as the original documents are concerned, all come from the time between 1933 and 1945 as well as from the immediate post-war time. A large part of the same consists of “war paper” of particularly poor quality, which is ageing very fast. The autocatalytic process of paper disintegration ensues in an exponential way, which simulates an initial stability. This supposed security turns out to be deceptive after the intensive use as means of work already very soon, which is clearly proven by the damages that have occurred gradually. Since many documents are unique and since the progressing disintegration of the paper, which is usually containing mechanical wood pulp and has been produced acidly, would – even if not used – soon result in a total loss, the ITS decided in spring 2000 to have a damage analysis made.

Further factors, like “mechanical damages” owing to former attempts of stabilization by means of lamination and sealing of certain stocks, effects of writing substances like ink, indelible pencils, stamps etc., mechanical defects in consequence of metal contamination, cracks, tears as well as ruptures, accelerate and intensify this process. Even the storing conditions, which are not too bad, require certain adaptations in order to stop the decomposition. If a preservation of these unique and valuable records is not called into question,

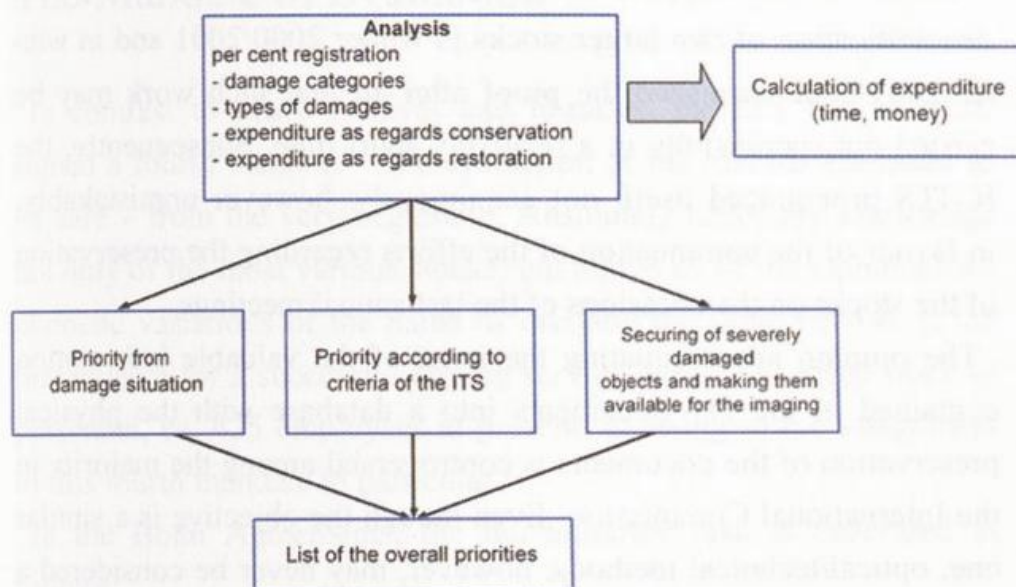
a responsible procedure demands the urgent initiation of conservation and restoration measures that cannot be postponed any longer.

The magnitude of the damages may be reflected best by means of figures:

- 1,504,000 records are threatened by a loss of material due to mechanical damages
- 1,200,200 documents were provided with adhesive tapes
- 1,063,000 cases of metal contamination
- 470,400 laminations
- 12,000 poorly legible papers

As the disintegration process is irreversible, i.e. a further decomposition of the material will result in increasing losses, the efforts necessary for a restoration are rising exponentially with the increasing age. This means that more and more funds will be required if the beginning of the work is delayed. Due to the considerable extent of the stock, a longer processing period is inevitable, even if the financing is guaranteed. The period of ca. 10 years to be considered as realistic requires the classification of the damages to be removed according to priorities. This is supposed to prevent that the most endangered records will already be in a condition that is no longer worth a restoration before the conclusion of the work.

Together with a firm in Leipzig, specialized in this field of work, the ITS has chosen the procedure presented in the following illustration for planning the absolutely necessary work to be done:



Parallel: - Registration of the storage situation (climate, light, way of preservation)  
 - Preparation of an emergency concept  
 - Development of protective coverings suitable for an archival preservation that should fit into the available shelves

#### Illustration 4: Damage analysis of the stocks preserved at the ITS

In spite of the beginning of the preliminary examination in 1999 and in spite of the available damage analysis respectively concept for a longer-term implementation of steps determined together, it has not been possible so far to systematically start on the work due to the lack of an appropriation of respective funds. In spring 2002, the International Commission dealt with this subject for the fourth time. Basically, the members agree that at least all personal original documents – in order to guarantee their preservation and if they are a proof of the persecution and thus a remembrance of the same – require a restoration.

Thanks to the support of the ICRC, the complete, i.e. global deacidification of two larger stocks in winter 2000/2001 and in winter 2001/2002 furnished the proof after all that such work may be carried out successfully in a relatively short time. Subsequently, the IC/ITS pronounced itself, not unanimously, however unmistakably, in favour of the continuation of the efforts regarding the preservation of the stocks on the occasions of the last annual meetings.

The opinion about equating the input of the valuable information contained in the ITS-documents into a database with the physical preservation of the documents is controversial among the majority in the International Commission. Even though the objective is a similar one, optical/technical methods, however, may never be considered a replacement for the endeavours of conserving these historical pieces of evidence from that time. Both activities even supplement each other, because, in consequence of the current work on the images, i.e. the duplicates, the refurbished documents will only be subjected to considerably reduced strains and, this way, the duration of life of the original documents will increase substantially.

In the prospects regarding the Mandate of Preservation, a detailed description of the efforts planned in this field for the near future will follow.

## The Mandate of Evaluation

In contrast to many archives and libraries, the ITS has been assigned a fourth mandate – the evaluation of the records entrusted to its care – from the very beginning. Absolutely necessary knowledge not only of the most various stocks, but above all of the alphabetical-phonetic variations of the name of one and the same person, is the prerequisite for a successful tracing service work. The large stock of personnel, ca. 425 employees at present, is owing to the assignment of this fourth mandate in particular.

In the Bonn Agreements, the humanitarian task is described as follows:

“... that an International Tracing Service was established in Arolsen, in order to search for missing persons and to assemble, classify and preserve the records about Germans and non-Germans who were imprisoned in National Socialist concentration or labour camps or about non-Germans who were displaced as a result of World War II and to make them available to governments and interested individuals”<sup>15</sup>.

This description of the activity of the Tracing Service at the same time defines unmistakably the group of persons the ITS is responsible for, namely: the German and non-German civilian persecutees, and this irrespective of the reason of persecution, i.e. the race, the religion, the ethnic origin, the creed or the political leanings.

In the course of the work exclusively in the service of the former persecutees of National Socialism, meanwhile going on for 60 years, the number of incoming inquiries has always been subject to greater fluctuations. In addition to the annually returning, seasonally different peaks in the number of incoming mail, considerable alternations have occurred regularly owing to the fact that new laws concerning indemnification, the opening of new funds etc., have come into force

again and again. Considered from an overall point of view, the amount of incoming requests has risen constantly since 1985. This contrary to any prognosis, since the average age of the persons concerned is permanently rising with the increasing distance to the events.

The correspondence arriving in Arolsen clearly reveals that many former persecutees just have the possibility now to assert their rights or that many have not even wished to do so earlier at all. After a long silence, some are finally only able today to concern themselves with the past. With the elapse of time, the issuing of replies, however, proves to be more and more difficult owing to imprecise accounts of the facts. The consequence of this is obvious. More and more comprehensive investigations are necessary, in order to ascertain evidential records and to achieve unmistakable identifications.

In spite of effective measures, like the hiring of new personnel – the staff has almost doubled in the last ten years – and a substantial amount of overtime work, the caseworkers had no chance any more to get the situation within the scope of the processing according to mandate – i.e. the as complete certification as possible of the entire persecution from the arrest via the deportation, the forced labour and/or stay in a camp, up to the liberation – under control. The increase of the processing periods as well as of the backlog of work was inevitable. In spite of the repeated applications for and gradual allocations of additional posts, it was simply no longer possible to cope with the flood of inquiries, which showed an up to tenfold increase in the figures of incoming mail in the monthly comparison in the 1990s.

For this reason, the International Commission agreed, on the occasion of the Annual Meeting 1994 in Jerusalem<sup>16</sup>, to the request of the ITS to give up the complete processing according to mandate in certain cases for the first time. In the procedure of the so-called

“short processing”, the inquirer just receives an abridged answer, which only deals with the concrete question. In contrast to the complete confirmation of all facts, if possible, the short procedure exclusively answers the question necessary for a specific kind of indemnification. An evaluation of all pieces of information, which are stored in the most different sections, is done without in this case.

Besides this, the close cooperation with other institutions brings about the guarantee to be able to give an answer within 6 months. Before the dispatch to Arolsen, they collect the inquiries and transfer them onto standardized bilingual questionnaires. The “picking out” of the essential information for the check as well as the translation of the letters are no longer necessary within this procedure either. As a last fundamental advantage, the transmission of the inquiries in batches into both directions may be mentioned.

In spite of some few disadvantages as, for example, the inevitable follow-up work in some cases (owing to necessary requests for additional information), the advantages, however, clearly prevail. Nonetheless, this considerably simpler procedure was not able to cope with the great flood of inquiries, which set in at the ITS after the announcement of the opening of a DM 10 billion fund in the world press.

The limitations of the past have unchanged validity, namely:

- the increase of the number of staff requires the commitment of an extraordinarily large number of employees, who have worked here for many years, to the training and
- further curtailments in the organizational procedure inevitably entail impairments in the quality of the replies.

A solution to the meanwhile dramatic race against time may only be achieved by means of the use of an integrated computer system.

Within the shortest possible time, it has been feasible to change the short processing into a so-called list procedure (which may also be applied in paper form). This new concept of a fast checking work and thus settlement is chiefly based on the electronic evaluation of the Central Index of Names-database. Since, however, new personal documents are permanently flowing into the checking procedure and since several inquiries for the same person may arrive in Arolsen, the actual status in the workflow – which is in a stage of extension – has to be taken into consideration with regard to the representation of the current procedure.

### Present Stage Workflow

The workflow solution at the ITS offers a support by information technology in all fields of the processing of inquiries: incoming requests are taken over into the computer system by scanning respectively disk import, are registered there and afterwards processed electronically, paperless to the maximum possible extent, under the control of the workflow software.

### Imaging of the Documents

Already soon after the successes of the imaging of the Central Index of Names had become visible, the planning of the imaging of the stock of documents was started. From the very beginning, it was clear that a considerably longer time horizon and a larger overall expenditure would have to be calculated for this measure. After all, an extremely heterogeneous stock of documents is concerned here, which varies as regards

- storage medium (paper, microfilm, microfiche),
- type of filing (index, file) and classification system,

- mechanical and optical quality and
- type of writing and legibility as well as the relevance of colour information.

In accordance with this, also different scanner systems, an adapted image editing as well as specific attributing methods have to be installed. As an important initial condition, however, it always has to be considered that the conventional filing system is also reflected in the electronic archives to be newly set up. On the one hand, it is vital – as before in the field of the Central Index of Names – to offer to the employees, for whom, in most cases, already the use of the PC is new and unfamiliar, the customary structures on the screen as well and to thus facilitate the conversion and the familiarization. On the other hand, however, the possibility has to be provided to allocate the references of the Central Index of Names, mostly indicated by using the partial stock, file number and page number, to the documents manually or through automatic processes, in order to be able to find information about the persons card-indexed in the Central Index of Names quickly. The fundamental correlations between these data stocks are outlined in the following illustration:

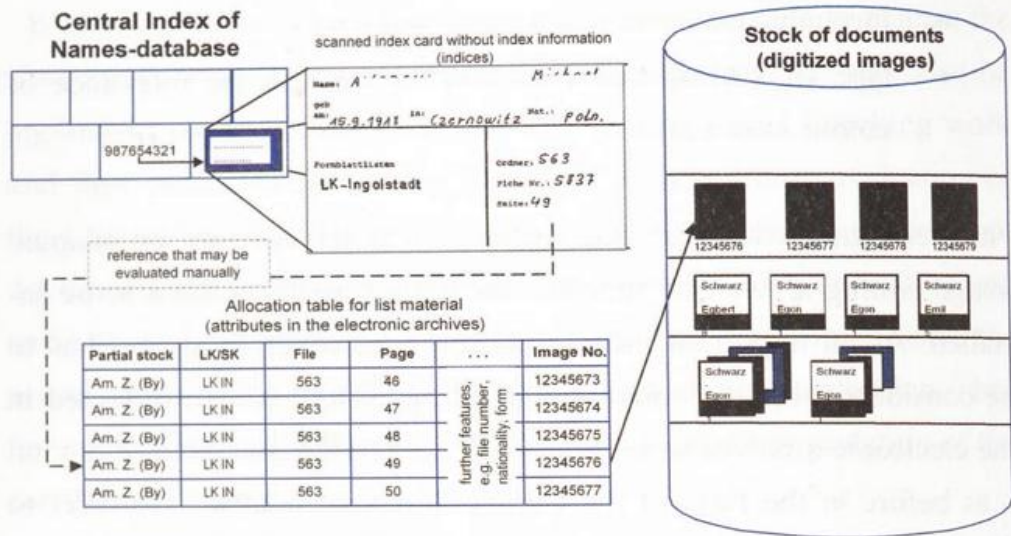


Illustration 5: References of the Central Index of Names to the stock of documents

After completing the concept of the electronic archives, the processing of the newly received documents had to be converted, and this concurrently, to a fully electronic working process and filing of the documents in the electronic archives as well. This was, on the one hand, necessary for logistic reasons, in order to “freeze” the documents stocks for the scanning. On the other hand, it became possible this way to make personnel capacities available that were indispensable in order to be able to implement the scanning and indexing work by one’s own efforts.

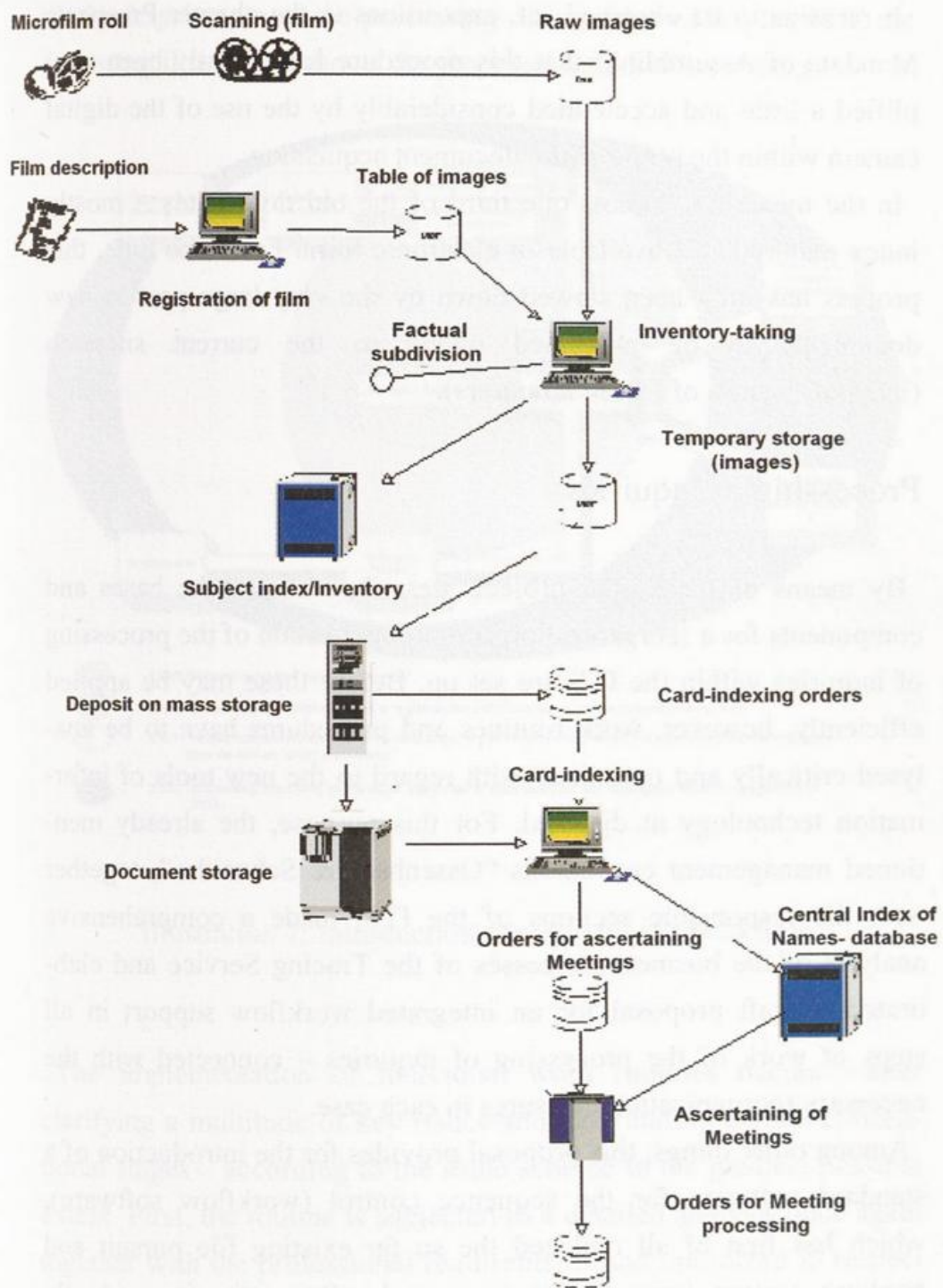


Illustration 6: Basic routine of the processing of newly acquired documents

It remains to be observed (cf. expositions in the chapter Prospects Mandate of Assembling) that this procedure has recently been simplified a little and accelerated considerably by the use of the digital camera within the scope of the document acquisition.

In the meantime, almost one third of the old documents – mostly index material – is available in electronic form. For some time, this process has only been slowed down by the very large part of new documents to be processed owing to the current situation (indemnification of forced labourers).

### Processing of Inquiries

By means of the partial projects described above, the bases and components for a reorganization and rationalization of the processing of inquiries within the ITS are set up. Before these may be applied efficiently, however, work routines and procedures have to be analysed critically and optimized with regard to the new tools of information technology at disposal. For this purpose, the already mentioned management consultants “Ossenbergs & Schneider”, together with the responsible sections of the ITS, made a comprehensive analysis of the business processes of the Tracing Service and elaborated a draft proposal for an integrated workflow support in all steps of work of the processing of inquiries – connected with the necessary reorganization measures in each case.

Among other things, this proposal provides for the introduction of a standard software for the sequence control (workflow software), which has first of all replaced the so far existing file pursuit and booking system (case distribution) and, afterwards, is gradually substituting the traditional working processes in a transition and conversion period of several years respectively is applying selected individual functions for the facilitation of the work. Proceeding from

the basic principle of the processing of inquiries within the ITS, the following illustration shows the proposed introduction strategy:

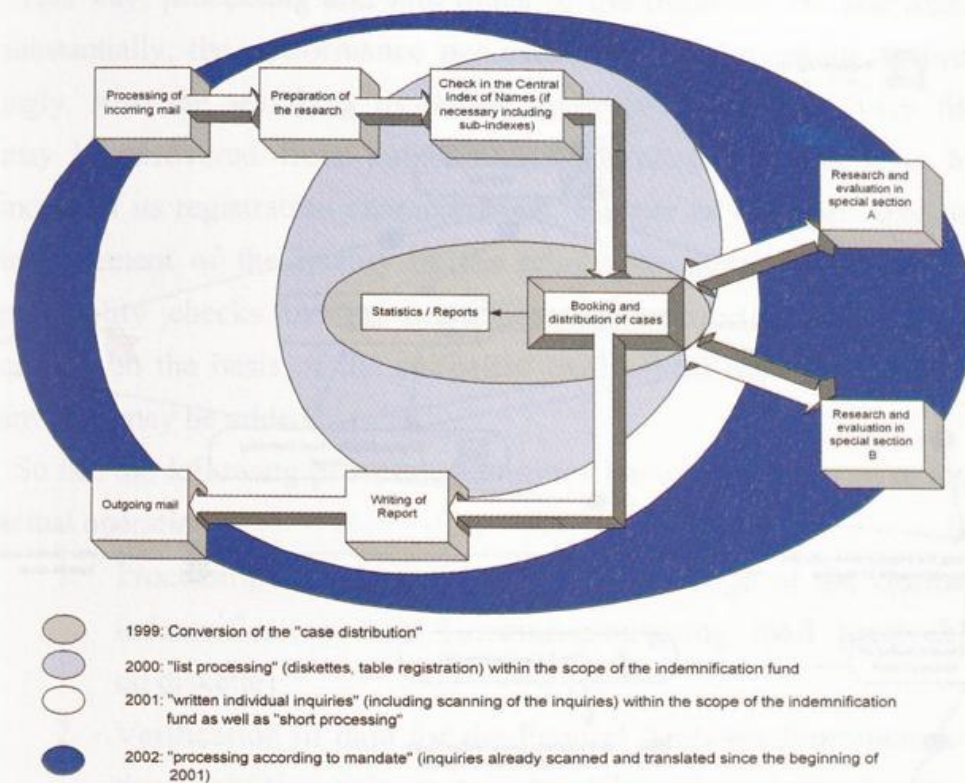


Illustration 7: Introduction strategy for the workflow

The implementation of individual work routines occurs – after clarifying a multitude of key issues and determining certain conceptual stages – according to the same scheme to the greatest possible extent. First, the routine is subjected to a detailed analysis once again together with the professional requirements and optimized in respect of the electronic processing form. The new work routines are then exemplarily saved in the workflow solution. Representatively, the following illustration shows the routine for the Central Index of

Names-processing (individual inquiries) within the scope of the indemnification fund.

