

Arolsen
Archives

International Center
on Nazi Persecution

A Paper Monument

The History of the
Arolsen Archives



Exhibition Catalogue

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A Paper Monument
The History of the
Arolsen Archives

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edited by Henning Borggräfe,
Christian Höschler and Isabel Panek
on behalf of the *Arolsen Archives*

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P r e f a c e

It is a new chapter for the *Arolsen Archives*. The international center on Nazi persecution is taking a critical look at its own past through this exhibition and publication on the history of what came into existence as the *International Tracing Service* (ITS).

Why was the ITS founded? How and where were the documents collected? What inquiries have, to this day, been sent to the ITS by over three million people around the world? This publication answers these and many other questions.

The *Arolsen Archives* hold more than 30 million documents on Holocaust victims, concentration camp prisoners, forced laborers and survivors. The sheer size of the collection is overwhelming, and every single document bears witness to the incomprehensible scope of persecution under the Nazis. The last signature of a murdered prisoner on a concentration camp registration card, the passport photo of a surviving child in a post-war file – these are intimate and personal traces of individual lives in the huge machinery of bureaucracy. For me, this is what the *Arolsen Archives* are about. They are about death, but also about life.

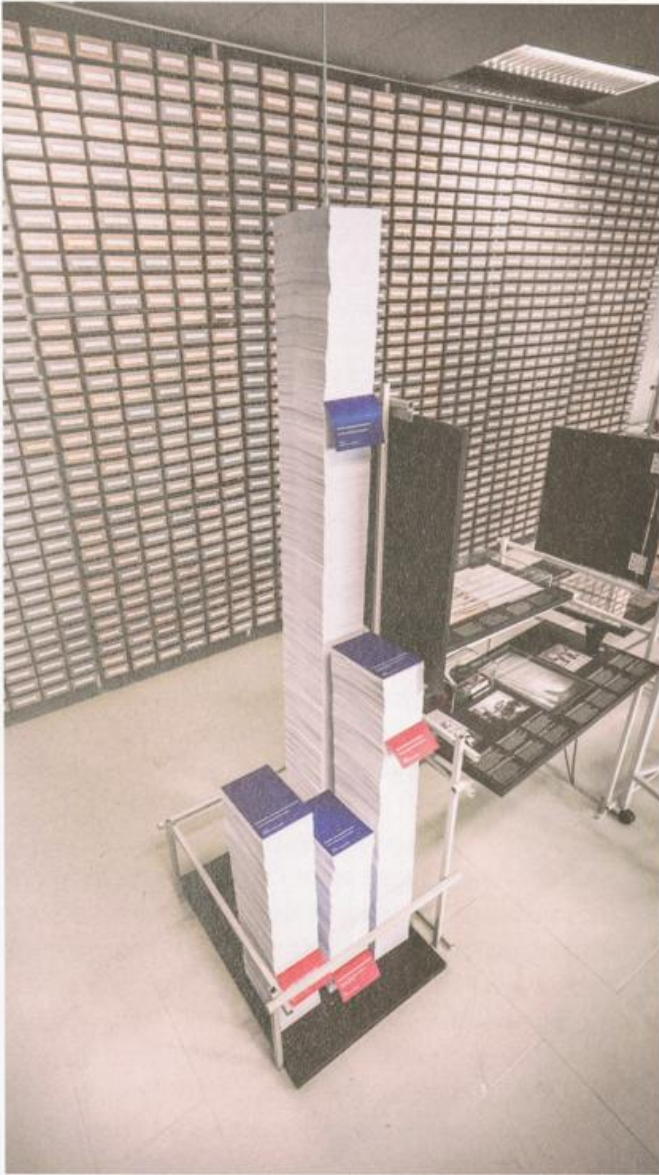
The archive of the ITS was created to document the crimes of the Nazis and the fates of their victims. Today the archive is a place where evidence of the Nazis' atrocities is safely preserved. The *Arolsen Archives* are a "paper monument," to borrow an expression from survivor Thomas Buergenthal. They are a monument to all victims of Nazi persecution, both those

for whom we have found original documents and the many others for whom we have not – but whose memory is preserved in the letters we receive from relatives asking about them. This, too, is characteristic of the *Arolsen Archives*. They are living collections that continue to grow.

When we look to the future, we see changes in society and new challenges to tackle – in a Europe shaped by migration and growing intolerance. Reckoning with our own history is the prerequisite for acting responsibly in the future. For this reason, we want to actively approach people and spark their interest, particularly young people with no personal connection to the history of National Socialism. We do not know what questions future generations will ask, but we must ensure that they keep asking.

The exhibition will be temporarily displayed in a rented space in Bad Arolsen (Germany) until this collection, belonging to the UNESCO Memory of the World, is finally brought together under a new roof. I hope that the exhibition raises awareness of the potential of the *Arolsen Archives* to play a new role, to address socially relevant issues and to strengthen democratic values.

I would like to thank the curators of the exhibition, Isabel Panek, Henning Borggräfe and Christian Höschler. I also want to thank those who have supported this endeavor from the start, especially Rikola-Gunnar Lüttgenau, our curatorial advisor whose help has been invaluable, as well as Yehudit Shendar,



Malgorzata Stolarska-Fronia and Jens-Christian Wagner, who provided essential input at key stages. The design and implementation of the exhibition was handled by gewerkdesign, Berlin – thanks a lot for the professional work!

Very special thanks go to the witnesses and victims of persecution, Alexandr Afanasjew, Esther Bejarano, Thomas Buergenthal and Anna Scharf, for their support. And last but not least, thank you to the many employees of the *Arolsen Archives* who have shared their knowledge of the past.

Floriane Azoulay,
Director of the *Arolsen Archives*

A Paper Monument: Introduction

Henning Borggräfe,
Christian Höschler,
Isabel Panek

Millions of people were deported and murdered under the Nazi dictatorship from 1933 to 1945 in Germany and the territories it occupied during World War II. The victims included Jews, Sinti and Roma people, political opponents, people with disabilities, homosexuals, social outsiders, foreign forced laborers and many others. Soon after the war ended, the world's most comprehensive collection of documents on victims of Nazi crimes was assembled in Arolsen with the aim of finding missing persons and clarifying their fate. Kilometer upon kilometer of files, index cards and lists are stored next to each other on shelves – millions of documents about Holocaust victims and concentration camp prisoners, foreign forced laborers and survivors. There are more than 50 million cards in the *Central Name Index* alone, and over three million case files hold correspondence on the fates of individual victims of Nazi persecution. The collections of the *Arolsen Archives*, which were created for the *International Tracing Service* (ITS) and have grown through decades of tracing and documentation work, are a unique place of remembrance: a *paper monument*.

The exhibition on the history of the *Arolsen Archives* focuses on this paper in order to address three central perspectives spanning the systematic and chronological narrative. *First*, the documents represent the almost unimaginable scale of the Nazis' crimes while making them tangible at the same time – through countless individual stories of persecution, deportation and murder, but also survival, reunions and new beginnings. For many relatives of the victims, this paper stands for memory. It holds more than “just” information – it is often the last trace of a lost loved one's life.

Second, the documents testify to the many different consequences and effects of Nazi crimes on individuals and society alike: living with uncertainty or the loss of family, searching for a new home, suffering from serious injuries and existential crises, and experiencing support and recognition but also ongoing exclusion. Tracing and documentation was one of the areas in which Nazi crimes were dealt with after 1945. This played out in conflicts between the Allies and Ger-

mans and in fierce battles over legal punishment and compensations in the first decades after the war, but also in new social efforts to come to terms with the past and in waves of compensation since the 1980s.

The *third* perspective reveals the profound changes in how the documents have been handled. Over the decades, documents that had once been used for Nazi persecution and then for Allied aid became the everyday working materials of the ITS, which adapted them in a variety of ways – by specially sorting and labeling them, for example. But these documents have also become increasingly valuable to memory culture. This can be seen in the growing interest of memorial initiatives, scholars and journalists, as well as in the new status that was conferred on this documentary heritage when the collections were added to the UNESCO Memory of the World register in 2013. The actual process of working with the documents and questions of access are therefore an important part of the story.

This examination of the history of the *Arolsen Archives* not only explains how the search for missing persons and clarification of their fate developed over time, leading to the creation of this unique *paper monument*, it also illuminates the changing approaches to dealing with historical evidence and the victims of Nazi crimes.

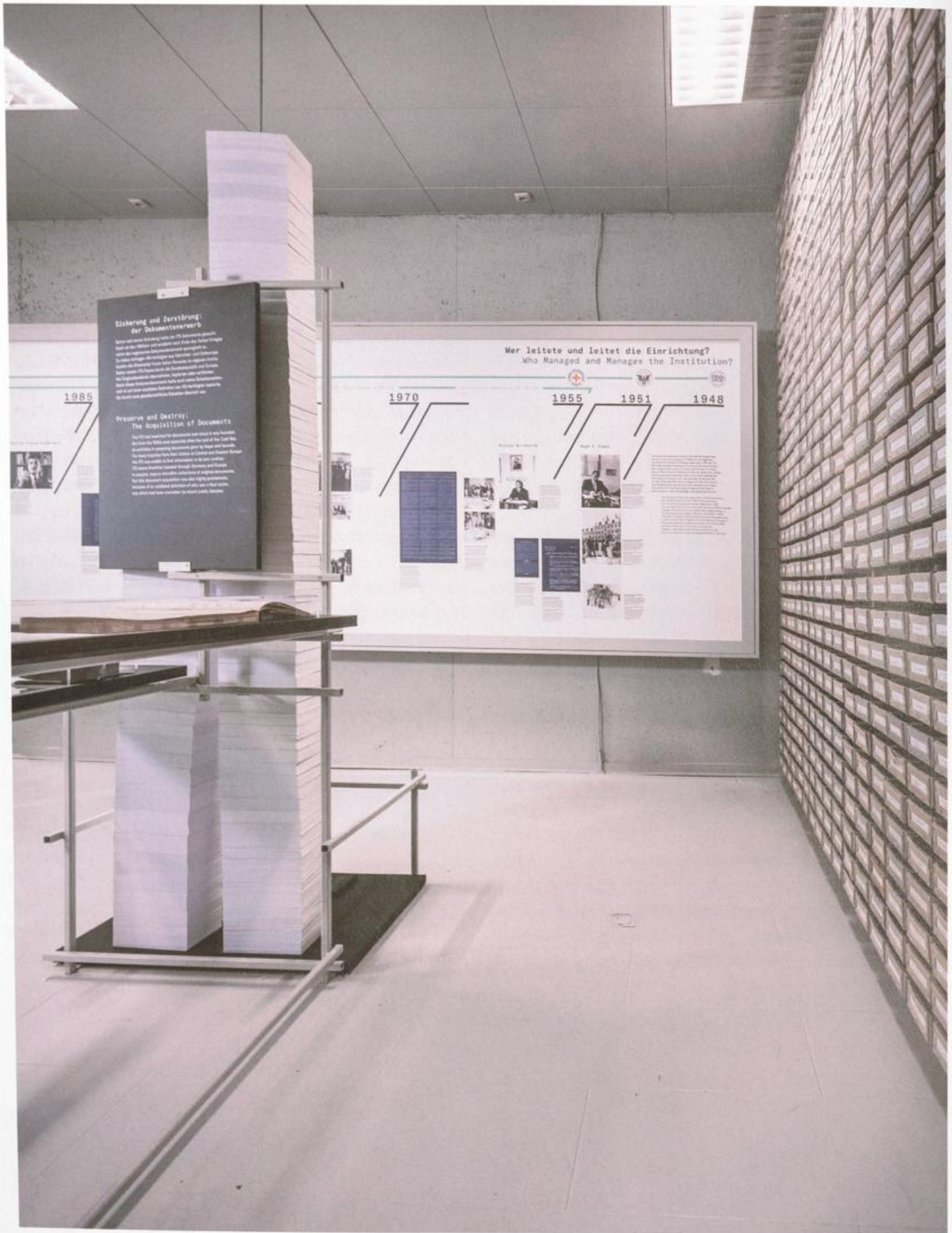
Early Tracing and Documentation

After the end of World War II, the Allies faced a humanitarian crisis on a historically unprecedented scale. In the wake of the Nazis' crimes, millions of people were missing – both by family members and friends as well as the governments of different countries. Searching for these missing people and clarifying their fate became an important task, but one that was strictly divided along the lines of friend and

foe. Separate tracing structures were established for German war victims, prisoners of war, refugees and expellees, while the Allies focused on victims of Nazi persecution. Although there were historical forerunners to these activities – such as the tracing programs developed by the *International Committee of the Red Cross* (ICRC) in Geneva during World War I which primarily dealt with prisoners of war – the process started off in fits and starts. In the first postwar years a variety of organizations carried out tracing, information and documentation activities in parallel and in different ways.

Some of the earliest efforts were made by survivors themselves, many of whom were neither silent nor passive after 1945. For example, prisoners liberated from Dachau concentration camp founded the *International Information Office* (IIO). The IIO issued certificates of imprisonment based on concentration camp documents that the prisoners themselves had saved shortly before liberation. These certificates enabled survivors and those left behind to receive welfare benefits, such as food and clothing. IIO employees also wrote one of the first histories of Dachau concentration camp and contributed to a memorial book documenting the names of the dead. For employees such as Walter Cieřlik, the head of the IIO who had been a political prisoner himself, this work was an expression of solidarity with other former prisoners and their families. The activities of the survivors were limited, however; the US Military Government put restrictions on the IIO, which was disbanded in 1946.

Previously established aid organizations also participated in the search for missing persons. One example was the *American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee* (AJDC), a Jewish aid organization that had been founded in 1914. Unlike the IIO in Dachau, the work of the AJDC was not locally limited. The organization had



tracing offices all over Europe and overseas which exchanged information about Holocaust victims and survivors in order to resolve tracing cases internationally. Although the AJDC played an important role in early tracing activities, the organization did not follow a standardized process. Individual AJDC offices were involved to varying degrees and developed their own tracing methods, something that was not always conducive to efficiency. Nonetheless, the AJDC often managed to reunite missing persons and secure important documents as evidence.

Besides these aid organizations and smaller survivor initiatives, the Allies had begun developing ideas for a standardized tracing system as early as 1943. The first major institution to emerge in the autumn of 1945 was the *Central Tracing Bureau* (CTB) under the direction of the *United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration* (UNRRA), the biggest and most important aid organization in the postwar period. The CTB was initially based in Frankfurt-Höchst in occupied Germany. It moved to Arolsen in Northern Hesse in early 1946, primarily due to the town's favorable location between the four occupation zones and its relatively intact infrastructure. The tracing bureau quickly took over several buildings there, including the old and new palaces and the barracks previously used by the SS.

Parallel to the CTB in Arolsen, the Allies ran individual zonal tracing bureaus in their respective occupation zones. One of their tasks was to secure and collect documents, and at the end of 1945 they began sending orders and instructions to German authorities as part of a large-scale foreigner tracing campaign. Documents from the concentration camps were an important basis for tracing individuals and clarifying their fate, as were lists from the police, judiciary, municipal administrations and other offices. The zonal

tracing bureaus sometimes communicated through the CTB, but they were often also in direct contact with numerous national tracing offices. The activities of the CTB in Arolsen were largely limited to the overall coordination of tracing activities and the circulation of inquiries. As a result, while the CTB represented a large-scale tracing structure, it was at the same time a rather decentralized network with long lines of communication which did not always function efficiently.

UNRRA had a time-limited mandate, and when it wrapped up most of its work in Europe in mid-1947, a question mark hung over the future of the tracing service in Arolsen. It was clear to everyone involved, however, that the search for missing persons would continue for many more years. The CTB was ultimately taken over by the *International Refugee Organization* (IRO) – the successor to UNRRA at the United Nations – and it was renamed in early 1948: from that point on the institution was known as the ITS, the *International Tracing Service*. This also heralded a period of reorganization. The zonal tracing bureaus were closed one by one, and their documents and employees were moved to Arolsen. This laid the foundation for centralized tracing activities and for today's archive. One defining feature of this centralization was that numerous documents from other tracing offices, including the IIO at Dachau and papers from AJDC offices, were also transferred to Arolsen.

In the late 1940s, the still young institution began to professionalize and expand its work. The first director of the ITS, Maurice Thudicum from Switzerland, was a tracing expert who had previously led tracing activities conducted by the *Red Cross* in Geneva. In terms of international connections, too, an important change took place – though it actually hindered the organization's tracing work: due to its growing conflict with the Western powers, the Soviet Union no longer

participated in the ITS. This brought an end to the exchange of inquiries and documents between East and West.

Meanwhile, the number of ITS employees rose rapidly, from 80 people in 1945 to 1,758 just four years later. The first employees came from 20 different countries and comprised Allied military personnel and civilians as well as many Displaced Persons (DPs), people who had been liberated from the camps and from forced labor and either wanted to return to their countries of origin or find a new home elsewhere. At the ITS, these DPs were housed in their own camp in the former barracks in Arolsen. The ITS soon began employing local Germans as well, which led to tension since some of the men had previously been active in the SS or other Nazi organizations. When the employees' backgrounds were reviewed in the early 1950s, at least 45 people were dismissed. After most of the DPs emigrated in the 1950s, they were succeeded by younger locals from different professions who lacked the necessary historical and archival knowledge. However, through decades of specialized work at the ITS, they became extremely knowledgeable about specific parts of the ITS archive.

The first half of the 1950s brought some important organizational changes as well. When the IRO ended its work in 1951, the leadership of the ITS temporarily passed to the *Allied High Commission for Occupied Germany* (HICOG). Under its representative Hugh G. Elbot, now head of the ITS, even stronger connections were established with the West (in a speech, Elbot referred to the ITS as a "shop window of democracy"). At the same time, many activities were stopped and the staff was reduced dramatically. From this point on, the tracing service acted mainly as an information office.

Even the HICOG leadership was only a temporary solution, however, because HICOG itself was dissolved when the occupation period ended. The idea of handing over the collections to the Germans was viewed critically by many survivors' associations as well as Elbot himself. Eventually the ICRC put itself forward as a neutral organization with the relevant experience to manage the ITS. With the signing of the Bonn Agreements in 1955 by German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, ICRC President Paul Ruegger and representatives of Western states, the ICRC took over the ITS and appointed its directors from then on. Additionally, an *International Commission* was formed to act as a supervisory body and guarantee the protection of the collections. The core mission of the ITS, as defined by the Bonn Agreements, was to collect, organize, and safeguard the documents, as well as make them accessible. This established an institutional framework that would remain in place until 2012.

Tracing Methods and Information

Tracing methods and the information provided by the ITS have changed dramatically over the decades. The institution initially focused on searching for missing children, adolescents and adults. From the mid-1950s, however, the ITS also became a central point of contact for authorities, courts and lawyers representing victims of Nazi persecution who needed documentary evidence mainly for compensation claims, but also for immigration proceedings, naturalization procedures and pension applications.

In its daily work, the ITS was able to draw partially on knowledge and techniques that had previously been created in Geneva. At the same time, however, new processes had to be developed to cope with the scale of the Nazis' crimes. In the immediate postwar period, tracing victims of Nazi persecution involved the

following steps: the creation of a *Central Name Index* (CNI) and the search for information in the archived documents on Nazi crimes, actively searching in the field, contacting local authorities and, finally, *mass tracing* through the media.

The CTB had started creating the name index in the autumn of 1945. Employees transferred all important information from search inquiries to index cards, especially personal details and references to an individual's path of persecution. When new cards were filed in the index, inquiry cards from people seeking missing persons and information about the persons being sought would ideally collide – a *meeting of cards* that would enable the tracing office to bring the two parties together. This happened in very few cases, however, because many missing persons had never submitted an inquiry themselves – or were unable to do so because they were no longer alive.

For this reason, documents from the concentration camps and those collected through the Allied foreigner tracing campaign were another important foundation of the name index. These documents contained information about individual paths of persecution and often provided clues about a person's last known location and fate. Starting in 1946, these personal details were also transferred to reference cards and filed in the CNI. This process, which continued in this way for decades, was known as *carding* at the ITS. Cards were arranged in the CNI following an alphabetical-phonetic system that took into account how the names were pronounced. This system had previously been used for the prisoner-of-war index of the ICRC in Geneva. It offered a solution to dealing with the name variations and misspellings that often arose due to the many different nationalities of the victims of persecution registered by the Nazi authorities and the DPs registered by Allied administrators. With this



system, all reference cards relating to the same person are filed together, regardless of how the name is written.

Parallel to establishing the CNI, the employees in Arolsen began creating case files in 1947 – known as *T files* (“T” for *tracing*) – for each person being traced. All correspondence and findings about an individual were kept in these files. If the ITS later received another inquiry about the same person, it would be added to the file. If no clues could be found in the CNI or the archive, the ITS would contact other tracing offices and local authorities. Immediately after the war, active searches were also conducted in former places of imprisonment and persecution.

Additionally, the ITS carried out *mass tracing* campaigns in the media until 1950. Employees would compile lists of missing persons, which were circulated in DP camps, published in newspapers and broadcast on the radio. In Germany and other countries, radio stations would set aside regular slots for reading out these tracing lists. The lists were usually published and broadcast where the ITS thought readers or listeners might have information, such as the last known residence of missing individuals.

But the search for missing persons was often a search for the deceased. A Special Registry Office was therefore established in Arolsen in 1949. This is the only office permitted to certify the death of concentration camp prisoners. To this day, death certificates are issued to the family members of former prisoners whose death in a concentration camp can be confirmed based on material in the *Arolsen Archives* or through research in other registry offices and memorials.

The Allies set up separate tracing structures for children and adolescents which were expanded at the

ITS in 1948 to form the *Child Search Branch*. This department had initially been based in Esslingen at the US zonal tracing bureau and moved to Arolsen in 1950 when the zonal tracing bureau closed. The ITS Child Search Branch had two main responsibilities: it searched for foreign children who had been reported missing by their families, and it traced and registered unaccompanied children in order to find their parents or other relatives. Employees combed through German registry offices and orphanages in the search for clues about missing and abducted foreign children.

The language skills of the many DPs working for the ITS were tremendously helpful in all of these tracing activities. But when most of the DPs emigrated in the 1950s, the inquiries received by the ITS also changed in nature. The bulk of the hundreds of thousands of inquiries sent to Arolsen in the 1950s and 1960s were requests for confirmation of imprisonment or residence, which were needed for compensation claims in West Germany. Most of these inquiries were not from former victims, however, but from lawyers or officials who wanted to support or review such claims.

From 1954, these requests began to outnumber tracing inquiries. As a result, the search process increasingly involved research in the archive, and the work of the ITS became more administrative. This was reflected in the new name given to the *T files*, which were now known as *tracing/documentation files*, or *T/D files* for short. These files are still created and updated (digitally) each time an inquiry is received about a person. For information applicable to compensation proceedings, the ITS introduced a standardized certificate providing details about an individual's places and periods of imprisonment and reasons for persecution. ITS employees literally copied this information from the Nazi documents word for word, without offering any historical context. This was problematic for

many former victims because, according to the German Federal Law for Compensating Nazi Victims, only people who had been persecuted on political, racist or religious grounds were entitled to compensation. The information supplied from Arolsen often gave the authorities a basis for withholding benefits from Sinti and Roma people, homosexuals, so-called "anti-social elements" and nearly all non-German victims of persecution.

Following the Final German Federal Law for Compensating Nazi Victims of 1965, the number of inquiries received by the ITS continually declined. It was not until the late 1980s that a fresh wave of inquiries reached Arolsen. This was the result of new debates about forced laborers and other groups of "forgotten victims", as well as the introduction of previously non-existent compensation payments made by Germany to Nazi victims from Central and Eastern Europe after the end of the Cold War. Hundreds of thousands of inquiries reached the ITS each year, leading to enormous backlogs and waiting periods that sometimes lasted for years. The situation worsened in 2001 when payments began to be made to former forced laborers through the *Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future"* (EVZ). These applications were reviewed by seven international partners of the EVZ Foundation, who asked the ITS for confirmation in over 800,000 cases. To handle the immense backlog of cases, the ITS management introduced a CNI fast-track process, among other things. But despite these and other measures, the waiting times remained extremely long – a situation that was widely lambasted in the media and posed a major problem for elderly survivors.

Most of the inquiries received today – around 20,000 per year – come from the descendants of former victims of Nazi persecution, primarily from Poland, Rus-

sia, Germany, the USA, France and Israel, who want to find out more about the fate of their relatives and reconstruct their family history. To answer their questions, research is conducted in the archive and digital copies of the archival documents are sent together with explanatory information. But even today, new tracing processes are sometimes initiated and families are reunited.

Collecting and Organizing

For the purposes of tracing and documentation, it was essential to collect, index and evaluate the paper evidence of Nazi crimes. Important information was also found in documents drawn up by the Allies after the war to register and assist DPs. All of these documents, together with the *Central Name Index* and the *T/D files*, make up the *Arolsen Archives*.

But looking back to the origins of this unique archive, what we find first are the investigation documents produced by the ITS itself. Since many Nazi crimes were documented poorly or not at all, the ITS set out on its own search for evidence in the second half of the 1940s. For example, to gather proof of the death marches endured by many concentration camp inmates in the last weeks of the war, the ITS sent questionnaires to thousands of municipalities and former prisoners. Based on the responses, ITS employees were able to reconstruct the march routes and places where prisoners had died. Exhumations were carried out locally to find clues to the identity of the victims – such as prisoner numbers taken from their clothing, which could be compared with information from concentration camp documents. Many death march victims were identified in this way. Some of the first documents in Arolsen included these investigation documents as well as a similar collection of thousands of questionnaires in which former prisoners

provided information about little-known places of imprisonment.

The second pillar of the archive was the name index mentioned earlier. The vast majority of documents referred to in this index were not initially stored in Arolsen, however, but in the zonal tracing bureaus. It was only after these bureaus closed – when the task of tracing was joined by the documentation of persecution for compensation purposes in the early 1950s – that the ITS began to develop into an archive and be referred to as such. The *Concentration Camp Documents Section* was created first. Valuable documents that the Allies and survivors had secured from Buchenwald, Dachau, Mauthausen and other camps were stored here. This section additionally held many other materials relating to concentration camp prisoners that had been produced by various offices – ranging from documents from top Reich authorities to lists of liberated survivors drawn up by aid initiatives in the early postwar period.

Until 1952, the ITS also received hundreds of thousands of lists of foreign forced laborers from the closed zonal tracing bureaus. These lists had been produced by German offices during the foreigner tracing campaign and they formed the core of the new *Wartime Documents Section*, along with registration documents for foreign forced laborers from hundreds of companies and authorities. Finally, at the end of 1952, over 30 tons of Allied DP registration forms, lists, and files were sent to Arolsen – a huge accumulation that made it necessary to create a *Postwar Documents Section*. The same organizational structure was soon established in all three sections: documents about individuals were stored in large alphabetical indexes, while lists of names were placed in series of files which were internally organized by subject matter, geography or chronology.

The archive therefore did not follow the principle of provenance that governs most of the archival world, according to which records from a particular source should be stored together as a unit by the responsible archive. Instead, records were arranged with the goal of ensuring the greatest possible efficiency when evaluating documents on the basis of individual names. This peculiarity poses a major challenge today for professional archival management and for researchers wanting to use the documents.

The name-based evaluation of the documents results in yet another peculiarity of the *Arolsen Archives*. Archival materials are traditionally defined as resources that are unique. Unlike printed books, they are usually only available at a single location. But along with original documents, the ITS also included millions of copies in its archive. The ITS had started searching for documents as soon as it was established. This activity intensified in the 1980s when it became apparent that the archive lacked information about many former forced laborers and Holocaust victims from Central and Eastern Europe in particular.

Equipped with microfilm cameras and eventually digital technology, ITS employees traveled all over Germany and the rest of Europe and made millions of copies of documents. This preserved valuable collections and provided important evidence needed for the compensation claims of tens of thousands of elderly victims of Nazi persecution. But the activities had a dark side as well. In the documents they acquired and copied, ITS employees often blacked out the names of all prisoners who did not belong to the target group of foreigners and victims of Nazi persecution. Their decision was based on the German Federal Law for Compensating Nazi Victims from the 1950s, even though this legislation excluded large groups of victims and had therefore been the focus of public criticism since

the 1980s. This shows just how much the institution in Arolsen had isolated itself, and how new public discussions and research into "forgotten victims" had passed by the ITS and its employees.

At the time, the ITS claimed that the archive had a purely "humanitarian mission," so it was interested almost exclusively in information about individuals found in its own collection. This was clearly reflected in the continual expansion of the CNI and in the creation of the *T/D files*, which have become valuable historical documents in their own right over the decades, as they often include personal testimonies and important information about paths of persecution and postwar life which are not recorded anywhere else. These materials, like the historical documents to which only ITS employees had access, were tools that were used intensively every day but were not given much protection.

This gave rise to two large, connected tasks that continue to occupy the *Arolsen Archives*: digitization and archival preservation. The digitization of the archival material in Bad Arolsen started in the late 1990s. Over 85% of the collections have now been scanned – a higher proportion than almost any other archive. Nonetheless, this is a major process that changes all the time due to new technologies and requirements and is nowhere near complete. While digitization initially served to speed up the process of supplying information, today it allows the documents to be accessed in a whole new way – not just in the reading rooms in Bad Arolsen or the facilities of selected partners, but on the internet as well.

Digitization is also an important element of document preservation, not just because once they have been digitized, the fragile documents themselves only need to be used in exceptional cases. Additionally, during

the scanning process, harmful metals are removed from the paper and the documents are repacked. Many documents require more complicated treatment, however, such as deacidification, which protects the poor quality paper of the 1940s from further decay. These digitization and preservation processes are the most vivid proof of how the awareness of the value of these historical documents has changed. The paper-based evidence of the Nazis' machinery of persecution, which later served as a daily work tool for tracing individuals and clarifying their fate, is now recognized as cultural heritage of global importance and a foundation of remembrance that must be permanently protected and publicly accessible.

Openness versus Isolation

A debate raged for decades over whether the archive should be accessible for the purposes of research, education and remembrance. Phases of openness alternated with periods of isolation. The orientation of the ITS was determined largely by its directors, who established specific cultures of leadership during their time in office.

Until the early 1980s, under the management of the Allies and the first directors appointed by the ICRC, the ITS conducted a number of internal research projects based on its central mission of clarifying the fates of individuals. The ITS often lacked the specific information it needed to respond to inquiries about particular sites of imprisonment or types of crimes, such as medical experiments on concentration camp prisoners. To acquire this knowledge, employees reviewed documents regarding specific topics, conducted research at the sites of crimes, and questioned survivors. Their findings were recorded in special card indexes, on maps and in registers, such as the *Catalogues of Camps and Prisons* compiled by

the ITS. Surveys conducted in the late 1940s and early 1950s produced contemporary accounts that are important sources for scholars today. In this way, the ITS established itself as the central point of contact for authorities when it came to evaluating and recognizing individual camps for the purposes of compensation proceedings. This expanded remit embroiled the ITS in debates about Germany's reckoning with the past. Tensions frequently arose with the German Federal Government, which insisted that the ITS only include sites of imprisonment in its registers which the government was willing to recognize for compensation purposes – i.e. concentration camps, but not the tens of thousands of camps for forced laborers.

Parallel to this, survivors, scholars and memorial initiatives were able to conduct research themselves at the ITS from the late 1960s. The institution in Arolsen also supported large projects, particularly the Memorial Book of the Federal Archives for the Victims of the Persecution of Jews in Germany. This phase of openness was closely associated with the director at the time, Albert de Cocatrix. He had come to Arolsen as the deputy director in 1955 and led the ITS from 1970 to 1977. He positioned the institution on the side of the survivors and engaged intensively with victims' associations.

This phase of openness was brought to an abrupt end by the subsequent director, Philipp Züger, and his deputy, Charles-Claude Biedermann, who took over in 1985. Together they gradually closed the archive to researchers and wound down its historical projects. They justified this closure by referring to the self-perception of the ICRC as a neutral humanitarian institution and by adopting a narrower interpretation of the mission of the ITS as defined by the Bonn Agreements of 1955. They also employed arguments based on issues of data protection and personal privacy, which

had become politically important in West Germany in the early 1980s. This new sensitivity to handling personal data affected the collection of further documents by the ITS. Social security authorities grew very cautious, and many companies were willing to release records only if the documents would not be accessible to third parties – such as critical historians. This new direction taken by the ITS administration was protested right from the start. The 1980s in particular were a time of fierce debate over the Nazi past in West German society. Following the motto of "dig where you stand," memorial initiatives explored local aspects of Nazi history that had fallen into oblivion and expressed solidarity with "forgotten victims." They accused the ITS of preventing a reckoning with Nazi history and of "protecting the perpetrators." Nonetheless, the *International Commission* – the governing body of the ITS – supported the administration's strategy. In 1984 the commission decided that collecting additional documents for the humanitarian mission of the ITS took priority over the interests of scholars and the public. The German Federal Government, which funded the ITS, strongly supported this policy.