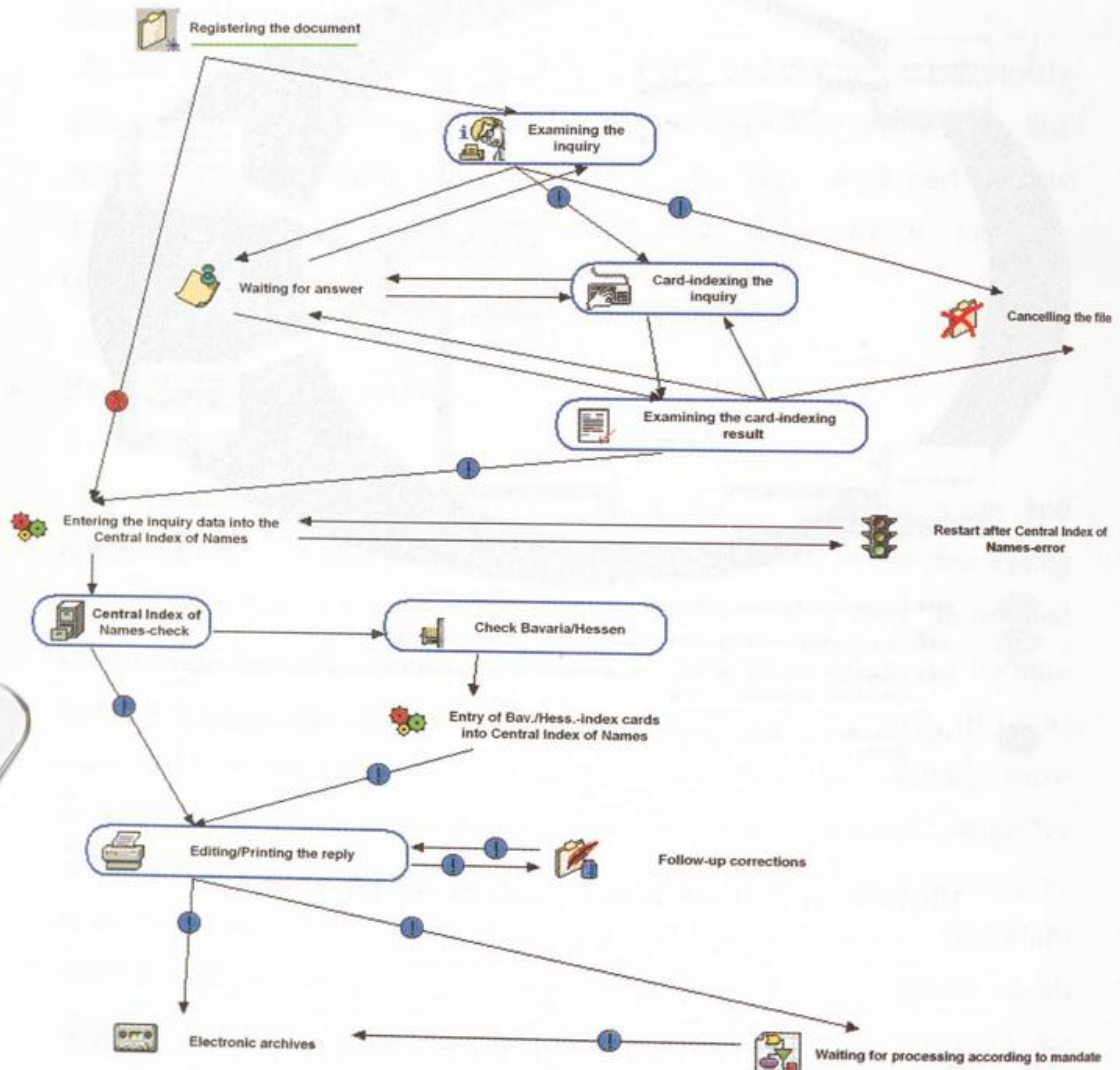


Illustration 8: Scheme of the routine of the Central Index of Names-processing

Routine activities are replaced – as far as possible – by automatically running program modules and the work of the users is even

further facilitated by means of help functions, e.g. the automatic call of database applications or the automatic display of input masks.

This way, processing and idle times of the inquiries are shortened substantially, the performance per caseworker is increased accordingly. Also the searching times are minimized, because every file may be recovered from authorized workstations at any time by means of its registration characteristics. Further advantages, like the improvement of the quality of the results by means of automatic plausibility checks or the possibility of responding to changes quickly on the basis of the statistical evaluations that are available anytime, may be added.

So far, the following processing routines have been taken over into actual operation:

1. Processing of list inquiries within the scope of the German indemnification fund (incoming/outgoing mail preferably on diskette)
2. Verification of data for the Federal Archives [commemorative book] (incoming/outgoing mail exclusively on diskette)
3. Processing of written individual inquiries within the scope of the German indemnification fund (including scanning of the inquiries and of possible follow-up mail)
4. Processing of incoming mail (scanning/registration) in respect of inquiries from the backlog (e.g. for an external translation)
5. Processing of cases supposed to be Meetings (i.e. cases that may be assigned positive automatically on the basis of the receipt of new personal documents without renewed inquiry) in respect of inquiries regarding the indemnification fund.
6. Certificates due to positive investigation results (cooperation network)

A survey of quantities regarding workflow processes established so far (dated January 2003) is given by the following table:

As to No.	Number of files
1	2,796 lists with altogether 580,015 inquiries
2	26 lists with altogether 12,913 personal data
3	73,182 persons in individual inquiries
4	47,703 inquiries
5	150,091 cases supposed to be Meetings
6	2,870 certificates

In the next implementation steps, the conventional work routines of the ITS – the short processing and the processing according to mandate – will be included in the workflow. The conceptional preparations for this have already progressed far. Also the technical implementation will proceed relatively speedily, because, thanks to the modular system design, a multitude of program modules may be taken over immediately or in a slightly changed form.

In spite of all the technical aid, the difficulties for the employees continue to exist in their original form. As before, it is still vital not only to draw up the greatest possible number of answers – presently, the ITS, receiving a maximum figure of incoming requests of more than 400,000, is issuing 4 replies every minute –, but also to render these positive, if possible at all.

Only thanks to the exact expert knowledge of the most various spellings of the names of persons and of places of persecution respectively employment of one and the same person, it is often possible to unmistakably clarify – of course, also by taking further identification features into consideration – cases of doubt. It is therefore

not seldom that one and the same persecutee appears in more than 20 different records and this often in the most various spellings. This applies to the first name as well as to the last name. As an example, the name Abramowitz shall be mentioned here, which the Central Index of Names may cite in 849 different versions.

Random selection of 40 variants of the name			
<b>ABRAMOVITSCH (-WITZ)</b>			
ABRAHAMOVIC	ABRAMAMOVITZ	ABRAMAOWIEZ	ABRAMOVICH
ABRAHAMOVIECH	ABRAMAMOWICOWA	ABRAMAOWITZA	ABRAMOVIECZ
ABRAHAMOVIG	ABRAMAMOWIESZ	ABRAMAVICOWA	ABRAMOVISZ
ABRAHAMOVITZI	ABRAMAMOWITS	ABRAMAVIESCH	ABRAMOVIZ
ABRAHAMOWICS	ABRAMAMOWIZEZ	ABRAMOVICH	ABRAMOWIECZ
ABRAHAMOWIESCH	ABRAMAOWIEC	ABRAMAVITZI	ABRAMOWISZ
ABRAHAMOWITCH	ABRAMAOWIEZ	ABRAMAWICA	ABRAMOWITZSCH
ABRAHAMOWITZEZ	ABRAMAOWITZA	ABRAMAWIECS	ABRANOVITCH
ABRAMAMOVIEC	ABRAMAOWICOWA	ABRAMAWISCH	ABRANOVIZEZ
ABRAMAMOVIEZ	ABRAMAWITZSCH	ABRANOVIESCH	AVRAMOWIES

Illustration 9: Examples of different spellings of one and the same name

This variety is based on the chronology of the events. While the first registration often had been made by German-speaking writers, this changed quickly in respect of the subsequent registrations, e.g. in the writing rooms of the concentration camps, where prisoners of the most different nationalities were assigned to work. It was thus not unusual that a French inmate had to register a Slavic name, the same as vice versa. As this happened according to the respective phonetic understanding, the multitude of variants may be explained without difficulty. If, immediately after the war, an employee of the Allies recorded the same person again in a DP-camp, a Johnny was easily to be found in a document instead of a Johann or Iwan.

The same difficulties are occurring again after all the years, because many inquirers for their part are now indicating the details of their

persecution incorrectly as well. Examples: In the course of the processing of the request, a spinning mill "Ravensberg" has turned out to concern a prisoner who had worked on spool machines in Concentration Camp "Ravensbrück". The village "Gogelfeld" in the district "Lekstenlager" has proved to be "Hohenfiert Lockstetter Lager" in Steinburg/Schleswig-Holstein, and the "Fabryce in Deskadef" is even referring to the "Stadt des KDF Wagen" = Wolfsburg.

Many solutions to these alphabetical-phonetic problems may be integrated, at least partly, in computer programs, in order to thereby give an essential help in the research. Since, however, not all the difficulties may be taken into account this way due to

- consciously given false personal data at the time for reasons of camouflage,
- name changes, e.g. due to marriage during or after the events themselves and
- name changes or adaptations after the emigration etc.,

the successful tracing service work will always remain to be the combination of both personal knowledge and technical aid.

### List Processing and Cooperation Network for the Settlement of the German Fund "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future"

In spring 2001, the Federal Foundation in Berlin approved of the proposal of a further-reaching check in Germany made within the scope of a cooperation network between the Federal Archives, Koblenz, the Office for Information and Advice for Persecutees of National Socialism in Cologne and the ITS. By means of a joint procedure, the attempt is made to finally still conclude those requests, which have been answered negatively in Bad Arolsen in spite

of the most intensive efforts, positively after all thanks to the cooperation of the most various offices. The process is based on the un-bureaucratic list procedure, designed by the ITS especially for this purpose, which requires a minimum of information for a fast and likewise simplified answer.

Please fill in as completely as possible!

Data carrier no.: ..... List no.: .....

Page number: .....

	1	2	3	4	5	6	power of attorney*	
serial no	last name	If applicable: name of birth Possibly cover name	first name	date of birth	place of birth	places of detention, stay or employment	prisoners numbers (if indicated)	(leave open for ITS) checking result: if positive: place and/or firm
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								

List Processing  
(last procedure in paper form or on data carriers)

Details under 1 and 2 are absolutely necessary. Also details under 3, if possible, but at least year of birth as well as 4. If these are unknown, please give details under 5 respectively 6.

\* Power of attorney: Herewith we (the partner organization) assure you that we are in the possession of the original inquiry (with signature) and are authorized to accept the information for the persons named on the list. The reply serves exclusively humanitarian purposes, i.e. the assertion of the rights of this group of persons.

### Illustration 10: List processing procedure

The combined efforts of the cooperation partners, the coordinating offices of the federal states and the involved third offices, like archives, firms etc., are as follows: The law for the establishment of the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" of August 2000 provides for applicants to have to definitely prove that they are entitled to receive a payment. In the same way, however, the partner organizations (POs) of the Federal Foundation have been

bound by means of respective agreements to actively support inquirers, who do not have their own documentary proof at disposal, in the provision of evidence. They are obliged to also accept applications without or only with incomplete documents and to first of all search for a proof in their own records from former indemnification proceedings respectively in archives of their countries. If a sufficient documentary evidence is not found this way, the partner organizations are compelled to inquire at the ITS. Here, the lists transmitted electronically by the POs are processed.

“In August 2001, the Federal Archives established in Cologne, at the Office for Information and Advice for Persecutees of National Socialism, with the financial support of the Federal Foundation, a distribution centre for taking over and sorting the inquiries not answered positively by the ITS – due to the lack of respective records – according to regional responsibility and for the respective transmission to the coordinating offices in the federal states. For this purpose, the POs of the Federal Foundation, the ITS, the distribution centre and the coordinating offices of the federal states were connected by means of a data system developed for this search for evidence. The coordinating offices of the federal states either process themselves the open requests for documentary proof forwarded to them or send them on to the respective archives on the spot. Only with the expert knowledge available there and with personal documentation that has not been checked so far, additional positive replies may be issued.

In agreement with the coordinating offices of the federal states, further offices (more than 200 up to now) may be connected to the data system in accordance with the determined data protection rules. Every office that has found a proof for an inquiry may either enter the information directly into the data network or inform the respective coordinating office, which then makes the respective entries. Investigations with a negative result are also registered in the

system. The responsible POs inform themselves about the investigation results by immediate access to the server"<sup>17</sup>.

This "standardized and uniform procedure" is supposed to help preventing double and triple investigations, which may again and again be noticed within the scope of the processing of inquiries in Bad Arolsen. In the interest of the fast processing of an as large number of requests as possible with limited resources at disposal, this procedure has clearly proved to be successful. At the ITS alone, capacities have been installed that guarantee, in case of a correct electronic receipt, a performance of up to 90,000 checks per month.

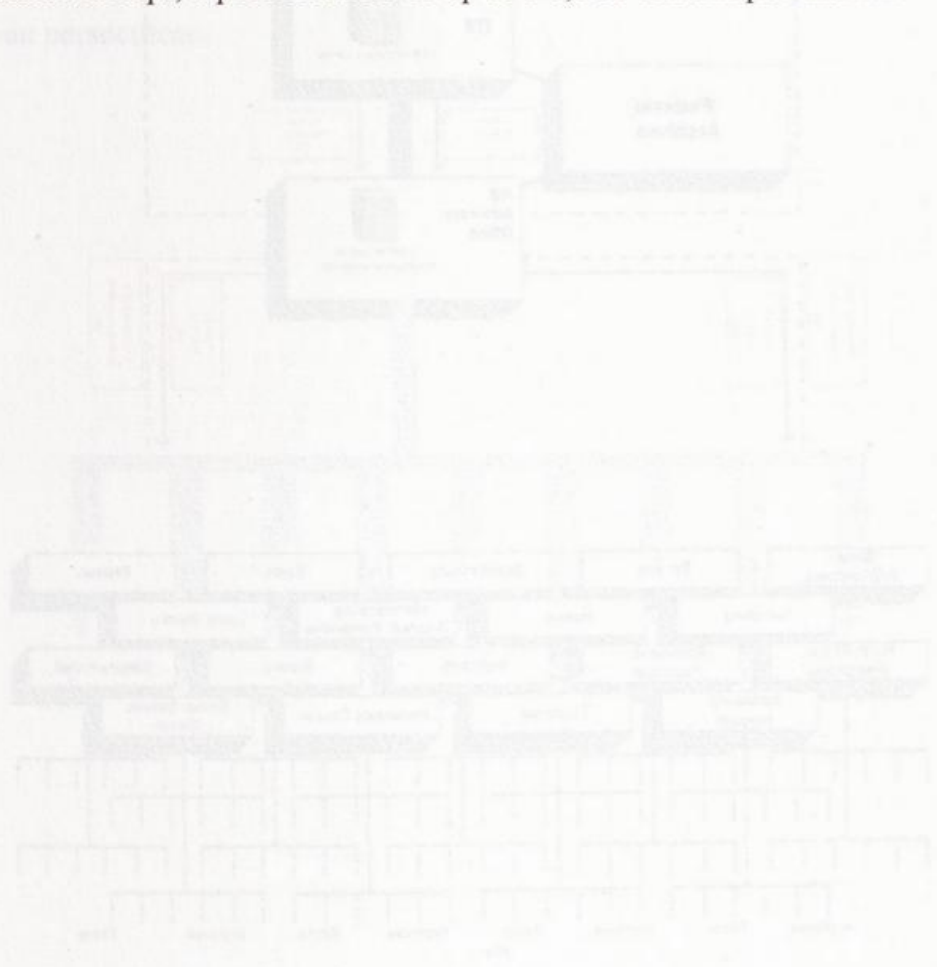


Illustration 11: Processing of the inquiries (exclusively in the form) within the scope of the cooperation network.

### System of the provision of evidence

List processing (A) and processing of special cases resp. renewed inquiries for additional information (B)

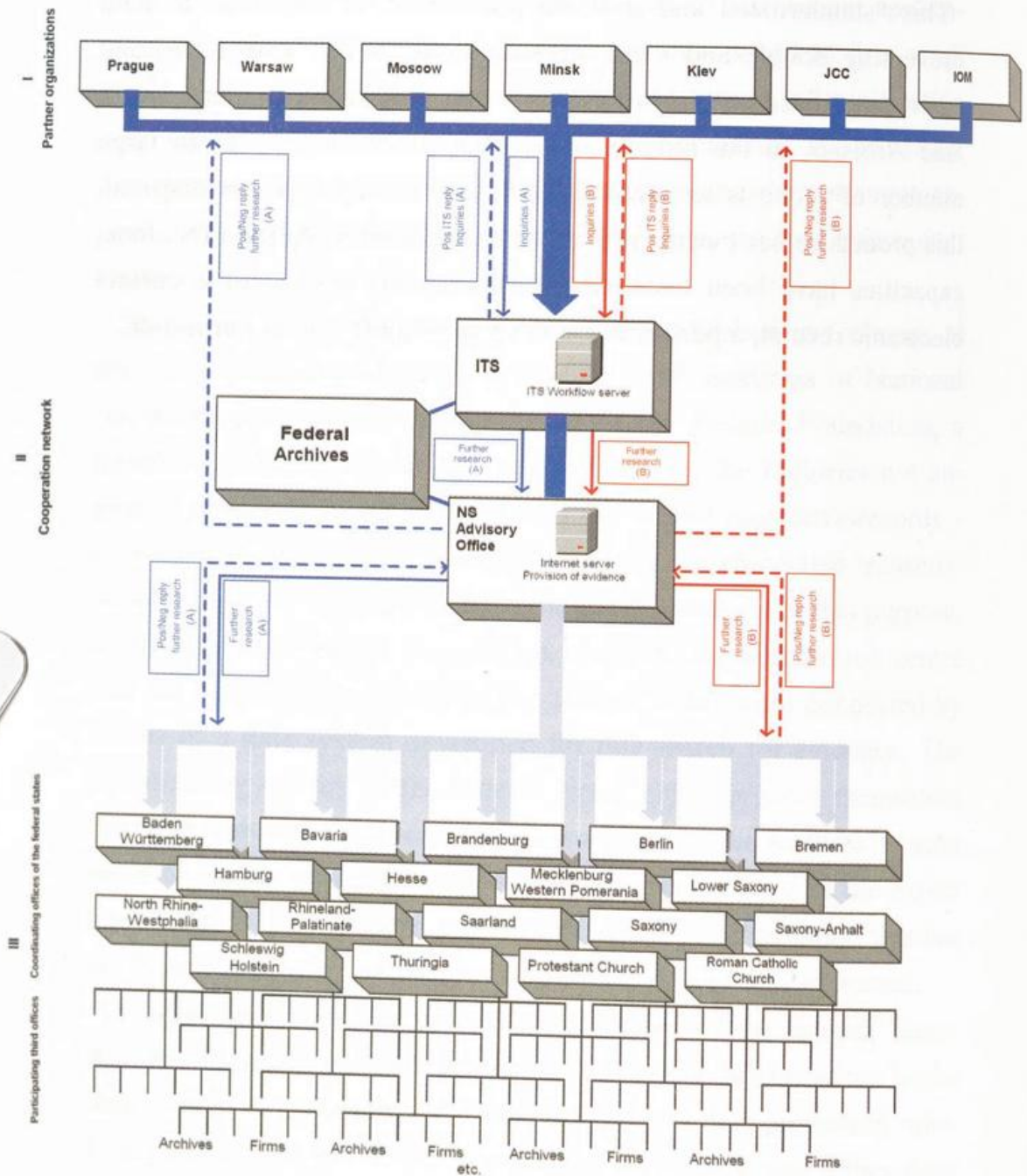


Illustration 11: Processing of the inquiries (exclusively in list form) within the scope of the cooperation network

For this reason, the ITS transfers all directly arriving inquiries that evidently refer to the Foundation Law, but that may not be unmistakably assigned to a PO, into the list procedure. This guarantees the processing in Bad Arolsen within a period of two months and the additional investigations through the cooperation network.

The checks of the cooperation network are carried out automatically for all inquiries that arrive at the ITS within the scope of the list procedure. This irrespective of whether they belong to the sphere of competence of the German Foundation Law, the Austrian Reconciliation Fund or any other indemnification procedure for former civilian persecutees.

## General Documents Section

One stock at the Tracing Service that is often underrated regarding its size as well as its significance, above all, are the records belonging to the general documents. Although they also contain names in many cases, they are not part of the actual stock of personal documents. The figure, calculated in comparison hereto, of linear metres of papers of all kinds from the wartime and immediate post-war time may well appear to be modest, but looked at by itself, this stock is definitely not to be underestimated. With more than 570,000 individual documents, this section takes up almost half of the rooms in the building of the former elementary school of the town Bad Arolsen. A second view in respect of the variety of the documents taken over in the course of the years intensifies the first impression in any case and gives an idea of the importance.

The documentary material preserved in this section also concerns exclusively events in connection with the National Socialist persecution. It comprises, among others, decrees and orders of the Reichsführer-SS as well as of authorities and agencies of the Reich respectively National Socialist offices subordinate to him. Besides this, directions and instructions of a general and statistical nature, as e.g. camp rules and plans and even witness accounts, are available. These are either of a general kind or refer especially to National Socialist places of detention and/or camps of all categories. This documentary material thus contains knowledge about persecution measures in Germany and in German-occupied territories. The files of the "Lebensborn e.V." should not be left unmentioned either, the same as general records from the post-war time, e.g. concerning the DP-camps.


This material serves the ITS for the clarification of questions arising from the internal processing of requests of the inquirers. It is not

seldom that only the examinations in this section enable the caseworker at all to enter into the case processing and to thus possibly issue a positive answer. Without the valuable help of the seven specialists and thus experts on this stock, many inquiries would have been concluded with a negative result in all the years of the existence of the ITS.

Furthermore, third parties, like the Federal Ministry of Finance, courts and numerous other authorities, have again and again availed themselves of the services of the General Documents Section, in order to clarify questions in connection with indemnification respectively compensation matters. Even persecutees themselves or their relatives inquire regularly for the purpose of ascertaining the correct name, legal assignment or location of a former place of persecution. A task that was, in fact, not assigned to the ITS, because, in accordance with the "Bonn Agreements", only the issuing of confirmations belongs to the actual mandate of the ITS.

Although there are no funds and thus possibilities as regards personnel at disposal for the settlement of such tasks, these inquiries have always been processed free of charge so far. Even within the scope of the compilation of the register of concentration camps and their outlying commandos in connection with the enactment of the conclusive law regarding the Federal Indemnification Law, the knowledge of this section was fallen back upon. The task was to ascertain, on the basis of the sources at disposal, the subordination and other criteria of the places of detention. For this purpose, it was inevitable to also collect documentary material from other archives that, in many cases, were so generous to let the ITS have copies without giving up their power of disposal.

Since 1997, only the names of the persecutees available in the general records have been made unrecognizable for reasons of data protection. Since then, a certain interest in these documents has had to



be noticed. Far more than 200 requests, which require time-consuming investigations, have to be coped with annually. Some of the inquirers take the opportunity to institute investigations themselves on the spot. For this purpose, an extra room is available for visitors, where a consultation may be carried out comfortably. Moreover, written directions for users regulate the takeover and use of the requested records. In contrast to this, other inquirers ask the Tracing Service for the clarification of the most various questions. The General Documents Section receives requests for the approval of an inspection or for information, for example, from ministries, towns/municipal archives, memorials, firms/firm archives, historians and private persons who do scientific research that is often of a local character. Such inquiries do not seldom also refer to the most different subjects regarding the former places of detention, which often entail a time-consuming manual research work. Whichever procedure is chosen, the processing is performed according to the chronological mail arrival of the inquiry. As the settlement of the single requests may mean several weeks of work for an employee, there meanwhile exists a not inconsiderable backlog in this field, also to the great regret of the inquirers. So far, the raising of fees – except in case of the request to receive copies – has been refrained from (if the duplication of archival material is concerned that is subject to the power of disposal of other offices, the inquirer is automatically referred there).

For an acceleration of the clarification and processing of historical inquiries, a project for the electronic registration of the entire stock in this section was started on already before the opening. Due to a lack of funds and a planned conversion of the system, a use of the already entered archival material is not possible at present. The opening of the entire stock of documents at the ITS, discussed in the IC, also includes the question of raising a general fee for the con-

sultation. Should this come true and respective funds flow into the existing project, the time of an integral computer processing will come considerably closer in the General Documents Section as well.

## Tracing Service

The description of this work should actually have come at the beginning of the delineation of the tasks of the ITS, since this is, in fact, the most original mandate of this institution. Even though, in the course of the years, the profile of the inquirers has changed, the task and, above all, its fulfilment has basically remained the same. Certainly, the two tracing service sections – Tracing Section and Child-Tracing Archives – profit from the new information technology, but a large part of the successful case processing continues to be based on the quite individual way of proceeding, that is on the experiences of the caseworkers. In future, this procedure will probably not change too much, because the positive result of a tracing case depends on the “intuition” of the single “tracing expert” to a not inconsiderable extent. Many inquiries that practically seem to be hopeless causes may – thanks to the persistent endeavours to take further possibilities of investigations into consideration – still be brought to a happy ending again and again. The description particularly of this work therefore ideally represents a bridge between the ITS before and after the change from the paper processing to the computerized operation virtually at the same time as the turn of the millennium.

As far as the inquirers are concerned, almost exclusively the persons concerned themselves were those who turned to the Tracing Service at the beginning. Being certain that they had not been deported alone, their greatest concern, even before the return home or the emigration, was to re-establish the contact with the closest relatives, which had completely broken off, as soon as possible.

Did they survive the Holocaust at all and, if so, where were they now? Not to know, which odyssey the missing family members had gone through, did actually not facilitate the search for the case-

workers in any way. In the course of the years, more and more cases have been added, in which the inquirers had experienced the turmoil of war as very young persons, often even as small children. Many of them only knew fragments respectively nothing at all about the parents and their life history. With their increasing age, the importance of finding an answer to the question regarding "their true roots" was constantly growing. Numerous visits in Bad Arolsen, particularly by so-called "Lebensborn"-children, are grievous examples of how depressing it is not to know the name and origin of one or both parents and to what extent this severely disturbs the inner peace of "stalwart" adults, i.e. their inner equilibrium. Recently, this group has been contacting the ITS more and more frequently with another concern: even though, often, the track of the parents cannot be picked up after so many years, they wish to follow at least the traces regarding half brothers and sisters – who must have suffered a similar fate – that frequently come into light in the course of the investigations.

Especially the actual tracing service work bears witness to how long the shadows are that an armed conflict casts on those who are most vulnerable.

While the reunion of families was in the foreground at the beginning of the tracing service work, the clarification of fates holds a special status today. The agonizing uncertainty concerning the whereabouts of missing persons still weighs heavily upon the persons concerned even decades after the events of the Second World War, which is why even the information about the place of a grave may be relieving news that helps with bringing a very personal life history to a close. Letters of thanks, in which relatives express their satisfaction, because "now they can die in peace" or "it is a comforting feeling to know that the person close to them has not been forgotten in the form of a grave", are hardly understandable for out-

siders. Likewise the gratefulness of a son about the news, according to which his mother became ill with tuberculosis shortly after his birth and died afterwards.

A priori, the numerous cases where, in spite of the great distance to the events, survivors may still be found are certainly to be called more spectacular. The happiness about a found mother whom one has not known consciously may hardly be put into words. Here, letters of the persons concerned bear witness to an indescribable joy, even if, sometimes, the two generations do not even speak the same language. In many cases, too, family members come together who had not even known about the others' existence before. "Thank you very much for the efforts in the search for my meanwhile deceased father. Last week, I received a very kind letter from my half sister who is living in North Carolina. It was not only a big surprise for me, but also an indescribable joy, which I am actually becoming aware of only little by little, that I will finally learn something about my, our father nonetheless". Sometimes, the answers turn out rather unfortunately in spite of a success in the actual tracing. The person located may be living – as it has already happened several times – in a closed institution and those responsible may not permit any contact, since the patient cannot cope with this, or he/she may not be in the position to have a meeting for other, e.g. private reasons. So, the refusal of an establishment of contact or even of the consent to the release of the address on the part of the person found – for whichever reasons – is nothing unusual especially as far as the group of parents is concerned. For the caseworker who actually has a successfully solved tracing case before him, this is a deplorable situation. At the Tracing Service, however, we have to show consideration for the will of the persons concerned and therefore accept that only they can take the decision about a really positive outcome.

## Prospects Concerning the Fulfilment of the Existing Mandates and the Agreed Extension of the Mandates

### The Mandate of Assembling

The significance of the acquisition of new personal records for the positive answering of the requests is growing with the continuously increasing number of inquiries. Since the ITS does not have money at disposal for the purchase of documents – that may, in many cases, not even be bought at all – anyway, they are almost exclusively taken over in duplicated form. The discussions about the indemnification fund for forced labourers were – particularly due to the fact that many former persecutees had an opportunity to receive payments for the first time – accompanied by a rapid growth of the willingness to let the ITS have documents. So, for example, the social insurance carriers, upon recommendation of the Federal Data Protection Commissioner, have finally also agreed to place copies of their relevant archival records at disposal for checks in this connection.

In order to achieve a greater success here as well with the limited funds at disposal, but also to guarantee an as simple transfer of the information into the database as possible, a new solution had to be sought urgently in spring 2001. The ITS aimed at replacing the microfilm cameras used up to then by a technology that would permit a simplification and acceleration of the photographing process itself as well as a direct transfer of imaged files into the “electronic archives”.

The solution to be chosen had to satisfy the following requirements:

- fast and flexible duplication of the most different documents and files up to A3
- duplication of books and stitched material without damaging them
- use in Germany and abroad, predominantly on the spot at diverse archives
- adaptation of the duplication result during the operation for the immediate import into the electronic archives of the ITS
- quality assurance on the spot
- possibility of making backup copies
- duplicability for the decentralized indexing, cataloguing with headwords
- minimization of the transport weight (incl. data carriers)
- colour photos with authentic colour reproduction

The microfilm camera of the ITS applied so far had to be ruled out for further operations, because

- the transport for every operation was very costly (size and weight),
- the follow-up processing was only to be performed in a very costly and time-consuming manner, and
- it was not possible to carry out a quality assurance on the spot regarding legibility and quality of the photos made.

At that time, there was no equipment available on the market that fulfilled the above-mentioned requirements and could have been used for the imaging of this archival material:

- Flat-board scanners were unsuitable due to the weight and the format, since they were not able to process documents in the form of files and records in A3-format.

- Top-view scanners that would have been able to process documents in the form of files and records in A3-format had to be ruled out due to their lacking transportability.
- Automatic paper feed scanners are unsuitable in principle for the documentary material (e.g. files) to be imaged.

For the purposes of the ITS, therefore, a tailor-made solution had to be found that would do justice to the requirements described above. After a brief specification phase, a solution was finally developed, which was oriented at the general requirements of the imaging of documents and optimized with regard to the special conditions at the ITS. For this, a digital camera of the latest generation was modified in different fields so that it became possible to align the demands of the operational area (e.g. illumination, exposure, picture storage) with a permanent use for the imaging of thousands of documents.

Basis of the solution is a high-resolution digital camera, which may photograph the documents up to the size of A3. By means of a control software particularly developed for this purpose, the produced images are transferred into a notebook computer and adapted electronically there (e.g. turned automatically, lightened etc.). Afterwards, the produced pictures are available for quality assurance purposes and are directly written onto CDs on the spot. The latter will later be transferred into the electronic archives of the ITS together with the respective indexing information and the cataloguing with headwords.

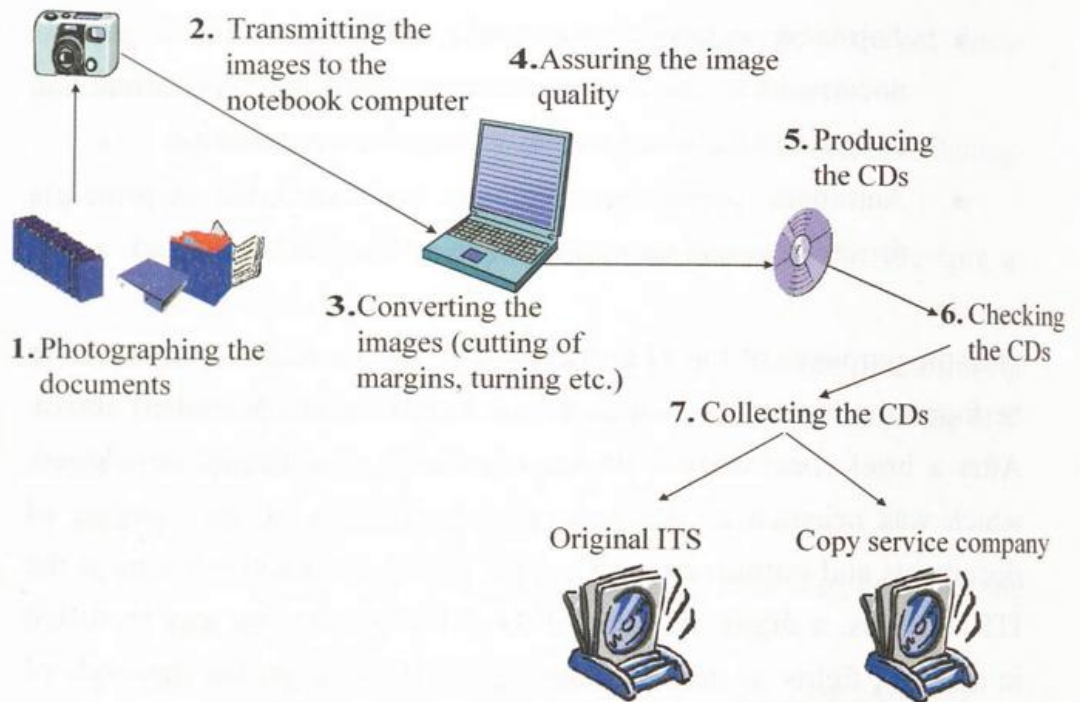


Illustration 12: Digital document acquisition

The current experiences in the practical use have shown that the expectations are met to the full extent.

Considered from an economic point of view, the following savings effects are the result:

- Reduction of time and personnel for the image registration
- Cancellation of the manual follow-up work (development, enlargement respectively scanning of the pictures)
- considerable reduction of material costs (no films, no development chemicals), transport costs

Moreover, the handling is much easier, since the exposure control and focusing are performed automatically now and, this way, two

essential sources of errors that occurred in the handling of the microfilm camera are eliminated.

The solution described here may basically be applied in every place where an electronic transfer of document images is conceivable as, e.g., between different archives or also between archives and third parties.

Since the second half of 2001, the ITS has applied this procedure successfully in Germany and abroad. Depending on the procurement funds at disposal, a complete replacement of the microfilm technology used so far is planned soon.

At the moment, it is possible to get an amount of new material of ca. 750,000 photos (corresponding to roughly 300 linear metres) per year to Bad Arolsen within the scope of the active document acquisition. If the respective funds were placed at disposal, this number could be much higher. Should this come true, it will be vital in the near future to receive as many records as possible with names that are not yet available at the ITS, in order to do justice to the humanitarian task as long as the persons concerned are still alive.

## The Mandate of Classification

The introduction of an integral workflow solution also includes the field of classification. Part of this is in any case the card-indexing of the records and correspondence connected with the classic tracing service work. In the last years, the ITS has succeeded, particularly due to the change of the political situation in Eastern Europe, in assembling new personal documentary material about the civilian persecutees of the National Socialist Regime to an increased extent. However, it has not been possible to extend the evaluation of the material – i.e. especially the registration of the personal data of the persecutees concerned for the Central Index of Names – on the same scale. It has only been feasible to make the newly received stock of documents accessible selectively, according to certain priority stipulations. A concurrently growing backlog of work – also in this field – was the inevitable logical consequence.

Many offices understandably attach to their agreement to hand over copies of documents the condition that all inquiries of persecutees arriving there do no longer have to be answered by themselves, but may be forwarded to the ITS for further processing. A condition, which requires that the personal data contained in the records are available for the checks within the shortest possible time.

Since the card-indexing work had already been done electronically for several years, the ITS decided for an ad hoc operation in 2001. In addition to the own employees available, external support was requested for the first time for the registration of the personal data from the not yet evaluated records as well as from the new material to be acquired with priority. The managing board of the Federal Foundation generously declared itself ready to place financial means from a special fund at disposal for this purpose. Until the end of January 2002, this permitted the transfer of far more than half a mil-

lion names into the ITS-database. A significant success, even if a not inconsiderable additional performance by the Tracing Service had to be accepted. The technical integration of an external service company into the work routine illustrated below requires the exact coordination of the transition of the individual steps of work, the controlling and recording of the export of the document copies and of the re-import of the data into the own database, as well as the possibility of a data correction in case of quality deficiencies.

In order to guarantee an optimal use of the available resources here, those documents have been pre-selected that include most probably personal data of persecutees who have not been registered at the ITS so far. Besides this, the efficiency of the measure has been increased by refraining from card-indexing the poorly legible names for the moment in favour of a greater performance.

The sequence of operations and the cooperation in the electronic card-indexing (ITS-internal and outsourcing) are as follows:

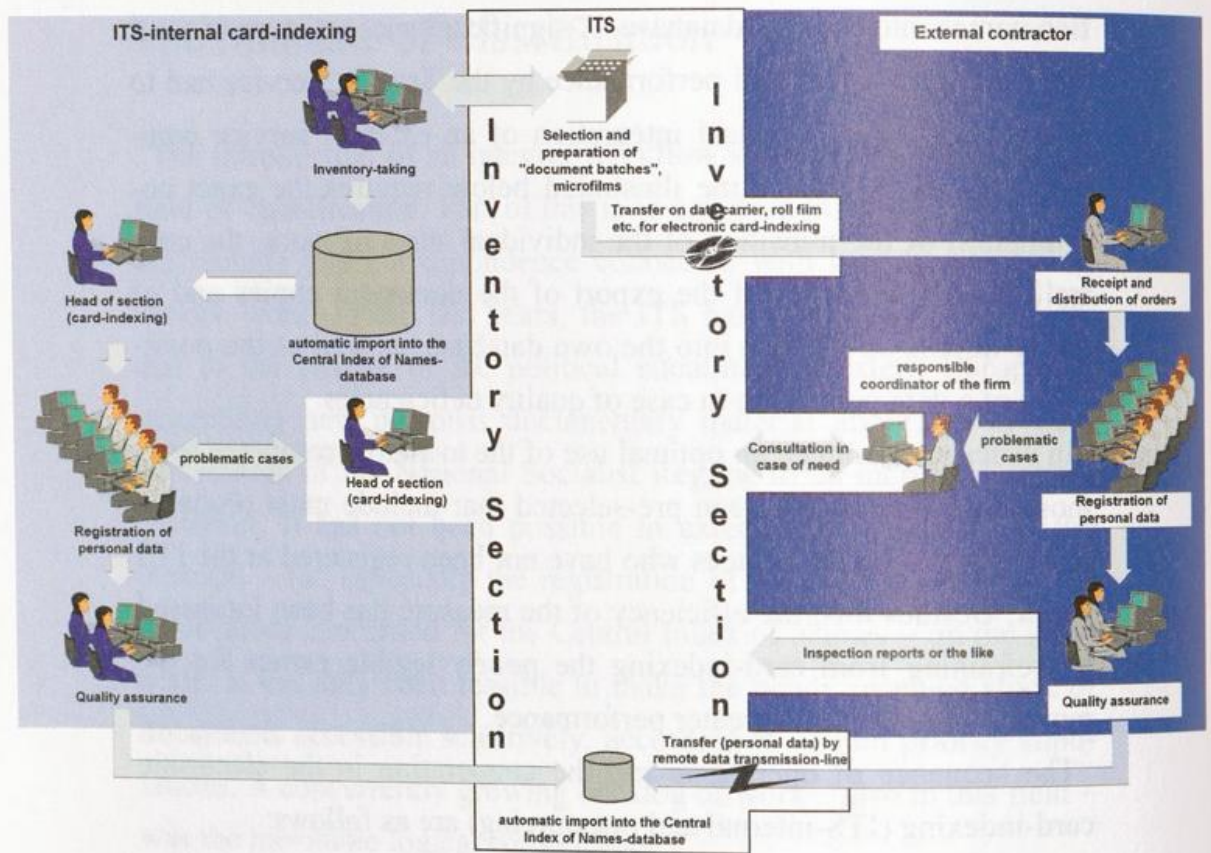


Illustration 13: Electronic card-indexing

In spite of the already achieved conversion of the card-indexing work into a fully electronic procedure and the possibility of involving an external service company created hereby, the problem of the selection of stocks waiting to be taken into the inventory respectively to be card-indexed remains to be solved in the near future. Owing to the fact that the figures of newly received documents have been on a high level already for years, the ITS, with the capacities at disposal, was not able to keep pace in this field. Even though these documents in the "backlog" are consulted for research within the scope of the processing of inquiries according to mandate – the relation is estab-

lished through respective notes in the document acquisition index —, the access to them is still lacking in the short procedure. The advanced average age of the inquirers forces the ITS to exhaust all possibilities, so that the backlog in card-indexing may be reduced as quickly as possible by a selective procedure and with the support of third parties. Without particular efforts in the field, many of today's inquirers would have to accept an avoidable negative answer. A situation that cannot be justified, especially in view of the funds ready for distribution.