New protests against the isolation of the archive were launched in the mid-1990s by victims' associations, the directors of various concentration camp memorials, scholars and concerned individuals. They published numerous resolutions emphasizing how valuable the documents stored in Arolsen were to research and commemoration, and they harshly criticized the long waiting periods for information needed for compensation claims. The ITS responded in 1996 by partially opening the archive and making it possible, in principle, to view some documents containing no personal information – though actually using the documents proved difficult. But this step did not bring an end to the protests. From the late 1990s, the question of whether the archive should be opened

appeared on the agenda of the meetings of the *International Commission* every single year. But it was not until 2007 that the archive finally reopened. This late turnaround was thanks largely to the tireless work of Paul Shapiro from the *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* (USHMM), who spent years building up political and media pressure.

As a result of the opening, the ICRC withdrew from its leadership of the ITS in 2012. The *International Commission* then took responsibility for appointing the directors, and it forcefully pursued a new course of modernization, openness and networking at the ITS. In the same year, the ITS collections were included on the UNESCO Memory of the World register. Since then, the institution has fundamentally changed. The archive and its process of providing information have been professionalized, and research and education have become a part of its mission. One important goal is to make the collections accessible online worldwide, and another is to explore new forms of remembrance and education together with partners. These changes are reflected in the institution's new name, which was introduced in 2019: *Arolsen Archives – International Center on Nazi Persecution*. In a Europe where the social and political solidarity established so painstakingly in the decades after World War II is disappearing, the documentation of Nazi crimes and their victims is still an urgent responsibility. And the fewer survivors there are to speak out and bear witness to the persecution, the more important this mission becomes.

A Paper Monument
The History
of the *Arolsen*
Archives

Under the Nazi dictatorship from 1933 to 1945, millions of people were deported and murdered. In order to search for missing persons and clarify their fates one of the largest archives on Nazi crimes was founded in Arolsen. It contains over 30 million documents, index cards and lists, on Holocaust victims and concentration camp prisoners, as well as foreign forced laborers and survivors.

Tracing offices had already been established in World War I, in light of the new dimensions of 20th century warfare, involving mass murder, deportation, imprisonment and flight. But the devastation of World War II was even greater. New structures were therefore set up by the Allies in 1945 to search for the missing victims of Nazi persecution. And for documents that would help clarify their fate.

As a result, the *International Tracing Service* was founded in 1948. Originally a temporary measure, it became a permanent institution when new responsibilities were added to its tracing activities. Since 2019 the institution has been known as the *Arolsen Archives*. It is an international center on Nazi persecution.

The collections in the *Arolsen Archives* are a *paper monument*. Millions of fates are recorded in millions of documents, all cataloged within a huge *Central Name Index* – and listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World register.

But how did tracing and providing information develop over time? How was the archive created? Who used it and who had access? This exhibition enables answers to these questions and also describes the development of dealing with historical evidence and the victims of Nazi crimes themselves.



Destroyed Documents, Auschwitz Concentration and Extermination Camp, 1945

“A turbulent day. An order came from the SS camp headquarters to burn all the camp records, immediately and with no exceptions.”

R. Busch-Waldeck, Prisoner of the Wiener Neudorf Subcamp,
30.3.1945

“Letters ... are beginning to pour in ... asking whether ... a daughter, husband or wife last known ... to be in some concentration camp(s) is still there, and alive and well.”

R. D. McClelland, American Legation, 20.4.1945



Letters from Relatives, Shanghai, circa 1945



Searching for Relatives, Indersdorf, Autumn 1945

“My only child, a six-year-old girl, was taken by the Germans in 1944, and all I know is that the child is supposed to have been in the Birkenau camp.”

Sarah Talvi, Athens, 16.11.1948

“Many of the camp records were removed or destroyed by the authorities just before liberation and we therefore have to rely on the co-operation of ex-prisoners of the camps.”

Roman Flohr, International Tracing Service, 5.2.1948



Securing Documents, Warsaw, September 1946



Registering Survivors, Hamburg, 18.5.1945

“After I arrived [in Krakow], I was registered by the Soviet authorities. The only proof I had of my identity was my tattoo from Auschwitz.”

P. Schaffer, Holocaust Survivor, 1945

“I tried many ways to find my wife and my daughter ... without any result. I myself saw them for the last time 5.9.1939.”

G. Langer, Kinross, 16.11.1945



Posters Listing Missing Persons, Paris, 1947



**Personal Objects or So-Called Effects from
Concentration Camp Prisoners**

Shortly before the concentration camps were liberated, the SS burned the files in many camps to conceal the traces of its crimes. The prisoners' personal belongings – the so-called effects – which they had been forced to hand over when they arrived at a camp, were also destroyed in many places.

The largest collection of preserved effects in the *Arolsen Archives* comes from the Neuengamme concentration camp, whose commandant had the effects of around 5,000 prisoners sent to Lunden in Schleswig-Holstein at the end of April 1945. They were found there by British soldiers.

S. 2990
No. 71809

Gliszczynski
Felix
17.4.13

- 1 Ehering, weiß
- 1 Siegelring,
gelb
- 1 Füllhalter,
- 2 Drehbleistifte
- 1 Kette mit An-
hänger
- 1 Münze

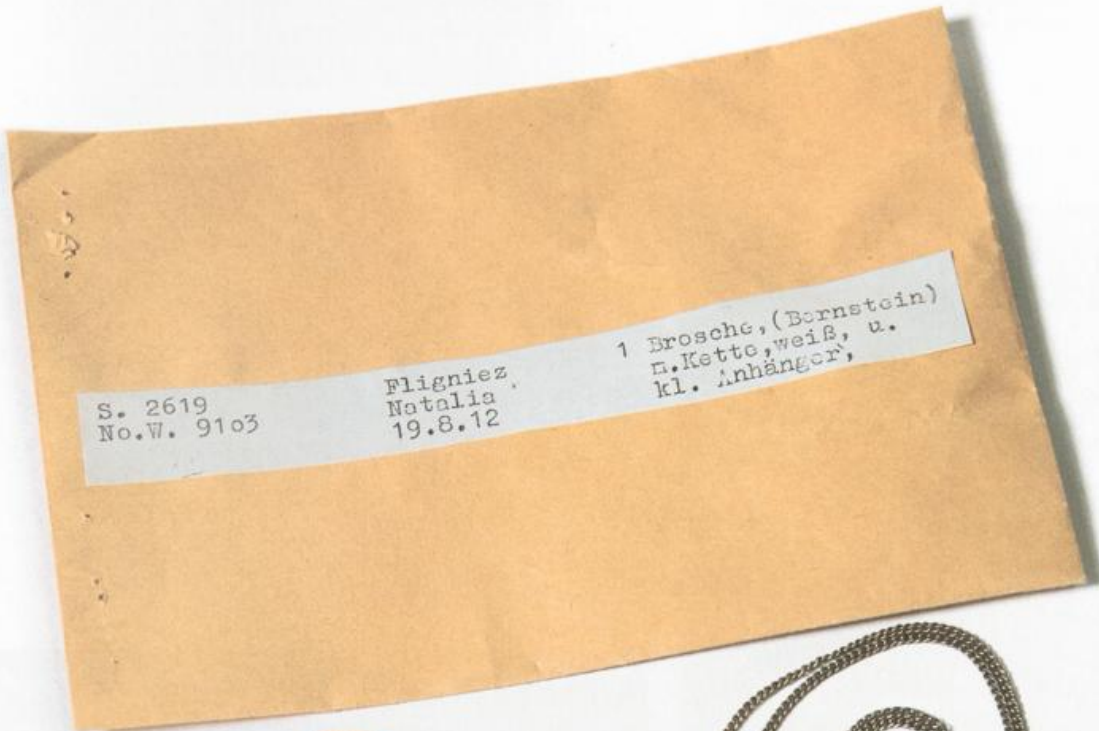


S. 3508
No. 63916

✓ Jagowdzik
Konstnty
2.2.10

1 Taschenuhr,
weiß,
1 Uhrkette, weiß
1 Siegelring, "
1 Taschenmesser
2 Mansch. Knöpfe
weiß





S. 2619
No.W. 9103

Fligniez
Natalia
19.8.12

1 Brosche, (Bernstein)
H.Kette, weiß, u.
kl. Anhänger,



Animated Videos



**From Inquiries to Cases to Information:
Animated Videos on the Practice of Tracing
and Documentation**

The animated videos in the exhibition look at specific cases to explain the process of handling inquiries and documents, such as the search for former forced laborer Augustyn Apanasewicz or the information provided for the compensation proceedings of Holocaust survivor Esther Bejarano.



Historical archive working tables are used to present the videos. For years, archive cartons were placed and transported on these tables.



You can view the videos here:

www.arolsen-archives.org/exhibit



Early Tracing and Documenting

Spring 1945: the Nazi regime had been defeated.

Now the Allies were confronted with many new challenges, including the care for millions of victims of Nazi persecution.

Many people were concerned about their relatives and friends some of whom they had lost contact with years ago.

The Allies only searched for the victims of Nazi persecution.

German war victims and prisoners of war, refugees and expellees, however, had to turn to German tracing services.

Tracing missing victims of the Nazis was difficult at the start.

The Allies were overwhelmed by the scale of the persecution, and information could often only be found in Nazi documents, millions of which had to be gathered and studied first.

Therefore, survivors also took matters into their own hands by actively engaging in postwar search and documentation work with the support of both new and experienced organizations.

The victorious Allied powers made every effort to coordinate the search for Nazi victims and documents.

They created the *Central Tracing Bureau* (CTB) for this task.

This was the root of the *International Tracing Service* (ITS), founded in 1948 as the central tracing and information office.

Self-Organization by Survivors

In the spring of 1945, prisoners liberated in Dachau established the *International Information Office* (IIO). It supported former prisoners and their relatives by issuing certificates of imprisonment in Dachau which could be used to claim relief services.

The IIO also documented the horrors of the Dachau camp with lists of people who had been imprisoned and died there. They were based on concentration camp records saved by prisoners. Today they are kept in Bad Arolsen, alongside original IIO files.



**Passport Photos for IIO Imprisonment Certificates,
circa 1945/1946**

The IIO issued individual certificates of imprisonment in Dachau concentration camp, which former inmates could use to acquire food, civilian clothing, shelter and medical care. These certificates required passport photos, around 2,100 of which are still preserved in the *Arolsen Archives*.

11796

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INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION OFFICE
DACHAU
SCHLEISSHEIMERSTRASSE 90

CERTIFICATE Nr. 2976

It is hereby certified that Mr. Eiger
Dawid born 5 - 11 - 1922
in Radom was detained in Dachau
Concentration Camp from 9 - 4 - 1945 to the day
of deliverance by the United States Army 29. April 1945 and was
registered in the Camp Records under the number
150312
He came from Concentration Camp: Natzweiler

INTERNATIONAL
INFORMATION OFFICE
DACHAU

CIESLIK-WAITER

Issued 4 - 7 - 1946

International Information Office
Dachau

**Imprisonment Certificate Issued by the IIO
for Dawid Eiger, July 4, 1946**

Dawid Eiger was a Polish Jew born in 1922. He was imprisoned in Dachau shortly before the liberation in April 1945. After the war the IIO issued this certificate of his time in the camp, which enabled Eiger to claim relief services.

4481

erfahren, ob mein Vater damals als politischer
Häftling oder politischer Gefangener wurde. Ich hoffe,
dass Sie Ihnen sich nach Unterlagen über diese
Verfahren oder Verurteilung vorhandene sind.
Ich selbst habe alle die politische Partei-
mitgliedschaften in den Jahren vor mein Vater
Häftling im KZ Lager war. Er ist aber für
mich von großer Wichtigkeit welche Personen
mein Vater zu dieser letzten Gruppe gehörten.

Ich bitte Sie sehr um Ihre Hilfe
bei dieser Angelegenheit. Haben Sie mir bitte
meinen ergebensten Dank. Für Ihre Antworten
bitte ich mich sehr zu bedanken.

Hochachtungsvoll
Ilse Voigt

P.S.V.

413

**Excerpt of a Letter from Ilse Voigt from
Warnemünde to the IIO, June 12, 1946**

In March 1946, at the request of Ilse Voigt, the IIO had issued a certificate confirming that her father, Otto Riebe, had been a prisoner in Dachau. However, this certificate did not reveal his prisoner category. Ilse Voigt therefore wrote to the IIO again to ask for this information.

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Jan 28. 6. 1946

Fräulein Ilse Voigt
Warnemünde - Ostsee
im Strand 67

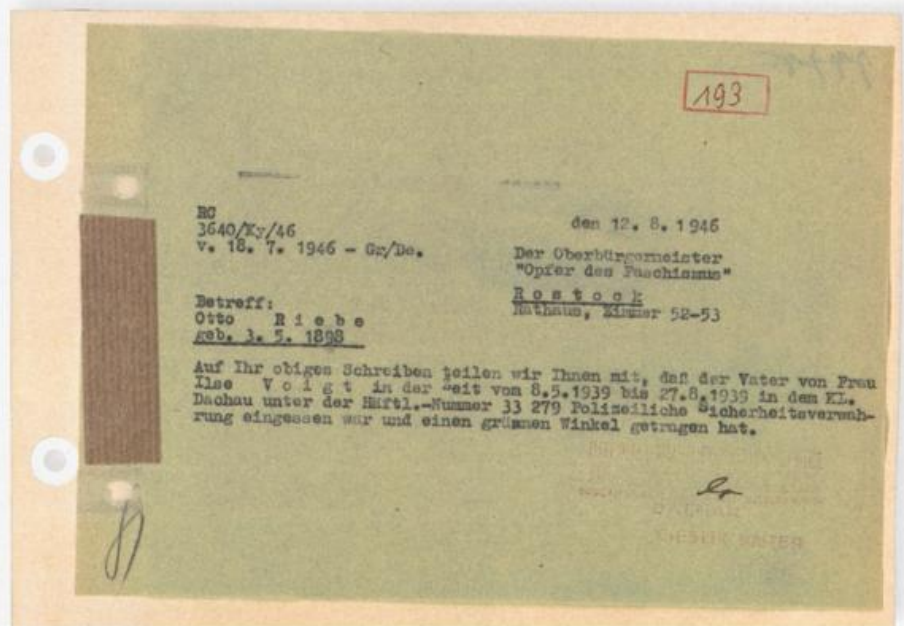
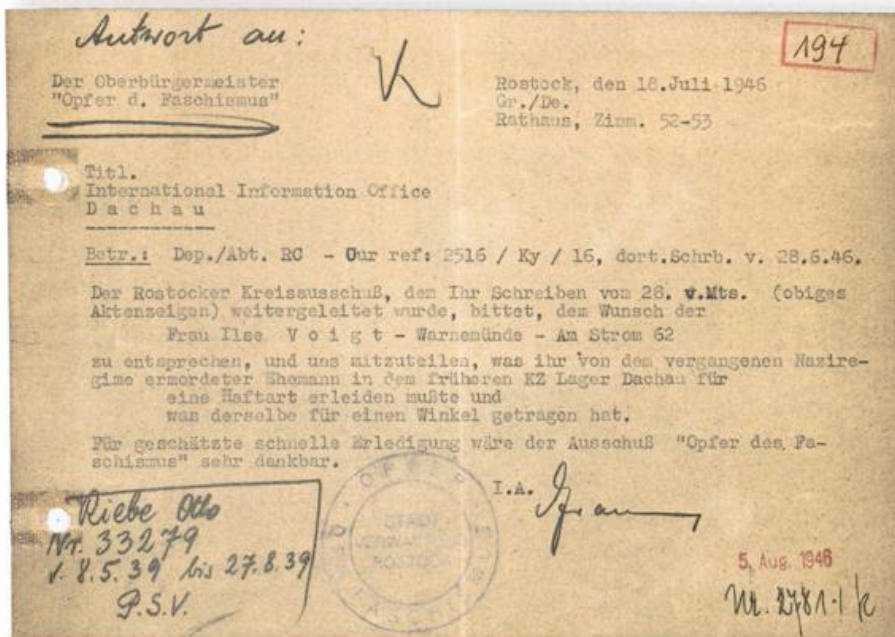
Hierdurch teilen wir Ihnen mit, dass wir die Haftart von der Haft-
farbe der ehemaligen SS-Mitglieder nur an die Gestapo- und Ver-
waltungsstellen mitteilen. Wenn Sie sich an Ihre SS-Verwaltungsstelle und
diese soll die gewünschten Angaben bei uns anfordern.

Informationen über die
Dachau
5
CIESLIK, WALTER
Leiter

Ilse

**Letter from Walter Ciešlik (IIO) to Ilse Voigt,
June 28, 1946**

This letter from Walter Ciešlik, head of the IIO, informed Ilse Voigt that only the municipal concentration camp prisoner support office responsible for Voigt was authorized to provide information about her father's prisoner category.



**Inquiry from the Victims of Fascism Committee
(Rostock City Council) to the IIO, July 18, 1946**

In response to the prior correspondence between Ilse Voigt and the IIO, the concentration camp prisoner support office in Rostock also inquired about Otto Riebe's prisoner category in July 1946. In this letter, Otto Riebe is mistakenly referred to as Voigt's husband, not as her father.

Response from Walter Cieřlik (IIO), August 12, 1946

Walter Cieřlik of the IIO informed the Rostock city council in August 1946 that Otto Riebe had been in "police protective custody." He therefore belonged to the group of so-called "professional criminals" not eligible for relief services. To this day, they have neither been recognized, nor have they received compensation as victims of Nazi persecution.

GAR

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

UNITED STATES ZONE
BUREAU OF DOCUMENTS AND TRACING Return 3. 10. 46. Nr 254
APO 757, U. S. ARMY

27 September 1946

SUBJECT: Preparation of Official Bureau Tracing Registry
on Dachau Concentration Camp Inmates

TO: Mr. G. B. Fromageot
Branch Chief
South Bavarian Branch
MUNICH

1. It is my understanding that the inmate records of the Dachau Concentration Camp are as complete as humanly possible at the present time. The excellent work of the staff of the former International Information Office deserves full credit for this achievement. } Cieslik

2. In view of paragraph one above, we must prepare an Official Registry of the Dachau Concentration Camp Inmates for the utilization of Allied Government National Tracing Bureaux in their tracing of United Nations Nationals.

3. You are directed to engage in this activity immediately.

4. You are encouraged to delegate the responsibility of this project to Mr. Walter Cieslik in view of his previous status with the International Information Office. However, you will be held responsible for the progress and accuracy of the work.

5. The Official Registry shall contain a brief history of the camp, officially recognized photographs, selected human interest stories and a complete listing of inmates according to nationalities and alphabetization.

6. The Official Registry shall contain the following information concerning each inmate :

(a)	Surname, Christian name ✓
(b)	Camp serial number ✓
(c)	Reason for detention ✓
(d)	Date of birth ✓
(e)	Date of entry in the camp ✓
(f)	Previous location prior to Dachau ✓
(g)	Date of departure from Dachau ✓
(h)	Destination at departure from Dachau ✓
(i)	Reason for departure (e. g. liberated,

/s. (j)

Compiling one of the First Prisoner Lists for Dachau
Concentration Camp, August 23, 1946

In the summer of 1946, the IIO merged with the Munich branch of the UNRRA tracing and documentation department. This office was asked to compile a list of all former prisoners of Dachau concentration camp based on the camp documents preserved by the IIO. Walter Cieslik initiated this project.

UNRRA
BUREAU OF DOCUMENTS AND TRACING
South Bavarian Branch

INVENTORY OF DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP
INDEX CARDS

G E R M A N S

Surname: Christian name Camp ser.no.	Birth date: Birth place (Prev.resid.)	Reason for arrest (Occupation):	Admission date: Prisoner no. Place of capture	Depart date: Reason for dep. Destination:
ABB Wilhelm 35644 <i>From photo</i>	7.12.00 Altomünster Aschaffenburg	crim.pris. locksmith <i>Religion</i>	15.Sep.39	27.Sep.39 trans to CC.Mauthause
ABE Ferdinand 7451/4	20.9.11 Nürnberg Munich	pol.pris. plumber	13.5.35	15.Jan.41 released
ABEL Andreas 91580	22.6.94 Spiesen Spiesen	work ev. baker	14.Aug.44 14.Sep.44 fr. Natzweiler	24.Aug.44 trans to Natzweiler 29.Sep.44 trans to Flossenburg 20.April 39 released
ABEL Christoph 11218	4.5.91 Heidsheim Würzburg	pol.pris. worker	21.12.36	20.April 39 released
ABEL Karl 16664	27.9.05 München München	crim.pris. baker	30.Aug.40	7.Sep.40 transp. to Sachsenhausen
ABELEIN Richard 30592	14.3.15 Stuttgart Stuttgart	work ev. garden worker	24 June 42	7.8.42 transp. to Neuengame
ABELES Walter 18201	6.10.87 Wien Wien 2 Bez.	crim.pris. renter	6 Sep.40	5 Juli 41 trans to Buchenwald
ABELMANN Paul 23236	28.7.14 Ahaus/Westf. Nordenham	pol.pris. sailor SAS.SAW Δ	22 Jan.41 fr. Neuengame	died 24 July 41
ABERL Johann 35001	28.8.90 Allershausen München	pol.pris. clergman	21 Aug.42	19 Sep.42 trans to Buchenwald
ABEL Franz 16391	21.1.92 Walkwitz Vienna 8	pol.pris. editor	17.6.38 1.2.39	25.1.39 transp. 26.4.34 - to Vienna
ABLER Jacob 64879	23.2.07 Oberdettingen Hamburg	crim.pris. bookkeeper	4 March 44 fr.Natzweiler	deliv red in out-detail by U.S.Army

Excerpt from Overview of Dachau Prisoners Compiled
by Walter Cieřlik, circa 1946

This list, alphabetically ordered by name, was based on a card file from Dachau concentration camp, saved by prisoners at the end of the war. It noted the prisoners' places and dates of birth, information about their profession and prisoner category, and the dates of their imprisonment and release from the Dachau concentration camp.

Walter Cieślik

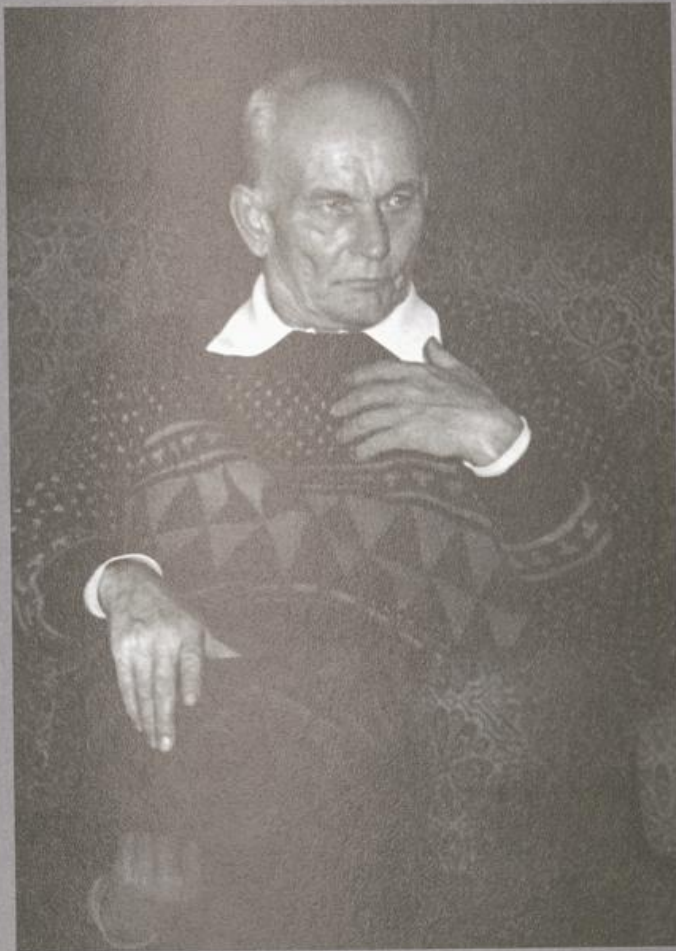
1914 - 1998

Before Walter Cieślik worked for the IIO after the war, he spent five years as a prisoner in Dachau concentration camp. The persecution of the Polish bank clerk began in 1940, when the Gestapo arrested him in Zabrze, Silesia. Cieślik was taken to Dachau as a political prisoner. The SS assigned him to work in the registry office, which gave him access to the camp's prisoner documents. Two years after he was liberated, Walter Cieślik decided to return to Poland, where he passed away in 1998.



Walter Cieřlik in Prisoner Clothing at his Desk at the IIO, Dachau, June 5, 1945

Cieřlik returned to Poland in 1947, taking many IIO documents with him. But it was his express wish for the documents to return to Dachau after his death. Since 1999, they have been preserved by the Dachau Memorial. The files provide a valuable insight into the work of the IIO.



Walter Cieřlik, Private Photo, Location unknown, 1986

After his time at the IIO, Cieřlik stayed in close contact with other survivors of Nazi persecution. In the 1990s he worked with humanitarian organizations in Germany to support former inmates of the concentration camps and ghettos.

Walter Cieřlik
 Zabrze 9 ul. Piłsudskiego 11
 90lska

den 13.9.1968
 TD 852 716 ✓

Internationaler Suchdienst
 548 Grolson

Ich war im KL Dachau unter der Gefangenennummer 13000 ab 1. April 1945.

Ich möchte aufs herzlichste bitten um eine Nachricht wenn ich in der Zeit 1940-45 in Revierbehandlung war. Ich kann mir bloss erinnern dass das gleiche zur Zeit war wo Stefan Karsnel im Revier war.

Ich bin sicher von denen, die die Gefangenen hartes am KL Dachau nach Frankfurt abtransportiert haben. Die Revieraufnahmepücher sind auch jetzt vorhanden in 90lska wahrscheinlich bei Sieb sein.

Ich möchte sehr bitten mir eine Bescheinigung über meine Revieraufnahmen zu schicken, ich mein das es viel hilft mit meiner Pücher sein wird, deshalb danke ich im voraus für Sie.

E: 23. SEP. 1968
 In alt. Todesarkl. mit verzielter Handzeichnung
 Autenth. Starbark.
 Dok. Nr. Suchertr.
 Kriminop. Fotokopie
 Foto Nr. Spezial-
 Anlege
 24. Sep. 1968
 K. 10000 grau

Inquiry from Walter Cieřlik to the ITS, September 13, 1968

In 1968, Walter Cieřlik contacted the ITS and requested a certificate of his time spent in the sick bay of Dachau concentration camp. He also mentioned his activities at the IIO and his role in transferring the documents which today are stored in the Arolsen Archives.

Tracing Activities by Experienced Organizations

Experienced relief organizations also took part in the search, such as the *American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee* (AJDC), which had been founded in 1914 in the context of World War I. It had tracing offices all over Europe for clarifying the fates of missing persons and survivors of the Holocaust. Many of its employees had been persecuted by the Nazis themselves. Searching for documents with information about Nazi crimes was another important activity which the organization carried out. Many documents from the AJDC later went to the ITS and are now preserved in the *Arolsen Archives*.

0137/_12
21.1.1946

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
C/O 618 Mil. Gov. Det.
(British Army on the Rhine)
HONNE-BELSEN CAMP

Date: 21.1.1946

Enquirer / Nadawca / Anfrage

Name/Name: **BURGENTHAL Mrs** First Name/Vorname: **GERDA** Nationality/Nationalität: **Czech**

Place of Birth/Geburtsort: _____ Date of Birth/Geburtsdatum: _____

Name of parents/Name der Eltern: _____ Occupation/Beruf: _____

Present Address/Gegenwärtige Anschrift: **Oettingen, Wagnerstr. 5** Relation/Verwandtschaftsverhältnis: **Mother**

Original Home Address/Hausanschrift: _____

The enquirer desires news of the addressee.
Nadawca pragnie wie dowiedzieć się.
Der Adressgebende erbittet die neue Anschrift.

**Particulars of Person Sought
Angaben fehlender Personen**

Name/Name: **BURGENTHAL** First Name/Vorname: **TOMMY**

Place of Birth/Geburtsort: **Lubchaw/C.S.R.** Date of Birth/Geburtsdatum: **11.5.24** Marital Status/Verh. stand: _____

Father's name/Name des Vaters: _____ Mother's name/Name der Mutter: **Mrs. Buergenthal Gerda**

Date of last communication or departure/Datum der letzten Verbindung oder Abreise: _____

Original Home Address/Hausanschrift: _____

Last known Occupation/Title - Bekannter Beruf: _____

Date of last communication/Datum der letzten Verbindung: **January 1945**

Last known Address/Letzte bekannte Anschrift: _____

Further useful Particulars/Welche nützliche Angaben: **Mother has seen photo of her son in Harnoverscher Kurier dated 13 July 1945, crossing street in Berlin with British M.P. and says 'All boys are happy, Walter HOCHMANN, his friend, is known to be now in Palestine'**

The addressee reply to be written on the reverse side.
Odpowiadz od adresata/ Für die Antwort des Empfänger die Rückseite benutzen

Inquiry Form for Thomas Buergenthal, AJDC Office in Belsen, August 4, 1946

Thinking she had seen her missing son Thomas in a newspaper photo, Gerda Buergenthal, who lived in Göttingen, intensified her search for him. One of her inquiries reached the AJDC tracing office near the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. She had last seen her son in January 1945.

Telephone: REGENT 6944-5
BURGENTHAL TOMMY
2-061-1946

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

MP/E: **199, PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.1. ENGLAND** Oct. 23, 1946. 0137/_58

TO: **A. J. D. C. BELSEN.**

FROM: **A. J. D. C. LONDON.**

RE: **YOUR LETTER 1.10.1946 RE TOMMY BURGENTHAL.**

With further reference to your letter as above, we have to-day received the following report from Warsaw Office in reply to the cable sent at your request:-

"We beg to notify you, that the Manager of the Orphanage in Otwock wrote us, that Tommy Buergenthal was informed by cable of the location of his mother just before receipt of the J. D. C. Letter. Tommy Buergenthal lives in this Children's Home since 7.11.1945. He was in a camp in Sachsenhausen; after the liberation he was taken by the 1st Division of the Polish Army as a regiment's child and was brought by a soldier to us. He went through many hardships. Tommy is a nice, pleasant, good and brave boy and is very liked by his teachers and colleagues. Simultaneously his uncle from the USA takes an interest in Tommy. To his mother and uncle, Tommy will write himself."

Faithfully yours,

Margot Peis,
A. J. D. C. LONDON.

Tommy's parents appear to be located at 55 Search Bureaux, Göttingen. B.S.O.R.

Tel 4254
Göttingen
Vignette 8

Letter from the London AJDC Office to the AJDC Office in Belsen, October 23, 1946

Nearly two months later, the London tracing office of the AJDC confirmed Thomas Buergenthal was alive. He was freed from Sachsenhausen concentration camp at the end of the war. A Polish soldier eventually took him to an orphanage in Otwock, Poland, where he learnt that his mother was looking for him.