## The Mandate of Preservation

The available result of the damage analysis concluded in 2000 shows a progressed stadium of decomposition of all objects. If at least the preservation of the unique records is considered to be necessary, immediate conservation and restoration measures are indispensable. By means of a slight intervention in the substance, the creeping loss of material may be stopped. Since there does not exist a uniform type of damage, the most different steps – like the deacidification of the paper or, in individual stocks, the removal of adhesive tapes and laminations etc. – are to be planned for the preservation of the integral stock.

As acid substances are produced in the paper in the course of the ageing – which cause the cellulose chains, the paper is composed of, to be split up and shortened –, a general problem is concerned here, at least for the documents stored in Bad Arolsen. This process, which is therefore particularly concerning the paper from the time of the Second World War to a considerable extent, may well be illustrated graphically.

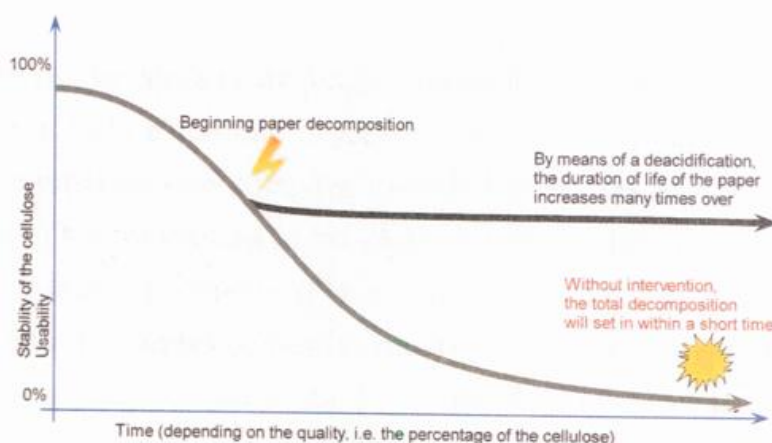


Illustration 14: Autocatalytic exponential paper disintegration

The same is true in respect of the illustration of the other damages ascertained in the stock of documents of the ITS:

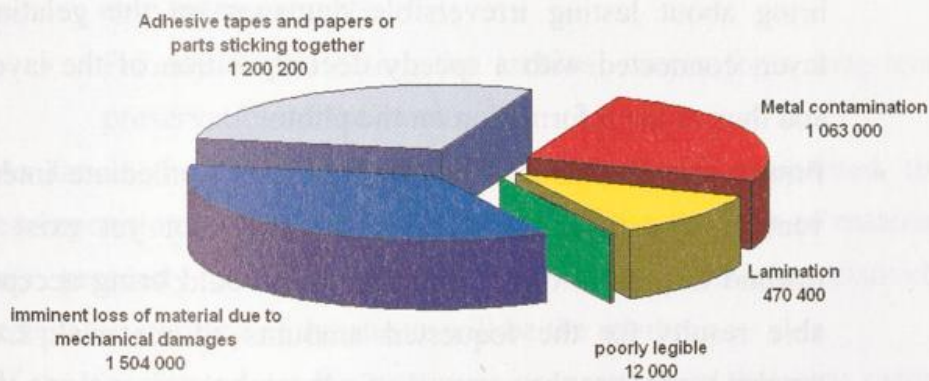


Illustration 15: The significance of the damages found at the ITS

On the basis of the types of damages, a priority list regarding the conservation work to be performed has been elaborated together with a firm in Leipzig. This includes a step-by-step restoration of the stocks over a period of several years. This list clearly reveals that stocks with an active and threatening further loss of material have to be given absolute priority. The serious damages are for the most part of such a nature that is subject to topmost priority, but that cannot be mastered from the point of view of a restoration, neither regarding single sheets nor in large amounts. The little experience gained in this respect by restorers is based on lengthy treatments of single sheets with better or worse results. A method that is inconceivable, if only for financial reasons, for the processing of such large stocks as they are to be found in Bad Arolsen.

The classification of the priorities is as follows:

- Priority 1: Requires immediate action in order to keep the loss of material as small as possible.

Deacidification of all stocks, except for the laminated objects and photo materials. Laminated list material has to be delaminated first, before a further treatment may take place. Photo materials cannot be deacidified, because this would bring about lasting irreversible damages on the gelatine layer, connected with a speedy decomposition of the layer and thus of the information on the photo.

- Priority 1a: Demands, like Priority 1, an immediate intervention. For these damages, there does not yet exist a method in present-day restoration that would bring acceptable results for the requested amounts of material. Examples hereof are the removal of adhesive tapes, making visible the information of poorly legible objects, removal of the lamination (on one and both sides) as well as splitting up these fragile objects after the removal of the lamination.
- Priority 2: Means an intervention in the next 2-3 years in order to prevent a further decomposition and therefore loss of material connected with it.

The following damages are to be repaired here: Removing the metal contaminations caused by staples and paper clips, closing rips, stabilizing edges, adding missing parts and stabilizing binding damages.

- Priority 3: Long-term, preventive conservation measures on the stock that conclude a restoration reasonably and that are additionally necessary in order to stop the ageing process. To this group belongs the replacement of the available storage materials (envelopes, boxes, ring files, loose index boxes made of cardboard or wood) by materials suitable for an archival preservation: Envelopes made of buffered archival paper for list and index material, envelopes made of not buffered archival paper for photographic materials, archival

boxes made of special archival cardboard with a filing mechanism or spring folding device made of a special synthetic material suitable for an archival preservation, archival boxes for indexes as well as archival paper for lining available index cabinets.

- Priority 4: Perfecting the archival rooms for a long-term preservation of the stocks.<sup>18</sup>

As far as the ageing of the objects altogether is concerned, the decomposition of the paper objects as well as the loss of material may presently still be stopped in a stage where a relatively acceptable stability of the sheets will be the result.

If the accelerated ageing continues progressing to the same extent as before without intervention, the stock will soon reach a degree of damaging, which will entail the most serious loss of material and which will render it impossible to create an acceptable conservatory condition. For this reason, the ITS, upon consultation with the ICRC, handed over a second batch of document stocks to the specialists of a firm in Leipzig in the winter of 2001/2002 and received it back in a perfect condition. If the records are supposed to be available for future generations, certain steps do not permit a delay any more. The ITS therefore endeavours to obtain the respective funds, in order to annually refurbish at least the most endangered originals in the near future. Even though the entire information will be stored in the ITS-database after the conclusion of the scanning work, this cannot make a decision about the conservation of the papers obsolete (a fact that is, however, largely called into question for a considerable part by a specialist for restoration in a further expert's report!). If a complete loss of stability is accepted, this means that numerous documents will soon disintegrate completely and may no longer be worked with<sup>19</sup>.

## The Mandate of Evaluation

As already described, a processing of the inquiries within the scope of the list procedure is performed completely electronically. As a reservation, it is to be remarked that, in case of a necessary additional research in the archival stock, this has to be done manually. At the end of 1999, the scanning work on the more than 30 million individual documents was started at the Tracing Service. Little by little, all the information contained in them may be transferred into the database, in order to make it available to the caseworker for the evaluation.

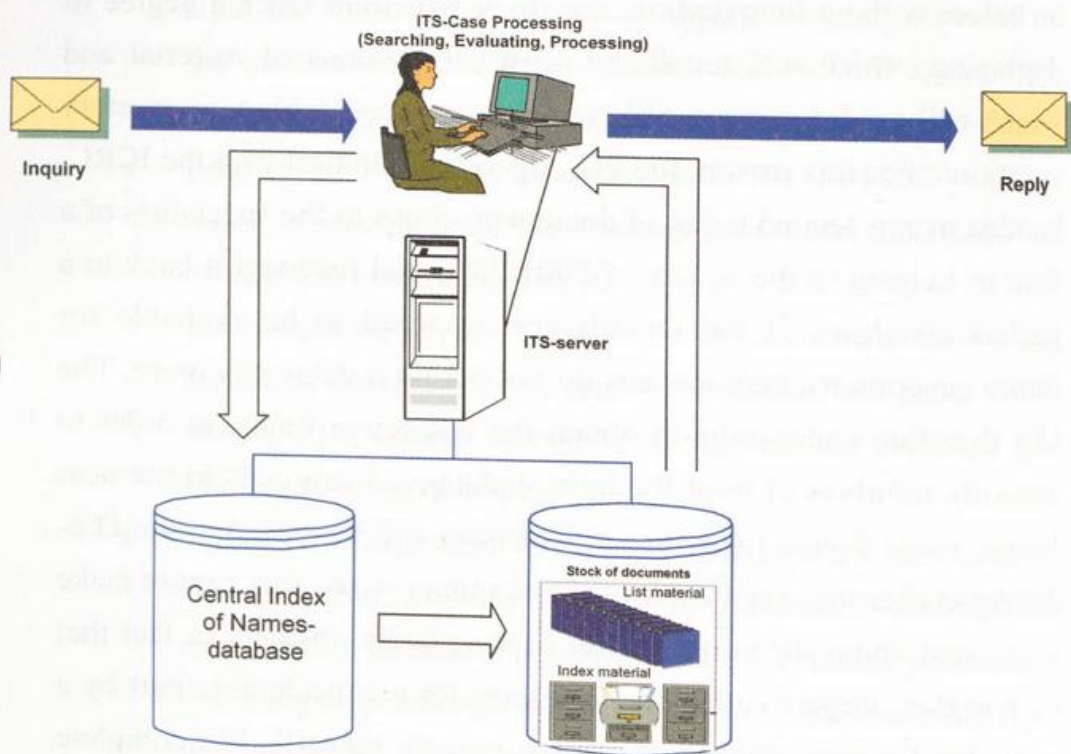


Illustration 16: The fully electronic processing of the inquiries

In contrast to the "classic paper processing" that is still carried out, the future caseworker will be entirely freed from the consultation of the original records, which will additionally mean a protection of the same. While a case that is processed according to mandate is presently still going from section to section – according to the storage place of the relevant documents –, the caseworker will be able in the near future to retrieve all necessary pieces of evidence at his/her computer terminal and to carry out the final processing without having to leave his/her working place. The ITS has set itself the goal to increase the efforts in the scanning work within the scope of the means at disposal as far as possible. Since this electronic registration requires comprehensive preparatory and follow-up work, the project will take up a considerable span of time. Thanks to the amount coped with so far, however, one can assess a period of time that gives rise to the hope that former persecutees who are still alive will be able to benefit from a considerably accelerated processing of their requests.

## The Mandate of Historical Research

On the occasion of the annual meeting of the International Commission in Rome in 1995, the supervisory body of the ITS decided on an opening of the documents of a general kind (not personal). This decision was put into practice on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1996, so that third parties have had access to the stock since then. Particularly in connection with the reappraisal of the own history, many communities and firms have made use of the newly created possibility in the last years.

Three years later, the same commission decided in London on the opening of the other documents for research. A decision that was confirmed in Brussels one year later. Since then, the representatives of the individual governments in the Commission have been endeavouring to determine the conditions for the access.

A substantial facilitation in the choice and determination of the definitive regulation for the opening of the documentation preserved in Bad Arolsen is provided by the numerous new possibilities resulting from the creation of an ITS-database. As the previous expositions clearly reveal, the imaging of the documents of the ITS far beyond the Central Index of Names is in progress in the meantime. The actual stock of documents is usually captured in shades of grey or in colour and filed electronically on magneto-optical data carriers. There, it is under the administration of an archival software that permits an attributing of the individual documents, a comfortable and fast research in the stock of documents as well as an efficient and clear administration of the data carriers. Meanwhile, a little less than 40% of the stock of documents available in Bad Arolsen has already been made accessible electronically.

Together with the physical qualities of the data carriers, the archival software provides for the documents to remain in their determined form and renders a change or deletion impossible.

Out of the electronic archives, the documents may, in principle, be copied at will onto other data carriers and – with certain restrictions (e.g. loss of the colour) – also onto microfilm. Moreover, by such a procedure, it becomes feasible to make the information accessible electronically to third parties on the spot or, if required, also via data networks (e.g. also the Internet).

Individual stocks – as, for example, the documents acquired more recently from social insurance carriers –, however, are definitely not at disposal for a free use outside the humanitarian work. Respective contracts concluded with the individual offices that made the material available provide that these documents may only be used for the evaluation in the interest of the persons concerned. The power of disposal regarding the respective collections remains with the office that gave them to the ITS in these cases. Such documents will be assigned to a special “document class” in the electronic archives, through which a respective restriction of the user-specific access rights is possible.

The other documents almost always contain personal data. In case of a free release of the same, the interests of the still living persons or their descendants, which are worthy of protection, could therefore be affected. For this reason, there exists the stipulation to either withdraw these documents entirely from an access by external parties or to make the indications of names contained in them unrecognizable before the transfer respectively the external access.

While the first variant – an alternative that is not very efficient for interested historians – may be implemented quite easily by means of the already mentioned document classes, the second possibility pre-

supposes a manual preparation of document copies drawn up accordingly. Anyway, all documents will have to be looked through in the run-up to the opening by an employee and the release for the access will have to be initiated explicitly. In the first case, the simple change of the document class will be sufficient for the release respectively the closure. In the second case, the names are to be ascertained, to be marked with the mouse and the respective sections to be cut out respectively blackened. Afterwards, the copy of the document prepared in this way may be filed in an especially released area. An automatic processing of the documents with the aim to blacken individual names is practically impossible, among other things due to the diversity of the records. Besides this, it is to be considered that not only the name makes an unmistakable identification possible, but often also other characteristics.

As a solution for an as fast implementation of a historical research as possible, the ITS is striving for the duplication of all documents preserved at the Tracing Service in the database that is presently being set up. While this database would have to be subdivided according to the needs of an operative tracing service, i.e. as a copy of the "paper order" existing now, a second one, i.e. a duplicate of the same, would have to be completely reorganized according to the needs of a historical archive. Only this way, the humanitarian and the research work could be carried out concurrently and without a mutual impairment. For understandable reasons, the work in both fields does not permit any unnecessary delays.

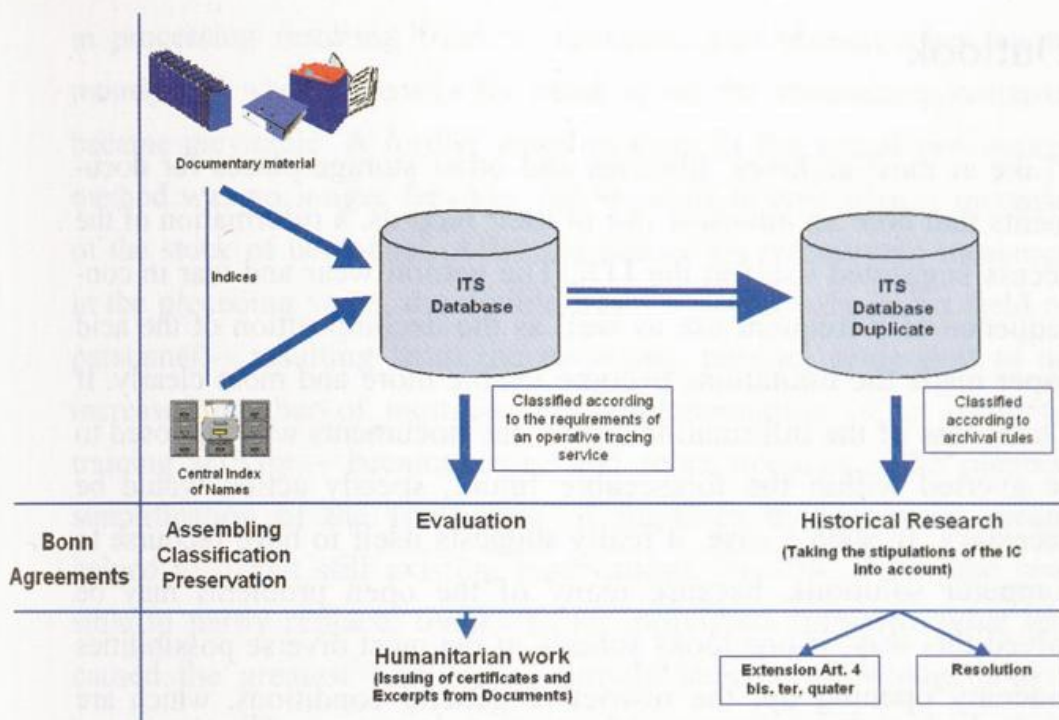


Illustration 17: Evaluation variant of the ITS-database

The International Commission is presently elaborating the guidelines indispensable for this. Basically, all representatives are of the opinion that Article 4 of the Bonn Agreements requires an extension for this purpose. In the form of a resolution, the members are endeavouring to determine all necessary regulations, so that the opening of the archives may be put into practice. This in a special instrument for the ITS that will meet the requirements of all governments.

## Outlook

Like at most archives, libraries and other storage places for documents that note an intensive use of their records, a reformation of the access suggested itself at the ITS. The natural wear and tear in consequence of a frequent use as well as the decomposition of the acid paper made the limitations become visible more and more clearly. If a total loss of the information and/or the documents was supposed to be averted within the foreseeable future, speedy action would be necessary. In such a case, it really suggests itself to have recourse to computer solutions, because many of the open problems may be solved this way. If one looks soberly at the most diverse possibilities suddenly opening up, the restrictive general conditions, which are not to be neglected, also become evident. As greatest disadvantage of an electronic variant of document administration, for example, the lacking knowledge of the retention periods of stored data may be mentioned. Even though, at present, a "relatively short duration of retention" is to be proceeded from regarding this medium, two criteria speak in favour of the introduction – if only for security considerations – of such a procedure:

- the relatively low duplication costs of the data captured this way and
- the technical progress to be expected in this field in the near future

In the middle of the 1990s, those responsible for the ITS decided in favour of the introduction of a consistent computer administration and thus evaluation of the records preserved in Bad Arolsen. This, consequently, long before the latest flood of inquiries in connection with the settlement of the German Fund could be foreseen and therefore at a time when the number of incoming letters and the backlog

in processing resulting from it, however, had already risen enormously and when measures for heading off the threatening collapse became inevitable. A further simplification of the actual processing method was no longer feasible, the same as a hypothetical increase of the stock of personnel. After the numerous recruitment measures in the preceding years, the double burden particularly in the field of personnel – resulting from the necessary parallel settlement of an increased number of inquiries and implementation of an intensive training activity – became more and more apparent. The planned simplification of the processing of inquiries by electronic means helped to dispel still existing reservations, because it became possible to partly replace, thanks to an individual software, what had caused the greatest bottleneck, namely lacking knowledge and/or experience. The essential gain in the computerized procedure is, however, the evidently faster settlement of many steps of work. The conversion from pure paper archives into electronic archives, started years ago, is presently being continued purposefully. The originally designed concept has remained the same in its essential points. Owing to the tremendous progress in the field of information technology, little adaptations are being made permanently, which again and again give rise to pleasant new prospects.

Besides this, the International Commission is, now as before, dealing with the realization of the already decided extension of the mandates in respect of the opening of the personal records. Even though the general course – i.e. the amendment of Article 4 of the Bonn Agreements – has met with the consent of all, important agreements are still lacking regarding some questions of detail. As far as the subsequent practical implementation is concerned, the situation is the same, since the planned resolution also requires further discussions before an approval by all members. The uniform will of the Commission members to carry out the humanitarian as well as the his-

torical work concurrently gives rise to the hope of a conclusion of the debates soon.

In one point, all representatives are agreed: the expected end of the original task in the service of the "former persecutees themselves or their legal successors" will probably not be reached so soon. Considered from a realistic point of view, the termination of one mandate before taking up the next is therefore inconceivable, which is why the ITS is presently preparing an extension of its tasks according to the stipulations of its supervisory organ. This provides for the caseworkers at the Tracing Service to continue the humanitarian mandate and for third parties to do the historical research themselves. All this work on the ITS-documentation, however, is supposed to be carried out on the spot in Bad Arolsen.

This way, a precedent and thus a certain prospect for the future has been created. In the Bonn Agreements, the rights of ownership concerning the records preserved by the ITS are not laid down explicitly, considered from a juristic point of view. In two Commission meetings of the last years, the members have deferred the subject of the future organization of the ITS and its organs to the time after the completion of the humanitarian work. The unchanged large number of incoming mail, in 2001 and 2002 even the largest results ever achieved, directly influenced the decision for the near future to continue giving priority to the humanitarian work and, at the same time, to prepare respectively introduce a historical research. The large number of former persecutees still sending inquiries speaks against an uncontrolled opening from the point of view of those responsible, among other things for reasons of data protection.

Owing to the numerous current problems to be solved (increased efforts in the imaging project, solution of the acute conservation and restoration difficulties, as well as planning of the introduction of historical research), questions of the ownership and of the possible

juristic organs of the future ITS have presently moved into the background. Different variants are imaginable as, for instance, the establishment of a foundation whose members could be e.g. the governments represented in the International Commission today. Clear statements in this respect are presently turning out to be premature and only the consideration of theoretical models seems to be realistic.

Very topical, however, are, so many years after the events, still the concerns of the former persecutees of the National Socialist Regime, and therefore the tracing service work accomplished for this group of persons.

Roughly DM 106 billion (i.e. a little more than € 50 billion) have, until today, been paid by the Federal Republic of Germany for the indemnification of injustice suffered from the National Socialists. To this can be added DM 118.5 million that were voluntarily reimbursed by German industrial enterprises to victims for their forced labour<sup>20</sup>.

Of the indemnification fund for forced labourers that is presently being settled, only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the DM 10 billion at disposal had been paid out by the end of the deadline for applications on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001.

The current demands on the part of the inquirers force the ITS to fully take care of its humanitarian mandate in the interest of those concerned. It is necessary to help particularly the victims who are still alive – who, in many cases, have not even received any indemnification payment at all so far – in asserting their rights now, more than half a century after the events. As many other offices, the ITS feels especially obliged towards this group of persons, as long as the possibility of a direct assistance still exists at all. We all know that the dead do not have any advocates.

## Appendix

### Examples from the ITS-Collection of Documents

The enormous quantity, particularly of personal records, which is available at the Tracing Service, is already very impressive as such. If, besides this, the variety of the same is also taken into account, such a diverse range of the most different kinds of registrations presents itself that even astonishes experienced caseworkers at the Tracing Service again and again. A fundamental prerequisite within the scope of the daily answering of inquiries is the "drawing" of the most various documents, the existence of which often only gives rise to surprise. In addition to the registration at the time of the arresting and on the further stages of the individual and entire time of suffering, i.e. up to the death or the liberation – that is the documentation of the chronological persecution –, there exists a mass of written traces about single events and thus incredible details in the individual phases of this path that was thorny for many of them. In the following, some examples are shown in a random collection, and this in the way they have to be accessible as easily as possible according to the requirements of an operative Tracing Service within the preservation system for the provision of evidence described in detail further above:

1. Concentration Camp Documents
2. Wartime Documents
3. Post-War Documents
4. General Documents
5. Tracing Service Documents

At this point, it should be pointed out unmistakably that, especially as the collection of documents, depending on the place of the perse-

cution, has been preserved and handed over to the ITS in an extremely varying completeness, examples are partly concerned that are available in Bad Arolsen only very fragmentarily. In addition to the incompleteness, some also have the characteristic of being unique, i.e. they are so specific that they were only drawn up in one particular place. Conclusions regarding total stocks or even of a general nature would be out of place here. As an example of this kind, the lice control examination list of Concentration Camp Gross-Rosen may be mentioned.

Certainly, this collection represents a contribution to a better understanding of the aspired meticulousness – hardly comprehensible any more today –, by which it was tried during the war (in spite of the temporarily acute lack of paper as, for example, documented on page 102) to register the persecution. A recognizable logic, however, is not revealed by this selection, because, in certain cases, the leaving of traces has obviously been refrained from consciously from the very beginning. During the selections in the Camps Auschwitz and Lublin-Majdanek, the persons who were not admitted to the camps were not registered at all at the time. The same is true for the registration of the transports after their arrival in the so-called death camps like Chelmno, Treblinka, etc.

In spite of the incompleteness and diversity of the stocks, these offer at least a clue and perhaps even an insight into this special and somehow self-contained world. To what extent this view comes close to reality even only approximately, will presumably remain denied to those not concerned for the most part. In the preface of a book published in the year 2001, that is with a somewhat greater distance to the events themselves, Raul Hilberg, as acknowledged Holocaust researcher, states after years of studies: “Nonetheless, I began only late in my life to analyse the sources used by me. For fifty years, I have chiefly concerned myself with the event itself and

have considered the sources to be raw material that would place me in a position to describe the destruction process"<sup>21</sup>. Even though this statement was exclusively made in connection with documents about the Shoah, this approach probably applies to all records, which refer to the incarceration in a concentration camp, and presumably to a considerable part of the other records as well.

The documentary material of the ITS comprises the entire facet of the registrations during the time of the nazi persecution. According to the time of the liberation of the places of persecution themselves or geographically seen, i.e. of entire regions in the former four occupation zones, the stock has been preserved and has reached Bad Arolsen to different extents. The following examples may help to deepen existing knowledge or to show new aspects at least, which render an even more profound insight into the incredible bureaucratic machinery of the time possible.

The plastification performed on the original documents in the 1950s and 1960s has guaranteed the stability of the records over decades. With the increasing age of the documents, the originally implemented conservation measure is meanwhile causing the opposite, namely a destruction of the same. As a mass procedure for the removal of the lamination is not offered yet, immediate action in the form of a restoration of single sheets is necessary in view of the rapidly progressing damages (cf. Appendix 6. Restoration Demand).





gelbe Karte

**F.Nr. 104669**

Malaria-Index

24. V. 45. 5.000 Blut im Septa p. Hwaen juu i.v. Hb 60% (19.5)		
27. V. Hb 74%	12. VI. 45. Blut To	28. VI. 48. Blut 80 To
3. VII. Blut 84.4	13. VII. Blut 37.2	29. VII. Blut 80 To (Hb 95)
4. VII. Blut 84.0 Migt	14. VII. Blut To	31. VII. Blut 80 To
[K 1034, 1035, 1036 m]	15. VII. Blut 37.9	31. VII. Blut 80 To
6. VII. Blut 84.4	16. VII. Blut 80 To	1. VIII. Blut To
[K 1034, 1035, 1036 m]	17. VII. Blut 80 To	1. VIII. Blut To
6. VII. Blut 84.4	18. VII. Blut 80 To	3. VIII. Blut To
7. VII. Blut 84.5	19. VII. Blut 80 To (Hb 76)	4. VIII. Blut To
[K 1034, 1035, 1036 m]	20. VII. Blut 80 To	5. VIII. Blut
8. VII. Blut 84 To	21. VII. Blut 80 To	
9. VII. Blut To Hb 70	22. VII. Blut 80 To	
[K 1034, 1035, 1036]	23. VII. Blut 80 To	
10. VII. Blut To	24. VII. Blut 80 To	
11. VII. Blut To	25. VII. Blut 80 To	
	26. VII. Blut 80 To	
	27. VII. Blut 80 To	

**Malaria-Index**  
 In Concentration Camp Dachau, medical experiments were made on the prisoners. There exist various records about this.

Der Lagersarzt K. L. Natzweiler

Natzweiler, 25. 2. 1943

Ärztliche Entlassungsuntersuchung.

Betrifft: Häftling Fritz [redacted] Nr. 2587

An die Kommandantur des Konz.-Lagers Natzweiler.

Der Häftling Fritz [redacted] Nr. 2587

wurde am 25. 2. 43 ärztlich auf frische und alte Unfall- und Krankheitsfolgen untersucht.

Ein krankhafter Befund wurde nicht festgestellt.

Der Lagersarzt K. L. Natzweiler

*[Signature]*  
 Hauptsturmführer

Doctor's discharge sheet, as it was issued for discharged prisoners of Concentration Camp Natzweiler at the time of their release.

A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Get. Nr.: [REDACTED] H0126 Hand

Bemerkungen:

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Block 17  
 Nr: 1451  
 Dat: 26.1.45.

69

Läusekontrolle

Wm.	Wanne	gefunden	Bem.
94692	[redacted]	2 Läuse	
93419	[redacted]	2 "	
93120	[redacted]	2 "	
93593	[redacted]	1 "	
1590	[redacted]	2 "	
85178	[redacted]	2 "	

Insgesamt 11 Läuse bei 6 Tische

**Lice control examinations**

Owing to the fact that few personal records from Concentration Camp Gross-Rosen are available at the ITS, such documents often are the only proof.

Wm  
 Nr 87110

183

Mauthausen ..... 2/8 ..... 12

Nazwisko ..... [redacted] ..... Imię *Lejter*

Data urodz. *11/9 1911* ..... Miejsce urodz. *Orłowice*

Przynalozność państwowa ..... *Polskiego*

Zasad *Orłowice*

Porząd samierka wyjechać ..... *English and Polish*  
*questionnaires*

Czy poszukuje zaginionych.

Nazwisko Imię Nazwa

1) .....  
 2) .....  
 3) .....  
 4) .....

Czy na czołowych na granicy

Nazwisko Imię Nazwa *1/202*

1) *Ch...* ..... *41 Torontel Centre*

2) *Toronto / Kanada / ul. [redacted] Street*

3) .....

English and Polish questionnaires  
 After the liberation, the prisoners present in the concentration camps, e.g. Buchenwald, Dachau, Mauthausen, were registered and interviewed, among other things, about the imprisonment, reasons of the imprisonment as well as about the place where they wished to reside in future.

6820 EV. 6820

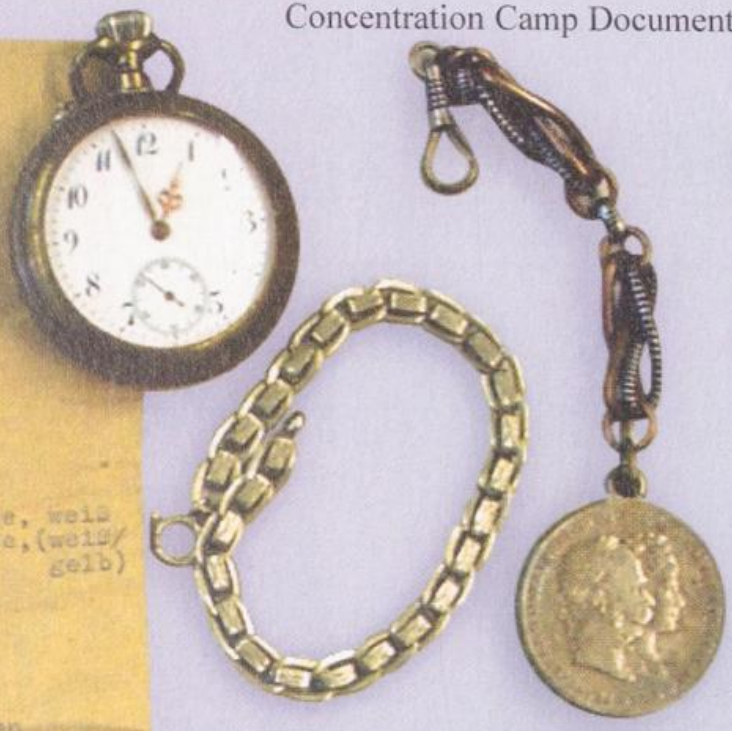
[redacted] Johann

geb. 4.6.05

1 Taschenuhr weiß mit Kette, weiß  
 1 Taschenuhr, gelb mit Kette, (weiß/gelb)  
 1 Kette als Anhänger  
 1 Armband, weiß.

K.L. Neuengamme, am  
 15.12.41

[redacted] *Johann*



1

File 29 921

[redacted] Josef

geb. 30.3.1923 *Alt 3713*

Inhalt:

1 Armbanduhr weiß mit Gliederband (Befekt)  
 1 Taschenuhr weiß mit Kette gelb (Revue)

Neuengamme, am 16.5.1944

[redacted]

*Kasse 2  
 Spindel 52  
 Envelope 14*

Envelopes from Concentration Camp Neuengamme with delivered effects

Concentration Camp Documents

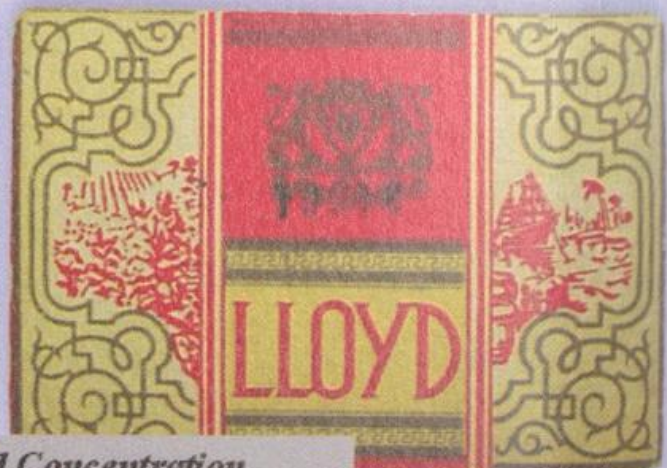
[Redacted]	6508	Pol. 5/5
Nennis		12.11.15
Zugeg. am: 1.10.34		
Geb. Ort: [Redacted]		
Quelle: 30/9.36		



[Redacted]	9143	2/2
Georg		19.3.02.
Zugeg. am 8. 2. 36.		
Geb.- Ort: [Redacted]		
Quelle: 18.36		



St. [Redacted]	10038	P. 4. 4/2
Melchior		13. 4. 47
17.36		[Redacted]
Quelle: 18.36		



*Writing-room card Concentration Camp Dachau written on the inner sides of original cigarette packets cut to size*





ITS 084

FG-23

FG-12

Liste der in St. Liebfrauen von 1939 bis heute  
stattgefundenen Trauungen von A u s l ä n d e r n

1. Josef [redacted], geb. 24. 11. [redacted] in Kramen Kre.  
Kathisch, besond. Ort in Eckendorf /Lenzo.  
Marianne [redacted] geb. 26. 1. [redacted] in Bornhagen Kre.  
Kathisch, besond. Ort in Eckendorf.  
Getraut 8. 12. 1940.
2. Broer [redacted], geb. 12. 11. [redacted] in Maheim /Holland.  
Jeltie van den B [redacted], geb. 28. 8. [redacted] in Holland,  
nähere Angaben fehlen.  
Getraut 10. 7. 1942.
3. Giovanni [redacted] o, geb. 29. 7. [redacted] in Careladetto  
Italien.  
Korizkeja [redacted] geb. 18. 12. [redacted] L e v o r  
b./ Werschau.  
Getraut 1. 8. 1945.
4. Armando [redacted] 3. 2. [redacted] in Casato b./ Salerno,  
Maria R [redacted] - en [redacted] Gestel /Holland.  
Getraut 11. 8. 1945.

Bielefeld, den 24. Juli 1946.

Kath. Pfarramt Liebfrauen:

*Blain M. W.*

Bischof, Pfarrer.

Liebfrauengemeinde

Bielefeld  
Friedrichstraße, 6

*Reports on marriages*

Predominantly, these reports came from registry offices, because the communities rarely recorded marriages in the lists about the stay of foreigners during the war.

Stadtkreis Bonn

IIS 52

F 9-190

Kategorie B

Beglaubigte Abschrift.

a IV 635/39

9,- RM Urkundensteuer zu dem Gerichtskosten erhoben.

Bonn, den 3. Januar 1940

der Urkundsbeamte der Geschäftsstelle, gez. Zimmermann, Justizoberinspektor.

Eröffnet:

Bonn, den 3. Januar 1940

Amtsgericht, Abt. 5a  
gez. Zimmermann,  
Justizoberinspektor als Rechts-  
pfleger 5 a IV 635/39

Testament.

Wir, die Werftbuchführer [redacted] hen Eheleute zu Kiel, nämlich:

1. ich, Johann [redacted]  
errichten im Nachstehenden unser gemeinschaftliches Testament.

Wir bestimmen von Todeswegen was folgt:

Wir, Johann und Auguste geborene [redacted] schen Eheleute ernennen zu unseren Erben:

1. uns gegenseitig,
2. unser eheliches Kind

Diese Erbeseinsetzung geschieht mit der Massgabe, dass der Überlebende von uns Testatoren Vorerbe des Erstversterbenden und unser vorbenanntes Kind Nacherbe sein soll, und zwar ist letzteres nur auf dasjenige eingesetzt, was bei dem Tode des Letztlebenden von uns noch übrig sein wird.

Sollte der Überlebende Ehegatte indessen zu dem einer zweiten Ehe schreiten, so hat er mit Kinde die gesetzlich vorgeschriebene Teilung zu halten. Dieses ist von mir, dem Ehemann Johann [redacted] eigenhändig geschrieben und unterschrieben.



CATEGORY

3

Search Bureau

(Siegel)

Kiel den 10. Januar 1937  
gez.

Beglaubigt:  
gez. Unterschrift  
Justizangestellter als Urkundsbeamter der  
Geschäftsstelle des Amtsgerichts Abt. 5a

Diese Abschrift wird Ihnen zur Kenntnis übersandt.

Für die Richtigkeit der Abschrift:

S: *Reports on inventory and bequeathed property*  
S: exist very often and from all four occupation zones.  
This last will written in 1937 was only documented during the war, probably because the persons concerned were still in Germany at that time.

**Städt. Krankenhaus  
Zell (Wiesental)**

Leitender Arzt Dr. Müller  
Telefon Nr. 251  
Postcheckkonto Karlsruhe Nr. 8057  
der Stadtkasse Zell im Wiesental

332

IV

ITS 141

(17a) Zell i. W., den 25. März 1946.

Der Landrat, Lörrach,  
Eirc 28 NRZ 1943

An den  
Herrn Landrat - Vers. Amt  
L ö r r a c h.

Nachforschung über Zivil- und  
Militärangehörige der vereinig-  
ten Nationen  
H i e r

Aufbewahrung medizinisch - da-  
mitärer Akten dieser Personen.

In der Anlage übersende ich 19 Aktenstücke von Personen  
der vereinigten Nationen, die im Krankenhaus waren.

Ferner geben wir nachstehend eine Aufstellung über die-  
jenigen Personen, für die Akten nicht vorhanden sind.

O.Z.	Zuname	Vorname	Geburtsdatum	Tag der Aufnahme	Entl. Krankheit
1.	[REDACTED]	Adebt	22.5.25	17.2.43 - 3.6.43	Schiene- beinbruch
2.	[REDACTED]	Wassitig	unbekannt	17.5.43-22.7.43	Epilem
3.	[REDACTED]	Jean	11.2.20	8.7.43- 14.7.43	Gastritis
4.	[REDACTED]	Josef	1.1.15	9.9.43-16.9.43	Magen- senkung
5.	[REDACTED]	Michael	10.9.10	5.11.43 - 13.11.43	Forunk- lose
6.	[REDACTED]	Jnhiette	4.8.22	13.1.44-24.1.44	Grippe
7.	[REDACTED]	Johann	25.4.25	29.1.44- 29.2.44	Astmah

Der Verwalter :

*Müller*

**Reports on stays of foreigners in  
hospitals during the war**

Similar reports were also ordered on  
the part of the Allied Military  
Authorities from all registration  
offices, as e.g. reports for this group  
of persons on marriages, births and  
deaths.



Int. C 003

S. 11 Aachen

ITS 002 Master russischer Staatsangehöriger auf dem Westfriedhof in Aachen.

ITS 002

Inf. Nr.	Namen	Vornamen	Geb. Datum	Sterbeort	Datum u. Todesursache	Beerdigungsstelle
1	unbekannt	unbekannt	ca. 30 Jahre	Aachen	28. 5.44	Flur 27a 2/11 ✓
2	"	"	" 20 "	"	28. 5.44	" " 27a 2/13 ✓
3	"	"	" 20 "	"	28. 5.44	" " 27a 3/10 ✓
4	"	"	unbekannt	"	unbekannt	" " 27a 3/16 ✓
5	"	männlich	"	"	15. 4.45	Tod durch Erschiessung 56 1/3 ✓
6	"	"	"	"	15. 4.45	" " 56 1/4 ✓
7	"	"	"	"	14. 5.45	Herzschwäche 56 3/2 ✓
8	"	"	"	"	2. 7.45	unbekannt 56 7/4 ✓
9	"	"	"	"	2. 7.45	" " 56 8/1 ✓
10	"	"	"	"	17. 7.45	" " 56 8/5 ✓
11	unbekanntes Kind	"	"	"	unbekannt	Tot aufgefunden 10 12/2 ✓

3. Unbekannte Russen.

CATEGORY 1  
55 Search Bureau

COPY 1  
Search Bureau

List of deceased unknown Russian nationals

Such reports are very seldom and only little helpful for the evaluation according to mandate due to the lack of concrete personal data.

### 3. Post-War Documents

3

Liste über die Ausstellung von Ausweisen für KZ-Häftlinge.