237 41

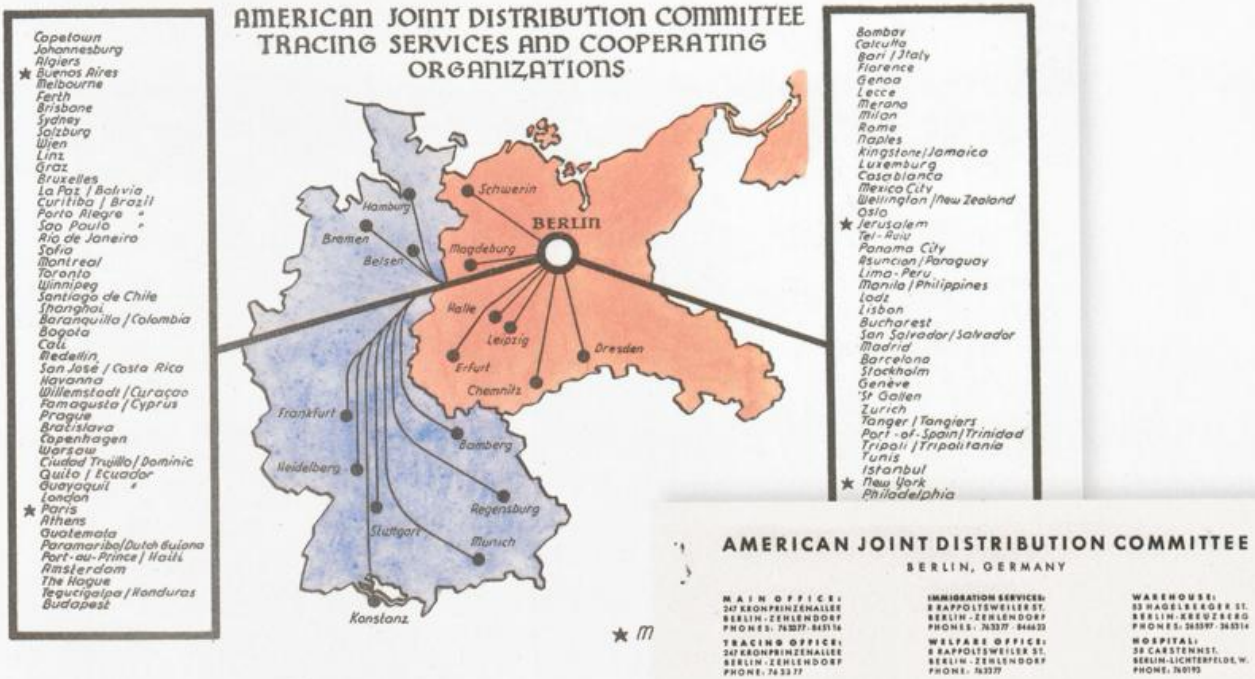
Transportliste

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Lfd. Nr.	Name	Vorname	geb. am	Ort	Beruf	hög	sch.	letz.	aktuell	Wohnung	Wohnung	Wohnung	Wohnung	Wohnung	Bemerkungen
										Ort	Strasse	Postleitzahl	Wohnung		
1	Roos geb. Fraysuder	Itta Ruth	5.5.02	Wysogrod	ohne		ja	60	ja	H. 59, Grenadierstr. 25	Pol. P.	6471			
2	Kuschitzky	Margarete Rose	13.5.06	Gleiwitz	ohne	ja		56	ja	H. 59, Kottbusstr. 8	97839/1/38 1133074	6510			
3	Anschel	Moritz Leowit	15.1.77	Gornitz	ohne	ja		65	n	Charl. Kais. Friedrichstr. 70	4333341	9070			
4	Friedeberg	Anni Rose	5.6.95	Berlin	ohne	ja		47	ja	G. 7, Grenienburgerstr. 25	1/5696J 42	10138			
5	Auerbacher geb. Auerbacher	Karoline Rose	22.2.96	Kippenheim	ohne		ja	46	ja	Wid., Prinzenbogenstr. 6	AA40964	11209			
6	Lea geb. Czarninski	Heta Rose	6.7.91	Siechen	ohne	ja		51	ja	H. 59, Lybenerstr. 26	00053	11604			
7	Leukowicz	Siegfried Lewski	11.9.30	Berlin	ohne	ja		12	ja	Schönb. Allee 162 Rein		11091			
8	Leukowicz	Benjamin Lewski	10.7.35	Berlin	ohne	ja	n	7	n	dto.		11092			
9	Leukowicz	Wolf Daniel Lewski	17.2.38	Berlin	ohne	ja		4	n	dto.		11093			
10	Vortrefflich geb. Ungar	Ryfa Rose	15.2.00	Turnow	ohne	ja		58	ja	H. 59, Lottustr. 13	P102707/1 38	13543			
11	Leewenthal geb. Croner	Elfrida geb. Elie Rose	14.9.00	Lebe	ohne	ja		62	ja	H. 59, Weinbergsweg 6	A00002	13560			
12	Krotoschiner geb. Kron	Berlino Lydia K.	0.5.09	Berlin	ohne	ja		53	ja	H. 62, Kleiststr. 29	1524280	13581			
13	Simon	Gitta Rose	28.12.79	Bysschhoff	ohne	ja		65	ja	Charl. Bybelstr. 15	1371019	13640			
14	Edwigsberger geb. Janower	Lydia Rose	26.11.00	Breslau	ohne	ja		62	ja	Charl. Berlinerstr. 97	1494496	13759			
15	Goldberg geb. Lichtenstein	Charlotte K.	11.6.00	Breslau	ohne	ja		58	ja	Wid. Brandenburgischestr. 43	1427745	13796			
16	Speyer geb. Meyer	Lucie Rose	13.8.79	Berlin	ohne	ja		63	ja	H. 59, Barossastr. 40	AA40579	13910			
17	Meyer Dr.	Hugo Lewski	9.11.72	Dresden	ohne	ja		65	ja	Wid., Meierottostr. 6	AA49526	14704			
18	Meyer geb. Kaiser	Elice Rose	26.5.02	Berlin	ohne	ja		60	ja	dto.	AA49527	14705			
19	Koenigsberger	Martin Lewski	19.11.06	Berlin	ohne	ja		56	ja	Charl. Sonnenstr. 5	A049614	15104			
20	Steinberg	Eli Lewski	29.6.06	Berlin	ohne	ja		36	ja	G. 7, Hindenburgstrasse 4	A045178	15110			

Transport List of Jews Deported from Gestapo District I, September 5, 1942

The Gestapo documents found by the AJDC in the Berlin Finance Department included transport lists like the one shown here. They reveal the names of Jewish men and women from Berlin who were deported to Theresienstadt, Riga and "the East." Most transports went to Auschwitz.



The Network of AJDC Tracing Offices and Cooperating Partners, circa 1948

This image, produced by the AJDC office in Berlin highlighted here, illustrates the worldwide search for missing persons and documents conducted by a single established organization like the AJDC. However, this work was not fully coordinated: the individual AJDC offices used varying approaches to carry out their search activities.

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
BERLIN, GERMANY

MAIN OFFICE: 34 KRONPRINZENALLEE BERLIN-ZEHLENDORF PHONE: 743277-845114	IMMIGRATION SERVICES: 8 RAPOITSWILLER ST. BERLIN-ZEHLENDORF PHONE: 743277-844635	WAREHOUSE: 35 HAGELBERGER ST. BERLIN-ZEHLENDORF PHONE: 243597-243514
TRACING OFFICE: 34 KRONPRINZENALLEE BERLIN-ZEHLENDORF PHONE: 743277	WELFARE OFFICE: 8 RAPOITSWILLER ST. BERLIN-ZEHLENDORF PHONE: 743277	HOSPITAL: 38 CARSTENWEG BERLIN-LICHTENFELDE, W. PHONE: 240192

Sehr geehrte Herren,
wie Ihnen bekannt sein dürfte, war es uns möglich in den Besitz der von der Gestapo seinerzeit angelegten Karte über die aus Berlin erfolgten Deportationen von nahezu 126 000 Juden zu gelangen. Dadurch sind wir in die Lage versetzt, den Transport sowie den Tag der Deportation von fast allen Berliner Juden anzusehen.

Auch von den Ueberlebenden dieser Transporte, d.h. von den aus der Deportation Zurückgekehrten, haben wir vollständige Listen vorliegen.

Es ist uns aber auch bekannt, dass viele Juden sich in anderen Gemeinden niedergelassen haben, um auch darüber unterrichtet zu sein, benötigen wir von sämtlichen Gemeinden Deutschlands Listen, aus denen diejenigen Personen ersichtlich sind, die dort zugezogen sind, und wir bitten Sie, uns solche Listen, welche die genauen Personalien, die letzte Anschrift vor der Deportation und die jetzige Adresse enthalten müssen, zuzusenden.

Ausserdem benötigen wir auch eine Liste sämtlicher Gemeindeglieder mit genauen Personalien und jetziger Adresse. Auch die inzwischen ausgewanderten Mitglieder bitten wir noch zu vermerken.

Wir hoffen, dass es Ihnen möglich ist, uns recht bald solche Listen zuzusenden und sehen Ihrer Rückmeldung entgegen.

Hochachtungsvoll
LARRY LUBETSKY
Tracing Officer
AJDC Berlin

Suchabteilung
11/48

ARMY ADDRESS: APO 742A, POSTMASTER NEW YORK, N.Y.

Circular from Larry Lubetsky about Documentation Efforts, Berlin, June 5, 1947

In 1946, the AJDC found Gestapo documents in the Berlin Finance Department which proved the deportation of Jews from Berlin. In this circular addressed to Jewish communities in Germany, Larry Lubetsky from the Berlin AJDC office asked for support in the further documentation of Nazi crimes.

Thomas Buergenthal

* 1934

After the liberation, Gerda Buergenthal searched for her son. She also asked an AJDC tracing office for help. Thomas Buergenthal was born in Czechoslovakia in 1934, one year after his parents had fled from Germany. The family went to Poland in 1939 where the Germans arrested them. They were then deported from the Kielce ghetto to Auschwitz. The family was separated. In 1945, the father died in Buchenwald. In December 1946, mother and son were reunited. At the end of 1951 they emigrated together to the USA, where Thomas Buergenthal studied law and became a judge.



Thomas and Gerda Buergenthal, Shortly before Emigrating to the USA, Location Unknown, circa 1951

Thomas Buergenthal documented his family's persecution by the Nazis and the dramatic search after 1945 in his autobiography *A Lucky Child: A Memoir of Surviving Auschwitz as a Young Boy*.



Thomas Buergenthal as a Judge at the *International Court of Justice*, The Hague, circa 2003

Thomas Buergenthal specializes in human rights and international law. He was co-founder of the *Inter-American Court of Human Rights* and has taught at many universities in the USA.



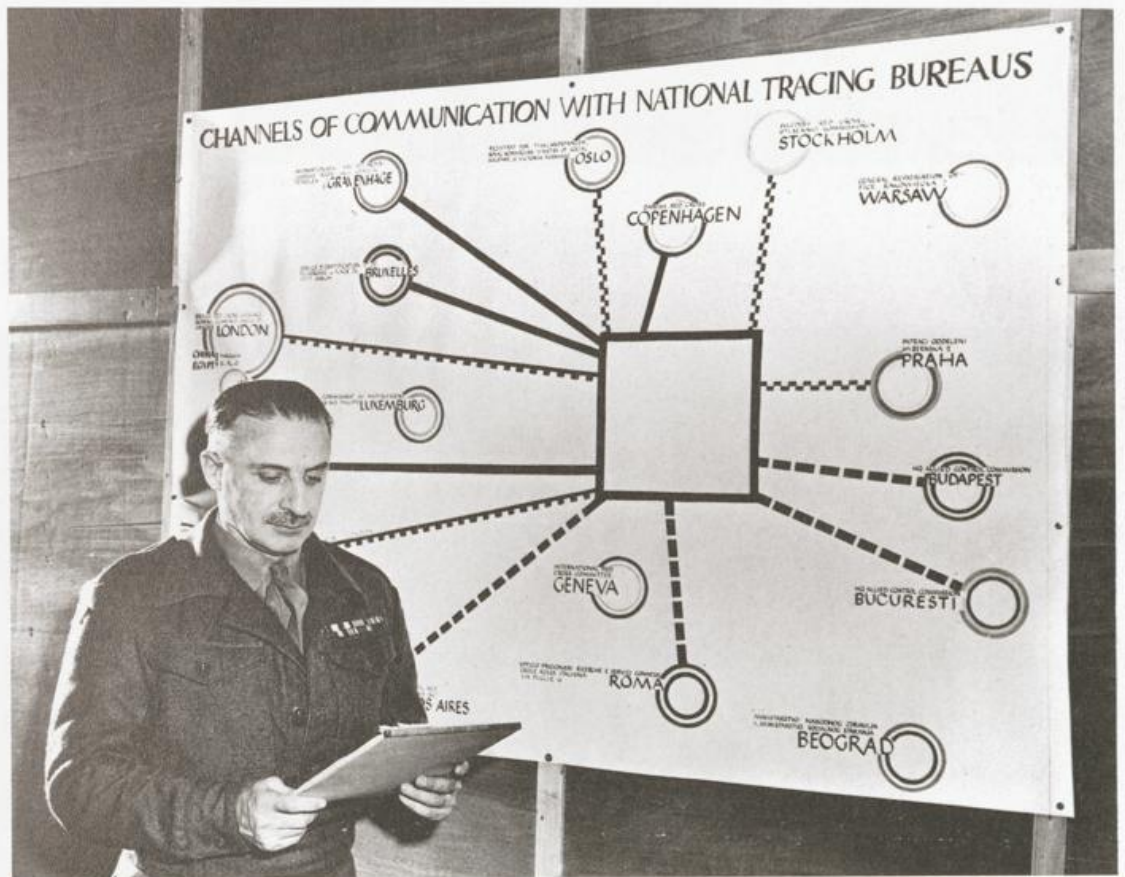
Buergenthal Family, Czechoslovakia, circa 1937

It was through the ITS that Buergenthal discovered his father's place of death: he died in January 1945 in Buchenwald concentration camp. For Buergenthal the *Arolsen Archives* are a "memorial of my father. There are no others, not even a marked gravestone in a cemetery."

The *Central* *Tracing Bureau* (CTB)

In 1943 the Allies began developing a system for searching civilians from UN states who were missing and documents that would help clarify their fate.

This gave rise to the *Central Tracing Bureau* (CTB), run by the *United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration* (UNRRA). It was first located in Frankfurt-Höchst, then Arolsen from 1946. The Allies also ran bureaus in the individual occupation zones. These zonal bureaus handled inquiries and secured documents. The role of the CTB, in turn, was to coordinate the activities of the zonal tracing bureaus and many national tracing bureaus.



John R. Bowring, Head of the CTB, with an Overview of Communication Channels, Frankfurt-Höchst, 1945

The CTB worked with national tracing bureaus to collect documents about Nazi persecution and to handle individual inquiries. When the national tracing bureaus needed support, the CTB was able to assist in many cases through referral to its zonal tracing bureaus.



CTB Incoming Mail Room, Frankfurt-Höchst,
November 19, 1945

In the months after the war, the number of search inquiries sent to the CTB continued to rise. Every day thousands of letters arrived. This photo shows CTB employees sorting the mail before individual cases were forwarded to be handled by other units.



CTB Employees Working on Individual Cases,
Frankfurt-Höchst, circa 1945

Incoming information was recorded on index cards which were filed in a tracing index. Ideally, inquiries and existing information about a missing person would collide here in a *meeting of cards*. Many of the employees had been persecuted themselves. Their language skills were a pillar of the CTB.

Name: KRUPKA, Szlamek No: 84817
 Nee: _____ Nat: Polish/Jew
 B. D.: 5.5.1908 X Ref: _____
 B. P.: Lodz, Poland
 Address: _____
 Occupation: _____
 Last news: Deported from Lodz, Poland, to the
 Date: Auschwitz Concentration Camp.
 Enquirer's name: Rosia Krupka-Birenbaum (Wife)
 Address: c/o The British Red Cross Society,
 Relation: 29, Belgrave Square, London, S. W. 1.

Library

CHECKING REPORT.

Date 5.9.46

Name: KRUPKA SCHLAMA Registr. Nr. _____
 Nationality: POL/JEW Date of birth 5.5.08 Pl. of birth LODSCH
 Last known Address LODSCH Date when known to be there _____
 Camp DACHAU Prison No. 87570 Arrived 6.8.1944
 Transferred to _____ On POL. PRISONER Liberated on FROM MUEHLDORF
 Date of death _____ Cause of death _____
 Place of Burial _____ Grave Number _____
 Remarks: LIBERATED AT MUEHLDORF

Initials: _____

Inquiry Card for Szlamek Krupka, circa 1946

After the war, Rosia Krupka-Birenbaum searched for her husband, Szlamek Krupka, a Polish Jew. She submitted a search inquiry to the Red Cross in London. Her case was forwarded to the CTB, where all the important basic information was recorded on the card shown here.

Checking Report for Szlamek Krupka, September 5, 1946

Based on the information submitted with the inquiry for Szlamek Krupka, the documents at the CTB were checked. The CTB determined that Krupka had last been imprisoned in Dachau concentration camp and was liberated in the Muehldorf subcamp at the end of the war. This was noted in the checking report.

CENTRAL TRACING BUREAU
UNRRA
APO 757 U.S. Army.

No. 84817

FILE : 584-CR-(84817)Z/P

SUBJECT: ENQUIRY CONCERNING DISPLACED PERSONS. 12 SEPT 1946

TO : District Tracing Office (Attn: Tracing Officer)
UNRRA District Headquarters,
WIESBADEN District.

ENQUIRY

1. NAME KRUPKA Birth- Birth- Nationality
(surname) date place
Szlamek 5.5.1908 Lodz Polish/Jew
(Christian name)
Others in
family enquired
for: None

2. LAST KNOWN ADDRESS MUHLDORF (Formerly Dachau and Auschwitz)
Krupka's name is shown in the Dachau records held by this
Bureau - arrived 6.8.1944, liberated at Muhl Dorf.
Muhl Dorf. (UNRRA 4346)

3. REQUEST
Information concerning whereabouts and welfare.

4. NAME OF ENQUIRER Krupka Birth- Birth- Nation-
date place ality
CHRISTIAN NAME Rosia 5.7.1918 Lodz Polish
FORMER HOME ADDRESS Lodz
PRESENT ADDRESS c/o The British Red Cross Society, 29 Belgrave
Square, London, S.W.1.

5. Please send report to this office.

W. J. ...
S. P. ...
Colonel
Director, Central Tracing Bureau

REPORT

ENQUIRY REC'D 19/9/46 FORW'D FOR ACTION TO:
(date) Director of UNRRA Team 503 30 Sept. '46.

FOLLOWING REPORT REC'D FROM: DP. Camp ZEILSHEIM, c/o. UNRRA Team 503

Person(s) enquired about are living at DP. Camp ZEILSHEIM, c/o. UNRRA Team 503
Health and welfare conditions Good.

Repatriation status _____
Other information _____
Not located _____ Information secured useful for
tracing _____

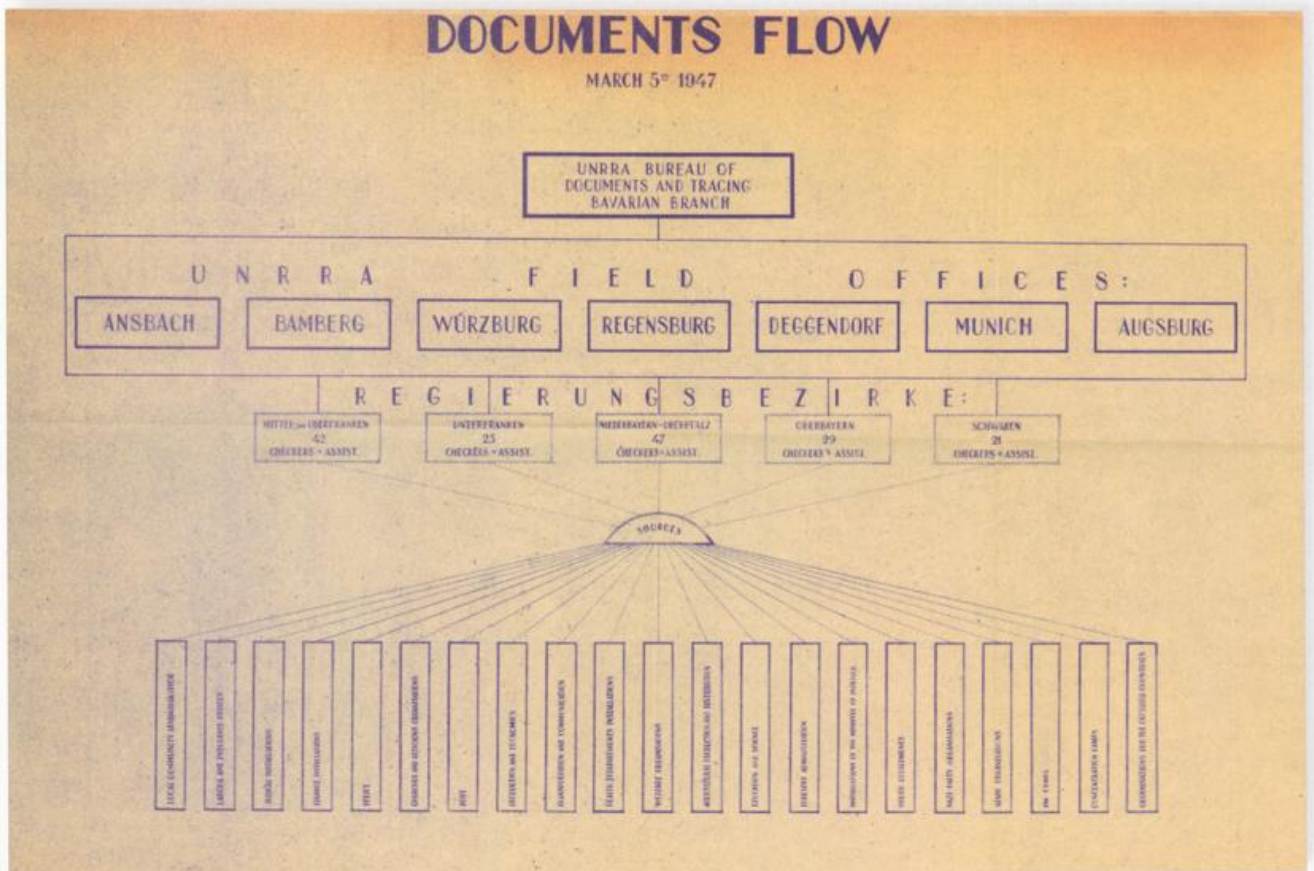
(signed) *P. FELUSKI*
S. P. ...
WIESBADEN.

Form No. 1 (English)

- 8 -

Tracing Form for Szlamek Krupka, September 12, 1946

The CTB turned to the tracing bureau in the US zone and asked whether it knew Krupka's location and state of health. The answer was noted on the bottom half of this form: Szlamek Krupka was alive and well and living as a Displaced Person (DP) in a camp in Zeilsheim.



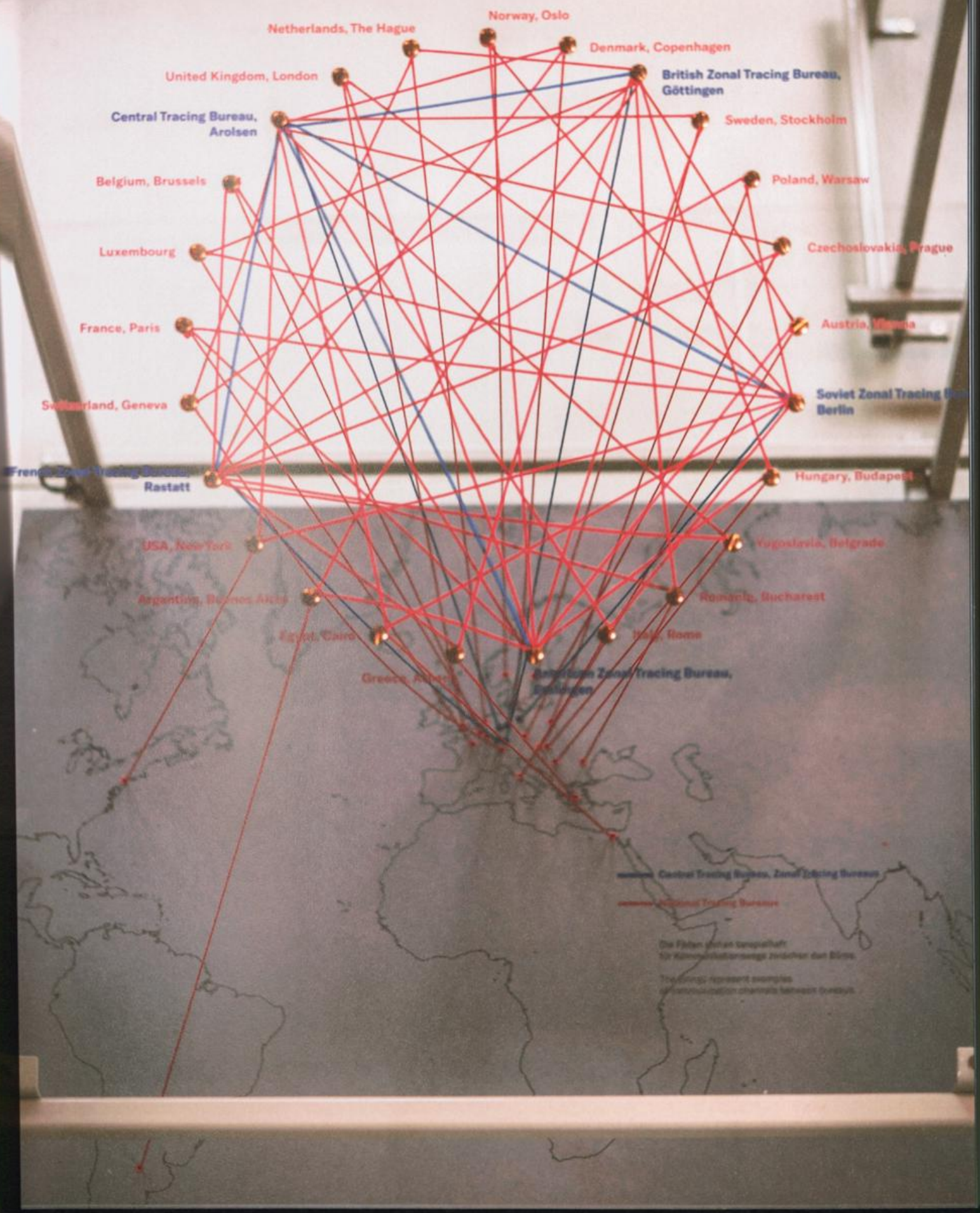
Overview of the Search for Documents in Bavaria, March 5, 1947

Concentration camp documents were important to the tracing activities, as were lists compiled by the German police, judiciary, local authorities and other offices by order of the Allies as part of an operation for tracing foreigners launched in 1946. The documents were gathered and initially stored in the zonal tracing bureaus.

Infographics

Links between the *Central Tracing Bureau* (CTB) and the Zonal and National Tracing Bureaus

Despite its name, the CTB alone did not play a very central role. In many cases, its job was to circulate search inquiries. During this time, the zonal tracing bureaus were more active. They searched locally and worked directly with the national bureaus. The CTB was often not involved in this.



The Founding of the *International Tracing Service (ITS)*

In 1947, UNRRA brought most of its work in Europe to an end. Tracing activities were taken over by its successor at the UN, the *International Refugee Organization* (IRO) based in Geneva. To consolidate the search for missing persons even more, the CTB became the *International Tracing Service* (ITS) in 1948. It brought together the three Western zonal tracing bureaus. This meant they were gradually dissolved in the following years, and most documents and employees were moved to Arolsen. The Soviet Union was not involved in the ITS, however, because conflict with the Western powers was intensifying.

March 22, 1947

TEAM NEWS

Page Five

Officials Confer On Future Of UNRRA CTB



UNRRA and Allied officials shown at a recent conference at the former UNRRA Central Headquarters, for the DP Operation in Germany, which was called to discuss plans for the future of UNRRA Central Tracing Bureau.

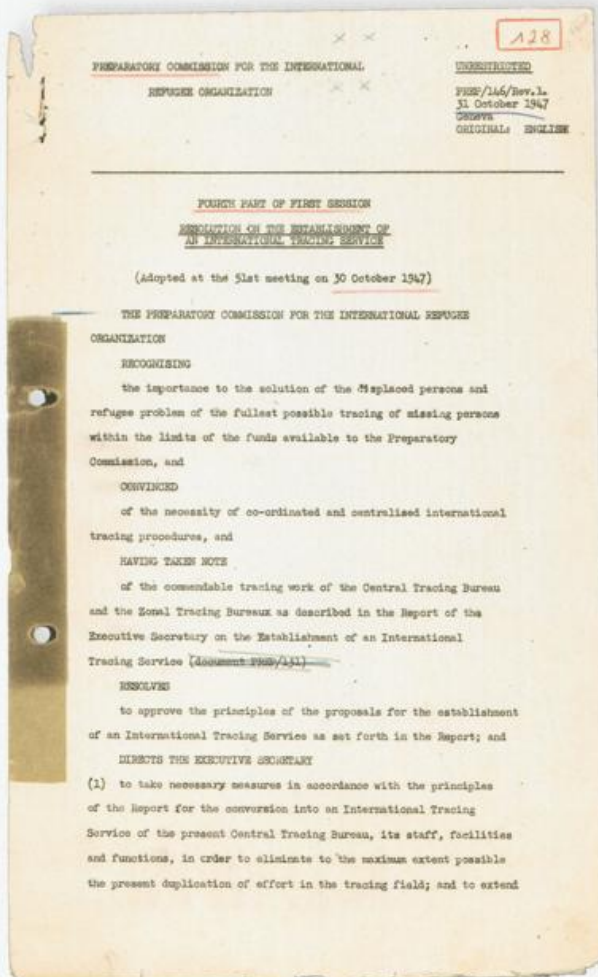
The group includes, reading around table, left to right: Miss Cecile Kautzman, chief of tracing division at CTB; Mrs. Schlesinger, of the British Red Cross search office, Goettlage; Miss Warner, of British Red Cross foreign relations, London; Lt. Col. Robert W. F. Dawson, chief of UNRRA field operations, British zone; Miss Helen Montgomery, deputy chief of field operations, CIG; Carl H. Martin, director of field operations, CIG; Roman Flohr, director of CTB; Evelyn Mendosa, secretary to Mr. Flohr; Capt. Puzoska, Czechoslovak liaison officer; Col. Garnett, USPT chief liaison officer, UNRRA bureau of documents and tracing, U.S. zone; Royal D. McTavish, director of the U.S. zone bureau of documents and tracing; Miss Martha Jellie, deputy director of U.S. zone bureau of documents and tracing; Miss Odette Desplaces, UNRRA repatriation officer, French zone; Miss Marjorie Ducky, child search officer, CIG; Miss Eileen Blackley, child welfare consultant, CIG; and Miss Joan Hastings Hungerford, chief of child tracing at CTB.

Also, at table in center, left to right: Lt. Col. Francisco Riverola, French liaison officer; Mrs. Zawistowska, Polish liaison officer; Maj. Marcel Willy Wolf, Belgian Red Cross officer; Capt. Armand Hüper, Luxembourg liaison officer; Miss Sheila Collins, chief of the record division at CTB; and Miss Dorothy Clarke, chief of mass tracing bureau, CTB.

UNRRA PI Photo By R. G. Berry

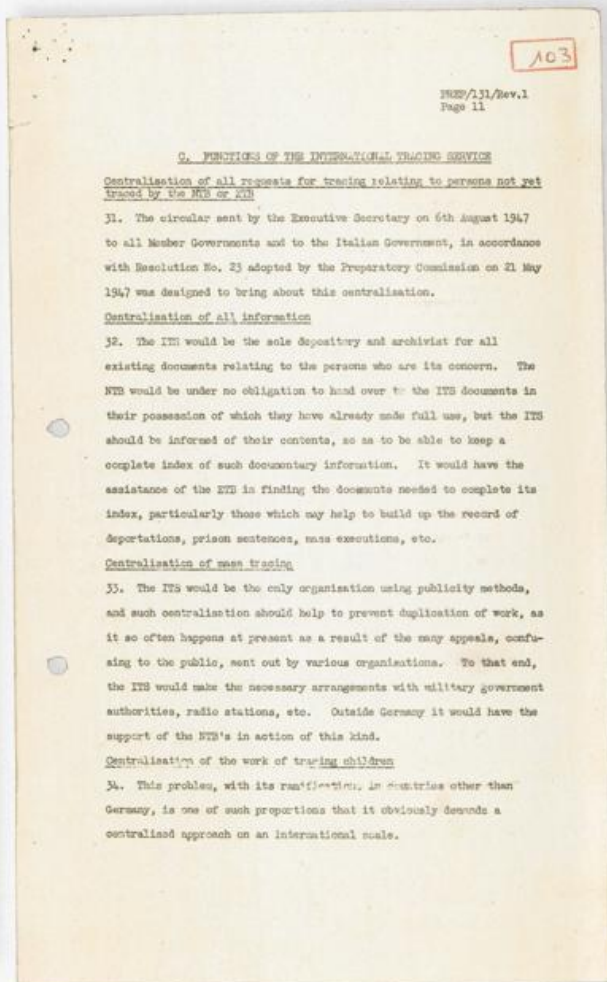
Article about the Future of the CTB in the UNRRA Newsletter *Team News*, March 22, 1947

In spring 1947, the future of the CTB was uncertain. It was clear that UNRRA would stop running the tracing service. But the search for and documentation of missing persons was far from over. Therefore, representatives of UNRRA met with the national tracing bureaus to find a solution to the operation of the tracing service.



**Resolution on the Founding of the ITS,
October 30, 1947**

The resolution on the founding of the ITS was passed just months before it officially began work at the start of 1948. The minutes shown here document the decisive meeting of the IRO, when it was acknowledged that the search for missing persons and the documentation of Nazi persecution had to be continued centrally.



**Excerpt from an Overview of the Reorganization of
the ITS in Arolsen, November 6, 1947**

When the tracing service was reorganized, Maurice Thudicum of the *International Red Cross* in Geneva first acted as a consultant. In a memo on the institution's future structure, he recommended centralizing the ITS documents and processes in Arolsen for a more systematic approach to the tracing and documentation of missing persons.



Maurice Thudicum, First Director of the ITS, Arolsen, circa 1951

Maurice Thudicum was the first director of the newly founded ITS, after being involved in its creation as a consultant. His prior leading position within the Central Agency for Prisoners of War of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva qualified him for the new role.

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INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION
US ZONE H.Q. DISPLACED PERSONS B&D KESSELINGEN
APO 52 US ARMY
Office of Public Information

CTM/423/BK
31 August 1949

B&D KESSELINGEN - Plans for speeding up the work of tracing or determining the fate of more than 290,000 persons still missing as a result of the dislocations of World War II will be discussed Thursday and Friday, Sept. 1 and 2, at a meeting of representatives of interested organizations and governments in Arolsen.

The meeting has been called by the International Tracing Service of the International Refugee Organization and will be attended by representatives of France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Poland and the occupying authorities in Germany, including: NCO, GDM, CGG and the French Military Government.

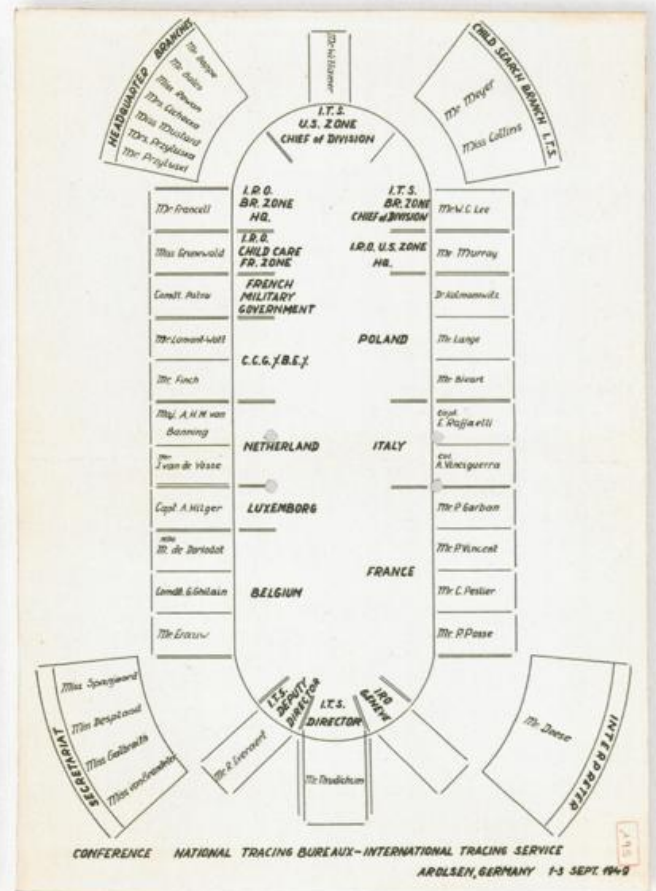
Of the more than 427,000 queries that have been received by the International Tracing Service and its predecessor organization, approximately 295,000 remain unanswered. The organization has succeeded in closing 57,493 cases by either locating the persons or furnishing proof of their death; another 76,190 cases were closed with the report that no trace could be found and death could not be proven.

The ITS received 3400 new queries during the month of August and additional queries on 4900 cases that had been previously re-listed. Most of the inquiries now are coming from Displaced Persons living in Germany, from resettled or repatriated Displaced Persons, and from Poland, in that order.

DISTRIBUTION NO. 1

Press Release about an International Tracing Conference at the ITS, August 31, 1949

In autumn 1949, delegates from various national tracing bureaus met with representatives of the occupying forces at the ITS in Arolsen. They discussed methods of work as well as the future cooperation between the ITS and the various national tracing bureaus.



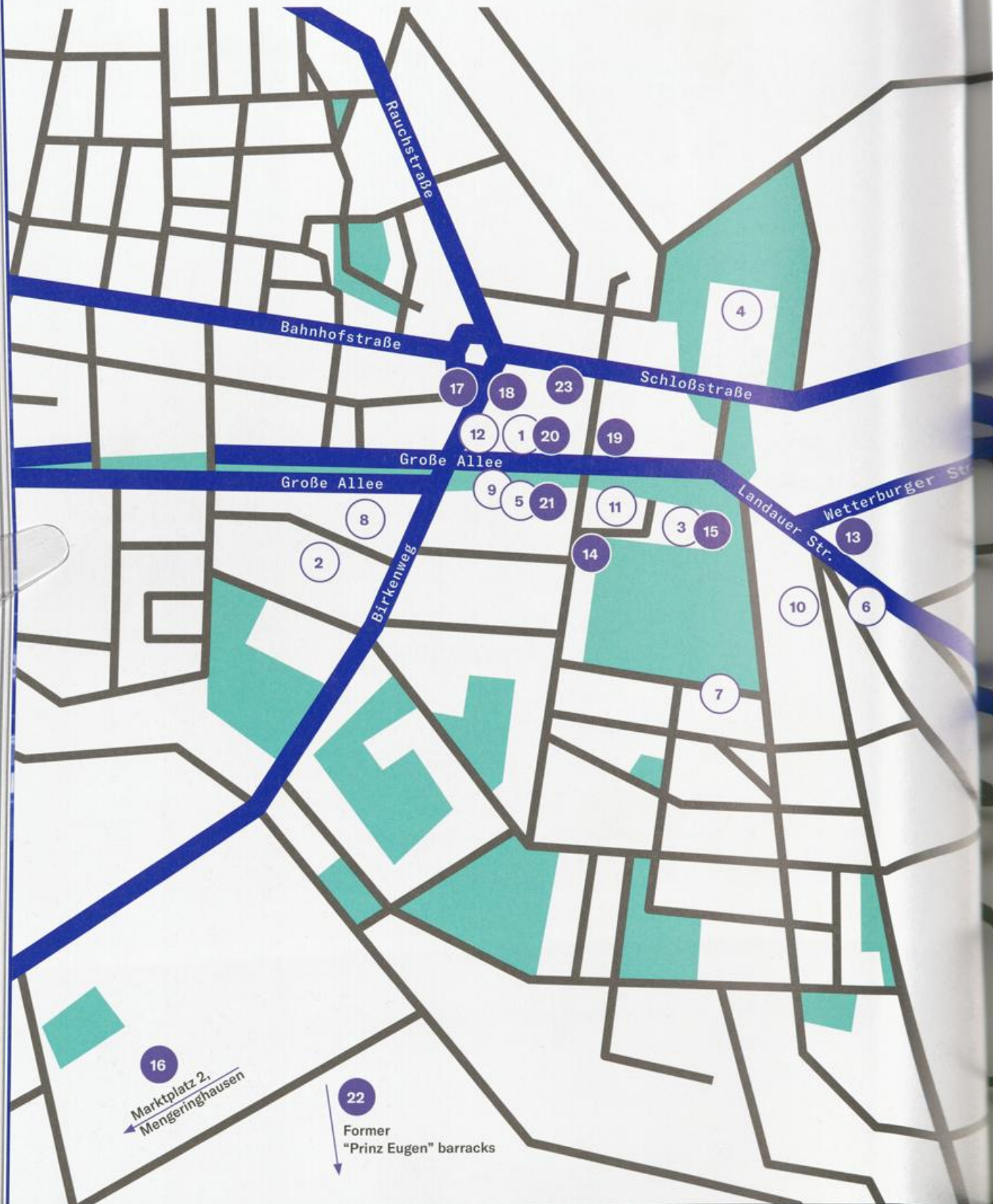
Seating Plan for the International Tracing Conference, Arolsen, September 1-3, 1949

The seating plan for the conference in autumn 1949 demonstrably reveals the international dimension of the network in which the ITS operated. The seating arrangement also reflects the special position of the ITS as the central actor in the tracing and documentation of victims of Nazi persecution from the late 1940s onwards.



Why and Where in Arolsen?

The *Central Tracing Bureau* (CTB), predecessor of the ITS and the later *Arolsen Archives*, moved to Arolsen in early 1946. There were various reasons for choosing this location. Arolsen was in the geographic center of the four occupation zones, so it could be easily reached by all parties of interest. Furthermore, the city had hardly been damaged in the war, so it had functioning telephone lines and intact buildings. The ITS was initially spread across sites all over the city, including the old school, both the Old and New Palace, and the barracks previously occupied by the SS. In 1952 the ITS moved into a main building on the Große Allee. Because the ITS was considered to finish its work soon, there were plans to later turn this building into a hotel. But the temporary measure turned into a permanent solution.



Nr.

1940s/1950s

Before moving into the former barracks in 1949, the ITS and its predecessor, the *Central Tracing Bureau* (CTB), were scattered across buildings throughout Arolsen. But these premises were too small for a constantly growing staff of well over 1,000 employees and the document collections.

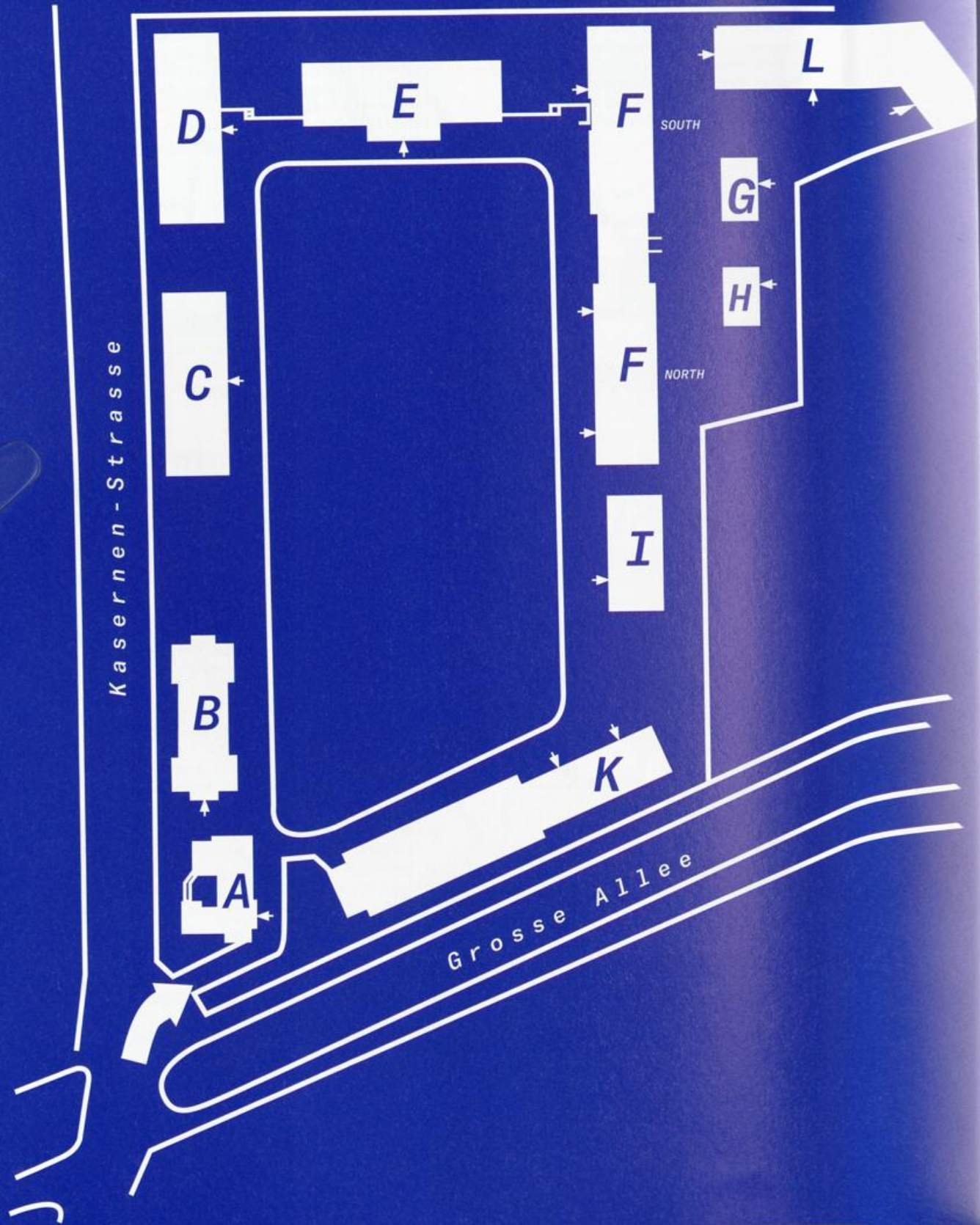
- 1 **Former school building | Große Allee 24**
01/1946 – 07/1947
Temporarily housed all CTB departments
- 2 **Block E | former SS barracks**
1945 – 1949
DP camp for employees
- 3 **New Palace | Große Allee 1-3**
06/1947 – ca. 1949
Temporarily housed all departments and quarters for DP employees
- 4 **Old Palace | Schloßstraße 27**
1947 – 1949
Temporarily housed the administration and executive office
- 5 **Kurhaus | Große Allee 23**
1947 – ca. 1949
Offices
- 6 **Unter den Eichen 2**
Autumn 1947 – ca. 1952
Temporarily housed the executive office, cafeteria, guesthouse, and employee quarters
- 7 **District administrator residence | Parkstraße 19**
Autumn 1947 – ca. 1952
Temporarily housed the cafeteria, staff management section, photo workshop, employee quarters
- 8 **Former SS barracks**
05/1949 – 10/1952
All ITS departments and quarters for DP employees
- 9 **Große Allee 25**
ca. 07/1952 – 10/1952
Infirmary for ITS employees, for some time housed quarters for DP employees
- 10 **Braunser Weg 8**
1952
Offices
- 11 **Main building | Große Allee 5-9**
since 10/1952
Various departments of the ITS and the *Arolsen Archives*
- 12 **Town hall | Große Allee 26**
since 1971
Arolsen Special Registry Office; only institution in the world which issues death certificates for concentration camp prisoners; has worked closely with the ITS and today's *Arolsen Archives*; was established in 1949 and initially also located in the former SS barracks.

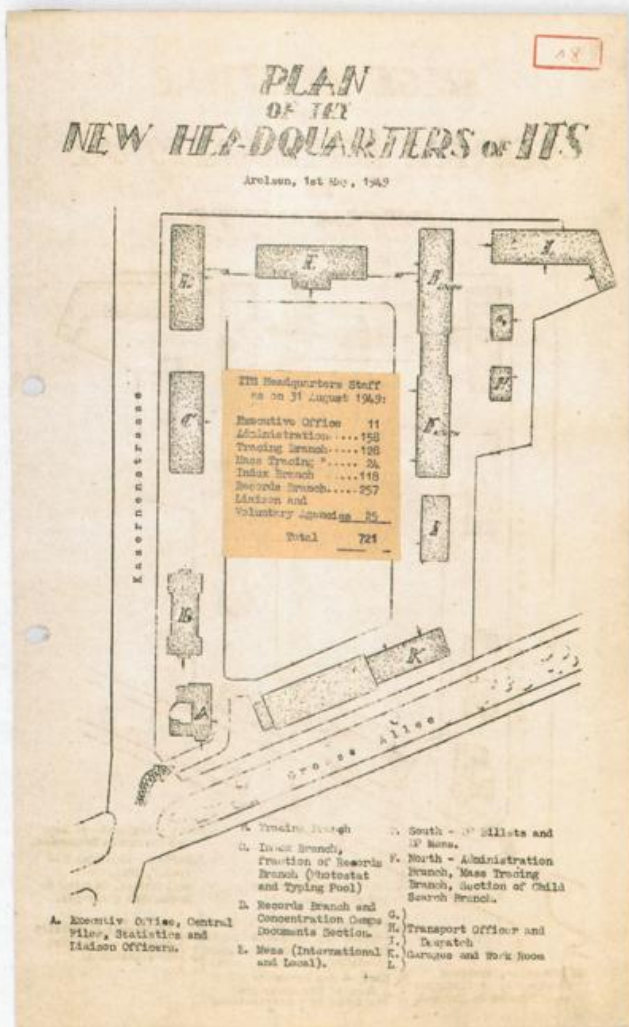
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From the 1980s

From the late 1980s the ITS rented many offices and storerooms in and around Arolsen. The intensified search for documents led to an increase in collections and staff. In this period, the ITS received hundreds of thousands of inquiries from former Nazi victims in Central and Eastern Europe who needed proof for pension or compensation claims.

- 13 **Wetterburgerstraße 4**
1978 – 1980
Card indexing department
- 14 **Haus am Park | Jahnstraße 7**
01/1980 – 2019
Temporarily housed various archival departments, general documents department, research room, indexing department
- 15 **Kurmittelhaus | Große Allee 3**
03/1989 – 01/2007
Storage of 250,000 *T/D files*
- 16 **Town hall, Marktplatz 2 | Mengerlinghausen**
07/1989 – 1993
Indexing department, mail room
- 17 **Haus Liebach | Kirchplatz 2**
10/1989 – 1996
Russian and Polish translators
- 18 **Haus Köbberling | Rathausstraße 1**
10/1989 – 2000
Wartime documents section
- 19 **Haus Füllgraf | Kaulbachstraße 4/6**
12/1991 – 2010
Temporarily housed indexing department, mail room, document acquisition office, central data processing unit
- 20 **Former elementary school | Große Allee 24**
04/1997 – 2009
Temporarily housed digitization department, general documents department, staff from the wartime and postwar documents section, Russian and Polish translators
- 21 **Kurhaus | Große Allee 23**
since 1999
Temporarily housed the indexing department, Russian and Polish translators, research and education department, library
- 22 **Former "Prinz Eugen" barracks | Hagenstraße 25**
January 2007 – March 2010
Storage of *T/D files*
- 23 **Former department store | Schloßstraße 10**
since 2009
Digitization department, storage of *T/D files*, exhibition space





Map of the *International Tracing Service (ITS)* in the Former Barracks, 1949

The location of the ITS was often discussed in the early days. Its previous premises were too small, so it moved into the former SS barracks in May 1949. The SS unit "Germania" had been housed there from 1935 to 1939, and from 1943 to 1945 it was the site of an SS leadership school and a Buchenwald subcamp known as "Arthur."



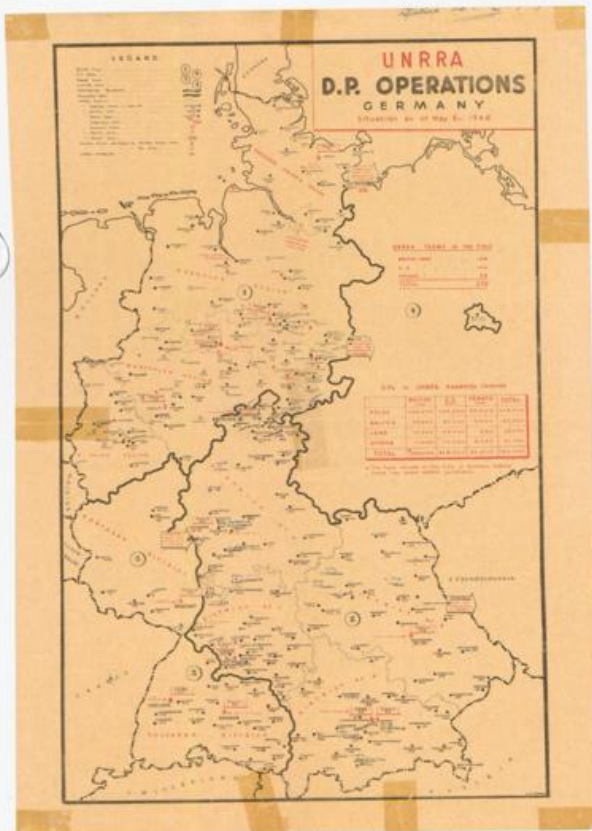
ITS Access Card for *Isolde Matzner*, Issued on September 1, 1949

ITS employees had to show identification when entering the former barracks. This access card allowed Isolde Matzner to enter and leave the area. An Arolsen resident, she worked for the ITS from 1949 to 1952.



Employees Crossing the Former Exercise Yard on their Way to Work, Arolsen, circa 1950

Some DP employees lived right in Block E of the former SS barracks. The canteen there was used as a function room for dances, bingo and games nights.



Sites and Operational Areas of the *United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA)* in Occupied Germany, May 8, 1946

After World War II, the Allied powers divided Germany into four occupation zones. UNRRA had already been created in 1943 to care for Displaced Persons (DPs): civilians from UN states, including former concentration camp prisoners and forced laborers, who were outside their countries of origin when the war ended.



ITS Headquarters, Arolsen, 1952

The entrance to the consolidated ITS site was the former staff building, with its conspicuous "International Tracing Service" sign above the main gate. Behind the gate was the building where employees signed in.



Records Branch Employees next to Concentration Camp Documents, Arolsen, circa 1950

The former barracks buildings had enough space for storing and clearly arranging the documents on shelves. This greatly reduced the time it took to handle inquiries.



Records Branch Employees next to Concentration Camp Documents, Arolsen, circa 1950

Shortly before the ITS moved in, the former barracks buildings were crudely renovated in April 1949. But this too was an interim solution, and documents were stored in a provisional way. In some places, it actually rained inside the work and storage rooms.



Dedication of the Building Shell with International Guests, Arolsen, August 20, 1952

A cake shaped like the new building was made for the dedication ceremony, which was attended by many international guests, including representatives of the French and British High Commissions, the head of the DP Branch of the *Allied High Commission* and the German Federal Minister for Refugee Affairs.



Dedication of the New ITS Main Building on the Große Allee, Arolsen, August 20, 1952

The ITS had to move out of the barracks in 1952, where Belgian NATO soldiers were soon stationed. A new building was erected in barely two months. At the end of October 1952 the employees moved into their new offices. The move from the former barracks to the new main building was partially carried out on bicycles.



ITS Main Building on the Große Allee, Arolsen, circa 1960

Because the future of the ITS was uncertain, the building was designed in a way that it could easily be turned into a hotel at a later time. But this temporary measure ultimately became a permanent solution. From the 1980s staff numbers rapidly increased and the ITS once again moved into several other buildings in Arolsen.

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Welcoming Speech of Mr. H.G. ELBOT, Chairman Executive Board ITS
on the occasion of the Dedication Ceremony of the ITS Administrative Building
on August 20, 1952.

Ladies and Gentlemen ! Distinguished Guests !

As Chairman of the Executive Board of the International Training Service I have the great pleasure of welcoming you to the Dedication Ceremony in the new building which will serve as future home of the ITS.

En ma qualité de président du Collège Exécutif du S.I.S. J'ai l'honneur de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à l'occasion de la cérémonie de scellement de ce bâtiment dans le nouveau bâtiment où le S.I.S. continuera ses activités passées.

Als Vorsitzender des Verwaltungsausschusses des Internationalen Suchdienstes habe ich die Ehre Sie willkommen zu heißen bei der Bestimmungsfest in Neubau des ITS.

Ladies and Gentlemen !

I am very happy today ! It was one year ago that we were first told that we would lose our office premises. Since then endless negotiations have followed. It was certain that we had to move out of there, but it was not at all certain that we would move in somewhere else and when that was finally decided the question was where to ? Medieval castles, broken down school buildings, bombed out barracks, abandoned factories were offered to us as our prospective home. Common sense, however, won out and it was decided to build for us a brand new home here in Arolsen.

Now the big question came up: who would give the money ? But again after maneuvering and negotiating, the solution was found and after an all record breaking construction period of only 6 weeks we have once again a roof over our heads and so today we can celebrate a happy end of our worries or as the Germans say "Ende gut, alles gut".

However, I am not 100 % happy. There is one wish which cannot be fulfilled, alas .. I wish that Uncle Joe could see us here. This is not a spy center, Uncle Joe, and this is not an atomic bomb factory either. This is a service dedicated to millions of innocent victims of war, dictatorship and intolerance and to their families. We serve the dead and the living, men and women, adults and children, Jews and gentiles, we serve all nationalities, the Germans, the Czechs, the Dutch, the Poles, we serve concentration camp victims regardless whether they were social democrats, liberals, communists or gypsies. We serve - period ! And who is this "we" ? This "we", Uncle Joe, is the free world.

7 years after

- 2 -

J60

7 years after the war we are still administering these archives of horror and out of these cards of death and torture we are squeezing hope, comfort and relief. And all this we are doing free of charge, as a public service with no strings attached whatsoever. In this sleepy little town of Arolsen, der Stadt im Walde, German personnel, and personnel of 25 other nationalities have for the past 6 years been working peacefully side by side in this service for humanity. This, Uncle Joe, is happening only a few miles off that heavy curtain behind which lies that fabulous paradise of the peoples' democracies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the free world needs no advertising. Yet, if any of you ever should meet with one of these apostles from behind that curtain, just think of three short letters:

I. S. S.
the shop window of democracy !

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I call on the representative of that great nation which has made the main effort and has given the maximum support to ITS throughout its existence, Mr. Guy J. STOFF, Chief Displaced Populations Division, Office of the U.S. High Commissioner for Germany.

Mr. STOFF :

**Dedication Ceremony Speech by Hugh G. Elbot,
Chairman of the ITS Administration, August 20, 1952**

Against the backdrop of the Cold War, Hugh G. Elbot described the ITS as a "shop window of democracy". He stressed that the ITS was "a service dedicated to millions of innocent victims" and served "the dead and the living, men and women, adults and children, Jews and gentiles."

ENKO, B.-M.

744 IVANENKO, X.-Z. -
IVANEV, A.-N.

770 IVANOV, MIKHAIL AB 1924 -
MIKHAIL BIS 1929

719 IURTSCHENKO, N.-Z. -
IURTSCHIK, A.-B.

745 IVANEV, O.-Z. - IVANIC, A.-Z.

771 IVANOV, MIKHAIL AB 1900 -
MICHAEL BIS 1929

720 IURTSCHIK, C.-Z. -
IURTSCHUK, A.

746 IVANICA - IVANICKI, A.-N.

772 IVANOV, MIKHAIL AB 1930 -
NIKOLAI BIS 1999

721 IURTSCHUK, B.-Z. -
IUSCHAK, A.-F.

747 IVANICKI, O.-Z. - IVANIEI

773 IVANOV, NIKOLAI AB 1900-1923

748 IVANIEK - IVANIK, A.-S.

774 IVANOV, NIKOLAI AB 1924 -
OLGA BIS 1999



Employees Working with the *Central Name Index (CNI)*,
Arolsen, circa 1950s

Work on the CNI began as early as the fall of 1945, at the CTB, predecessor to the ITS. Employees first transferred important information from all inquiries to index cards, particularly personal data and the details of a person's fate. When they were filed, there was to be a *meeting of cards* between search inquiries and the cards of missing persons.



Employees Checking Inquiries in the Central Name Index (CNI), Arolsen, 1952

There often was no *meeting of cards* because many missing persons had not submitted inquiries themselves or were no longer alive. For this reason, from 1946, personal information was also transferred from the preserved documents to reference cards which were filed in the index. The CNI thus became the key to the archive.



So-Called Postwar Card Index for Documents about Displaced Persons, Arolsen, circa 1972

Besides the CNI, the archive has other indexes, for example with documents about Displaced Persons, forced laborers and concentration camp prisoners. Searching the files therefore was and is time-consuming. Sorting errors in an index could make it impossible to find information on a person. The tracing system was thus very prone to error.



**Repacking the CNI in Special Archive Boxes,
Bad Arolsen, 2017**

In 2017 all of the CNI cards that had been stored in open slipcases for decades were repacked in special archive boxes for better protection. The CNI was digitized in 1998/99. Searches are now conducted on the computer, not in front of the shelves. New information from inquiries and documents is only documented digitally today.



CNI Slipcase for the Last Name Akermann

The CNI holds over 50 million index cards referring to more than 17.5 million people. Thanks to the alphabetical-phonetic system, all information about a person is filed consecutively in the index - regardless of how a name is spelled (here for example Akerman/ Ackermann).



Tracing and Information

Over the past decades, the nature of inquiries received by the ITS and today's *Arolsen Archives* have changed continually, and so have tracing methods and the kind of information provided. At first, the everyday work of the ITS revolved around the search for children, adolescents and adults who were missing. But how does one find the missing when millions are searching and the events are receding farther into the past?

The ITS itself used to search locally or through the media. Today, however, each search starts in the collections on site. If needed, tracing organizations around the world are contacted, as well as registry or youth welfare offices, authorities, and courts. Some of the tracing methods are like detective work, with clues continually being assembled like pieces of a puzzle. To this day many people are still missing, their fates unknown.

From the mid-1950s the ITS became the central point of contact for authorities, courts and legal representatives of Nazi victims. They all requested various certificates on the basis of documents to support compensation or pension claims, as well as for naturalization issues, immigration and emigration proceedings. Most of this information comes from the archival collections.

The Last Hope: *Mass Tracing* 1945–1950

Several steps were involved in tracing a person: searching for information in the existing documents, actively searching the sites of imprisonment and persecution, and communicating with authorities and other tracing offices. If this did not provide any clues about the person's fate, the CTB – and the later ITS – would initiate a *mass tracing*. Employees compiled lists of persons who were missing, which were published in newspapers or broadcast on the radio. Tracing lists were also circulated in Displaced Persons camps in the hope of finding clues about the location of the missing.

7, 57604 KL

C.L.J.

No. NACHMANN Reg. No. 20445

Charlotte

BD 14.5.1902 Nat. unknown

BF Berlin X No. _____ Est. _____

Ad Berlin-Neukölln, Pflügerstrasse 26,

Date January 1942.

Eng. Mrs. Wm. N. Lewis Nat. _____

Ad. 5459 So. Everett Ave., Chicago 15, Ill.

Remarks _____

CLOSED

Inquiry Card for Charlotte Nachmann, circa 1946

Else Lewin was looking for her sister, Charlotte Nachmann. The last information about her was her address in Berlin from 1942. The "CLOSED" stamp on this inquiry card means the search for Charlotte Nachmann was ended. The outcome of the search is not noted on the card.