Lfd. Nr.	Name und Vorname Wohnung	Beruf	Geb. Datum Geb. Ort	Ausweis	Ausstellg. Datum
1 ✓	[redacted] Istvan Erding	Rechtsanw.	18. 99 Ka [redacted]	Lager Dachau v. 28.6.45. Capt. Robot & DEAL	31.7.45
2	[redacted] Hugo Erding	Spiritus- Kocher	11. 88 Na [redacted]	"	31.7.45
3	[redacted] Istvan Erding	Beamter	1. 07 Na [redacted]	"	31.7.45
4	[redacted] Ajzek Erding	Schlosser	2. 23 Be [redacted]	Pass v. 10.7.45 Cap. Bierman- Auschwitz-	31.7.45
5	[redacted] Merin Erding	Journalist	7. 0 Ka [redacted]	"	31.7.1945
6	[redacted] Benjamin Erding	Maler	2. 6 Be [redacted]	Ausweis v. 29.7.45 (Dr. Berkes ) Pass v. 29.7.45 Cap. Bierman	31.7.45
7	[redacted] Abraham Erding	Automech.	17. 23 St [redacted]	Lager Dachau v. 3.7.45 Robert E. DEAL Capt. F.A. C.D.D.P.	31.7.45.
8 ✓	[redacted] [redacted] Erding	Schlosser	18. 18 [redacted]	Lager Dachau v. 3.7.45 Robert E. DEAL Captain, F.A. C.D.D.P.	31.7.45
9	[redacted] Tobias Erding Zweitschrift ausgest. am 5.11.45, da Original verloren.	Buchhalter	20. 24 Zaw [redacted]	Lager Dachau v. 3.7.45 Robert E. DEAL Capt. F.A., C., D.P.	31.7.45
10	[redacted] Joel Erding	Beamter	15. 25 Be [redacted]	Lager Dachau v. 3.7.45 Robert E. DEAL Capt. F.A.C.D.D.P.	31.7.45
11	[redacted] Josef Erding	Maler	16. 10 Er [redacted]	Lager Dachau v. 3.7.45 Robert E. DEAL Captain, F.A. C.D.D.P. Team 101	6.8.45
12	Nid [redacted]	Kraftfahrer	1.9 Be [redacted]	970-94 COUNTER INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT APO 446 U.S. ARMY JAMES A. Evans Ap. Agent CIC	7.8.45

*Issuing of identity cards for former prisoners of  
concentration camps*

List of the Landratsamt (Rural District Office)  
Erding. Only very few reports of this kind are  
available at the Tracing Service.

Jidiszer Komitet  
in Altötting



Altötting, den 24. 1. 1947

Eingang 150  
Eriedigt

A J N W O J N E R - L I S T E

der naj ajnregistrierten ajnwojner bis 25. Januar 1947

Kibuc  
Lager  
Komitet

Altötting II - Bayerischer Hof -

genojer post adres Neuöttingerstr. 5, Bayerischer Hof

nomen fun ferantfortlichen lejter fun di kartaj:



Nr.	familje	nomen	gebojren	jectiker adres
1.		Hermann	30. 5.	gein Altötting, Hof
2.		Rosa	27. 9.	ow " "
3.		Halina	3. 12.	ikowo " "
4.		Sura-Perla	2. 1.	ötting " "
5.		Hersz-David	7. 1.	ötting " "
6.		Motek	11. 11.	ku Neuötting, str. 11
7.		Tobs	21. 6.	ku " "
8.		Rachela	25. 2.	owice Altötting, str.
9.		Hela	15. 4.	usk " 84
10.		Mordka	10. 12.	schau " "
11.			21. 1.	ötting " "
12.		Ruta	20. 2.	" Ne Hof
13.		Erajndla	27. 9.	" gerstr
14.		Josef	20. 4.	" 15
15.		Alter	15. 2.	" "



*Newly registered inhabitants after the war*  
Issued in Altötting on 24.01.1947  
in the Yiddish language.

F/a

70-18-1034 Bal 15 "B" 37

OIR Dir. Zone Fr. All.  
 Service Zonal de l'Eligibilite  
 NEUENBURG - Wurt. - Tel. 356

CATEGORIE "B"

Quinzieme Liste -  
 Trente-Septieme Page -  
 31-3-49

122

Centre de M.LINGEN -  
 Cercle de M.LINGEN -  
 Pays de Wurtemberg

REFUGIES OU PERSONNES DEPLACES  
 reconnus par le Service Zonal d'Eligibilite  
 comme tombant sous le mandat de l'OIR et  
 ayant droit, des reception de la presente  
 Liste:

- 1) a la protection juridique et politique de l'OIR,
  - 2) au reetablissement ou au rapatriement,
- Categorie B = Beneficiaires ) de l'assistance materielle, complete et gratuite  
 Categorie BJ = Non Beneficiaires ) de l'OIR.  
 Categorie CB = Cat. B ) mais a convoques au premier passage de la Commission Zonale  
 Categorie CBJ = Cat. BJ ) de Verification de l'Eligibilite de l'OIR

=====  
 Natio- Date de Immatri- Nombre de Par,  
 nalite Sexe Prenom Nom naissance sultion: dos.pers. Const.,Adresse  
 =====

Hong.	F	[REDACTED]	17-	15	167.602-2	RF 1	SCHMIDT,
"	F	[REDACTED]	26	07	"	-3 " 1	Camp Hong,
"	F	[REDACTED]	2	07	"	-4 " 1	(Dolf)
"	M	[REDACTED]				-5 " 1	
		(8-1)			(CM 5 772)		
Youg.	M	[REDACTED]					
		(8-2 4*B*25)					

*Recognition of the DP-status*  
 by the zonal committee for  
 refugees and displaced persons.  
 With this, they received the legal  
 and political protection of the  
 IRO and the right to establish and  
 repatriate themselves.

Neustadt in Holstein, den 23. November 1950

Schlussericht

Über die Ausgabe von Brennmaterialien (Unionbriketts, Koks, Holz und Eierbriketts) an die EI-DPs in der Gemeinschaftsunterkunft Neustadt in Holstein.

Lfd. Nr.	Volksgruppe	Bezeichnung des Brennmaterials							
		Unionbriketts		Eierbriketts		Holz		Koks	
		Port.	kg	Port.	kg	Port.	kg	Port.	kg
1.	Polen	603 ✓	25	566 ✓	35	534 ✓	19	602	30
2.	Letten	525 ✓	25	498 ✓	35	484 ✓	19	457	30
3.	Litauer	243 ✓	25	240 ✓	35	240 ✓	19	268	30
4.	Ukrainer	117 ✓	25	102 ✓	35	107 ✓	19	98	30
5.	Esten u. And.	105 ✓	25	85 ✓	35	104 ✓	19	102	30
	Sa...	1593	-	1491	-	1469	-	1527	-
1.	Polen	539 †	25	602	15	-	-	-	-
2.	Letten	490 †	25	457	15	-	-	-	-
3.	Litauer	217 ✓	25	268 ✓	10 ✓	-	-	-	-
4.	Ukrainer	105 †	25	98 †	10	-	-	-	-
5.	Esten u. And.	77 †	25	108 †	10	-	-	-	-
	Sa...	1428	-	1533	-	-	-	-	-
1.	poln. Komitee	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	250
2.	lett. "	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	250
3.	lit. "	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	250
4.	ukr. "	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	250
5.	est. "	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	250
	Sa...	-	-	-	-	-	1000	-	1250
1.	Polen	} Zur reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	2400
2.	Letten		-	-	-	-	-	-	1650
3.	Litauer		-	-	-	-	-	-	1100
4.	Ukrainer		-	-	-	-	-	-	500
5.	Esten u. And.		-	-	-	-	-	-	500
	Sa...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6150

Gesamtaufstellung  
in der Anlage 1

*Distribution of fuels in a communal lodging for DPs*

For each of the different ethnic groups, a responsible person picked up the ration coupons for coal and distributed these to the persons entitled.

Handwritten signature and date: *Handwritten signature*  
11/16



**Medical papers of foreigners who stayed in hospitals after the end of the war**  
The medical file shown contains the medical history, X-ray pictures, etc. of an entire family.

CM/1  
 COMMISSION PREPARATOIRE  
 DE L'ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES REFUGIES

Vorbereitende Kommission  
 der Internationalen Flüchtlings-Organisation

P.L.2.1

Genève - Cent. 25-6190

**DEMANDE D'ASSISTANCE**  
**GESUCH UM HILFE**

1. NOM DE FAMILLE -- Familiennamen  
 S. [redacted]

4. Date -- Datum  
 18.11.42

5. N° d'identité -- Ausweis-Nr.  
 185.700

2. Autre ORTHOGRAPHE ou autres NOMS  
 Anders Schreibweise oder Zunamen

6. Nationalité -- Staatsangehörigkeit  
 a) revendiquée -- beanspruchte *POLONNE*  
 b) groupe ethnique -- Volksangehörigkeit *ALLEMAN*  
 c) à la naissance -- bei der Geburt *POLONNE*  
 d) pays de résidence avant la guerre mondiale  
 Aufenthaltsland vor dem 2. Weltkrieg *Polen*  
 e) A -- Nationalité précédente -- Frühere Staatsangehörigkeit

Religion -- Religion  
 cath. rom. protest. juive, orthodoxe, autre  
 Röm. kath., Protest., Jüd., Orthod., Andere  
*protest. cath.*

7. Etat-civil -- Familienstand  
 marié *1941*  
 célibataire *20.11.42*  
 veuf *29.11.42*  
 divorcé *29.11.42*

8. NOMS -- Namen	Degré de parenté avec chef de famille Verwandschaftsgrad z. Familienoberhaupt	Date de naissance Geburtsdatum	Nationalité Staatsangehörigkeit	VILLE PROVINCE et PAYS de naissance Geburtsort, Provinz und Land
a) 1) JEUNE -- Mann	chef	15.11.1900	Pologne	STRUTYN-Kalisch-Pologne
b) 2) FEMME -- Frau	épouse	3.11.1900	pro-mari	ALTRACH-Württ. ALLEMAGNE
c) 3) ENFANTS -- Kinder	filles	5.3.1930	"	Leutkirch "
d) 4) ENFANTS -- Kinder	filles	31.10.1930	"	Aitrach/Karlsruhe ALLEM.

9. AUTRES MEMBRES DE LA FAMILLE. NOMS AU COMPLET. Sonstige Familienmitglieder, Vollständige Namen

9. a)

9. b)

9. c)

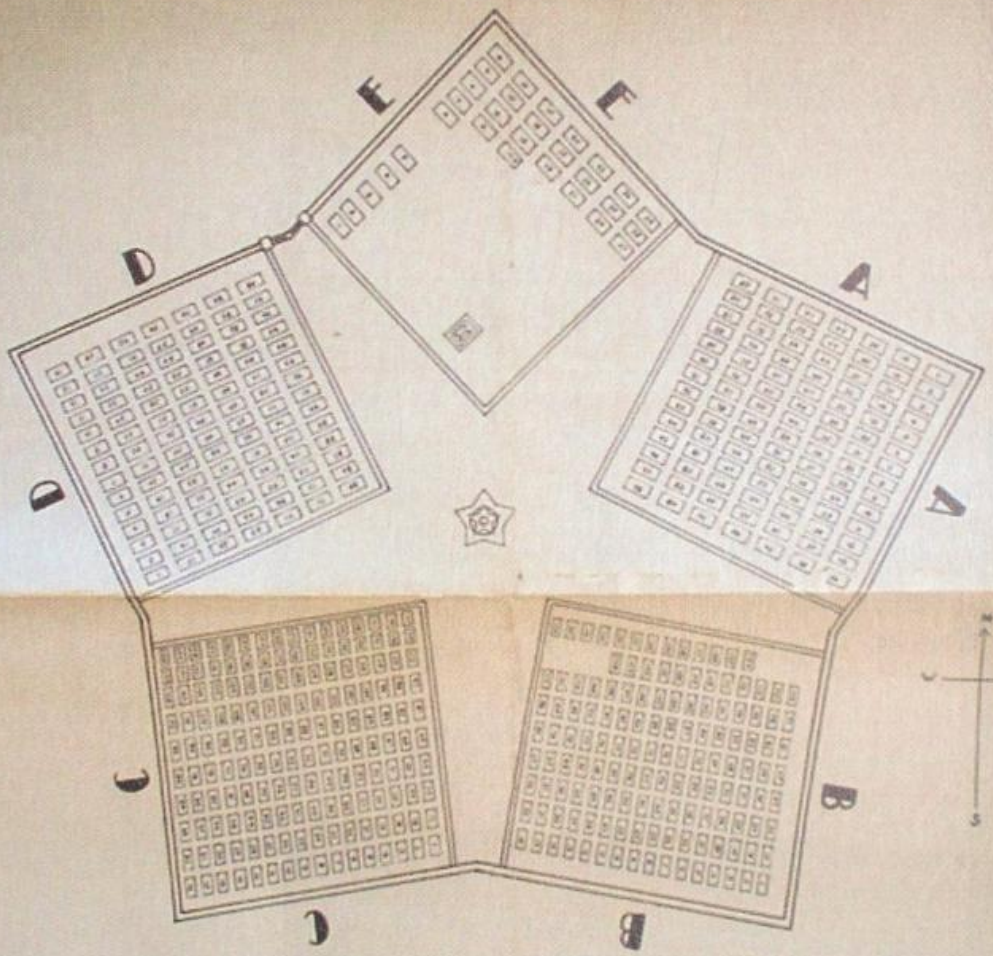
9. d)

9. e)



**CM/1 File (chiefly available for families)**  
 "Care and maintenance"-forms are applications for granting the IRO-assistance. They were filed in DP-camps and contain the information given by the applicants themselves concerning their employment and/or stay during and after the war.

# REFUGEE CEMETERY EL SHATT EGYPT - UNRRA - I.R.O.



Scale : 1 cm = 2 metres.  
Location : longitude: 32° 35' 24"  
latitude : 30° 02' 30".

Date : December, 1946.

*Cemetery plan with list of names, on the basis of which the graves may be allocated to the persons buried*

In El Shatt in Egypt, there had existed two refugee camps since 1944 and in the early post-war time.

There resided predominantly refugees from Yugoslavia. It was possible in a few cases to ascertain the names of Czech, Austrian and Polish nationals as well as of deceased persons whose nationality is unknown in the list of the persons buried on this cemetery.

NAME	AGE	DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE	SERIAL NO.	
				1	2
Jana	3	11. 8. 45	E	91	475
Petar	31	29. 8. 45	D	41	487
Mare	42	14. 8. 44	A	40	270
Jate	9/12	18. 8. 44	B	113	42/M
Jerko	42	16. 4. 45	D	45	459
Toni	1	29. 8. 44	B	7	303
Jure	6	24. 1. 45	B	74	454
Jaka	34	26.10. 44	A	90	325
Mataxa	5	28. 8. 44	C	15	28
Barica	3	11.11. 44	B	55	24C
J. an	72	12.12. 44	D.	3	470 (Czech)
Jaka	6	11.10. 44	B	39	370 (Czech)
Danica	3	9. 8. 44	F	38	128
Gordan	1	20. 8. 44	C	144	277
Iva	1	28. 8. 44	C	12	32
Devica	1/20	24. 8. 44	C	78	174 (Czech)
Periska	11	10.12. 44	B	44	475
Vinka	4	22. 7. 44	G	114	229
Jos	34	12.12. 44	A	42	250
Jelo	27	2. 2. 44	B	14	372
Ivan	44	5. 3. 48	E	4	113
Ivan	1	2.10. 44	B	34	345
Ali	5/12	20. 4. 44	B	106	39/M
Margarita	8/12	19. 4. 44	B	107	38/M
Petar	45	7. 7. 44	A	34	272
Vinka	8	16. 1. 45	B	70	421
Ivan	1	30. 8. 44	B	4	301 (Czech)
Jaka	76	4. 6. 44	A	21	117
Walter	24	13. 4. 47	E	16	514 (Austrian)
Joska	1	27. 8. 44	C	4	44
Ivan	58	20. 8. 44	A	3	72
Jure	68	8. 8. 45	D	21	472
14 - Franjo	17	22. 4. 45	B	25	42/M
14 - Franjo	1	4.10. 44	B	31	300
14 - Lenjaka	1	4. 8. 44	C	130	222
Jerko	21	25. 7. 44	A	49	224
Jate	5	18. 8. 44	D	61	487
Kate	55	12.12. 44	D	17	458
T. an	14	16. 8. 44	C	144	270
Nikica	1	25.10. 44	B	45	352
Mij	1	27. 8. 44	C	10	89
Dunja	3	7. 8. 44	C	137	241
Branko	13	15. 8. 44	C	11	141
Jate	50	1. 8. 44	D	85	474
Antonija	46	12. 4. 44	E	20	30/M
Mate	40	18. 3. 47	B	7	414
Rank	14	25. 8. 44	C	124	263 (Czech)
Katice	2	22. 6. 44	C	47	144
Marija	40	3. 4. 44	E	5	204
Mara			D	44	(Czech)
Mare	31	20. 4. 44	E	12	472
Jate	1	10. 9. 44	B	121	514
Jure	61	19. 8. 44	B	46	470
Don-Slko	23	10. 1. 45	D	24	428
Katica	74	20. 7. 44	A	52	271
Marija	74	13. 7. 45	D	49	490
Mate	20	17. 3. 45	D	32	140
Antonija	1	16. 8. 44	C	50	145
Jate	5	21. 2. 44	B	114	374
Istvana	3	18. 6. 44	C	54	154
Janko	3	14. 8. 44	E	142	271
Georg	3	12. 6. 44	C	40	133
Mate	25	15. 8. 44	A	1	49
Stenka	50	28. 9. 44	E	4	277 (Czech)
Francina	77	3. 7. 44	A	28	192
Marija	60	17. 8. 45	D	24	474
Mirko	1	16. 6. 44	C	55	113

**Emigration lists**

Lists of the emigrations of Displaced Persons to third countries, mainly the USA, Canada, Australia, by ship or plane. The lists are subdivided into shipping lists and Resettlement Center-lists.

Resettlement Centers: Into these centers, the persons came immediately after the stay in the DP-camp. There, the last papers were issued, the DPs were entered into the transport lists, and the tickets were made out as well as the luggage checked, marked and registered. A last medical examination was made and the last check by the security service.

Shipping list: At the port of embarkation, the identity cards were checked for a last time by the IRO, before the trip to a foreign country towards a mostly unknown future started.

- ~~1. 146911 309~~
- ~~2. 146911 309~~
- ~~3. 146911 309~~
- ~~4. 146911 309~~
- ~~5. 146911 309~~
- ~~6. 146911 309~~
- ~~7. 146911 309~~
- ~~8. 146911 309~~
- ~~9. 146911 309~~
- ~~10. 146911 309~~

REPORT NO. OF PERSONS EMIGRATING FROM SOG INTO RESETTLEMENT CENTERS THROUGH TRAVEL BUREAUS DURING 21st JUNE 1951

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sort No	DP No	CP/1 No.	Names	Place	Dir	Birth Date	Country of Birth	Occupation	Agency and for	Destination in USA	Origin	Area of	Origin	Area of
1.	247287	108758	Jucous		DIR	10.1.30	POL.	Farmer	WZG	1010 Ave., Bellaire	MOJ			
2.	247287	108758	Jopann		S DIR	15.9.31	GER.	Housewife	WZG		MOJ			
3.	239832	244847	Harveth		S POL.	9.11.09	POL.	Bookbinder	ACTEMP	2909 U. Ave., Bellaire	MOJ			
4.	187075	145476	Milcha		O DIR	22.5.05	POL.	Hotelkeeper	WZG	Liberty Hill	MOJ			
5.	227903	357									MOJ			

LEWIS & CLARK

THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION  
 Resettlement to U.S.A. via  
 SOG DP Resettlement Center Waldorf.

Appendix 1 for Form, Order  
 No 25  
 61/217/L 19th JUNE 1951

#### 4. General Documents

The records of this section contain, among other things, information about the opening and closing of camps, about the work assignment of the prisoners respectively forced labourers, and about the conditions they were exposed to. In the following, please find a few examples of documents, for which the ITS has the power of disposal.

Schutz-Häp [redacted] Albert Köln, den 8. August 1943.  
h-541 8

Lebenslauf.

Wurde geboren am 5. [redacted] in  
Steinheim (Luxemburg) als ehelicher Sohn  
des Landwirts [redacted] und  
seiner Ehefrau [redacted] geb. [redacted]  
Stand, beide wohnhaft in [redacted] bei Zerdorf  
(Luxemburg).

Ich besuchte 7 Jahre Volksschule und 2 Jahre  
Fortbildungsschule in Zerdorf. Danach arbeitete  
ich im landwirtschaftlichen Betriebe meines  
Vaters bis zu meinem 18. Lebensjahr. Am  
2. Oktober 1939 trat ich in die Großherzogliche  
Freiwilligen-Kompagnie ein, welche nach den  
Ereignissen von 1940 am 4. Dezember  
desselben Jahres nach Heimer zur Um-  
schulung versetzt wurde. Am 10. Juni  
1941 kam meine Kompagnie nach Köln und  
von dort am 20. Oktober desselben Jahres  
nach Jugoslawien kommandiert. Am 3. Januar  
1943 wurde ich in Kraibitz verhaftet.



159

10. Von wem sind dieselben begraben worden ?

*Durch den Friedhofsdirektor Ferdinand Horn in Auerbach.*

11. Wer pflegt diese Gräber ?

( Angabe des Namens und Anschrift desselben)

*Die Stadt Auerbach Opf.*

12. Hat der Bürgermeister die Personalien der Gefangenen registriert, welche im Lager, in der Gemeinde oder in der Nachbarschaft gestorben und begraben worden sind ?

*Die Beurkundung erfolgte unter No= 47 / 1945 im Sterberegister des Standesamts Auerbach Opf.*

13. Kann die Richtung angegeben werden in welcher sich der Transport begeben hat ?

*Kommend von Westen, woher nicht angegeben, mit Marschrichtung nach Nürnberg.*

14. Ist dieser Transport zu Fuß weitermarschiert oder in Ihrer Gemeinde durch die Bahn abtransportiert worden ?

*Marschierten zu Fuß weiter, die Eisenbahn war damals in unserer Gegend außer Betrieb gesetzt.*

15. Sind noch Augenzeugen in Ihrer Gemeinde vorhanden, welche Auskunft über solche Transporte aussagen können ?

*Hierüber müßten erst Ermittlungen angestellt werden, ob sich hier Personen befinden, welche über solche Transporte durch andere Ortschaften und Gemeinden Aufschluß geben könnten. Hier sind weitere Transporte nicht durch.*

16. Falls bejahend, ist Name und Anschrift derselben anzugeben.

. / . - / -

*No 1814*

Auerbach/Opf., den 22. April 1947.....