- Page 22 S.L. NO. 1014
- 476. **MAY** Hans; on 26.1.1892 in Stargard geboren; wurde am 6.9.1944 nach Theresienstadt und am 29.9.1944 von hier in das KZ Auschwitz deportiert.
 - 477. **MAY** Herman und Regina; 70 Jahre alt; wohnen in Durschdt Hochballbrucherstrasse 11/2 und wurde nach Theresienstadt deportiert.
 - 480. **MAY** Hanna; 1865 geboren; wohnt in Durschdt, Kählerstr. 36;
 - 481. **MAYER** Adolf; 1865 geboren; wohnt in Győr, Baross-ut 32/ungarn
 - 482. **MAYER** Gisella; 1877 geboren; und wurde in unbekannter Richtung
 - 483. **MAYER** Tillia, Wilma; 1900 geb.) deportiert.
 - 484. **MAYER** Arnold; on 22.9.1883 in Fordeu geboren; wohnt in Westerbork; letzte Nachricht stammt aus Theresienstadt oder Auschwitz von Oktober 1944.
 - 485. **MAYER** Dora; on 21.7.1903 in Hasburg geboren; wurde wahrscheinlich von Kocin deportiert.
 - 486. **MAYER** Philipp Lissawitch; 1926 geboren; wurde nach Deutschland deportiert.
 - 487. **MAYER** Fritz Alfred; on 20.4.1919 in Wehrburg geboren; wohnt in München, Kaiser-Ludwigplatz 1/0; wurde in unbekannter Richtung deportiert.
 - 488. **MAYER** Lily geborene WITKOWSKA; on 17.2.1893 in Berlin geboren; wohnt in Ostberlin; letzte Nachricht stammt aus Theresienstadt oder Auschwitz von Oktober 1944.
 - 489. **MAYER** Joseph; on 14.3.1887 in Wehrburg geboren; wohnt in München, Kaiser-Ludwigplatz 1/0; wurde in unbekannter Richtung deportiert.
 - 490. **MAYER** Margarete geborene GELFANDER; on 5.12.1894 in Passau geboren; wohnt in München, Kaiser Ludwigplatz 1/0; wurde in unbekannter Richtung deportiert.
 - 491. **MAYER-KER** Robert; on 16.5.1904 in Berlin geboren; wohnt in Gern, Valence sur-Saône/Frankreich. wurde von Frankreich nach Oberschlesien oder Deutschland deportiert.
 - 492. **MAYER** Theodor; 1920 in Berlin geboren; letzte Nachricht stammt aus Paris von Jahre 1940.
 - 493. **MAYER-LER** Thomas; on 7.8.1937 in London geboren; wohnt in Gern, Valence sur Saône/Frankreich; wurde 1942 von Frankreich nach Deutschland oder Oberschlesien deportiert.
 - 494. **MAYER** Mimi geborene KORNBERG Vera; on 23.5.1909 in Berlin geboren; wohnt in Gern, Valence sur Saône; wurde 1942 von Frankreich nach Deutschland oder Oberschlesien deportiert.
 - 495. **MELISCHKI** Julian; 1916 geboren; wohnt in Łódź/Polen; letzte Nachricht von 11.9.1944.
 - 496. **MENZ** Aliso; on 14.11.1926 in Deutschland geboren; wohnt in Kiew/Russl., Elektrowstrasse 1 und wurde nach Theresienstadt deportiert.
 - 497. **MER** Felka; on 11.6.1909 in Berlin/Frankreich geboren; wurde in das KZ Auschwitz deportiert.
 - 498. **MICHMANN** Charlotte; on 14.5.1902 in Berlin geboren; wohnt in Berlin-Neukölln, Pflügerstrasse 26. letzte Nachricht von Januar 1942.
 - 499. **MIELKE** Erik; on 3.8.1895 in Füssen geboren; wurde 1943 von Drancy in unbekannter Richtung deportiert.
 - 500. **MILGROM** Eysen; on 2.5.1909 in Gelsenkirchen/Deutschland geboren; letzte Nachricht stammt aus Neubrandenburg i. Mecklenburg von 26.11.1944.
- Page 22

Tracing List Number 1014 for a Mass Tracing, 1949

The ITS compiled lists for the mass tracing. The following personal data was important here: family name, first name, age, birthplace and birthdate, last known address and nationality. Charlotte Nachmann is listed here as number 498.

Audio Station

Excerpts

“ This is the third broadcast made on behalf of 45 allied children, who have been Nazi captives and have no homes. ”

“ I call Katz, Salma Katz, who may be living in London. I call her on behalf of her 16-year-old cousin Hela Bergman, born in Poland, who was separated from her family at the age of 12 and made to work in an ammunition factory. Her father, mother, sister and brother were sent to Treblinka extermination camp. ”

BBC Appeal for Relatives of Children who had Survived the Camps, August 5, 1946

The tracing lists were read out on the radio worldwide, usually live. This is one of few remaining recordings.



Employees Locating Places in Poland, Arolsen, 1947

Many inquiries include the names of places that were unfamiliar to the ITS employees, such as Eastern European villages or smaller camps. It was important to locate these places so that inquiries could subsequently be forwarded to local authorities, such as registry offices and mayor's offices.



Employees Searching for Clues in the Name Index, Arolsen, 1947

Ideally, when checking the name index, two inquiry cards on persons searching one another would collide in a *meeting of cards*. But many missing persons had not submitted inquiries, or were unable to because they had not survived. Therefore, all personal details from the existing documents were also recorded on cards which were then filed.

URGENT						No. T- 77348
NTB England						German
Origin of Case	Int-Rep.	Act.	Int. Lab.	Re-Ex.	Nationality	
NAME: HESSE, Anneliese						
Case Received: 4.5.1948			CASE REVIEW			
Statistics IN: 20 MAR 1949			Corr. 30.6.48 BR			
Statistics OUT: 19 SEP 1950 6 OCT 1950			Files			
Case Closed:			Records 18.9.49 BR			
ACTION OF CORRESPONDENCE SECTION						
T- file for case: Constant HHT file - info of Dr. Baumbach						
copy to - Haudant - Anselme						
Let Am & RK						
1130 - info - K. J. Smith - M. J. ...						
Nansen						
ACTION OF RECORDS BRANCH			FIELD TRACING			
20 JUN 1949			MASS TRACING			
Library			3.12.49 BR			
CLOSED						
IN TRACING BRANCH ONLY						
OBSERVATIONS:						
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH						
*Deadline Dates: X						



Correspondence File, or T File, for Anneliese Hesser, 1949

From 1947, an inquiry card as well as a T file were created for each person being traced. The "T" stood for Tracing. On the file cover, employees noted all of the tracing steps, such as correspondence with other offices or mass tracings.

Searching for Clues in the Document Collections, Arolsen, 1952

To this day, the reference cards in the name index are the key to the documents in the Arolsen Archives. These documents provide clues about a person's whereabouts and path of persecution, such as deportation data, time incarcerated in a concentration camp, and information about sites of forced labor or the person's death.

A Focus on Tracing Children and Adolescents

In 1945 the Allies liberated thousands of unaccompanied minors from concentration camps and from forced labor.

They also found many children stolen from their parents and given to German families for adoption.

For this reason, a special focus was placed on the tracing of children and adolescents from UN states after the war.

The ITS set up a special *Child Search Branch* in 1948, based first in Esslingen and then in Arolsen from 1950.

The *Child Search Branch* had two main responsibilities:

It searched for children reported missing by their families, and it traced and registered unaccompanied children in order to then search for their parents or relatives.

0722_1_184

Pirecnik, Paula, gospodinja
 Šostanj, Aškeričeva ul. št. 4.

Šostanj, dne 15. II. 1949.

Predmet: Prošnja za pomoč sina
 Petra, Ivana iz Teniške

Obravnava ljudskega sektorja
 pospešeno za vse skrbno in skrbno.
 Kozirje.

Podpisana Pirecnik, Paula, gospodinja Šostanja
 v Šostanju, Aškeričeva ul. št. 4, prošim gosp. pomoč za iskanje
 mi pri vašem konzulatu, da se mi vime moj sin Petruška Ivan
 rojen 4. II. 1931 v Šostanju, kateri je bil interniran od strani
 Nemcev, ki se sedaj nahaja v Teniški, tujnega pastora ne vem.

Proša prošnja temeljitejše slediti:

Ime k. avgusta 1948 sem bila od strani Gestapa
 aretirana in odpeljana s svojima otrokoma Larija in Ivanom
 v Celje, kjer se mi dva dni kasneje kmalu otroka odzeli
 tri vojskotalci v Lindenberg - Fimleiten ta od tedaj ne vem ni,
 kje bi se nahajal. Klara Larija, katere je stara 19 let se je
 spmila za otrokocetni dom in, češim za sina Ivana ne vem
 ta mi da njim mikajnega sledi.

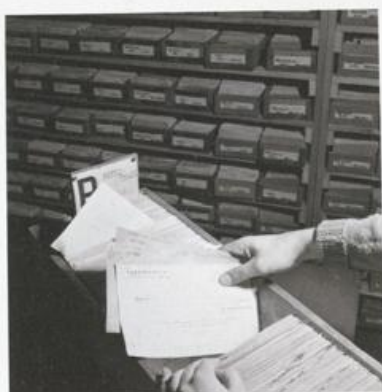
Izjavljam, da si iz vsega sem želim pomagati,
 našega sina, da katerega tom skrbno, ki ga najraje in raku
 nase more dožare, v iznajda državljanu FLRF.

Podpisana najraje naprosim pastora, da se moji prošnji
 zgodi, ki se stane potrebni ukrepi za privedi otrokovega kratišča,
 ki da se isti nato vime vime.

Imet karizma svetlo narava!

Tracing Inquiry from Paula Pirecnik for her Son
 Ivan, February 15, 1949

In 1945 Paula Pirecnik began looking for her son, whom the Germans had taken in 1942 and given up for adoption. The scale of these abductions did not become clear until 1947 through the trials of high-ranking SS men. This intensified the search for children. To this day there are victims of the Nazis who know nothing about their origins.



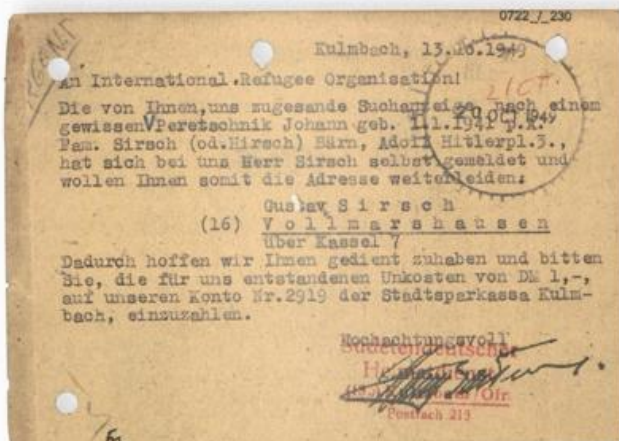
Child Search Branch Employees in the New Offices in Arolsen, 1952

In autumn 1950 the *Child Search Branch* moved from Esslingen into the former SS barracks in Arolsen. The bottom photo shows the reference card for Ivan Pirecnik. In addition to the *Central Name Index*, there was a special *Child Search Index* for children and adolescents.

7-15 9/2/58 1190 920
PERETSCHNIK
 J. P. PIRECNIK Ivan
 (Pirecnik)
 0722, 140
 5.10.51
 to C.G. Off. US. Zone
 transf. ISS - 9/2/58
 The boy, a Ukrainian child, is known to German authorities as "Ivan Pirecnik".
 3
 4
Peretschnik to Gosplan in Oct. 1952
 How letter 11, Sep. 52, x 422, 12

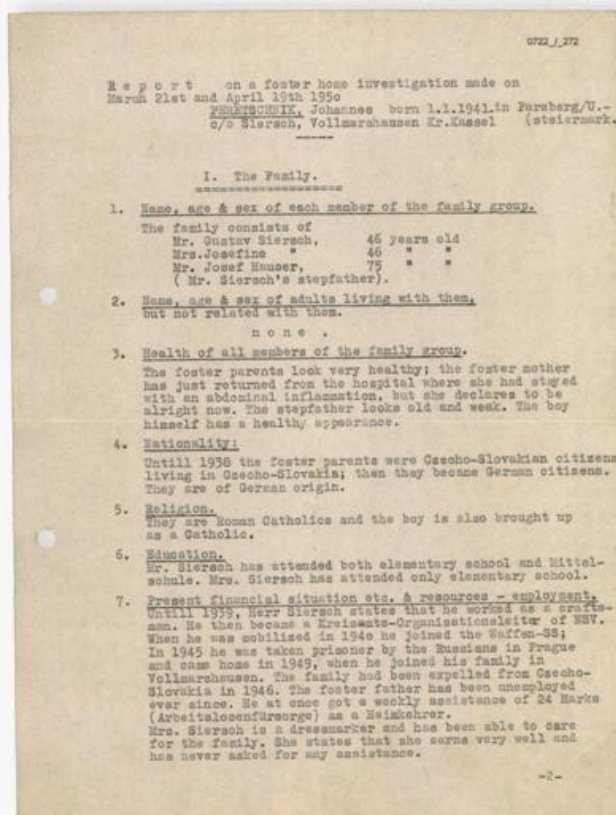
Reference Card from the Child Search Index for Johann Peretschnik (Ivan Pirecnik), circa 1952

The data on the card was continually updated. Most of the information is about Ivan's whereabouts, which were only discovered during the search. Ivan was first taken to a "Lebensborn" home, from where abducted children were handed over to German families. This is how Ivan was placed with the Sirsch family.



**Information from the Sudetendeutscher Heimatdienst
Regarding Ivan Pircnik's Location, October 13, 1949**

At first there were few clues about Ivan's location. The *Sudetendeutscher Heimatdienst* published a search appeal and found out that the boy was living in Vollmarshausen near Kassel. If the ITS had little information, it would contact youth welfare offices, local authorities, other tracing services or newspapers.



**Excerpt from Carla Hansen's Report on Ivan's
Living Situation, March 21 to April 19, 1950**

Carla Hansen, the IRO Child Care Officer who visited Ivan, reported that he was doing well in his foster family. She also provided information about the family's background. The *Child Search Branch* worked closely with other IRO offices to find and question unaccompanied children.

Copie

Herrensüb., den 12. Oktober 1949
S.P. 84, 376 S.P.M. 507

743/178/CBR/1000/77

An den Herrn MINISTER
DES MINISTÈRES DES ENFANTS
LAND: WÜRTTEMBERG/HOENZOLLERN
T U B I N G E N

Herr Minister,

Ich beehre mich hiermit Ihnen zur Kenntnis zu bringen, dass die Suche nach vermissten Kindern, die von dem Internationalen Suchdienst durchgeführt wird und an der die Genehmigung des Hohen Kommissars der Französischen Republik vorliegt, eine neue Phase der Arbeit bedingt und zwar die der Einholung fehlender amtlicher Daten.

Es wird beabsichtigt von den Ständeskizern ergänzende amtliche Angaben anzufragen, die uns die Jugendämter, bzw. Schulleitungen auf Grund der Ihnen vom Suchdienst angeleiteten Formblätter nicht geben konnten.

Eine möglichst konkrete Feststellung der Staatsangehörigkeit eines Kindes erfordert als Unterlage möglichst genaue amtliche Daten; bei der Durchprüfung der eingegangenen Formblätter hat es sich erwiesen, dass bei einem grossen Teil der Fälle, ungefähr 1000 für die Französischen Zone, diese genauen Angaben fehlen.

Um diesem Zustande abzuhelfen, beabsichtigen wir uns an die Ständeskizer mit einem entsprechenden Fragebogen, laut beiliegendem Muster, zu wenden und die fehlenden Daten anzufordern.

Wir erlauben uns gleichzeitig an Sie mit d. r. höflichen Bitte heranzutreten Ihre Unterstützung und Hilfe zu gewähren, damit die vorgeschriebenen Termine von den Ständeskizern eingehalten werden.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Jane S A R E I N S
Le Chef de la section Enfance
du Service International de
Recherches pour la Zone Fran-
çaise d'Occupation

3 Anlagen

**Systematic Registration of Children in
Württemberg-Hohenzollern (French Zone), October 12, 1949**

In October 1948, the *Child Search Branch* adopted a *Limited Registration Plan*. Ministries and agencies in the western occupation zones were asked to compile lists of all foster children, children in state or private facilities and those who had been adopted after the start of the war.

WÜRTTEMBERG

Cercle : RAVENSBURG
Commune: BODNEGG

- Pflegekinder, die in einer fremden Familie untergebracht sind
- Enfants en garde

No	Nom et prénom des enfants	Date et lieu de naissance	Nom et adresse des parents des gardes	Observations
✓ 46	BUCHER Bruno	8-3-35 a Ravensburg	unbekannt	Fischer Martin Kriegel Frida Essenberg-Bodnegg
✓ 47	ELMERS Johann	24-9-34 a +	Elbers Johann Keesen-Zellig- hausen	Wulfe Ludwig Über 14 Kuhn Josefina Jahre Hinterreute- Bodnegg alt
✓ 48	FÜSSINGER Michael	1-10-39 a	Füssinger Josef Altheusen, Feyerscheid Marie gestorben	Füssinger Anton Wais Josefa Alten-Bodnegg
✓ 49	GÖPPEL Franz	23-7-36 a Neumünzen	Göppel Hans u. Paula, Neumünzen	Göppel Franz Zwiler Anna Lochen-Bodnegg
50	HANG Kurt	6-3-36 a	unbekannt	Bentele Josef Ems Barbara U. Wagenbach- Bodnegg
✓ 51	MARSHALL Josefine	16-2-35 a Hörschingen	Marshall Je- sefine, Wohnort unbekannt	Fuchs Josef Über 14 Opfth Paulina Jahre alt Hochstatt-Bodnegg
✓ 52	NICOLAI Helmut	19-6-37 a	Nicolai Käthe Stuttgart	Oeschw. Nicolai Hensenblake Bodnegg
✓ 53	PILSL Georg	16-8-32 a +	Recht Georg Kammerhof- Bodnegg	Klunt Richard Über 14 Recht Josefina Jahre alt Kammerhof Bodnegg
✓ 54	STAUDACHER Therese	11-8-37 a Ravensburg	Staudacher Fe- benne, Har- garten-Bodnegg Wachter Amalie	Pfeffer Johann Gutekunst Elisabeth O. Wassenbach Bodnegg
✓ 55	WOJAN Helmut	12-2-32 a +	Wojan Julius + u. Klara, Lever- kusen Str. 2311	Mayenberger Bernh. Über 7 Hauemann Theresia Jahre Hochstatt Bodnegg alt
✓ 56	BEREZNIAK Josef	14-5-44 a Ostmannshof Ukraine	Berezniak Anna- teina, Mehrhaus Bodnegg	Pfeffer Johann Gutekunst Elisabeth O. Wagenbach Bodnegg
✓ 57	BRUGGER Alfons	18-2-48 a Sigmaringen	unbekannt	Engle Justin Ehmer Anna Lengen-Bodnegg

**List of all Foster Children in Bodnegg in the
Ravensburg District, 1949**

Authorities listed all foster children regardless of their background. Children of non-German origin were then checked and registered by the *Child Search Branch*. One of these children was Josef Berezniak, listed here as number 56.

BEREZNIAK JOSEF 14 08 44 8 959

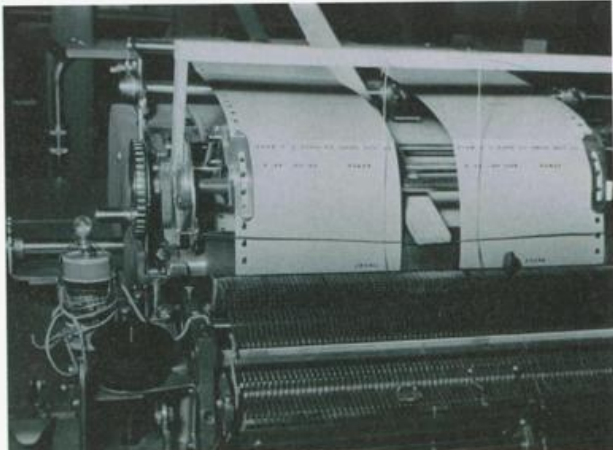
SERIAL NUMBER	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME		BIRTH			CITIZENSHIP	EXEMPTED BY CASE OF MASS ORIGIN	MARRIAGE	NATIONALITY	STATUS	REMARKS	CARD CENTER
		FIRST	SECOND	DAY	MONTH	YEAR							
00000000	000000000000000000	00000000	00000000	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00000000	00000000
11111111	111111111111111111	11111111	11111111	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11111111	11111111
22222222	2222222222222222	22222222	22222222	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22222222	22222222
33333333	33333333	33333333	33333333	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33333333	33333333
44444444	44444444	44444444	44444444	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44444444	44444444
55555555	5555555555555555	55555555	55555555	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55555555	55555555
66666666	6666666666666666	66666666	66666666	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66666666	66666666
77777777	7777777777777777	77777777	77777777	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77777777	77777777
88888888	8888888888888888	88888888	88888888	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88888888	88888888
99999999	9999999999999999	99999999	99999999	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99999999	99999999

INDEX

No. 5746/6 MONTH CHILD SEARCH BRANCH

Hollerith Index Card for Josef Berezniak, August 22, 1949

The large amount of information gathered through the *Limited Registration Plan* was recorded on punch cards. The individual holes represent different pieces of data: for example, the fourth hole in column 60 means that Josef Berezniak was born out of wedlock.



Hollerith Machine, Munich, circa 1950

With a machine like this, a precursor to today's computers, punch cards were produced for the *Child Search Branch* of the ITS. It was hoped that this system would make it possible to record and evaluate information faster.

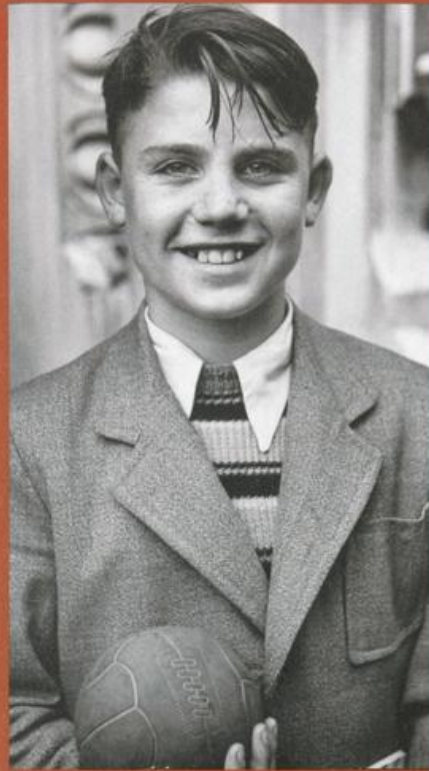
Ivan Pirecnik

1941 - 1995

Ivan Pirecnik's mother spent over four years tracing her son, who had been violently taken from her by the Germans in 1942. He was from Šoštanj in what was then Yugoslavia (now Slovenia). When the Germans and their allies occupied the region in 1941, they shot Ivan's father because he was with the resistance. They gave Ivan up for adoption without his mother's knowledge. In July 1943 he was given to the Sirsch family and named Dieter. Nine years later he finally returned to his mother in Yugoslavia, where he finished school and worked in a power plant.

Ivan with his German Foster Parents outside a US Courthouse in Frankfurt am Main, 1952

After the lengthy search, Ivan's future was uncertain at first. Should he return to Yugoslavia or remain in Germany? Judges first ruled that he should stay with the Sirsch family. After successful protests by his biological mother, Paula Pirecnik, the judges revised their decision and granted her custody of Ivan.



Ivan Pirecnik, 1952



Ivan with his Mother, shortly before Leaving for Šoštanj, in a Frankfurt Hotel Room, 1952

Ivan Pirecnik was about one and a half when the Germans separated him from his mother. His mother and sister survived concentration camps and forced labor. When Ivan was reunited with his mother in 1952, he spoke no Yugoslavian and had no memory of his life in Šoštanj.



Ivan (3rd from left) with his Former Foster Parents, probably in Vollmarshausen, circa 1985

After returning to Yugoslavia, Ivan initially had no contact with the Sirsch family. He quickly formed a good relationship with his biological mother and sister. He first wrote to the Sirsch family as an adult and visited them in the 1980s.

From Tracing Missing Persons to Administrative Act

In the 1950s information given by the ITS significantly changed. As a part of West German compensation for Nazi victims, lawyers, public authorities and courts wrote to Arolsen to confirm or check hundreds of thousands of claims. The ITS soon was their most important source of information when it came to imprisonment and residence certificates. By 1954, inquiries concerning compensation proceedings outnumbered tracing inquiries for missing children and adults. Search efforts increasingly involved research in the ITS archive, and providing information became an administrative act.



Employees Checking T/D Files, Arolsen, 1955

Inquiries relating to compensation had outnumbered tracing inquiries by 1954. The *tracing files* were therefore renamed *tracing/documentation files*, or *T/D files* for short. These are still created (digitally) today for each inquiry about a person. If another inquiry is received about the same person, the existing file is updated.

An
International Tracing Service (16) Arolsen (Waldock)

(1) Auszug v. Krankenpapieren () Sterbeurkunde
() Fotokopie ()
(1) Inhaftierungsbescheinigung ()

NAME: Mettbach MÄDCHENNAME: Frost
VORNAME: Rosa M/W Religion: kath.

Evtl. z. Tarnung angegebene Personalien und Berufe

Geburtsdatum: 19.6.1924 Geburtsort: Birkfeld
Wien Österreich (Land)

Familienstand: z. Zt. d. Inhaftierung: ledig Beruf: Artistin
Staatsangehörigkeit: Österreich / deutsch (früher) (heute)

Ehegatte -- Name (Mittelnamen) Vorname und Adresse: Johann Mettbach
München 9, Perlacherstrasse 123

Ort und Datum der Eheschließung: München, 3.8.1946

* Letzter Wohnort vor Einlieferung in das Konzentrationslager:
München Unyesteinerstr. 14 Bayern (Land)

Name des Vaters: Adolf Weinerich Name der Mutter: Maria Frost

Angaben über verschiedene Aufenthalte in Konzentrationslagern, Ghettos, Gefängnissen und and. Lagern:
Verhaftet am: Febr. 1944 in: München durch:
Eingeliefert in das: KE Auschwitz Haft. Nr.:
am: Febr. 1944 einweisende Stelle:
Überstellt zum: KE Auschwitz am: Febr. 1944 Haft. Nr.: 10044 2
Überstellt zum: KE Ravensbrück am: Sept. 1944 Haft. Nr.:
Überstellt zum: KE Wolkenburg am: Mai 1945 Haft. Nr.:
betruen, entlassen oder gestorben am: Mai 1945 in: Wolkenburg

Zu weiteren Angaben bitte Rückseite benutzen

Nur bei Anforderung von Stichtagsbescheinigungen ausfüllen:
DP Nr.: Aufenthalt i. d. DP Lager:

München, den 22. März 1954
Arlstraße 11
AKR: 3012 BEG
11/5 - 51/20/41

Bayrisches Landesarchiv
I. A.
F. A. A.
Fonschab

MAR 26 1954
Akt. I
Akt. II
Inhalt
St. Unt.
Dok. Akten

Standard Compensation Inquiry Form submitted to the ITS, this one for Rosa Mettbach, March 22, 1954

To handle inquiries more quickly, the ITS sent out standardized forms to the authorities from 1952. In compensation proceedings it was usually not the applicants themselves who contacted the ITS, but their legal representatives or the compensation authorities. In the case of Rosa Mettbach, this was the Bavarian Compensation Office.

Allied High Commission for Germany
 International Tracing Service
 APO DT US Army

Haute Commission Alliée en Allemagne
 Service International de Recherches
 118 Avenue/Waldeck

Certificate of Incarceration
Certificat d'incarcération N° 40612
Inhaftierungsbescheinigung

Your Ref: 3012 BEG II/5-01/ - - - - - Our Ref: **nd344877** - - - - -
 Votre Ref: **Ra/Al** - - - - - Notre Ref: **Haute Alt.-2.**

Name: **METTBACH geb.** First name: **Rosa** - - - - - Nationality: **früher Österrei-**
 Alias: **FROST** - - - - - Pseudonym: **chisch-heute deutsch**
 Name: **FROST** - - - - - Vorname: **chisch-heute deutsch**

Date of birth: **19.6.1924** Place of birth: **Birkfeld/** Prisoner's No. **10044 Z im KL**
 Date de naissance: **19.6.1924** Lieu de naissance: **Österreich** No. de prisonnier: **Auschwitz** - - - - -
 Geburtsdatum: **19.6.1924** Geburtsort: **Österreich** Häftlingsnummer:

It is hereby certified that the following information is available in documentary evidence held by the International Tracing Service.

Il est certifié par le présent que les informations suivantes se trouvent dans le documentation détenue par le Service International de Recherches.

Es wird hiermit bescheinigt, das folgende Angaben in den Unterlagen des Internationalen Suchdienstes aufgeführt sind.

Name: **FROST** - - - - - First name: **Rosa** - - - - - Nationality: **deutsch** - - - - -
 Name: **FROST** - - - - - Vorname: **Rosa** - - - - - Nationalität: **deutsch** - - - - -
 Date of birth: **19.6.1924** Place of birth: **Birkfeld** - - - - - Profession: **nicht angeführt**
 Date de naissance: **19.6.1924** Lieu de naissance: **Birkfeld** - - - - - Beruf:

Last permanent residence: **nicht angeführt** - - - - -
 Dernière adresse connue: **nicht angeführt** - - - - -
 Zuletzt bekannter Wohnort: **nicht angeführt** - - - - -

has entered concentration camp **Flossenbürg/Kommando** Prisoner's No. **50024** - - - - -
 est entré au camp de concentration **Flossenbürg/Kommando** No. du prisonnier: **50024** - - - - -
 wurde eingewiesen in das KZ-Lager **Flossenbürg/Kommando** - - - - - Häftlingsnummer:

on **11. September 1944** coming from **KL Ravensbrück** - - - - -
 le **11. September 1944** venant de **KL Ravensbrück** - - - - -

Category, or reason given for incarceration: **"Sig.A50" (Eigener, sozial)** - - - - -
 Catégorie, ou motif donné pour l'incarcération: **"Sig.A50" (Eigener, sozial)** - - - - -
 Kategorie, oder Grund für die Inhaftierung: **"Sig.A50" (Eigener, sozial)** - - - - -

Transferred to **KL Flossenbürg/Kommando** on **27.08.1944**
 Transférée à **KL Flossenbürg/Kommando** le **27.08.1944**
 Überstellt von der Stapo Chemnitz wiedergriffen und am **30.08.1944**
 (5. November 1944) in das **KL Flossenbürg/Kommando** wieder
 eingeliefert.

Liberated/Released on **nicht angeführt** in **nicht angeführt** - - - - -
 Libérée/Relâchée le **nicht angeführt** à **nicht angeführt** - - - - -
 Befreit/Entlassen am **nicht angeführt** in **nicht angeführt** - - - - -

Remarks: **keine** - - - - -
 Remarques: **keine** - - - - -
 Bemerkungen:

3. Records consulted: **Häftlingspersonalkarte, Nummernbuch und zwei Flucht-**
 Documents consulted: **Dokumente des KL Flossenbürg** - - - - -
 Captive Catalogues:

Aachen, den **24. Mai 1954**

C. L. WIDGER
 In the Executive Board
 Allied High Commission for Germany
 International Tracing Service
 pour le Collège Exécutif
 Haute Commission Alliée en Allemagne
 Service International de Recherches

Dr. Werner MOSSA
 Deputy Acting Manager
 Allied High Commission for Germany
 International Tracing Service
 GEFANI
 Haute Commission Alliée en Allemagne
 Service International de Recherches

** Added by the I.T.S. in connection, does not appear on the original document.
 ** Inscriptions faites par le S.I.S. sans se fonder sur les documents originaux.
 ** Références des I.T.S. inscrites sans être des Originaux.

Standardized ITS Imprisonment Certificate for Rosa Mettbach, Copy, May 24, 1954

On the certificates, ITS employees recorded the information from Nazi documents word for word. But they did not explain prisoner categories, even though the Nazis sometimes assigned them randomly. This was a problem because the information was often decisive to compensation claims. Until 1955, the ITS would at least point this out.

Mettbach Rosa

Sachverhalt und Entscheidungsgründe

Die Antragstellerin, die seit 1945 in Bayern wohnhaft ist, hat rechtsseitig und fristgerecht nach den Bestimmungen des Bundesergänzungsgesetzes (§ 91 Abs. 2 BEG) Schaden an Körper und Gesundheit, Schaden in beruflichen und wirtschaftlichen Fortkommen, Versicherungsschaden ausserhalb der Sozialversicherung und Schaden an Freiheit für die Zeit von Februar 1944 bis Mai 1945 geltend gemacht.

Der Bayerische Landesentschädigungsamt ist zur Entscheidung über die geltend gemachten Ansprüche zuständig, da die Antragstellerin am 1.1.1947 ihren Wohnsitz in Bayern hatte (§ 89 Abs. 2 a mit § 8 Abs. 1 Ziff. 1 BEG).

Die erhobenen Ansprüche sind jedoch unbegründet.

Nach § 1 Abs. 1 BEG des Bundesergänzungsgesetzes hat Anspruch auf Entschädigung, wer wegen seiner politischen Überzeugung aus Gründen der Rasse, des Glaubens oder der Weltanschauung verfolgt wurde und hierdurch u.a. Schaden an Körper und Gesundheit, an Freiheit u. in beruflichen und wirtschaftlichen Fortkommen erlitten hat.

Wie aus den vorliegenden Unterlagen zu entnehmen ist, wurde die Antragstellerin wegen Wahrsagens und aus Gründen des sozialen Verhaltens verhaftet. Die Voraussetzungen des § 1 Abs. 1 BEG sind hierdurch nicht erfüllt.

Demit entfallen gleichzeitig die Ansprüche wegen Schadens an Körper und Gesundheit sowie in beruflichen und wirtschaftlichen Fortkommen, weil die Antragstellerin die Entstehung auf die geltend gemachte Haft zurückführt.

Sachgebietsteilnehmer
 Sachbearbeiter
 13.10.54
 Reinschrift mit Entwurf
 verglichen: 13.10.54

Rejection of Rosa Mettbach's Claim by the Bavarian Compensation Office, October 13, 1954

The office rejected her claim, saying Rosa Mettbach had been arrested for "soothsaying" and "anti-social behavior," not for political, racist or religious reasons. The rejection is typical of many applications from Sinti and Roma people and those persecuted as homosexuals or "anti-social elements" who were discriminated even after 1945.

ALLIED HIGH COMMISSION FOR GERMANY
INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Elbot Date: 24. Januar 1952
From: Herrn Hellemeier
Subject: Besuch von Regierungsvertretern der Landesregierung von Nordrhein-Westfalen.

Am 22./23. Januar 1952 statteten Herr Reg. Ref. Neukircher für den Regierungspräsidenten Düsseldorf, Herr Reg. Rat Radtke von der Regierung Arnberg, Herr G. Klose von der Bezirksregierung Detmold und Herr Doelke von der Regierung Münster unserer Dienststelle einen Besuch ab, nachdem ich am 21. Oktober 1951 in Düsseldorf anlässlich meiner Besprechung bei der Wiedergutmachungsstelle zu diesem Besuch eingeladen hatte. Nicht erschienen waren die Regierungsvertreter der Regierungsbezirke Aachen und Köln.

Bei meinem Besuch in Düsseldorf - wie schon seinerzeit mitgeteilt - wurde ich von Herrn Neukircher etwas von oben herab behandelt, weil man der irrigen Auffassung war, daß die Unterlagen unserer Dienststelle nur sehr unvollkommen seien. Nach der Besichtigung am 22./23. Januar 1952 hat insbesondere Herr Neukircher mir gegenüber erklärt, daß er ursprünglich den Besuch überhaupt nicht durchführen wollte und jetzt eingestehen mußte, von dem Geschehen überrascht zu sein. Die anderen drei erschienenen Vertreter waren über den musterartigen Aufbau und die Vollständigkeit der Unterlagen erstaut und in höchstem Maße befriedigt und erklärte insbesondere Herr Doelke, daß, wenn man vor Auszahlung der Haftentschädigung, die in Nordrhein-Westfalen schon durchgeführt ist, gewußt hätte, über welche Unterlagen der ITS verfügt, wahrscheinlich große Summen hätten gespart werden können. Zurzeit ist in Nordrhein-Westfalen ein neues Gesetz in Vorbereitung, welches das ganze Problem noch einmal von einer anderen Seite - welche Seite ist aus den Ausführungen nicht klar geworden - beleuchtet und dieses Gesetz wird in tausenden von Fällen eine Überprüfung von Anträgen bei uns notwendig machen. Erwähnenswert ist, das Ausländer und der Personkreis der "Displaced Persons" in Nordrhein-Westfalen weder Haftentschädigung noch sonst irgendwelche Entschädigungen ausbezahlt bekommen haben, die mit ihrer früheren Inhaftierung in Zusammenhang stehen.

Gemeinsam mit den Regierungsvvertretern wurde der neue und nunmehr endgültige Entwurf der Anfrageformular aufgestellt. Der neue Entwurf entstand aus gemeinsamen Anregungen der Regulate von Vertretern der Wiedergutmachungsbehörden aus

- 2 -

aus Bayern und Württemberg-Baden und unseren Wünschen. Das neue Formular wird in den nächsten Tagen allen deutschen Wiedergutmachungsbehörden in je 5 Exemplaren zugestellt, mit der Bitte, alle alten Formulare noch Möglichkeit aus dem Verkehr zu ziehen und sich nur noch der neuen Formulare zu bedienen. Da aus verkehrstechnischen Gründen die Vertreter der Regierungspräsidenten von Köln und Aachen an der Besichtigung nicht teilnehmen konnten, wird Herr Neukircher sich mit seinen Kollegen aus den genannten Gebieten in Verbindung setzen und empfehlen, daß ich auf einer gemeinsamen Tagung vor sämtlichen Kreisreferenten für die Wiedergutmachung eingehende Ausführungen über das Arbeitsgebiet des ITS machen soll. Eine entsprechende Einladung wird zur gegebenen Zeit noch ausreisen gerichtet werden.

Report on ITS Visit by Government Representatives
from North Rhine-Westphalia, January 24, 1952

Government representatives visited the ITS and discussed a joint, standardized approach to compensation proceedings. As early as 1946, the Allies had passed compensation laws in the western zones. But a standardized rule for the Federal Republic was not established until 1953.

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In Anerkennung der Tatsache, daß Personen, die wegen ihrer politischen Überzeugung, aus Gründen der Rasse, des Glaubens oder der Weltanschauung unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft verfolgt worden sind, Unrecht geschehen ist, und daß der aus Überzeugung oder um des Glaubens oder Gewissens willen gegen die nationalsozialistische Gewaltherrschaft geleistete Widerstand ein Verdienst um das Wohl des Deutschen Volkes und Staates war, hat der Bundestag mit Zustimmung des Bundesrates das nachstehende Gesetz beschlossen:

ARTIKEL I

Neufassung und Erstreckung des Gesetzes zur Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts

Das in den Ländern Bayern, Bremen, Hessen und im Gebiet des früheren Landes Württemberg-Baden einheitlich geltende Gesetz zur Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts (Entschädigungsgesetz) erhält folgende Fassung (§§ 1 bis 103) und wird auf den Geltungsbereich des Grundgesetzes erstreckt.

ERSTER ABSCHNITT

Allgemeine Vorschriften

ERSTER TITEL

Anspruch auf Entschädigung

§ 1

(1) Anspruch auf Entschädigung nach diesem Gesetz hat, wer in der Zeit vom 30. Januar 1933 bis zum 8. Mai 1945 (Verfolgungszeit) wegen seiner gegen den Nationalsozialismus gerichteten politischen Überzeugung, aus Gründen der Rasse, des Glaubens oder der Weltanschauung (Verfolgungsgründe) durch nationalsozialistische Gewaltmaßnahmen verfolgt worden ist und hierdurch Schaden an Leben, Körper, Gesundheit, Freiheit, Eigentum, Vermögen oder in seinem beruflichen und wirtschaftlichen Fortkommen erlitten hat (Verfolgter).

(2) Der Verfolgung wegen politischer Überzeugung wird gleichgestellt eine Verfolgung, die darauf beruht, daß der Verfolgte auf Grund eigener Gewissensentscheidung sich unter Gefährdung seiner Person aktiv gegen die Mißachtung der Menschenwürde oder gegen die sittlich, auch durch den Krieg, nicht gerechtfertigte Vernichtung von Menschenleben eingesetzt hat.

(3) Nationalsozialistische Gewaltmaßnahmen sind solche Maßnahmen, die auf Veranlassung oder mit Billigung einer Dienststelle oder eines Amtsträgers des Reichs oder eines Landes oder einer sonstigen Körperschaft, Anstalt oder Stiftung des öffentlichen Rechtes oder der NSDAP oder ihrer Gliederungen oder angeschlossenen Verbände aus den Verfolgungsgründen gegen den Verfolgten gerichtet worden sind. Es wird vermutet, daß solche Maßnahmen gegen den Verfolgten gerichtet worden sind, wenn dieser zu

einem Personenkreis gehörte, den in seiner Gesamtheit die deutsche Regierung oder die NSDAP durch ihre Maßnahmen vom kulturellen und wirtschaftlichen Leben Deutschlands auszuschließen beabsichtigte.

(4) Keinen Anspruch auf Entschädigung nach diesem Gesetz hat,

1. wer der nationalsozialistischen oder einer anderen Gewaltherrschaft Vorschub geleistet hat;
2. wem nach dem 8. Mai 1945 rechtskräftig die bürgerlichen Ehrenrechte aberkannt worden sind;
3. wer nach dem 8. Mai 1945 rechtskräftig zu Zuchthausstrafe von mehr als drei Jahren verurteilt worden ist;
4. wer die freiheitliche demokratische Grundordnung bekämpft.

§ 2

(1) Der Anspruch auf Entschädigung ist ganz oder teilweise zu versagen, wenn der Anspruchsberechtigte sich, um Entschädigungsleistungen zu erlangen, vor oder nach Inkrafttreten dieses Gesetzes unlauterer Mittel bedient oder wissentlich oder grobfahrlässig unrichtige oder irreführende Angaben über Grund oder Höhe des Schadens gemacht, veranlaßt oder zugelassen hat.

(2) Der Anspruch auf Entschädigung ist verwirkt, wenn nach dem Inkrafttreten des Gesetzes einer der Ausschließungsgründe des § 1 Abs. 4 eintritt.

§ 3

(1) Die Grundsätze des bürgerlichen Rechtes über die Berücksichtigung mitwirkenden Verschuldens und über die Anrechnung eines im Zusammenhang mit dem Schaden erlangten Vorteils finden sinngemäß Anwendung.

(2) Ein mit der Verfolgung zusammenhängendes Einverständnis des Verfolgten mit der schädigenden Maßnahme steht dem Anspruch auf Entschädigung nicht entgegen.

(3) Für Schaden, der auch ohne die Verfolgung entstanden wäre, wird keine Entschädigung gewährt, soweit in diesem Gesetz nicht Abweichendes bestimmt ist.

§ 4

(1) Auf die Entschädigung nach diesem Gesetz sind Leistungen anzurechnen, die im Zuge der Entschädigung für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus bewirkt worden sind. Unbeschadet des Satzes 1 sollen solche Leistungen, wenn sie für einen bestimmten Zeitraum oder für einen bestimmten Schadenstatbestand bewirkt worden sind, auf die Entschädigung für diesen Zeitraum oder diesen Tatbestand angerechnet werden.

(2) Stehen dem Berechtigten mehrere Ansprüche zu, die zu verschiedener Zeit befriedigt werden, so ist von der Anrechnung auf Leistungen, die zum laufenden Lebensunterhalt oder zum Aufbau einer ausreichenden Lebensgrundlage erforderlich sind, insoweit abzusehen, als die Anrechnung auf spätere Leistungen gewährleistet ist.

Excerpt from the First German Federal Law for Compensating Nazi Victims, September 21, 1953

Paragraph 1 of the law defined a very narrow concept of who was considered a victim of persecution. Other groups of victims, such as Sinti and Roma people, homosexuals, so-called "anti-social elements" and "professional criminals", as well as nearly all non-German victims of Nazi persecution, were thus excluded from compensation.

Rosa Mettbach

1924 - 2004

Rosa Mettbach fought for Sinti and Roma rights after 1945. In 1954, the authorities contacted the ITS regarding her claim. The Nazis had persecuted her as a "Gypsy."

Rosa Mettbach was the only member of her large family to survive multiple concentration camps, including Auschwitz and Ravensbrück. After 1945, her fight for compensation was initially fruitless. The authorities rejected her claim on the basis that she had been arrested for supposed "anti-social" behavior, and not for racist or political reasons.

Rosa Mettbach kept fighting for compensation and was gradually able to assert her claims in the 1960s.



Rosa Mettbach, Munich, 1993



Johann and Rosa Mettbach on their Wedding Day, Munich, August 3, 1946

Johann Mettbach worked as a forced laborer on the construction of the BMW plant in Allach. After 1945, the couple fought for the rights of Sinti and Roma people. Johann Mettbach was supposed to be the first chairman of the planned *Committee of German Gypsies*.



Rosa Mettbach (Center) with Family Friends, Rosenheim, 1948

For many former victims, it was important to have contact with other survivors. Numerous members of the Höllenreiner family had also been murdered. The Mettbach and Höllenreiner families joined forces after 1945 to fight for the remembrance of the murder and persecution of Sinti and Roma people.

Infographics

Incoming, Outgoing and Backlogs of Responses to Humanitarian Inquiries

Over the decades, the ITS changed how it statistically counted its casework. The display reveals important developments, but the figures are not entirely consistent. The workload reflects the large waves of compensation: West German compensation in the 1950s and 1960s, pension and compensation processes in Central and Eastern Europe from the early 1990s, as well as the compensation for forced laborers between 2001 and 2007.

The figures are taken from the official annual reports



Piles of Letters Unanswered: Waiting for Information

From the 1990s, the ITS faced hundreds of thousands of inquiries from Nazi victims living in Central and Eastern Europe needing evidence for pension or compensation claims. Many of these people were already very old when dedicated foundations in Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus transferred first German compensation payments in the 1990s. From 2001, further payments were made to former forced laborers by the *Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future"* (EVZ). Although the ITS used various measures to speed up its process, the extremely long waiting times remained a major problem.

Andem, dnia 5. Juli 1995
JA

Frau
Waleria Biedrzykowska
ul. Słowackiego 9/7 s. 18
PL-05-000 Konstantynow

Unser Zeichen (bitte angeben)
Name (bitte angeben)
TID - 1 482 082 (V94)

Ihre Anfrage, hier eingegangen am
Pans(s) registrieren, nachsch.
25. März 1991, 18. Oktober 1991
und 20. April 1993

Beitrag: Ihren Antrag in eigener Sache
Detaile:

Sehr geehrte(r) Frau Biedrzykowska!
Szczególny Państ.
Szczególny Państ.

bezugnehmend auf Ihre Anfrage teilen wir Ihnen mit, daß aufgrund Ihrer Angaben eine Vorprüfung unserer Zentralen Namenkartei durchgeführt wurde. Hierzu verweisen wir auf das beiliegende "Erklärungsblatt",
powołując się na Pans(s) zapisane dosłownie, że na podstawie podanych nam informacji przeprowadziliśmy w naszej Centralnej Imiennej Kartotece wstępne badania. Nadto prosimy zwrócić uwagę na dołączone "Wyjaśnienia".
(Bitte beachten Sie mit den angekreuzten Absätzen)
(Proszę zwrócić uwagę tylko na tekt zaznaczone krzyżykiem)

Diese Überprüfung hat folgendes ergeben:
Wstępne badania przyniosły następujący rezultat:
KOTARA, Valeria, geboren am 20.7.1918 in Rzeki,
wurde während des Krieges in Landkreis Emmeth und in Weiden registriert -/-

Es liegen Unterlagen vor, bei denen zweifelhaft ist, ob sie zutreffend sind. Hierzu bitten wir das beiliegende "Rückfragensblatt" zu beachten.
Poniądany materiały, co do których mamy wątpliwość czy są trafne. Dlatego prosimy zwrócić uwagę na dołączone "Arkusze dodatkowych pytań".

Es konnten leider keine Hinweise gefunden werden.
Nieistery się udało nam się odnaleźć żadnych wskazówek.

Falls wir zusätzliche Informationen hier feststellen, werden Sie von uns benachrichtigt.
W razie gdyby nam się udało uzyskać nowe informacje, niezwłocznie Pans(s) o tym powiadomimy.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen
Z serdecznymi pozdrowieniami

R. Michalski
für die Archive

A-586.2
Mai '95

ITS Certificate for Waleria Biedrzykowska, Provided Four Years after her First Inquiry, July 5, 1995

To clear the backlog, the ITS introduced a quick procedure for handling inquiries. Only the *Central Name Index* was checked for this. The first step was to send only the results of this initial check. If a detailed document review was required, applicants had to contact the ITS again.

STAUSÄTZE

Stausatz A

Abschließend möchten wir bemerken, daß der Internationale Suchdienst seit einiger Zeit einen außerordentlich hohen Eingang von personenbezogenen Anfragen - allein im letzten Jahr über 170.000 - verzeichnet, wodurch sich eine unverhältnismäßig hohe Bearbeitungszeit der Anträge nicht vermeiden läßt. Wir bitten daher um Verständnis für unsere späte Auskunftserteilung.

Stausatz B

Abschließend möchten wir noch bemerken, daß der Internationale Suchdienst seit einiger Zeit einen außerordentlich hohen Anfrageschub verzeichnet. Die ehemaligen Verfolgten oder deren Rechtsnachfolger, die eine Beschneidung über den Kriegszeitenaufenthalt zur Geltendmachung ihrer Rechte bei den entsprechenden Renten- oder Wiedergutmachungsbehörden dringend benötigen, müssen, obwohl diese Anfragen mit absoluter Priorität behandelt werden, momentan über ein Jahr auf eine Antwort warten. Für die späte Beantwortung Ihrer Schreiben bitten wir daher um Verständnis.

Stausatz C

Abschließend möchten wir noch bemerken, daß der Internationale Suchdienst derzeit einen außerordentlich hohen Eingang von über 200.000 personenbezogenen Anfragen pro Jahr verzeichnet, wodurch eine unverhältnismäßig lange Bearbeitungszeit der Anfragen gegeben ist. Für die späte Beantwortung Ihres Schreibens bitten wir daher um Verständnis.

Stausatz D

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Instructions on Pre-Formulated "Backlog Phrases" for ITS Employees, circa 1995

The ITS sent standardized letters to applicants who would wait years for their certificates. These letters explained the reasons for the backlog. The ITS employees were given pre-formulated phrases, known as "backlog phrases," for this purpose. The waiting periods remained a source of frustration for the applicants, many of whom were very old.

IM BLICKPUNKT

NS-Opfer müssen weiter warten

Kritik an Suchdienst

Von Gesa Coordes (Arolsen)

Beim Internationalen Suchdienst im nordhessischen Arolsen stapeln sich rund 600 000 unbearbeitete Anfragen von NS-Opfern. Bis zu drei Jahre wird die völlig überlastete Behörde brauchen, um ehemaligen Zwangsarbeitern und KZ-Häftlingen die Bescheinigungen auszustellen, die sie für Rentenansprüche und Wiedergutmachungszahlungen brauchen. Für die Leiter verschiedener KZ-Gedenkstätten ist das „ein Skandal“.

Gemeinsam mit der „Arbeitsgemeinschaft verfolgter Sozialdemokraten“ verlangen die Leiter der KZ-Gedenkstätten in Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald, Dachau, Neuengamme, Ravensbrück und Sachsenhausen, die Anfragen zügig zu bearbeiten. Sie monieren, daß es bislang keine durchschlagenden Bemühungen gegeben habe, „um diesen Mißstand zu ändern“. Die Leiter der Gedenkstätten greifen die internationale Behörde des Roten Kreuzes zugleich auch deswegen an, weil der Suchdienst keine Forschung in seinen Archiven erlaube.

Nach Ansicht von Behördenleiter Charles Claude Biedermann stauen sich die Anfragen seit den Umbrüchen in Osteuropa. Fragten vor zehn Jahren etwa 33 000 Verfolgte bei dem Amt an, so kamen seit der Öffnung der Grenzen allein aus Moskau auf einen Schlag 350 000 Anfragen, zumeist von ehemaligen Zwangsarbeitern. Der Suchdienst erhöhte die Zahl seiner Mitarbeiter von 250 auf nun 380 und hofft auf 20 weitere Stellen. Die Verfahren wurden abgekürzt, damit ältere Antragsteller in sechs Monaten Antwort erhalten. Bei Anfragen aus USA und Westeuropa klappt das. Doch es häkt Biedermann zufolge in den osteuropäischen Ländern. Der Suchdienst brauche Partner, die etwa bei der zeitraubenden Übersetzung der Briefe helfen. Die „Arbeitsgemeinschaft verfolgter Sozialdemokraten“ hat vorgeschlagen, die Anträge von über 70-jährigen Verfolgten vorrangig zu bearbeiten. Nur – dies betrifft Biedermann zufolge über die Hälfte der Antragsteller. Deshalb werden nun erst die über 80-jährigen vorgezogen.

Zwischen dem Suchdienst und den Gedenkstätten gibt es seit langem Ärger. Die KZ-Gedenkstätten wollen Einblick in die riesigen Archive des Suchdienstes. Die Leidenswege von Millionen von Verfolgten und Verschleppten des Nazi-Regimes sind dort in 20 Kilometer Akten gezwängt. Kaum eine andere Einrichtung hat so viel biographisches Material, doch seit Ende der 70er Jahre wird es der Forschung vorenthalten.

Auf die ganz unterschiedlichen Interessen verweist Suchdienst-Chef Biedermann. Während die Gedenkstätten auch für die historische Aufarbeitung zuständig seien, habe sein Amt nur die Aufgabe, NS-Opfern die gewünschten Bestätigungen über Haft- und Zwangsarbeitszeiten auszustellen: „Solange wir dermaßen viele Anträge bekommen, sind wir verpflichtet, den Menschen zu helfen und nicht der historischen Forschung.“

Deutschland

ZWANGSARBEITER

„Die Zeitzeugen sterben“

Beim Internationalen Suchdienst im hessischen Bad Arolsen, zuständig für Bestätigung von Zwangsarbeit, stapeln sich hundertaufende von Anträgen. Die Behörde ist heillos überfordert.



Suchdienst-Direktor Biedermann, Zwangsarbeiter in Bremen (1943): Jahrelanges Warten auf Antwort



Eine lapidare Eingangsbestätigung – das war alles, was Walentina Wassiljewa aus der Ukraine erhielt, als sie sich Anfang der neunziger Jahre an den Internationalen Suchdienst in Deutschland wandte.

Nach jahrelangem vergeblichen Warten schrieb sie einen flehenden Brief an die Verwaltung der Mühlhäuser: „Ich lebe am Rande der Gesellschaft. Wir können nur die Miete und das Nötigste bezahlen.“ Deutsche Besatzer hatten Wassiljewa 1942 zur Zwangsarbeit in die thüringische Stadt verschleppt.

Nach dem Zusammenbruch des Ostblocks wollte die über 70 Jahre alte Frau wenigstens eine kleine Entschädigung bekommen, die nach dem Zwei-plus-Vier-Vertrag zur deutschen Einheit möglich wurde. Dazu brauchte sie eine Bescheinigung, die ihr der Internationale Suchdienst (ISD) im nordhessischen Bad Arolsen ausstellen sollte. Doch der antwortete nicht – das weltweit größte Archiv über den Terror des Hitler-Regimes ist heillos überfordert.

Im Schnitt müssen ehemalige Zwangsarbeiter derzeit drei bis dreieinhalb Jahre warten, bis Arolsen ihre Leidenszeit bestätigt, manche vier oder fünf Jahre, andere wie Walentina Wassiljewa suchen dann verzweifelt andere Wege, ihre Sklavenarbeit nachzuweisen.

Im „Fallstau“ (ISD-Jargon) stapeln sich jetzt schon an die 450 000 unbeantwortete

Anfragen. Nachdem sich Bundesregierung, Industrie- und Opferanwälte Ende vergangenen Jahres über einen neuen Entschädigungsfonds geeinigt haben, rechnet der Suchdienst mit bis zu 800 000 Neuanträgen aus Polen und der Ukraine. Am ISD mit seinem Monopol auf die von den westlichen Siegermächten erbeuteten Dokumente führt kaum ein Weg vorbei.

Seit kurzem ist der Suchdienst – ein kompliziertes Rechtsgebilde, das 1943 von den Westalliierten gegründet, seit 1955 vom Genfer Internationalen Komitee des Roten Kreuzes (IKRK) geleitet und von der Bundesrepublik Deutschland zurzeit mit 26 Millionen Mark pro Jahr finanziert wird – in die Kritik geraten: Verkrustete Organisationsstrukturen, mangelnde Kooperation mit den KZ-Gedenkstätten und das überaus schlechte Betriebsklima, so der Vorwurf, lähmten die Arbeit.

Im ISD-Hauptgebäude an der Großen Allee unweit des Arolsener Barockschlosses empfängt ein Schweizer mit Diplomatenpass zur Besichtigung. Wirtschaftswissenschaftler Charles-Claude Biedermann wurde vor 14 Jahren vom Internationalen Roten Kreuz als Direktor eingesetzt. „Böswillig“ nennt er die Kritik, allein „der la-winenartige Anstieg der Anfragen“ führe zum „Fallstau“.

Die Zahl der Mitarbeiter in Arolsen wurde seit 1991 von 250 auf 402 aufgestockt.

Doch geholfen hat das wenig. Jetzt hofft man auf die zurzeit laufende Digitalisierung des Riesenarchivs sowie auf eine sechsmonatige Kurzprüfung, die aber nur bei Sammelanfragen von Opferverbänden durchgeführt werden darf.

„Die langen Bearbeitungszeiten führen im Ergebnis dazu, dass dieses Problem in zynischer Weise letztlich mit dem Tod der Überlebenden der NS-Verfolgung gelöst wird“, kritisierten Leiter deutscher KZ-Gedenkstätten bereits 1995 in einer gemeinsamen Erklärung.

Der Suchdienst dokumentiert mit 47 Millionen Einzelinformationen den Leidensweg von etwa 17 Millionen Häftlingen aus Konzentrationslagern und Zwangsarbeitern. Die Dokumente – Arbeitsbücher, Firmenlisten, Krankenscheine, Totenbücher aus Konzentrationslagern, die kompletten Häftlingslisten der KZ Buchenwald und Dachau, Bescheinigungen aus Gemeindeverwaltungen und Standesämtern sowie persönliche Gegenstände der Opfer – belegen 23 Kilometer Regale in sechs Gebäuden.

In der Abteilung „Konzentrationslager“ werden in braunen Papiertüten Gegenstände aus dem KZ Neuengamme aufbewahrt, welche die Häftlinge bei ihrer Verhaftung am Leibe trugen: abgegriffene Geldbörsen, Taschenuhren, vergilbte Fotos. Für die Historiker der KZ-Gedenkstätten sind 98 Prozent der Bestände in Arol-

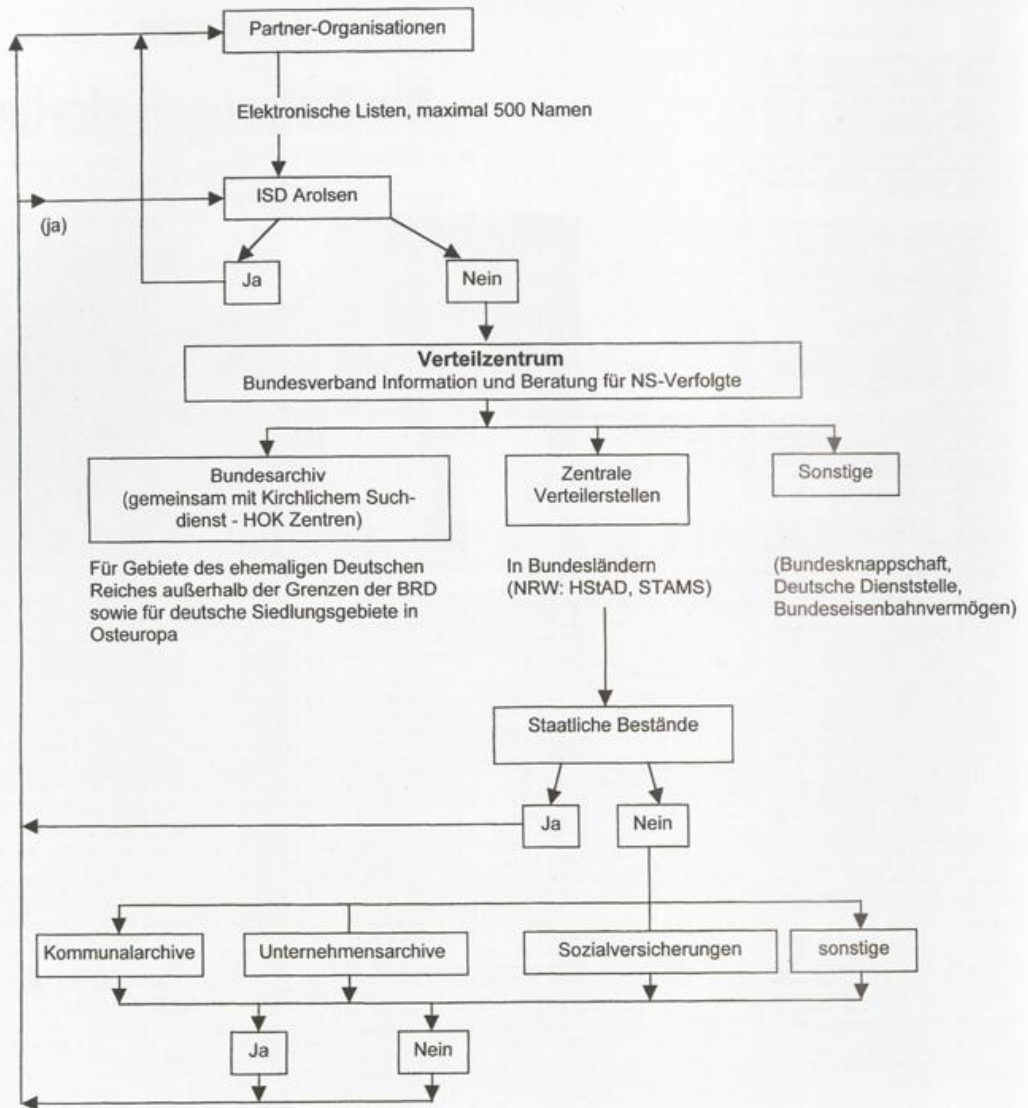
The Frankfurter Rundschau Reported on the Long Waiting Periods at the ITS, March 4, 1995

50 years after the liberation, the directors of the concentration camp memorials, who also received thousands of requests for imprisonment certificates for former Central and Eastern European prisoners, expressed outrage at the long waiting periods at the ITS. They also complained that researchers were being denied access to the ITS archive.

According to Spiegel Magazine, the ITS Expected Thousands of Additional Inquiries, April 2000

In summer 2000, lawsuits and huge international pressure led to the creation of the EVZ Foundation. Its main purpose was to compensate former forced laborers. Payments were made through seven international partner organizations. They checked over 2.3 million applications and often asked the ITS and other archives for verification.

Listenverfahren für Nachweise zur Zwangsarbeit in Deutschland



A Newly Established Archive Network was Supposed to Enable Fast Responses to Inquiries, 2002

Payments were organized by partner institutions of the EVZ Foundation. They checked applications and asked the ITS and other archives for proof in over 800,000 cases. For this purpose, an archive network was created. The ITS was the first point of contact. In the 60% of cases in which the ITS was not able to help, the inquiry was forwarded to the network.