*Am Centralarchiv*

Stadt Auerbach/Opf.

*J. Hof. v. 28. 3. 47 H. 7113.*

*Schmidt*

Questionnaire concerning a death march (2<sup>nd</sup> page)



Schwester Mathilde Resz

angestellt v. 10.8. bis 2,11.1936

Gehalt bezahlt v. 1.8. bis 28.2.1937.

---

Auskunft am 22.2.37 an die Gaufrauenschaftsleiterin  
Elsbeth F r i c k , München.

---

Frau Resz war 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  Monate im Heim Steinhöring beschäf-  
tigt.

Sie hat während dieser Zeit umfassende wirtschaftliche  
Kenntnisse und hervorragende Tüchtigkeit an den Tag ge-  
legt. Als Wirtschaftlerin, die auch über gute Führereigen-  
schaften verfügt, kann sie bestens empfohlen werden.

Ihre Entlassung aus dem Heim durch das Rasse- und Sied-  
lungsamt erfolgte deshalb, weil sie nicht genügend die  
SS- mässige Einstellung zu den jungen Frauen im Heim fin-  
den konnte.

Heil Hitler!

Der Leiter des Heimes Steinhöring  
gez. Dr. Ebner  
SS- Standartenführer.

*Qualification of a nurse in a "Lebensborn"-home*

## Camp rules of Concentration Camp Esterwegen

Konzentrationslager Esterwegen  
Kommandantur

1. 8. 1934

### Besondere Lagerordnung für das Gefangenen-Barackenlager.

1. Zweck:

Es bleibt jedem Schutzhaftgefangenen überlassen, darüber nachzudenken, warum er in das Konzentrationslager gekommen ist. Hier wird ihm Gelegenheit geboten, seine innere Einstellung gegen Volk und Vaterland zu Gunsten einer Volksgemeinschaft auf nationalsozialistischer Grundlage zu ändern, oder, wenn es der Einzelne für wertvoller hält, für die schutzlose 2. od. 3. Juden-Internationale eines Marx oder Lenin zu sterben.

2. Einweisung in das Lager:

Kein Gefangener darf im Lager Zivilkleidung tragen. Zivilkleidung und Effekten werden bei der Einlieferung abgenommen und gesondert verwahrt.

Allen Neuzugängen sind die Kopfhare radikal zu scheren. Wer mit Ungeschiefer behaftet ist und bei der Einlieferung keine Meldung erstattet, wird bestraft.

Bei der Aufnahme der Personalien durch Beamte der Polit. Abtg. des K.L.E. hat sich jeder Häftling an die reine Wahrheit zu halten und gestellte Fragen gewissenhaft zu beantworten.

3. Meldepflicht für ansteckende Krankheiten

Wer mit einer ansteckenden oder übertragbaren Krankheit, oder mit Ungeschiefer behaftet ist, hat bei der Einlieferung Meldung zu erstatten.

Ein Gefangenen-Feldwebel oder Korporalschaftsführer, welcher innerhalb seines Barackenbereichs Ungeschiefer (Mänzen, Läuse, Pilzläuse usw.) aufkommen lässt, wird mit Arrest bestraft, ebenso wird ein Gefangener bestraft, welcher Ungeschiefer einschleppt, diesen Zustand verschweigt, oder Meldung hierüber unterlässt. So Ungeschiefer aufkommt, fehlt es an der erforderlichen Sauberkeit der Personen oder Stuben. Wird der oben geschilderte Zustand mit Absicht herbeigeführt, dann werden die dafür verantwortlichen Personen wegen Sabotage zur Verantwortung gezogen.

4. Zucht und Ordnung.

Ohne Rücksicht auf Herkunft, Stand und Beruf befinden sich die Gefangenen ausnahmslos in einem untergeordneten Verhältnis. Ob alt, ob jung, hat sich Jeder an militärische Zucht und Ordnung vom ersten Tage an zu gewöhnen.

Alle SS-Männer bis zum Kommandanten des Konzentra-



5. Tracing Service Documents

Haushaltsvorstand evakuiert		Name: [redacted] Vorname: Zdzislaw		Konf.: kath.	Ost: I/3943
Beruf: ohne		geb.: 1934	in: [redacted] Kreis Lask		Lfd. Nr.: 104
Wohnort: deutsch: Hermanow, Kreis Lask		Gemeinde: deutsch:		Kreis:	
polsch:		polsch:			
Ehefrau: Vorname: [redacted]		geb.: 11.11.1903	in: [redacted] Kreis Lask		
Kinder im Haushalt	männlich:	Vorname: Eugeniusz	Alter: 16 J.		
	weiblich:	Vorname: Janina	Alter: 93 J.		
Gesamteindruck der Familie: (leichter/schwerer streichen) gut — mittel — mässig — schlecht					
Ausstellung genehmigt:		Hofkarte Nr.:	Ausgestellert am:		
Vorläufig am: 13.4.44		in:	weitergeleitet am:		
untergebracht am: X		in:	weitergeleitet am:		
am:		in:			
In Arbeit vermittelt am: 28.4.44		nach: HPF, [redacted]			
Im Gau untergebracht am:		in:			
In das Generalgouvernement ausgewiesen am:		nach:			
Politische Beurteilung: Der WE stand er nicht soweit man es bei einem neun jährigen Jungen beurteilen kann, ablehnend gegenüber. <u>Geistige Beurteilung.</u> Spricht sehr schlecht deutsch, ist aber sehr stark bemüht, seine sprachlichen Kenntnisse zu erweitern.			Verhalten im Lager: Genau wie sein Bruder gab er selten Anlass zu einem Tadel. Wenn es der Fall war, so war es nur dort eine kindliche Verspieltheit.		
Gesundheitszustand:			Rassische Beurteilung: 12 April 1944 R.u.S:II. H-2(oh)		
Schlussbeurteilung: X D. kann, wo er unter geeigneter Ernährung kommt zu einem guten deutschen Menschen gemacht werden. Da er noch sehr jung ist, verspricht er sehr viel, denn er verfügt über gute Charakter-Eigenschaften. X Obst 7/6.44					

Index cards of the "Rasse und Siedlungshauptamt" (main office for race and settlement) Litzmannstadt. Such cards contain, in addition to comprehensive personal data, also the "political assessment" of the child, for example.

## LIST OF SILESIAN CHILDREN

16 April 1947

Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Last known Address of parents
[REDACTED] I Barbara	[REDACTED] 1.42	Reichenbach Low. Silesia	Illegitimate Child. Father unknown. Mother: [REDACTED] Gertrud Last known address: Unknown Child came from St. Vincents- heim, Langenbilau.
[REDACTED] II Bertha	[REDACTED] 9.5.38	Breslau	Father: [REDACTED] Paul Mother: [REDACTED] Johanna Last known Address: Mar [REDACTED] b, Breslau
[REDACTED] III Regina	[REDACTED] 26.1.37	Baumersrode	Same information
[REDACTED] IV Martha	[REDACTED] 29.5.33	"	Same information
[REDACTED] V Ilse	[REDACTED] 29.5.33	"	Same information
[REDACTED] VI Charlotte	[REDACTED] 3.9.1942	Breslau	Parents: Unknown Child came from St. Vincents Home Langenbilau.
[REDACTED] VII Lucia	[REDACTED] 19.9.1930	Reichenbach	Illegitimate Child. Father: Unknown Mother: [REDACTED] Luise Last known address: c/o farmer WON [REDACTED] Mfersdorf
[REDACTED] VIII Monika	[REDACTED] 1.I.1932	Langenbilau	Father: Unknown Mother: Died in 1942 in Langenbilau AV. Child came from St. Vincents- home, Langenbilau.
[REDACTED] IX Regina	[REDACTED] 21.8.1937	Langenbilau	Father: [REDACTED] Killed during action in Russia Mother: Same information as above.
[REDACTED] X [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Breslau	Father: [REDACTED] Mother: [REDACTED] Margartha Last address of Mother: [REDACTED] gasse, Breslau. Last address of father: [REDACTED] bacherstr., [REDACTED]

*List of Silesian children  
who were probably of  
German nationality*

Who their parents were  
respectively where these  
resided at the end of the  
war was unknown.



### Hollerith-Index

In 1949, a registration operation of a gigantic extent was started by order of the military government, which had the objective to register all children who lived in public or private institutions, all foster children and all children who had been adopted since 1.9.1939.

The collected reports and documents were recorded by means of the Hollerith-method. A reading device, however, is not available any more, which is why the data of the punched cards had to be entered into the ITS-database.

Likewise, the available birth certificates, files and lists were registered in the Hollerith-form at that time.

The different Hollerith-cards made out on the basis of birth certificates and other child-tracing records comprise the following information:

- The cards that are visually marked with a green diagonal stripe from the bottom left to the top right and with the designation INDEX also include the letters L.R.P. "Limited Registration Plan" (referring to the three western zones).
- L.R.P.-A II as well as a yellow cross stripe on the right margin of the cards mean: adoptive child.
- L.R.P.-C and a red cross stripe on the right margin of the card mean: child from a home.
- L.R.P.-B and a blue cross stripe on the right or upper margin of the card mean: foster child.

In addition to these visual marks, each card bears a specific code number at the top on the left side that may be decoded by means of a code register.

COMMISSION PRÉPARATOIRE  
DE L'ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE  
POUR LES REFUGIÉS

Direction de la Zone Française

SANTE, ASSISTANCE ET EDUCATION

CHILD BRANCH

Ref: No 17/6053

PREPARATORY COMMISSION  
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ORGANIZATION



Le Directeur de la Commission Préparatoire  
de l'Organisation Internationale pour les Réfugiés  
Zone Française d'Occupation en Allemagne

Monsieur le Directeur  
de l'INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE  
U. S. ARMY DISTRICT - BRUNNEN  
APO 154 - B. G. ARMY

565

OBJET : RECHERCHES CONCERNANT LES ENFANTS CONFIES PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT A DES  
FAMILLES ALLEMANDES EN ZONE FRANÇAISE D'OCCUPATION.

Je vous indique ci-dessous la liste des enfants confiés par le  
Lebensborn à des familles allemandes localisées en Zone Française d'Occu-  
pation et qui nous ont été signalés jusqu'à présent, avec des renseignements  
pour chacun d'eux.

Vous voudrez bien me dire si vous désirez avoir des renseignements  
complémentaires, en cas de ces enfants ne vous servant pas comme :

- 1. - née le 21.3.1930, qui se trouvait dans la famille [redacted]  
à Eivenberg (Sarre) ; nationalité polonaise -  
a été rapatriée en Janvier 1946.
- 2. - née le 26.7.1930, nationalité polonaise - qui se trouve  
dans la famille allemande [redacted] à Niefontschach,  
près de Bannrod (Obermoselle),  
Orpheline de père et de mère, ayant toujours vécu en or-  
phelinat ; elle attend le rapatriement en France.
- 3. - (en réalité [redacted]), née le 2.3.1931 - de nationalité polonaise -  
qui se trouve dans la famille [redacted] Spohnlein,  
près de Bad-Kreuznach - rapatriée en 1946.
- 4. - (en réalité [redacted]), née le 2.3.1931, de na-  
tionalité polonaise - qui se trouvait précédemment dans la  
famille [redacted] à Weiburg 1/2. ; rapatriée en Juin 1946.
- 5. - née le 26.3.1933, de nationalité polonaise - qui se trouve  
encore actuellement dans la famille [redacted]  
Gollmes-Kornhiesle ; une enquête est en cours.

2/1948 9/1/48 9/1/48 9/1/48 9/1/48

Reports concerning the tracing of  
children who had been entrusted  
to the care of German families in  
the French Occupation Zone by  
the "Lebensborn"

018002

Stadtjugendamt Augsburg. *017*

1.)

Verzeichnis der Fragebogen für die Registrierung aller Pflegekinder

Name	Geburtsdatum
1. [redacted] Carl	11.6.46 ✓
2. [redacted] Anita	31.5.44 ✓
3. [redacted] Bela Katharina	3.2.36 ✓
4. [redacted] Alfred Josef	4.11.36 ✓
5. [redacted] [redacted]	8.4.39 ✓
6. [redacted] [redacted]	14.1.38 ✓
7. [redacted] [redacted]	22.9.37 ✓
8. [redacted] [redacted]	9.8.37 ✓
9. [redacted] [redacted]	1.1.37 ✓



**STADTVERWALTUNG**  
**AUGSBURG** *017*  
**STADTJUGENDAMT**  
**AMTVERMUNDENSCHAFT** 509

Ref.: Ortsverh. 324 - Fernverh. 4891 - Nebenamt  
Baustr. Stadtplatz Augsburg Nr. 1752 - Postfach 11 München 7034

An das  
Bayerische Landesjugendamt  
**München**  
Hohebeinstraße 11

Ihre Zeichen: Ihre Nachricht vom: Unser Zeichen: AUGSBURG  
J/A 17. Mai 1949

Anglegenheit: Suche nach Kindern der Vereinten Nationen.

Im Vollzug der Entschliessung vom 5.4.1949 Nr. 6737/12 übermitteln wir in der Anlage 533 Fragebogen nebst eigenem Namensverzeichnis.

*Summan*

(Ammann)  
Stadtamtmann

Staatsministerium des Innern  
empl.: 23. Mai 1949  
Nr.: *zu 6737/12*  
Beil.: *584*

*25*

1. [redacted] [redacted]	10.7.44 ✓
2. [redacted] Horst	6.11.42 ✓
3. [redacted] Irene	27.10.47 ✓
4. [redacted] Jürgen Dwight	12.1.45 ✓
5. [redacted] [redacted]	3.8.36 ✓
6. [redacted] [redacted]	31.1.36 ✓
7. [redacted] Angelika	1.5.37 ✓
8. [redacted] [redacted]	1.5.37 ✓
9. [redacted] [redacted]	6.9.36 ✓
10. [redacted] [redacted]	24.11.36 ✓

Reports on foster children

Kindertafel  
Standesamt

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

**I.T.S.**  
CHILD SEARCH

**IRO**

**CASE COVER SHEET**

Surname [REDACTED]

Given or christian names [REDACTED]

Other names used [REDACTED]

Nationality [REDACTED] Birthdate [REDACTED] Birthplace [REDACTED]

Lists on which name appears [REDACTED]

Missing child

Located child

Registered child

Relatives located

Checked with children's index

Card entered into index

Date case received [REDACTED]

**Action of Correspondence unit**

	Date sent out	Initials
Letter for documents and reports letter 2	24.3.47	
Letter to Stenlund and Libick	11.5.47	
Letter to Stenlund and Libick	18.5.47	
Letter to Stenlund and Libick	29.8.51	

**IDENTICAL**

**CASE REVIEWED**

**NOT IDENTICAL**

Summarised by **N.F. Dahn 13.10**

*ITS und IRO-Akten zusammengelegt 23.5*

Statistically Recorded

**Child's file**  
Refers to a Norwegian "Lebensborn"-child in this case. The file (58 sheets) contains exclusively correspondence of the tracing service from the post-war time.



Lebensborn e. V.

Hauptabteilung A

München 1, den 13. Mai 1942  
Gepostamt  
Gepostamt-Str. 11  
Telefon 13114 13Herr  
Herr

Lango, 5. Mai 1942.

Lango / Lippe  
Kuhgraben 53

An

Lebensborn e. V.

MünchenStr. Aufnahme eines Pflegekindes.

Sehr geehrter Herr Edelmann!

In den Anlagen überreiche ich Ihnen das Bild meiner Frau. Es stammt aus den ersten Tagen nach dem Tode unserer Ursel und zeigt recht verhärtete Züge. Meine ist sonst ein recht fröhlicher Mensch. Ausserdem füge ich noch 2 Urkunden bei über die Heirat der Grosseltern meiner Frau. Ich bitte Sie freundlich, die Daten doch der Stammtafel meiner Frau einfügen zu wollen. Damit wären wohl alle Angaben über die beiderseitige Abstammung vollständig.

Ich darf Sie nun nochmals herzlich bitten, die Angelegenheit soweit wie möglich zu beschleunigen, wir sehnen uns so sehr, neues Leben in unser nun so stilles Haus zu bekommen. Ich würde mich freuen, recht bald von Ihnen zu hören.

*Child's file*

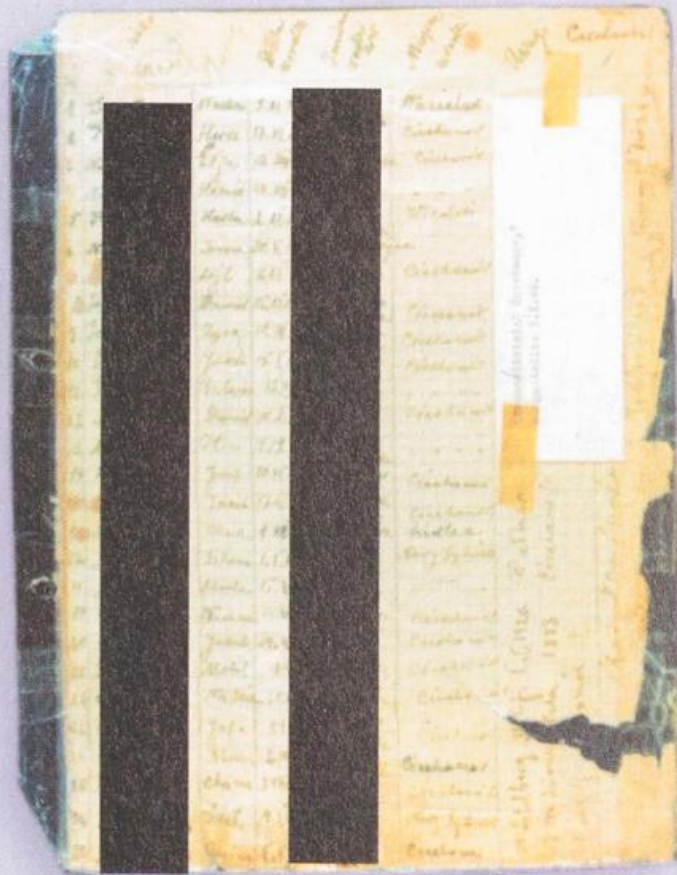
concerning a Polish "Lebensborn"-child. The largest part of the correspondence (54 sheets) comes from the wartime and refers to the adoption of the child in 1942.

Hittler!

19 - Post der Deutschen Reich E. G. Niederlassung München

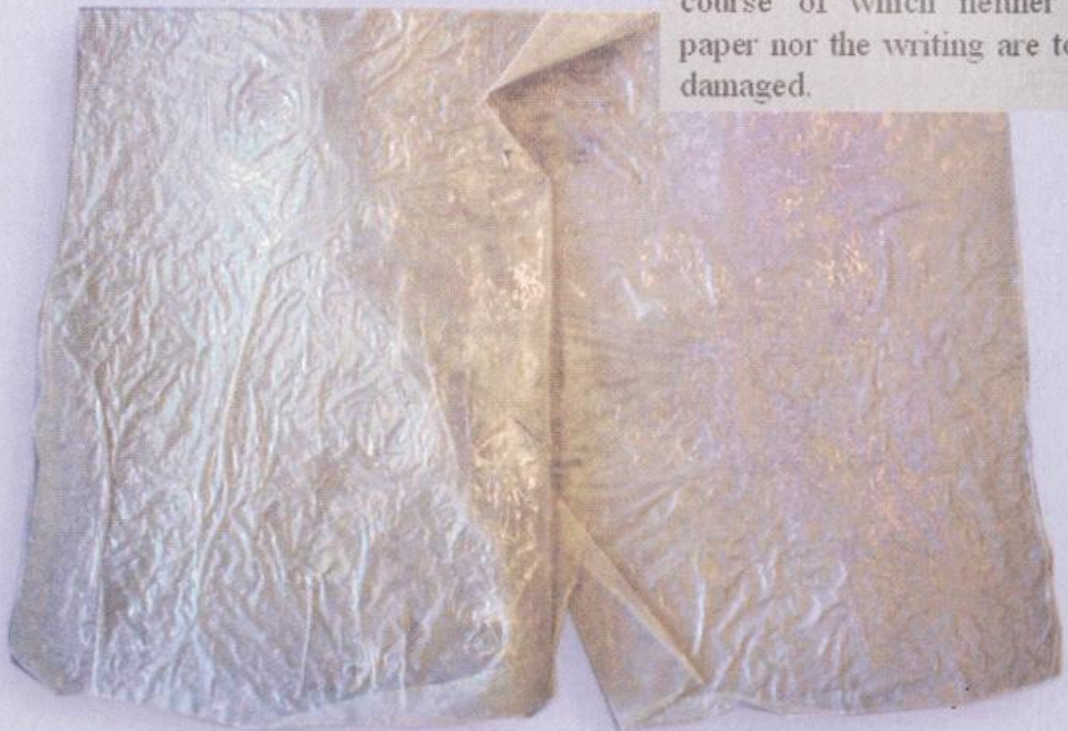
Vollständigkeits: Lebensborn e. V. Hauptabteilung München Nr. 10564

## 6. Restoration Demand



### *Plastified record*

Restoration measure that was taken in order to counteract the disintegration (brittleness) of the paper.