Listenanfrage Sonderformat (ITS-Vorgangsnummer: L/3904-2002)

ID	Nachnamen (1-4)	Geb./Tarnname (2)	Vornamen (1-4)	Geb.dat.	Geburtsort	sonstige Angaben	Haft.nr.
A051190 ***	SAIFUDINOW		GEMADUL SAIFUDINOWITS CH		g.Leningrad	1941-1945 Deutschland, Potsdam, Lager	
A051191 ***	SAIFUDINOWA		CHADITSCHA KARIMOWNA		g.Leningrad	1941-1945 Deutschland, Potsdam, Lager	
427877 ***	SCHELESNJAKO WA		WERA MICHAILOWNA	23.08.1926	s.Kljuschewo, Wolgogradskaja obl.	1942-1945 Deutschland, Sammelstelle in Frankfurt, im Dorf Lichtinaw, Lager, beim Flugzeugwerk, krank war, 2 Monate im Krankenhaus in Kassel (Typhus und Malaria) Sammelstelle, bei einer Besitzerin (2-3 Monate)	788
426086 ***	SAWINA SOKOLOWA	SAWINA	SINAIDA IWANOWNA	13.04.1937	p.Lomonosow, Leningradskaja obl.	18.09.1942 - 1945 Deutschland, Kingisepp (Sammelstelle), Ostpreussen, Deutsch-Elau, in Gross Steinersdorf bei einer GrafIn, der Leiter hiess Hans Tuman im Dorf Westgroisen	
A051192 ***	SAWINA		ANNA PROKOPJEWNA	00.00.1901	p.Lomonosow, Leningradskaja obl.	18.09.1942 - 1945 Deutschland, Kingisepp (Sammelstelle), Ostpreussen, Deutsch-Elau, in Gross Steinersdorf bei einer GrafIn, der Leiter hiess Hans Tuman im Dorf Westgroisen	
A051193 ***	SAWIN		IWAN MICHAILOWITSCH	00.00.1900	p.Lomonosow, Leningradskaja obl.	18.09.1942 - 1945 Deutschland, Kingisepp (Sammelstelle), Ostpreussen, Deutsch-Elau, in Gross Steinersdorf bei einer GrafIn, der Leiter hiess Hans Tuman im Dorf Westgroisen	
A051194 ***	SAWINA		PRASKOWJA IWANOWNA		p.Lomonosow, Leningradskaja obl.	18.09.1942 - 1945 Deutschland, Kingisepp (Sammelstelle), Ostpreussen, Deutsch-Elau, in Gross Steinersdorf bei einer GrafIn, der Leiter hiess Hans Tuman im Dorf Westgroisen	
A051195 ***	SAWIN		GRIGORI IWANOWITSCH	00.00.1932	p.Lomonosow, Leningradskaja obl.	18.09.1942 - 1945 Deutschland, Kingisepp (Sammelstelle), Ostpreussen, Deutsch-Elau, in Gross Steinersdorf bei einer GrafIn, der Leiter hiess Hans Tuman im Dorf Westgroisen	
A051196 ***	SAWIN		PJOTR IWANOWITSCH	00.00.1927	p.Lomonosow, Leningradskaja obl.	18.09.1942 - 1945 Deutschland, Kingisepp (Sammelstelle), Ostpreussen, Deutsch-Elau, in Gross Steinersdorf bei einer GrafIn, der Leiter hiess Hans Tuman im Dorf Westgroisen	
A051197 ***	SAWIN		NIKOLAI IWANOWITSCH	00.00.1932	p.Lomonosow, Leningradskaja obl.	18.09.1942 - 1945 Deutschland, Kingisepp (Sammelstelle), Ostpreussen, Deutsch-Elau, in Gross Steinersdorf bei einer GrafIn, der Leiter hiess Hans Tuman im Dorf Westgroisen	
426047 ***	ABROSKIN		BORIS PETROWITSCH	13.03.1934	g.Leningrad	02.1944 - 1945 Deutschland, Frankfurt a.O., Lager; seit April in Waldau, die Ziegelfabrik, Arbeitslager nicht weit von Ligniz	
A051198 ***	ABROSKINA		AGAFJA IOSIFOWNA	00.00.1896	g.Leningrad	02.1944 - 1945 Deutschland, Frankfurt a.O., Lager; seit April in Waldau, die Ziegelfabrik, Arbeitslager nicht weit von Ligniz	
A051199 ***	ABROSKIN		PJOTR DANILOWITSCH	00.00.1897	g.Leningrad	02.1944 - 1945 Deutschland, Frankfurt a.O., Lager; seit April in Waldau, die Ziegelfabrik, Arbeitslager nicht weit von Ligniz	
A051200 ***	ABROSKINA		VALENTINA PETROWNA	00.00.1925	g.Leningrad	02.1944 - 1945 Deutschland, Frankfurt a.O., Lager; seit April in Waldau, die Ziegelfabrik, Arbeitslager nicht weit von Ligniz	
426051 ***	ABROSKINA SABELINA	ABROSKINA	NINA PETROWNA	00.00.1931	g.Leningrad	02.1944 - 1945 Deutschland, Frankfurt a.O., Lager; seit April in Waldau, die Ziegelfabrik, Arbeitslager nicht weit von Ligniz	
502625 ***	MUSIENKO		STEPAN MAXIMOWITSCH	10.09.1918	die Region Krasnodar, st.Krasnoarmeiskaja	06.1941 - 02.1945 Deutschland, Tilsit, beim Werk - Stahlbetonbauten	

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List of Applicant Names Compiled by a Partner Organization of the EVZ Foundation, 2002

The lists were submitted electronically. This was supposed to speed up the exchange of data within the archive network, which involved over 300 institutions. Because the information provided was imprecise, and because the ITS sometimes sent lists to the network too late, tensions developed.



Quick Check of Lists in the Digitized Central Name Index, Bad Arolsen, 2006

Computers were expected to speed up the provision of information. In addition to the lists, the ITS received individual inquiries which were supposed to be integrated into the lists. This however happened very rarely. As a result, these inquiries were not processed in time for compensation payments to be made.

Searching for Clues: New Questions from Later Generations

What happened to my (grand)parents under the Nazis?
Does my mother have a grave? Who were my biological parents?
These and similar questions still reach the *Arolsen Archives* today. Relatives of former Nazi victims from around the globe are curious, as many survivors never spoke to their families about their fate, or only talked about their experiences after they were quite old. To answer these questions, research is conducted in the archive, and today relatives also receive copies of any documents found. In the case of missing persons, other offices are also contacted, and to this day families are still being reunited.



Lucy Stoxen with her husband and children at the ITS, Bad Arolsen, July 23, 2018

Lucy Stoxen's mother was born in 1944 in the Theresienstadt ghetto. Most members of her Jewish family were deported to Auschwitz or Sobibor and murdered. Her mother survived and emigrated to Australia. Lucy Stoxen is researching her family history so that she can tell her children more about it.



Alexandr Afanasjew with his Daughter and Granddaughter in Bad Arolsen, May 8, 2017

Alexandr Afanasjew was captured by the Germans as a prisoner of war in 1944 and later imprisoned in a concentration camp. He and his daughter spent years searching for proof, after former Soviet POWs could receive a small compensation payment from the German government in May 2015. He used the money to publish his autobiography, *Alone Against Germany*.



Žaneta Kargól-Ożyńska Carrying out Research with her Husband and Daughter, Bad Arolsen, August 3, 2016

Her grandfather Julian Banaś never returned home from forced labor. In Bad Arolsen, the family learned that he was murdered in the summer of 1942, and that his grave and a "Stolperstein" are in Schwerte, where he had performed forced labor. In 2016 the family visited Schwerte and placed a candle on the grave of Julian Banaś.

pourrait être utiles au traitement de votre demande peut à vélo en allant au travail, elle a été enfermée à dachau, daichach et à stadelheim. Elle a subi des atrocités et elle a été libérée en août 1944. Moi sa fille, je voudrais qu'elle soit reconnue et avoir les documents avant qu'elle aille cette terre. c'est le plus beau cadeau que nous pouvons lui faire et être réconcilié avec son pays

Motif de la demande pour la personne susmentionnée Renseignements pour membres de la famille sur la documentation relative à l'incarcération/ l'emploi/ le travail forcé/ le séjour ou le séjour en camp DF après 1945. Je souhaite obtenir des précisions sur la persécution nazie d'un parent proche pendant la guerre et son sort dans l'après-guerre immédiat. J'effectue cette recherche par intérêt personnel pour ma famille et son histoire.

Le membre de ma famille en question a survécu à la persécution nazie? Le membre de ma famille en question a survécu à la persécution nazie et est encore en vie.

Veuillez indiquer s.v.p. son adresse actuelle. Cette personne est-elle informée de votre requête auprès de l'ITS (oui/non) OUI, elle est informée, c'est à sa demande, elle est très âgée, 92 ans je suis sa fille. Voici son adresse; scharf anna 6 rue des officiers 67800 BISCHHEIM

Connaissances actuelles Je viens juste de commencer mes recherches

L.S.
4.3.2016 M. 200-

Email (Poststelle)

Von: ITS Arolsen [mailto:its-arolsen.org]
Gesendet: Mittwoch, 3. Februar 2016 16:23
An: Email (Poststelle)
Betreff: Harandaaer Antrag [20160203112328] Person 1 (1)

Folgende Formelardaten wurden gesendet:

Prénom(s)	rachel
Nom	scharf
Nom et numéro de la voie	67100 Strasbourg
Code postal	67100
Commune	strasbourg
Pays	france
Téléphone	0388 30 30 30
Adresse électronique	anna.scharf@arolsen.org
Réponse de l'ITS	par voie électronique (transmission sans cryptage)
Je certifie sur l'honneur que toutes les indications ont été fournies en toute bonne foi.	Je certifie sur l'honneur que toutes les indications ont été fournies en toute bonne foi.

ITS Bad Arolsen

- 4. Feb. 2016 020

Anlagen:	Kopie an:
Zuständig:	
ERTIAUF	

Personne 1

Prénom(s)	anna
Nom	scharf
Sexe	féminin
Situation familiale pendant la guerre	célibataire
Nom de naissance	connu
Nom de naissance	scharf
Nom de substitution éventuel	inconnu
Date de naissance	29 novembre 1923
Lieu de naissance / région, département	landshut bayern
Nationalité (pendant la guerre)	allemande
Religion	catholique
Nom et prénom du père	scharf joseph
Nom de jeune fille et prénom de la mère	schuster anna
Quel est votre lien de parenté ou quelle est votre relation avec la personne sur laquelle vous souhaitez obtenir des informations	Je suis sa fille.
Informations supplémentaires	Ma mere a été prisonnière politique. Elle a été arrêtée le 13 avril 1942 sur le

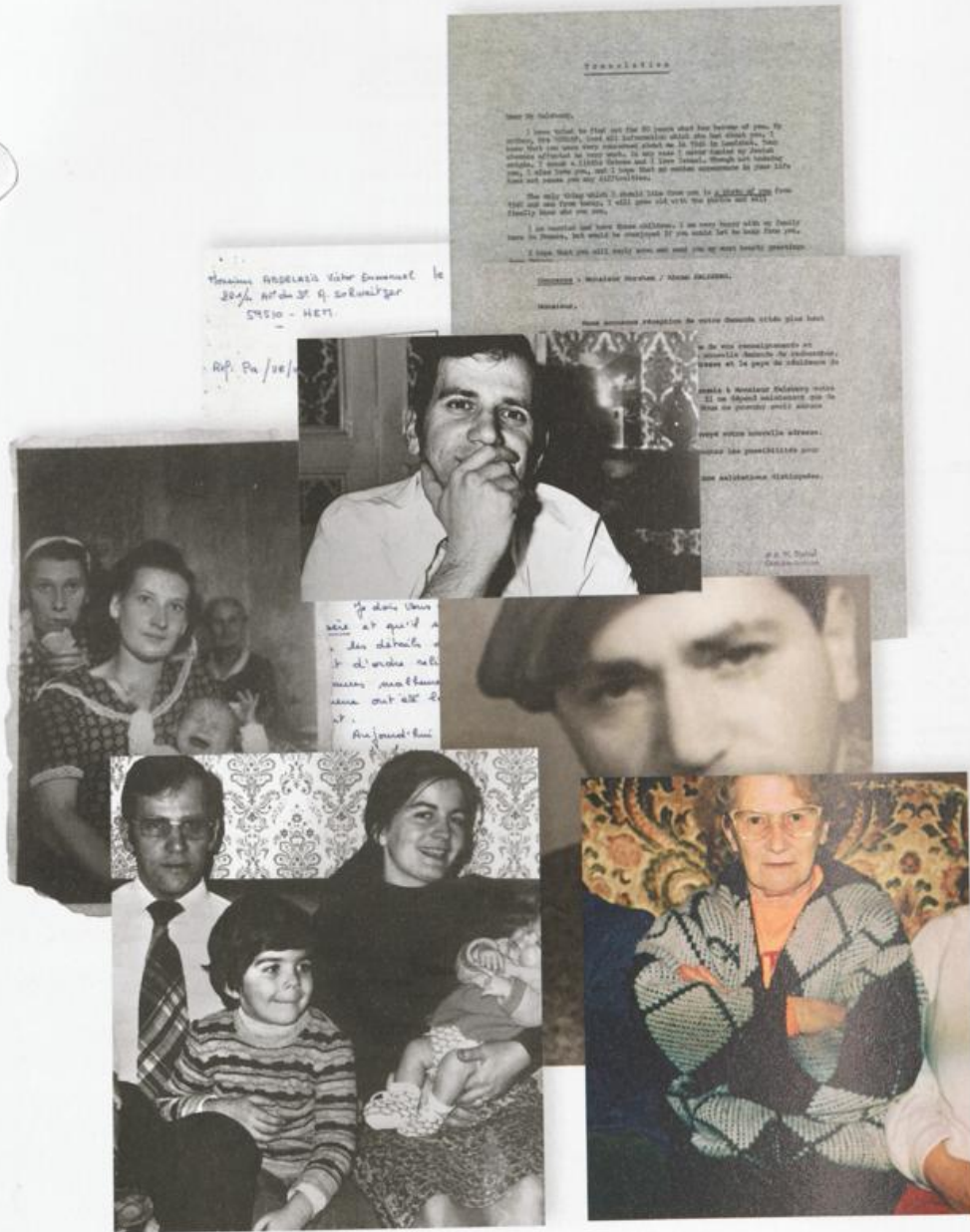
Zuname:	Scharf
Vorname:	Anna
Mädchen-/Tarnname:	
geboren am:	29.11.23
Geburtsort:	Landshut
Nationalität:	-
Häftlingsnummer:	-
Fundort:	PP Mü-Stadelh 2498/47

Inquiry from Rachel Scharf for her Mother Anna Scharf at the ITS, February 3, 2016

Since 2016 the ITS has accepted inquiries through an online form. Rachel Scharf wanted to use this option to confirm her mother's path of persecution. The Munich District Court had sentenced Anna Scharf in 1942 to two years in jail because she had had contact with French prisoners of war, which was forbidden.

Reference Card for Anna Scharf from the Central Name Index, 1993

This card indicates that information about Anna Scharf's imprisonment can be found in the prisoner register of the Munich-Stadelheim jail in the Arolsen Archives. Originals and copies of such documents from other prisons are stored in the archival collection labeled *Group PP: Prisons and Persecution*.



Years Later: An Old Case is Solved

Archive documents verified the imprisonment of Anna Scharf. ITS staff also found a tracing case from the 1980s that was closely linked to the history of the Scharf family. Only now, after Rachel Scharf had submitted her inquiry in 2016, was it possible to solve the case.

Video Station

Excerpts

“ I want to know about everything, ... I want to hold the documents in my hands. ”

Rachel Scharf

“ I knew my father suffered because he never knew his biological father, and I also knew that he had started research when I was still a child. ”

Etienne Scharf

“ And today we are so happy that we've found him and were able to achieve his goal in the end. Achieving the goal of his research gave us a great feeling of joy and peace, inner peace. ”

Etienne Scharf

**Rachel and Etienne Scharf Talk about
Researching their Family History, 2017**

The ITS was able to confirm Anna Scharf's imprisonment and close an open tracing case at the same time: Emmanuel Scharf, Anna Scharf's first son, unsuccessfully searched for his father his whole life. An inquiry from his sister Rachel Scharf got the search going again. Etienne Scharf, the son of Emmanuel Scharf, was then able to complete the search and meet his grandfather.

Anna Scharf

1923 - 2017

When documents from the ITS provided important proof in 2016, the Munich District Court lifted Anna Scharf's 1942 conviction. Because she had had forbidden contact with prisoners of war, the 19-year-old had been held in the Aichach women's prison. After the war, Anna Scharf met Abraham Zalberg, a Polish Jew who had survived the atrocities of Auschwitz. One year later they had a son, Emmanuel. But the couple then separated, and Zalberg emigrated to Israel. Anna Scharf moved to France in 1949 and started a family. She began telling her children about her imprisonment early on.



**Anna Scharf in her Home, Strasbourg,
August 17, 2017**

Anna Scharf loved to play German folk songs on the piano and harmonica. But she could no longer imagine living in Germany on account of her time spent in a women's prison there. She died in Strasbourg in 2017, surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Anna Scharf with her Son Emmanuel, Lyon, circa 1955

Emmanuel knew that his father was a Polish Holocaust survivor. From the 1970s he had tried in vain to find him. Emmanuel died in 1995. His sister Rachel submitted an inquiry to the ITS in 2016, which made it possible for his son Etienne to end the search successfully in 2017 and visit his grandfather in the USA.



**Anna Scharf's Children: Rachel, Fayçal, Farid and
Yamina, Lille, 1969**

Anna Scharf married in France and had four more children. She started talking about her persecution early on. Anna Scharf was deeply affected by her traumatic experiences. She was a strict mother and did not develop an affectionate relationship with her children until she was very old.

ALLIED HIGH COMMISSION
FOR GERMANY
INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE



Who Were and Are the Employees?

The staff expanded rapidly in the early years, growing from 80 people in 1945 to 1,758 four years later. The first employees came from 21 countries. They included Allied military and civilian personnel, DPs and Germans, some of whom had been SS or Nazi Party members. At the start, the staff was insufficiently trained. Employees often lacked historical knowledge and archival skills. At the same time, the language skills of DPs were very helpful. However, by the mid-1950s most DPs had left Arolsen. Their positions were filled by locals from within the region, many of whom joined the ITS from other professions. With the ITS turning into an archive and information center, recent years have seen the arrival of new employees with a specific training background for these new activities.



Employees in Front of the ITS Headquarters, on the
Grounds of the Former SS Barracks, Arolsen, 1952

Alexander Kopaniak

1915 - 1986

Alexander Kopaniak was a former Polish prisoner of war and one of the first employees of the *Central Tracing Bureau*. His Polish, German, English and French language skills initially earned him a position as a clerk in 1946. "Because on his experience of living in a prisoner of war camp, working in tracing was very important to him," as his wife, Johanna Kopaniak, put it. The couple had met each other through work, where she was one of the first German employees. Kopaniak did not want to return to Poland and stayed in Arolsen. There, he worked at the ITS until he retired in 1980.

1946



Alexander Kopaniak (center) with Staff of the *Wartime Documents Section, Arolsen, circa 1972*

Alexander Kopaniak was in charge of the *Wartime Documents Section* for some time and took over the *Postwar Documents Section* in 1978.

Erich Henschel

1921-2007

Henschel was a trained graphic artist and classic career-changer. Though not a specialist, he eventually led various departments. He studied graphic design in Berlin and loved photography. After graduating he was drafted into the German army, where he was retrained as a cartographer.

In 1947, these skills probably helped him secure a job at the *Central Tracing Bureau*, predecessor of the ITS. There he was tasked to draw numerous maps and charts, including those showing the sites of concentration camps, which the employees needed for their daily work.



1947

Henschel (Standing, r.) in the Concentration Camp Documents Section, Arolsen, c. 1972

Erich Henschel worked at the ITS from 1947 until retiring in 1986. From 1980 to 1986 he was head of the Concentration Camp Documents Section.

Józef Żyłka

1910 - 1953

Józef Żyłka was one of more than 500 Displaced Persons who shaped the first phase of the *International Tracing Service*. He had been deported from Poland in 1940 for forced labor. After liberation he and his family arrived in Arolsen in 1948. He was initially employed in the DP Training School, an educational facility for DPs housed in the former SS barracks. When it closed in the spring of 1949, he moved on to the ITS, where he last worked in transportation for the administration. In April 1952 he and his family emigrated to the USA.



1949

The Żyłka Family in Bremerhaven, shortly before Emigrating, April 2, 1952

The Żyłkas were among the last DPs allowed to emigrate to the USA under the "DP Act". Their last name started with Z, so they boarded the ship last. Newspapers therefore referred to Józef Żyłka as the "last European refugee." Upon arrival, US President Truman greeted the family at the White House.

**1949****ITS News Bulletin Number 2, March 10, 1949**

In 1949 and 1950 the ITS published a staff newsletter. A total of 14 issues published in English have been preserved. They give an impression of the multi-national background of the first ITS employees and provide an insight into their life and work.

No.	Name	Sex	Nationality	Birth Date	Age	Birth Place & Country	I.D.No.	Remarks
337.	WORY Henry	M	Polish	21.7.1911	3	Leimfeld, Germany	653390	
338.	WORY Gertruda	F	Polish	16.3.1916	3	Berlich, Germany	563389	
339.	WYKUCHOWSKI Danuta-Irena	F	Polish	8.1.1918	2	Wildflecken, Germany	866403	
340.	WYKUCHOWSKI Helena	F	Polish	27.3.1926	23	Janow, Poland	599680	16.4.50 to USA
341.	ZARONKO Danna	M	Ukrainian	30.5.1895	54	Katerinoslav, Russia	568901	
342.	ZARONKI Danna	M	Polish	18.7.1914	35	Deblin, Poland	569001	
343.	ZAROGA Cecylia	M	Polish	15.4.1913	36	Cosialkow, Poland	568819	
344.	ZARONKO Danna	F	Latvian	4.11.1921	28	Odesa, Russia	565681	
345.	ZARONKO Danna	M	Ukrainian	10.8.1904	45	Trifunshka, Russia	562902	116 Gray-Brown
347.	ZELI Josef	M	Polish	3.1.1910	40	Schrapowice, Poland	502158	
348.	ZELI Ursula	F	Polish	25.3.1915	34	Berlin, Germany	536298	
349.	ZELI Ursula	F	Polish	29.1.1914	6	Torw, Germany	53.608	
350.	ZELI Beata	F	Polish	12.6.1918	1	Berlin, Germany	536296	
351.	ZWISLINSKI Jolanta	M	Latvian	31.5.1892	57	Aistruakle, Latvia	793305	
352.	ZWISLINSKI Karla	M	Latvian	13.1.1923	26	Kalnamp, Latvia	793633	
353.	ZWISLINSKI Irena	F	Latvian	23.11.1927	2	Briegau, Germany	793663	18.4.50 to USA
354.	ZARONKO Danna	F	Polish	18.8.1901	48	Wola Oleszka, Poland	568850	to USA - 30.1.50
355.	ZARONKO Danna	F	Polish	18.3.1911	8	Pommern, Germany	562852	
356.	ZARONKO Irena	M	Ukrainian	25.11.1909	0	Arolsen, Germany	562852	
357.	ZELI Josef	M	Polish	16.4.1907	40	Talica, Poland	562163	No signature
358.	ZARONKO Danna	M	Ukrainian	1.5.1917	32	Deblin, Poland	554293	

1950

Excerpt from a List of Employees Housed in
the Arolsen DP Camp, 1950

The names crossed out are those of DP employees
who left around 1950 because they emigrated or
returned to their countries of origin.

- 2 -

35

1. Employment practices:

a) The Germans, if left alone, would tend to reemploy unreliable elements. About 45 top Nazis (including SS leaders, Gestapomen and Golden badge-party members) and about 5 Communists were recently removed, after having been employed under IRO supervision for several years. The international IRO personnel, unaware of Denazification laws and procedures, did not care. The Board was strongly opposed by the German manager and other Germans in removing those elements.

b) Old trusted DP employees would be gradually pushed out and replaced by Germans. When I became aware of this tendency, I reserved my right of supervision on every personnel action.

2. Security of records:

a) It was noted that under IRO management employees who wanted to "fill their insertion quota" on Index cards sometimes disposed of the remaining cards in their hands by flushing them down the toilets at the end of the working day. On October 1, 1951, Circular ITS/STEC/CIRC(51)7, (Exh.1) was issued which is self-explanatory. Such practices may reappear if the ITS is left without proper supervision.

b) On November 6, a fire broke out in a ITS block through burning cigaret butts in a wastepaper basket. It was quickly discovered and put out. The responsible persons were disciplined (Exh.2). Through a check with the Berlin Documents Center it was discovered that the main culprit was an old Party member with an impressive SS record. (Exh.3). He was quietly removed by "reduction of force" at the end of 1951.

From above instances it appears necessary that the security of records will require also in the future permanent Allied supervision.

3. Correspondence with Allied Countries, Agencies and Nationals:

Constant supervision of such reports is required. The reaction to incorrect outgoing ITS reports is evident from the example of one Otto GROSSMAN of L.I., N.Y. (Exh. 4). Copy of my reply was transmitted to Mr. Lawrence for DP Division files. Correspondence procedures in English and French as to contents and form have to be constantly reviewed by me. In 1951 a HICOG correspondence procedure course at the ITS had good results which due to fluctuation of personnel, however, must be maintained. Reports to CIC, U.S. and Allied Consulates, Overseas Mission of U.S. Department of Justice, certain Red Cross Missions and Jewish agencies need individual attention and cannot be handled by a German manager.

It is doubtful

1952

Excerpt from a Memorandum by Hugh G. Elbot,
Chairman of the ITS Administration, February 6, 1952

Elbot firmly rejected the idea of handing over the ITS to the Germans. He feared that old Nazis would be hired, was concerned about the security of the documents and wanted to ensure access to the archives for US intelligence. From 1952 the staff was regularly screened, and at least 45 people were dismissed, usually due to prior SS membership.

Margret Schlenke

* 1952

"The work I do here can only be learned through practice," Margret Schlenke concluded after over 47 years of work at the ITS. A local resident, she joined the ITS upon leaving school in 1970. Colleagues who were former DPs introduced her to the job. She took over the *Child Search Archive* in 1976 and also the *Tracing Department* nine years later. For decades, Margret Schlenke continually reassembled the puzzle pieces involved in the search for individuals. She was in contact with Red Cross offices, authorities and archives all over the world, as well as survivors and their families.



1970

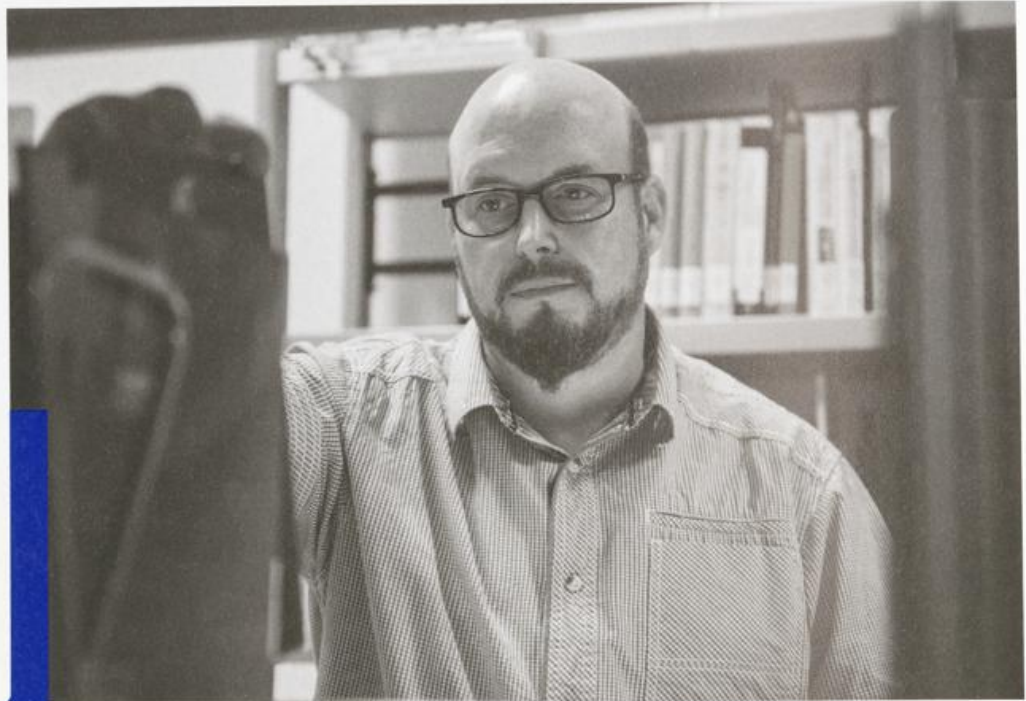
Margret Schlenke with Folke Heinecke, Tracing his Family History, Bad Arolsen, 2007

Margret Schlenke spent decades helping survivors and family members search for relatives and clarify their fate. Folke Heinecke was born as Aleksander Litau in Crimea. The Germans deported him and gave him up for adoption to a German family. He has been tracing his origins since his adoptive parents died.

Jens Paul

* 1975

When Jens Paul joined the ITS in 1996 as a so-called *list-checker*, he had no idea what area he would be working in 20 years later. He started out reviewing lists of former foreign forced laborers in the context of pension or compensation proceedings. Parallel to this, he visited various German archives and microfilmed documents about former victims of Nazi persecution. Since 2007 he has been a staff member of the ITS library, where he assists colleagues and visitors with an interest in specialist books on Nazi persecution.



1996

Jens Paul in the Library of the *Arolsen Archives*,
Bad Arolsen, August 21, 2018

Today the scope of Jens Paul's work is manifold. In addition to advising users, he catalogs books and journals and indexes them through keywords.

Christiane Weber

* 1984

"It's unbelievable what you can find out about someone's fate from index cards and forms if you just have the right knowledge about their context," says employee Christiane Weber, whose job it is to make historical documents and texts understandable. She studied history and German and English studies in Gießen, employed at the *Arbeitsstelle Holocaustliteratur* for a few years. After that, she worked as an editor for an academic publisher. At the *Arolsen Archives* she worked on the e-Guide, an online tool that provides extensive background information on the documents found in the archival collections.



2017

Christiane Weber Talks About Working with Historical Documents at a Workshop, 2018

Research associates at the *Arolsen Archives* participate in international workshops and conferences. They explain the potential for research and education that lies within the collections stored in the *Arolsen Archives*.



2018

Employees behind the Main Building,
Bad Arolsen, August 29, 2018



Collecting and Organizing

One of the world's largest collections of documents on Nazi crimes was created in Arolsen from 1946 onwards to clarify fates.

Today the *Arolsen Archives* consist of over 30 million documents.

The accumulated collections of tracing services are special, not only in scope but also in terms of content and structure.

Nearly all documents in the archive relate to specific people, to persecution at specific sites, but also to life after the war.

They include early investigative records of the ITS itself, which document Nazi prisons and death marches, for example.

The archive was organized in its unique way in the early 1950s, when the zonal tracing bureaus sent all their documents to Arolsen.

The core of the archive consists of large card indexes and files which are arranged according to various topics and criteria.

Since the ITS continually acquired original and copied documents, its collection grew rapidly, particularly from the 1980s.

But there was also a dark side to this development.

Since the late 1990s, the collections have been digitized and measures have been taken to preserve the documents.

This was originally only done to speed up working with the files.

Today the aim is to preserve and provide widespread access to this unique documentary heritage of the world.

Early

Investigative Documents

When the ITS was created in 1948, it had only a few documents. Besides copies of lists of names and reference cards for tracing, most of the documents in Arolsen were investigative records. Since many Nazi crimes were documented poorly or not at all, the ITS initially set out to find proof and evidence itself. For example, in order to gather evidence of the death marches endured by concentration camp prisoners at the end of the war, the ITS questioned thousands of local offices and survivors, researched grave sites and mapped the individual march routes. Many victims of the death marches were identified in this way.

Landratsamt
UNRRA-Suchstelle
Neunburg vorm Wald

Neunburg v. Wald, den 22. März 1947

Für die Gemeinde Neukirchen-Balbini.

196 (16.)

BETRIFFT: Todesmarsch *H. Reg.*

1. Sind einer oder mehrere Gefangene Transporte während des monates *Apr. 1945* durch Ihre Gemeinde gegangen? ja
2. Falls bejahend, zu welchem Zeitpunkt? 21.4. - 22.4.45
(Wenn möglich, genaues Datum angeben).
3. Aus welcher Richtung kam derselbe? Lager Flössenburg
4. Aus wieviel Gefangenen bestand dieser Transport? ca 500 Mann
5. Sind Gefangene beim Durchgang Ihrer Gemeinde gestorben? ja
6. Falls bejahend, wieviel? 102
7. Sind Gefangene in der Nachbarschaft Ihrer Gemeinde gestorben? ja
8. Falls bejahend, wieviel? unbekannt
9. Wo sind diese Gefangene beerdigt? KZ-Friedhof am Ostausgang Neukirchen-Balbini
10. Von wem sind dieselben begraben worden? Geistlicher hat
(Wenn möglich, Angabe des Namens und Anschrift) Neuk.-Balbini
11. Wer pflegt diese Gräber? Gemeinde Neukirchen-Balbini
(Angabe des Namens und und Anschrift desselben)?
12. Hat der Bürgermeister die Personalien der Gefangenen n. Amkg. registriert, welche im Lager, in der Gemeinde oder in der Nachbarschaft gestorben und begraben worden sind?
13. Kann die Richtung angegeben werden in welcher sich der Transport begeben hat? Transport wurde aufgelöst
14. Ist dieser Transport zu Fuß weitermarschiert oder in Ihrer Gemeinde durch die Bahn abtransportiert worden? Auflösung des Transportes.
15. Sind noch Augenzeuge in Ihrer Gemeinde anwesend, welche Auskunft über solche Transporte aussagen können? ja
16. Falls bejahend, ist Name und Anschrift derselben anzugeben?
 - a) Ehemalige KZ-Ler Alfred Reuter, wohnhaft in Boden -12- Gemeinde Neukirchen-Balbini,
 - b) Händler Josef Lecher, Neukirchen-Balbini Haus Nr. 76

Anmerkung: Beim Bürgermeisteramt Neukirchen-Balbini sind die Gefangenennummern der erschossenen bzw. verstorbenen ehemaligen KZ-Ler registriert.

I.A.

(*J. Reg.*)
Sachbearbeiter.



Recovering the Bodies of Death March Victims,
Neunburg vorm Wald, April 29, 1945

During their advance at the end of April 1945, the US Army found the bodies of hundreds of concentration camp prisoners murdered by the SS in Neunburg vorm Wald and the associated town of Neukirchen-Balbini. The liberators confronted the residents with these crimes and ordered them to recover and bury the victims.