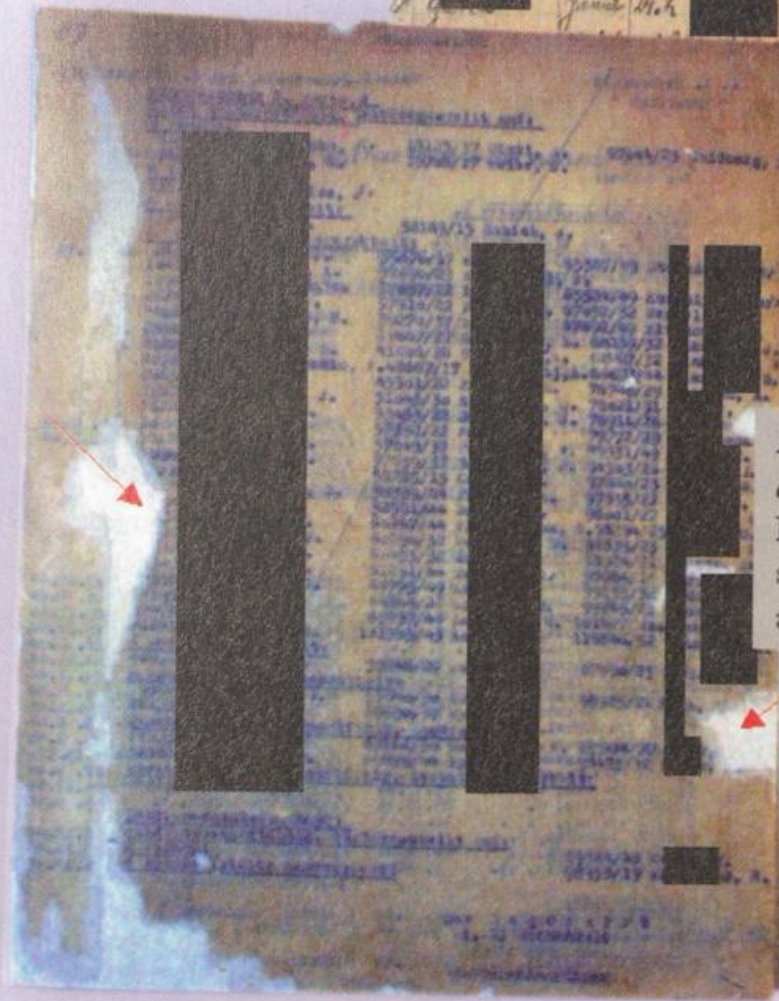


### *Lamination*

In order to be able to deacidify the documents, they have to be delaminated in a costly and lengthy procedure, in the course of which neither the paper nor the writing are to be damaged.

	Handwritten names and dates	Handwritten notes
1	Andreas 2.11.17	Marialud
2	Hans 11.11.17	Ciechanow
3	Eljas 12.11.17	Ciechanow
4	Karin 18.11.17	" "
5	Koch 2.11.17	Wieder
6	Josua 20.11.17	roya
7	Lajk 28.11.17	Ciechanow
8	David 12.01.17	Ciechanow
9	Kyja 10.11.17	Ciechanow
10	Jacob 15.11.17	Ciechanow
11	Silvana 12.11.17	" " "
12	David 10.11.17	Ciechanow
13	Hen 7.11.17	" " "
14	Josif 10.11.17	Ciechanow
15	Jacob 17.11.17	Ciechanow
16	Chav 1.11.17	Siedler
17	Silvana 1.11.17	Vary Sybil
18	Maria 15.11.17	" " "
19	Wach 15.11.17	Ciechanow
20	Jacob 20.11.17	Ciechanow

(Manuscript) "Ciechanow"  
- nach 1811: 3.4.16.



**Restored and conserved documents**  
Delaminated, deacidified and stabilized with acid-free paper after the paper-splitting.

## Words of Thanks

The present significance of the ITS is certainly based on the unbrokenly large number of incoming inquiries. The responsibility assumed and/or the contribution made by many interested parties in the creation of today's structures, however, shall not be left unmentioned at this point. Our thanks are especially due to:

- the representatives in the International Commission for the approval of the adjustment of the business policy to the changing requirements,
- those responsible at the Federal Ministry of the Interior for the understanding towards the partial projects submitted step by step,
- Mr U. Ossenberg and Prof. A. Richter as business consultants for the solution of many "difficult individual problems" in the course of numerous meetings, also in the evening,
- Mr E. Becker and his closest colleagues who, as specialists in the fields of restoration and conservation, showed methods of how to save particularly endangered original documents from their final disintegration,
- Dr. W. Gaile, Attorney-at-Law, for the valuable legal advice regarding specific problems that particularly occurred to an increased extent within the scope of the implementation of the projects in the field of information technology,
- and, particularly, all ITS-employees who have supported the comprehensive conversion to information technology from the very beginning on.

Without the great support granted and the active cooperation, it would not be possible at all to implement the technical change in all steps of work, still going on at present, as well as the preparation of an extension of the mandates.

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- 21 Raul Hilberg, "Die Quellen des Holocaust-Entschlüsseln und Interpretieren", Published by S. Fischer, Frankfurt am Main 2002, p. 9

## Index of Abbreviations

ACR	Agence Centrale de Recherches/Central Tracing Agency
Bav./Hess.	Bavaria/Hesse
CM-1	Care and Maintenance
CTB	Central Tracing Bureau
DP	Displaced Person
HIAS	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
HICOG	Allied High Commission for Germany
IC	International Commission
IC/ITS	International Commission for the International Tracing Service
ICEM	Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IMG	Internationaler Militärgerichtshof Nürnberg/International Military Court Nuremberg
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IRO	International Refugee Organization
ISD	Internationaler Suchdienst
ITS	International Tracing Service
JCC	Jewish Claims Conference
KDF	Kraft durch Freude (strength by joy)
NS	National Socialist
NSDAP	Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei/National Socialist German Workers' Party
PCIRO	Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization
PO/POs	Partner organisation(s) of the Federal Foundation
PStG	Personenstandsgesetz (personal status law)
SHAEF	Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces
SIR	Service International de Recherches
SS	Schutzstaffel (protection squad)
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
WASt	Wehrmachtsauskunftsstelle (information office regarding members of the Former German Army)
WVHA	Wirtschaftsverwaltungshauptamt (main office for economic administration)
ZNT	Zentrum für Neue Ingenieur- und Softwaretechnologien (centre for new Engineering and software technologies)

## Index of Illustrations

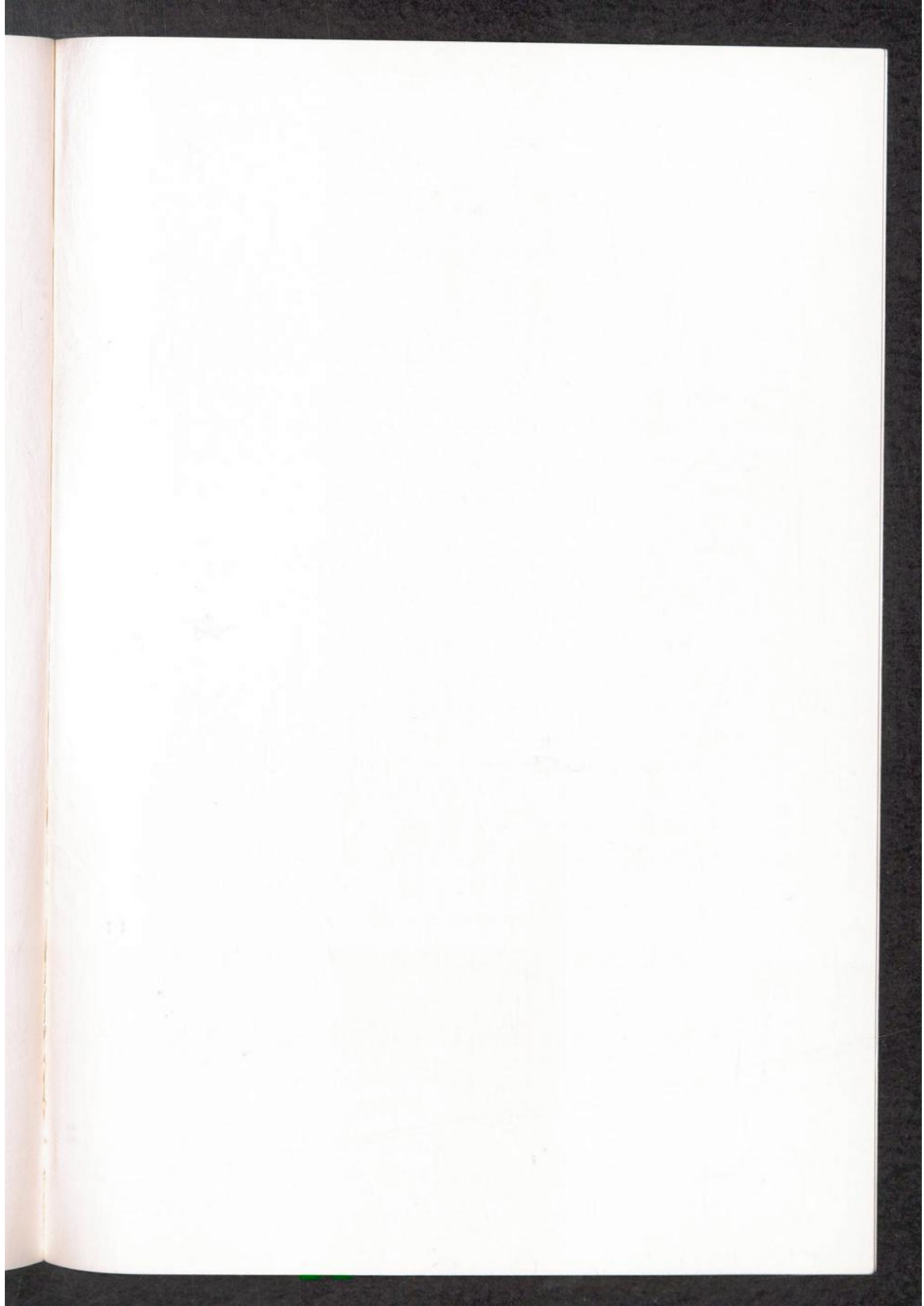
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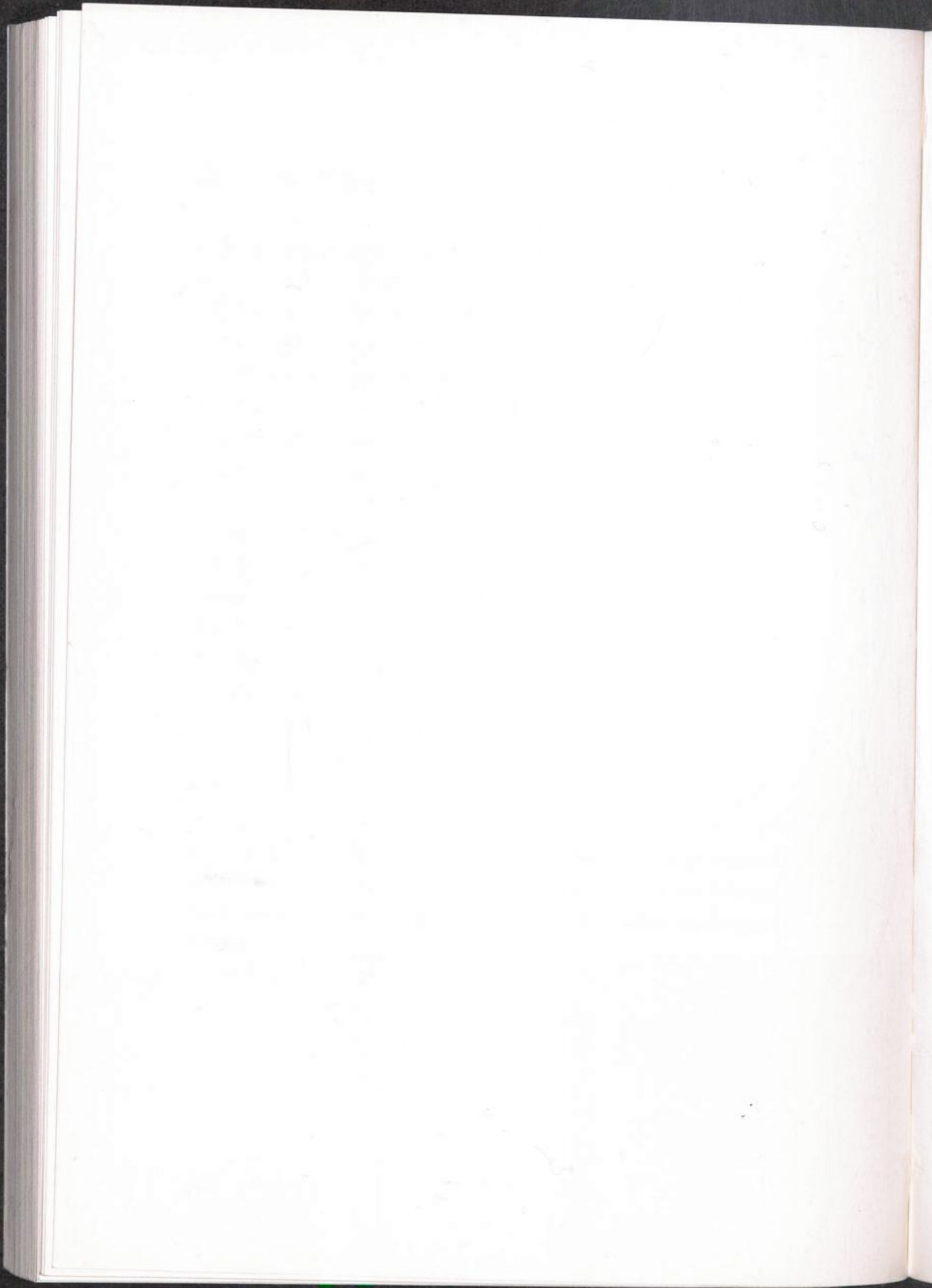
## Résumé

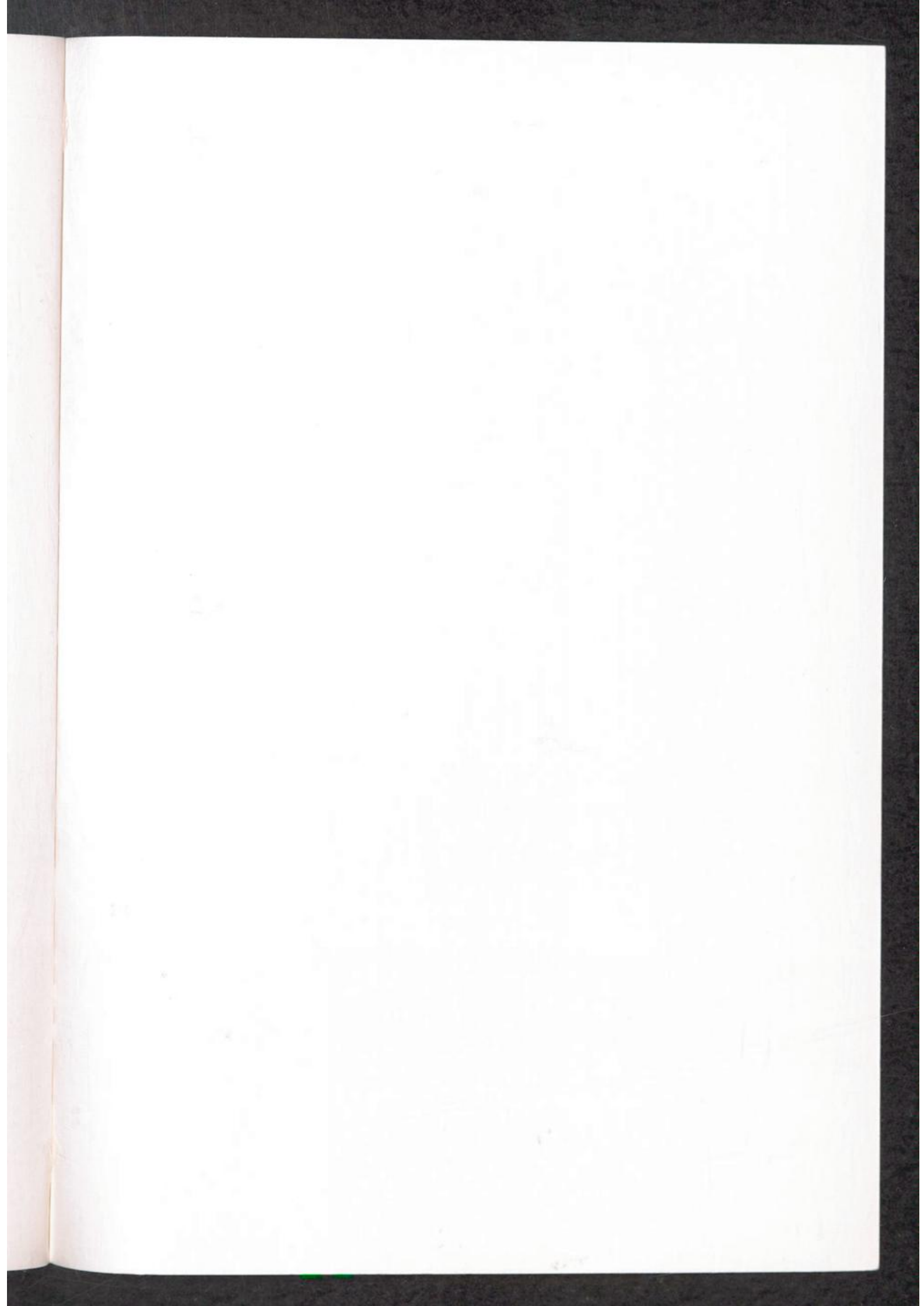
Il y a 60 ans, un bureau d'enregistrement fut créé à Londres pour la population civile touchée par la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Les activités de ce service ne cessèrent d'évoluer au fil du temps. Depuis plus d'un demi-siècle, la tâche principale du Service International de Recherches (SIR) consiste à délivrer aux anciens persécutés civils de la Seconde Guerre mondiale des attestations sur leurs séjours en camps ou le travail obligatoire accompli pendant les événements, respectivement à fournir des certificats de leur enregistrement dans l'après-guerre immédiat. Grâce à ces confirmations, le cercle de personnes en question peut faire valoir ses droits sous forme de retraites, dédommagements ou de paiements provenant de fonds. Le SIR supervisé par un organe de contrôle constitué de 11 Gouvernements membres, la Commission Internationale (CI) - est dirigé et administré par le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge. Pour accomplir sa tâche, l'institution dispose de plus de 25 000 mètres linéaires de documents individuels. Actuellement, le passage des archives papier aux archives électroniques est en cours. Par ailleurs, la recherche historique ayant déjà été décidée, la CI/SIR élabore momentanément les règlements pour en permettre la réalisation. Lorsque le travail humanitaire sera clôturé, il conviendra de déterminer la forme juridique définitive de l'institution. La multitude des enregistrements à caractère personnel se reflète dans une sélection des documents conservés aujourd'hui, disponibles dans un degré d'intégralité variant extrêmement selon les divers lieux de persécution.

## Zusammenfassung

Vor 60 Jahren entstand in London ein Registrierungsbüro für die vom Zweiten Weltkrieg betroffene Zivilbevölkerung, dessen Tätigkeit sich im Laufe der Zeit immer weiter entwickelte. Seit über einem halben Jahrhundert besteht die Hauptaufgabe des Internationalen Suchdienstes (ISD) darin, den ehemaligen zivilen Verfolgten des II. Weltkrieges Bescheinigungen über Aufenthalte in Lagern oder geleistete Zwangsarbeit während der Ereignisse respektive über Registrierungen in der unmittelbaren Nachkriegszeit zu liefern. Damit hat dieser Personenkreis die Möglichkeit, seine Rechte in Form von Renten, Wiedergutmachungs- oder Fondszahlungen geltend zu machen. Dem ISD, dessen Tätigkeit von einem aus elf Mitgliedsregierungen bestehenden Internationalen Ausschuss (IA) als Aufsichtsorgan überwacht und vom Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz in Genf geleitet und verwaltet wird, stehen zur Erfüllung dieser Aufgabe über 25.000 laufende Meter personenbezogene Unterlagen zur Verfügung. Zur Zeit findet die Umwandlung vom reinen Papier- in ein elektronisches Archiv statt. Der IA/ISD ist momentan mit der Durchführung der bereits beschlossenen Mandatserweiterung bezüglich der historischen Forschung befasst. Die Vielfalt der personenbezogenen Erfassungen ist in einer Auswahl der heute in unterschiedlichstem Maße von den verschiedenen Verfolgungsorten erhalten gebliebenen Dokumente wiedergegeben.









ICRC