Questionnaire for the Town of Neukirchen-Balbini
Regarding a Death March, March 22, 1947

Thousands of questionnaires were sent to German cities and towns to gather information about death marches that had passed through. The ITS used the completed questionnaires to map the individual routes and then searched for clues about the victims.



ITS Map Showing the Death Marches from Flossenbürg Concentration Camp, March 2, 1950

Based on the investigative forms, large-scale maps were produced of the march routes from individual concentration camps. The death march from Flossenbürg to Neukirchen-Balbini is listed seventh in the legend on this map. ITS employees used the maps as tools for tracing and providing information.



Exhumation Register for Wetterfeld Concentration Camp Cemetery, circa 1946

Exhumations were carried out along the routes of death marches from Flossenbürg concentration camp. In cooperation with the town, an UNRRA team recorded all information regarding the identity of those murdered. The original prisoner numbers that had been attached to the clothing of the deceased were pasted into this register.

"atempt. Identific. reburied in cemetery Neunburg v. Wald
former Neukirchen-Balbini made Ed 72 37"

International Trading Service
Records Branch, Wroclaw

Attempted identification of unknown dead

No. 72 37 died on 21.4.45 in Neukirchen-Balbini re Neunburg v. Wald
Series

Checking - "Verst"		Identification by ITS Records Branch	
Under this number is found in:		Possible	Reason
Conc. Camp	Name - Nationality - Birth Date & place.	(Yes or no)	
Buchenwald	<u>KOPKA, Marcell - Polish</u> <u>2.1.06 Warschau</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>Un. 13.8.44 fr. 59 Krakow</u> <u>Transf. 21.8.44 to</u> <u>Udo. Malarz</u>
Flossenburg	<u>not distributed</u>		
Mauthausen	<u>DEUTSCH, Joel - Belg. Jew</u> <u>17.12.13 Jasina</u>	<u>yes</u>	<u>Un. 3.11.42</u> <u>Transf. 22.1.45 to CC Buchenwald</u> <u>Ardo. 510 (No. 118185)</u> ✓
Gr. Rosen	<u>not found</u>	<u>-</u>	

Conclusion: No. 72 37 might be inmate of Conc. Camp Ardo. 510

Last name address: DEUTSCH, Joel Adr. unknown

Wroclaw 17.5.50 Prepared by:



ITS Investigative Form for Identifying a Murdered Concentration Camp Prisoner, August 17, 1950

ITS employees compared the prisoner numbers found along the march routes with concentration camp documents. These provided information about the names associated with the numbers as well as about stations of imprisonment. In this case, Joel Deutsch was identified as a probable victim of the death march in Neukirchen-Balbini.

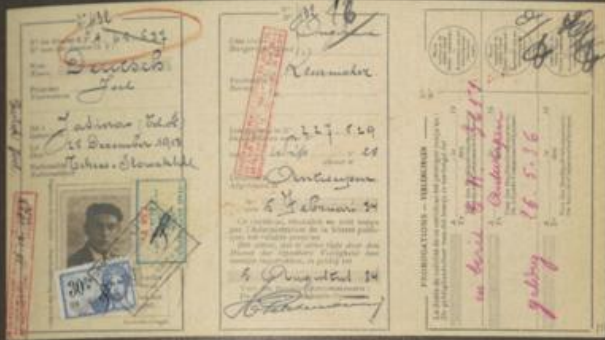
Personal Handwritten Note, Recovered in Plattenberg Concentration Camp Cemetery, November 1949

In November 1949, 140 caskets were opened in a cemetery in Neukirchen-Balbini in order to identify the death march victims buried there. A few items of clothing were found as well as personal notes such as this one, probably the last note from a family to their child: "Behave yourself. We ask God to keep you healthy. Loving kisses. Your parents and siblings."

Joel Deutsch

1913 - 1945

The ITS identified Joel Deutsch as a victim of a death march. He was killed in Neukirchen-Balbini just before the liberation. Joel Deutsch was from a Jewish family from Czechoslovakia which had emigrated to Antwerp, Belgium, in 1932. Under German occupation, he performed forced labor until he and his family were deported to Auschwitz in 1942. The SS murdered his wife immediately on arrival at Auschwitz. Joel Deutsch and his brother were selected for slave labor. The last document showing that he was still alive is a January 1945 Buchenwald concentration camp transport list.



Belgian Alien's Passport for Joel Deutsch, Issued in Antwerp, February 5, 1934

The photo in his alien's passport shows Joel Deutsch as a 20-year-old, barely two years after he moved to Antwerp. As the passport reveals, after emigrating he initially made a living as a tailor.

KONINKRIJK BELGIË
STAD ANTWERPEN
Hoofdafdeling vreemdelingen
Vreemdelingenbureau
N. 227528

Gesamenlyke Inlichtingsagencat. V. N. 2.58.001
vrouw I. 567.180.

Inlichtingsbulletijn betreffende Vreemdelingen.

Naam en voornamen	Datum en plaats van geboorte	Herhale verblijfplaats	Nationaliteit
Joel Deutsch	27 December 1913, Provincie Slovaakse, straat, N° 240.	Antwerpen	Slovaakse
Helen Held	19 Januari 1914, Hellen (Belgie)	idem.	idem.

Dochter van Herman en van HIRSH, Hestif (Mother).

1. Plaats en datum van aankomst: Berchem (A) op 25 Mei 1937.

2. Voornamen, datum en plaats van geboorte, adres van de vader: Selocon, geboren te Byszacz (Tsj-Slov) 25.1.1904, wonende te Antwerpen, Provinciestraat, N° 242.

3. Naam en voornamen, plaats en datum van geboorte, adres van de moeder: F. H. S. O. V. A. Berth, geboren te Nedwars (Pdl) in 1885, wonende te Antwerpen by den oen.

4. Werkelijk beroep: Bekwamegat.

5. Werkelijke woonpl. te Antwerpen: Berchem (Tsj-Slovakye) Basilovitssova, Uten N° 16.

6. Locatie verblijfplaats te Antwerpen: idem voor den oen met de vrouw Berchem (Hong) Kerkos Uten 20.

7. Datum v. aankomst in België: 25 Mei 1937.

8. Datum v. aankomst in de gemeente: 25 Mei 1937.

9. Voor'beleid Huwelingsboekje N° 101 afgeleverd te Berchem (A) op 28.5.1937 Door den kantenaar van den Burgerlyken Staat.

10. Datum van de aan: Bewys van verkiyverandering, afgeleverd te Berchem (A) op 28.5.1937.

De vrouw Bericht van vertrek, afgeleverd te Berchem (A) op 25.5.1937.

Form from the Belgian Aliens' Police for Joel Deutsch and Helen Held, June 24, 1937

Five years after arriving in Antwerp, Joel Deutsch, now working as a baker's apprentice, married Helen Held, also from a Jewish emigrant family. His new family status was immediately recorded by the Belgian aliens' police, which kept files on all foreigners.

1. Is hij polack uitgevaardigd? N

12. Geene verordeningen in Belgie. IZO of woonachtig, de wic ballingmaat van het verzet in den besman, de vrouw doet het huishouden.

13. Is hij woonachtig meer dan 3 maanden in België of in België? 70.

14. De man is in bezit van de identiteitskaart N° 25.112 afgeleverd te Antwerpen op 10.5.1936 geldig tot 10.5.1938. De vrouw is in bezit van het bewys van inschrijving in het Vreemdelingenregister afgeleverd te Antwerpen geldig tot 2.5.1937.

Opmerkingen:

POTD van den MAN POTD van de VROUW

15. Is eenigrechtelijk verboden geen andere verbodingen in het bezit te hebben? Antwerpen, den 24 Juni 1937.

Handtekening van den vreemdeling: Gustor Joel

16. GEBRUIK AFNEMER van den RECHTER WISTINGER

van den vreemdeling van de verbodingen

The Creation of an Archive for Clarifying Fates

The ITS archive in its current structure was established in 1952. It was created when the Allied zonal tracing bureaus closed and all of their collected materials were sent to Arolsen.

At the same time, the ITS shifted its focus to clarifying individual fates primarily on the basis of documents.

To this day, the archive is organized in three large collections:

1. Documents from concentration camps and other detention sites
2. Documents about forced laborers
3. Documents about Displaced Persons

Information on a person is often found in all three collections.

ITS Visitors Viewing the Concentration Camp Documents Section, Arolsen, 1952

After the zonal tracing bureaus closed, the ITS opened a *Concentration Camp Documents Section* in the early 1950s. This held valuable records that the Allies and survivors in camps such as Buchenwald, Dachau and Mauthausen had been able to save. These were always the most important archival holdings for the ITS.



Konzentrationslager Art der Haft: _____ Ord. No. 67 255

Name und Vorname: Marian Otremski
 geb. 21.11.1915 in Waldherd bei Loek (Waldherd)
 Wohnort: Waldherd (Waldherd)
 Beruf: Schwarzschmied
 Staatsangehörigkeit: Polen
 Name der Eltern: Waldherd
 Wohnort: Waldherd
 Name der Mutter: Waldherd
 Wohnort: Waldherd
 Ehefrau: Waldherd
 Wohnort: Waldherd
 Ausbildung: KL Buchenwald

Häftlings-Personal-Karte

Fam. Name: Otremski Oberstellt: _____ an KL _____
 Name: Marian an KL _____
 Sprache: _____ an KL _____
 Anzeichen: _____ an KL _____
 Besondere: _____ an KL _____

Personen-Beschreibung:
 Größe: 172
 Gestalt: stark
 Gesicht: stark
 Augen: blau
 Nase: stark
 Haare: stark

KL BUCHENWALD (Männl.) TD No. 7815264

OSTREMSKI
21.11.1915 Waldherd Marian
67356

Häftl. Pers. Karte in den Quart.
 Ehepartner Bruder / Schwester
 Ehepartnerin Indienststellung
 Familien-Karte Ein. von Überlebigen
 Schutz-Karte Schutzbescheinigung
 Häftl. Pers. Karte Familien-Karte
 Besondere
 Konzentration
 Arbeitskarte
 Lagerkarte
 Nummernkarte

Übersicht No. 181526

ITS Envelope with Documents about Marian Otremski from Buchenwald Concentration Camp

The individual documents of concentration camp prisoners, such as this prisoner registration card, personal effects card and prisoner registration form for Marian Otremski, constitute one core of the archive. They were bundled together in envelopes by the ITS and are stored in large alphabetical indexes. The envelopes were sometimes incorrectly labeled.



Checking Folders with Lists of Foreign Forced Laborers, Arolsen, 1952

By 1952, the ITS had received hundreds of thousands of lists of foreign forced laborers from the closed zonal tracing bureaus, which had been compiled by German authorities, companies and other offices by order of the Allies. These documents formed the core of the new *Wartime Documents Section*.

ITS 025

Iserlohn-Stadtkreis

Gruppe A

Polen

55 Search Bureau

Nach Unterlagen des Wirtschaftsamtes haben sich folgende polnische Staatsangehörige in Iserlohn aufgehalten:

Name und Vorname	Geburtsdag	Wohnung	Arbeitgeber	Aufenthalt stun
Andojedo, Stanislaw	8. 5.24	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Andrzejewski, Sofia	31. 5.19	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Amuseyck, Monika	20.10.26	Westfalenstr.	Hanebeck	1944
Artorius, Regina	8. 9.24	Karl-Peterstr	Karl Peters	1942
Bandyperky, Casimir	4. 6.04	Brumkerweg 8	Meermann	1944
Barisz, Isabelle	4. 4.25	Hendenerstr.25	Stoffmann	1944
Bartoschik, Janina	17. 2.23		Fr. Doermann	1943
Batkowski, Felagia	11. 2.13	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Bebek, Jadwiga	8.10.15	Friedrichstr 7		1941/43
Do, Jozefina	5.10.15	Hochstr. 39	Elisabeth Hospit.	1942/44
Bernack, Genalwa	2. 7.14	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Bilwicz, Siegmund	29. 3.10	Weststr. 16	Dahlhaus & Co.	1941/44
Bilwicz, Wladislaw	14.11.12	Schützenhof	Jüngling	1943/44
Bilastek, Johann	1. 1.15	Schützenhof 12		1945
Biskowski, Adalbert	16. 3.15	Karstr.	zimpe	1945/44
Blaszyk, Jean	29. 5.29	Friedrichstr 23	Karl Fürst	1942/45
Blonka, Stanislaw	1. 5.23	Luisestr. 22	Walter Gramann	1944
Bozkowska, Irene	21. 6.22	Hochstr. 1	Müller	1941/44
Borenes, Chollie		Adolf-Hitlerpl	Howarde	1943
Borowins, Irene	1.10.25	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Brylins, Wladislaw	3. 4.24	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Bryll, Severine	1. 1.28	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Bull, Wacława	1. 1.20	Westfalenstr.	Diedr. Giese	1943
Buryński, Helene	3. 2.22	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Chudzik, Schaitar		Obststr. 32	Otto Siebert	1944
Cibrowska, Ludwiga	26. 6.16	Salmeistr. 9	Kasack & Co	1945
Cieslak, Stanislaw	8. 5.29	Westertor 14	Otto Pfänder	1944
Grzes, Jean	17. 1.19	Ziegelstr. 17		1942
Michel		Varahagenstr.1		1940
Lesowski, Anton	20. 7.07	Dickenturm 33		1941
Osmarocki, Simon	18. 8.07		Dahlhaus	1942/44
Oszlawa, Felana	9. 9.18	Bergwerkstr 32	Brünningshaus	1941/44
Osula, Michel				1940
Darowska, Maria	20. 9.25	Neuqrstr. 29	Otto Knebel	1944
Darby, Franz	21. 7.08	Neuqrstr. 47	Hude	1942/43
Digulska, Wanda	27. 6.23	Stadtagärten 15		1941/43
Dika, Anna		Hartrstr. 3	Jordan	1944
Domagala, Wacława	22.10.15	Parkstr. 3	Bethanien	1941/44
Popierska, Wanda		Obere Mühle	KiesingMöllmann	1944
Durka, Honorata	23. 4.24	Westfalenstr.	G.W. Hanebeck	1944
Erdmann, Stanislaw	12.10.09	Läger 7	Vollmann	1942/44
Fabisjak, Maria	15. 2.15	Westfalenstr.	Halfmann & Co.	1943
Fidler, Wacława	29. 8.29	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Fiedel, Felagia	1. 8.25	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Polana, Alfrede	25. 6.13	Bartensstr. 30		1941/44
Galuski, Adam	15. 5.23	Stadtagärten		1943
Gawlenica, Alexandra	4. 3.05	Mittelstr. 6		1942/43
Gregorkski Allice	30. 3.24	Stahlschmiede 48	Heardt	1943/44

ITS 027

Iserlohn-Stadtkreis

Gruppe A

Polen

55 Search Bureau

Nach Unterlagen des Wirtschaftsamtes haben sich folgende polnische Staatsangehörige in Iserlohn aufgehalten:

Name und Vorname	Geburtsdag	Wohnung	Arbeitgeber	Aufenthalt stun
Skowski, Leo	16. 5.15	Hendenerstr. 1		1942
Xumierczak, Maria	9. 9.22	Westfalenstr	G.W. Hanebeck	1944
Kusinski, Franz	5. 1.11	Lindenstr. 10		1943
Kagolis, Michael	17. 3.25	Hohlerweg 32	Schölder	1944
Lanza, Kwasniawka	22. 4.19	Westfalenstr	Stephan Witte	1944
Lawiuszak, Johann	18. 5.04	Grünenweg 3	Dahlhaus & Co	1943/44
Lorereka, Kerstenier	28. 2.28	Luisestr. 12b		1944
Ledzion, Janina	3. 8.25	Sailerweg	Kreuter	1944
Lewandowska, Edwarda	12. 4.22	Galastr. 9	Kasack & Co	1943
Litwicki, Barbara	7.11.25	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Luczak, Genoveva	15. 7.27	Iddenscheidlerstr	Kerfloth	1944
Luczak, Theodor	30. 9.02	Hochstr. 15	Karl Kerfloth	1944
Luzoszek, Edmunda		Hochstr. 14	Wllh. Becker	1944
Luzonick, Wladislaw	19. 9.20	Lgstr. 2		1942
Luzka, Anna		Westfalenstr	G.W. Hanebeck	1944
Majczak, Janina	5. 1.25	Fr. Doermann	Friedr. Doermann	1943
Majczak, Marja	2. 2.24	Fr. Doermann	Friedr. Doermann	1943
Majewski, Franz	12. 1.07	Hövalstr. 12		1943
Matycho, Wladislaw	8.11.10	Grabenstr. 46		1941
Martynka, Stanislaw	17.10.20	Grabenstr. 46	Dahlhaus & Co.	1941/44
Martynka, Stanislaw	16.11.16	Gerlingeweg	K. Schütte	1944
Manukiewicz, Marie	19. 3.07	Arnsbergerstr.	Ernst Güsser	1944
Mania, Francis	16. 4.23	Ragenstr. 25	Pritz Hysterboeck	1943
Michalski, Johann	13. 4.15	Dickenturm 23	Wllh. Kister	1942/44
Michalska, Wanda	10. 1.23	Hendenerstr.	16Berhard Spickhoff	1944
Mika, Jacob	25. 1.15	Wallstr. 18		1943
Molar, Stanislaw	15. 3.22	Dorfstr. 11		1941
Musiel, Karwin	7.10.59	Kerflg. Heide	Kerflg. Is. Heide	1942
Mutha, Ema		Hendenerstr. 4		1939
Nyallboerska, Palecia	30. 8.07	Westfalenstr.	Stephan Witte	1943
Niedbalak, Kasimir	18. 2.21	Südengraben 4	Dahlhaus & Co	1943/44
Niziol, Maria	8. 7.97	Hochstr. 39	Elia. Hospital	1943/44
Nosak, Josef		Hohlerweg 38		1943
Otrzebicki, Marian	21.11.15	Obere Mühle 10	Dahlhaus & Co.	1942
Pocosiara, Kazimiera	6. 5.22	KiesingMöllmann		1944
Pajak, Josefa	18.11.25	Neuqrstr. 32	A. H.B	1940/45
Paplat, Sofia	23. 9.25	Obi 1	Werth	1944
Pedolowska, Isidora		Ioth 2	Harmonia	1944
Jawley, Stefania		Neuqrstr. 6		1943
Pawlewski, Wladislaw	19. 6.10	Luisestr.	Otto Krause	1944
Pawlewski, Wladislaw	10. 5.22	Mittelstr. 6		1943
Pawlowska, Jadwiga	10. 5.22	Obi 1	Peters	1944
Pelka, Anastasia	15. 5.27	Obi 1	Pa. Krause	1943
Pelka, Lena	16. 5.28	Umsqrstr. 29	Dipl. Ing. De Thier	1944
Piasto, Antonius	21. 7.08	Neuqrstr. 49	Hude	1940/44
Pietruschewicz, Wladislaw	19. 8.11	Aloyisstr.	Kath. Valsenhaus	1942
Pisacki, Regina	9. 4.23	Läger 7	Vollmann	1943/44
Pisacka, Iuba	1. 1.24	Arnsbergerstr.	Ernst Güsser	1944
Piotrowski, Stanislaw		Hendenerstr.145	Helarich Engel	1944
Plag, Karl Ulrich		H. Schützenhof	Otto Reinhard	1943/44
Polak, Halina	11. 6.25	Alexanderstr.	188d. Hospital	1943
Polrola, Leokadia	13.11.20	Arnsbergerstr	Ernst Güsser	1944
Pospieszynska, Sofia		Westertor	Otto Pfänder	1943
Priebe, Theodor	14.10.10.	Obere Mühle	KiesingMöllmann	1944
Rabocz, Janina		Treppenstr. 3	Helarich Brooke	1944
Rajewska, Maria		Obere Mühle	KiesingMöllmann	1944
Rasica, Kacynslawa		Obere Mühle	KiesingMöllmann	1944
		Grabenstr. 46	Spiekermann	1941

List from Iserlohn Regarding Marian Otrzebicki and other Polish Forced Laborers, circa 1946

Lists from the foreigner tracing operation compiled by German offices by order of the Allies in 1946/47 were organized by the ITS according to occupation zones, districts, nationalities and list types - a good example of the archive's thematic structure. The stamps on the list come from the British zonal tracing bureau in Göttingen.



Delivering DP Documents to the New ITS Main Building, Arolsen, 1952

After the dissolution of the *International Refugee Organization*, the ITS received over 30 tons of registration documents for Displaced Persons at the end of 1952. This huge addition to the ITS archive led to the creation of a third collection in summer 1953: the *Postwar Documents Section*.

OTREMBSKI IC
 ELIGIBLE FOR ARO CARE
 AND MAINTENANCE
 FRANK, A.

APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

PCIRO (B) 27/6/51

OTREMBSKI, JH
 OTREMBSKI
 Family name

30.8.47
 Date

427190
 Identity No.

Other spelling or aliases

6. POLISH
 Nationality

R.C. Sect. Lawr. Other
 Religion

7. E. M. Sp. D. W. H. M. C.
 Marital status

4170-70m 15
 3939

Names	Relationship to head	Date of birth	Nationality	Town, province and country of birth
X Marian Man	Head	21. Nov. 1915	POLISH	Kolon na/Lodz Poland
Woman				
Children				

Other members of family
 Full names

CM/a for wife inside.

7. Places of residence for last 10 years

For whom	dates	Town or village, province and country
87	1937-20.11.39	Kolon na Lodz Poland
88	20.11.39-26.8.39	POLISH ARMY POLAND
89	26.8.39-1.4.40	GÖRLITZ SCHLESSEN STALAG 8A Germany
90	1.4.40-10.10.40	Kemmer Westfalen Germany Stalag 6A
91	10.10.40-1.4.42	Letmarthe/Jserlohn Westf. "
92	1.4.42-31.1.44	JSERLOHN WESTFALEN Germany
93	31.1.44-1.4.45	BUCHENWALD THÜRINGEN Germany
94	1.4.45-2.8.45	DACHAU BAYERN GERMANY
95	2.8.45-1.4.45	MÜNCHEN "
96	1.4.45-1.4.46	DP-CAMP MENDEN Westphalia Germany
97	1.4.46-Today	JSERLOHN Westfalen "

Application for Support as a Displaced Person from Marian Otrembski, October 30, 1947

The index cards, lists and case files compiled by Allied relief organizations for helping Displaced Persons (DPs) were and are an important resource. Documents like this application, from a file of the International Refugee Organization for Marian Otrembski, provide clues about peoples' whereabouts and movements after the liberation.

Marian Otremski

1915 - 1997

Marian Otremski is an example of many victims of the Nazis whose fates are documented all across the ITS archive. He was a Polish soldier who was captured by the Germans and performed forced labor from 1942 in the city of Iserlohn. When Marian Otremski tried to escape in 1944, he was imprisoned in the concentration camps of Buchenwald, Natzweiler and Dachau. After the liberation, he lived as a Displaced Person in Germany and spent five years as a driver for Allied aid organizations. Because he was unable to emigrate to Australia as planned, Marian Otremski remained with his new family in Iserlohn.



Passport Photos of Marian Otremski, his Wife and his Son, 1951

After the liberation, Marian Otremski returned as a Displaced Person to Iserlohn, where in 1949 he married the Dutch woman Maria van Kessel, who had also lived there during the war. Their son Romvald-Uno was born in 1950. These three photos are from an *International Refugee Organization* file.

D 785 264

Marian Otremski
(geb. 21.11.1915) 5860 Iserlohn, den 13. August 1992
Viktoriastr. 21

Empf.-Beskopung
Erledigt mit Schreiben vom 30.09.92 G.F.M.

Internationaler Buchdienst
Große Allee 5 - 9
3548 Arolsen

Betr.: Ermittlung der KZ-Nummern in den verschiedenen KZ-Lagern, in denen ich untergebracht war.

Besagend auf mein Anfang'August mit einer Ihrer Damen geführten Telefonat gebe ich Ihnen folgenden Sachverhalt bekannt:

Als Kriegsgefangener kam ich nach Deutschland und wurde später als ziviler Gefangener dienstverpflichtet. Als Gegner des Nationalsozialismus schloß ich mich einem Kreis von Widerstandskämpfern an. Leider fiel die Sache auf und ich verzweigte mich der Verhaftung durch Flucht zu entziehen, wurde aber am 30.7.44 durch die Gestapo in Siegen verhaftet. Von 30.7. - 1.12.44 war ich in Polizeifängnis in Siegen inhaftiert. Als Gefangener wurde ich in diesem Zeitraum bei den Gelwelder Eisenwerken zum Arbeitsersatz eingesetzt. Dort erlitt ich einen Arbeitsunfall und kam als Gefangener in das Krankenhaus Fliederbach bei Siegen.

Vom 2.12. - 12.12.44 wurde ich als politischer Häftling des Konzentrationslager Buchenwald überstellt.

Vom 15.12.44 - 1.4.45 war ich als politischer Gefangener im Konzentrationslager Dautweiler (Kommando Auerbach - Bensheim).

Vom 2.4.45 - 4.4.45 war ich politischer Häftling im KZ Dachau.

Vom 5.4.45 - 2.5.45 war ich als politischer Gefangener im KZ Dachau, Außenkommando München-Ries.

Befreit wurde ich am 2.5.45 durch die Alliierten.

Auf dem Kopf meiner damaligen KZ-Bekleidung befindet sich noch die Nr. 67556 mit rotem Winkel und einem P. Welche Nummer ich von den anderen Lagern hatte, weiß ich nicht mehr.

Wie ich Ihnen am Telefon schon sagte, wurde meine Klage einseitig vom GJG Düsseldorf abgewiesen mit der Begründung, daß ich es nicht geschafft worden sei, da ich mich den Listen des 3. Reiches nicht unterworfen habe.

Da ich hoffe, daß ich irgendwann doch noch einmal mein Recht auf eine Entfindung bekommen werde, würde ich gerne, wenn möglich, die fehlenden Nummern aus den jeweiligen Konzentrationslagern haben.

Da Sie mir schon sagten, daß sehr viele Anfragen bei Ihnen vorliegen, habe ich mich schon auf eine längere Wartezeit eingestellt.

Mit Frdl. Gruß

M. Otremski

ITS Arolsen	
Dts.:	17.08.1992
Anlagen:	
Post-Beleg:	17.8.92
Empf. Datum:	15.09.1992
Empf. Name:	23.01.1992

247 05. 1. 95

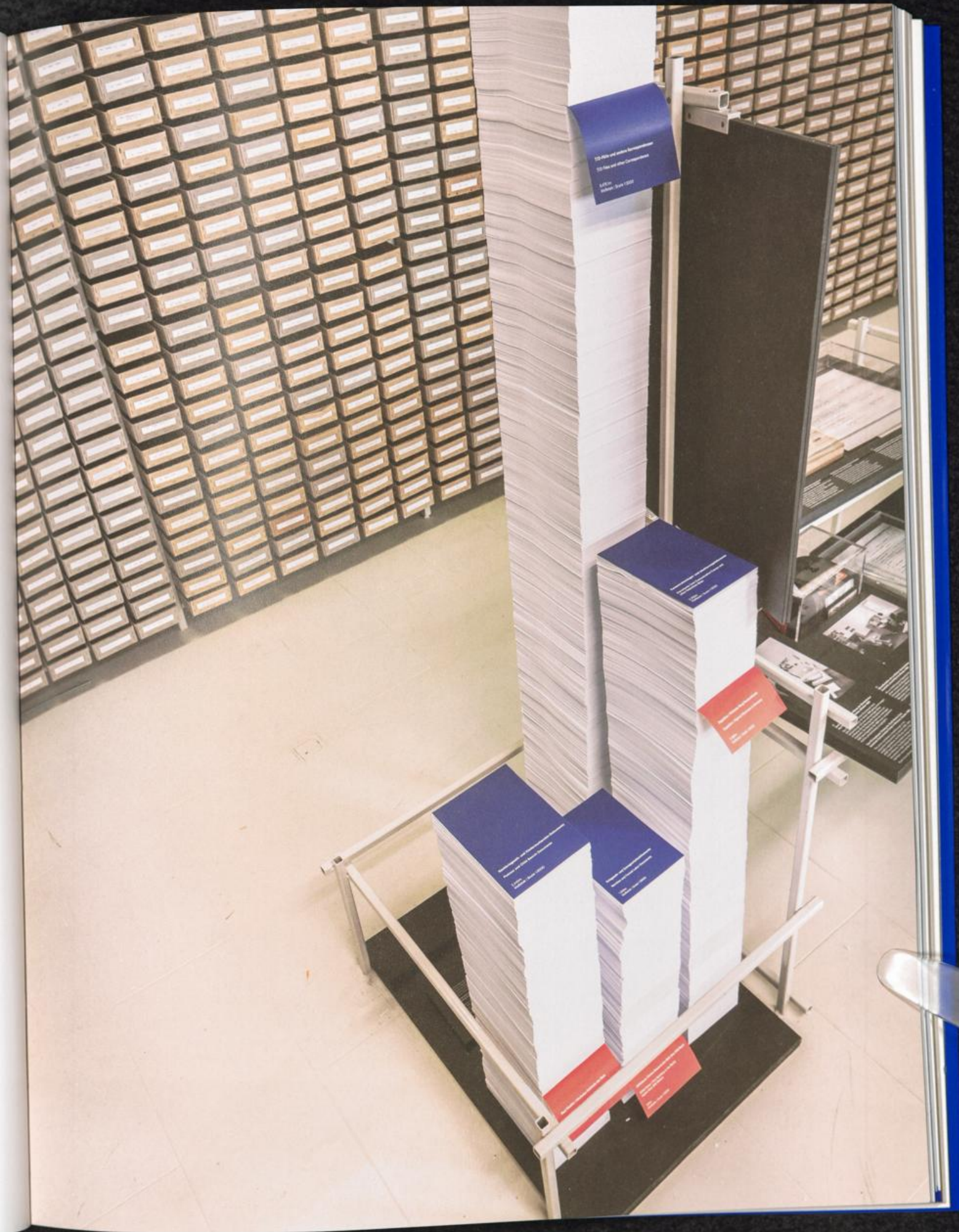
Letter from Marian Otremski about his Persecution, Iserlohn, August 13, 1992

In 1992 Marian Otremski wrote to the ITS as part of his second attempt to receive compensation for his time in the concentration camps. His first claim had been rejected by a West German court in the 1960s. In 1992 he was still living in Iserlohn. It is not known whether he received compensation before he died in 1997.

Infographics

Over 30 Million Documents – the Scope of the Collections in the Arolsen Archives

This model conveys an impression of the scope of the collections in the *Arolsen Archives*. The pillars show how high the documents from the three main collections and the *Tracing/Documentation files (T/D files)* of the *Arolsen Archives* would be if they were stacked up.



Preserve and Destroy: The Acquisition of Documents

The ITS had searched for documents ever since it was founded. But from the 1980s and especially after the end of the Cold War, its activities in acquiring documents grew by leaps and bounds. For many inquiries from Nazi victims in Central and Eastern Europe the ITS was unable to find information in its own archive. ITS teams therefore traveled through Germany and Europe to acquire, copy or microfilm collections of original documents. But this document acquisition was also highly problematic, because of an outdated definition of who was a Nazi victim, one which had been overtaken by recent public debates.



Two ITS Employees Filming the Death Books from Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Moscow, October 1989

This photo symbolizes a breakthrough in the acquisition of documents. In autumn 1989, after lengthy negotiations, the ITS was able to film the death books from Auschwitz during a multi-week trip to Moscow. The Red Army had seized the documents in 1945. Before 1989, Soviet archives had been inaccessible for decades.

Microfilm Cases for the Filmed Death Books from Auschwitz, Labeled in October 1989

Before the introduction of digital technology in the 2000s, ITS employees acquired documents using microfilm cameras suspended in large frames. In autumn 1989, the two employees sent to Moscow filled 29 films, each with around 3,000 images.

C1

Nr. 26400/1942

Auschwitz, den 9. September 1942

Der Schneider David Aandagt

geborene _____

wohnhaft Amsterdam, Boterhofstraat 18

ist am 1. September 1942 um 18 Uhr 00 Minuten

in Auschwitz, Ankerstrasse

Der Verstorbene war geboren am 26. April 1906

in Amsterdam

(Standort) _____

Elter: Jacob Aandagt

Mutter: Rebecca Aandagt geborene Sliex, wohnhaft in Amsterdam

Der Verstorbene war nicht verheiratet mit Leutje Aandagt geborene Bouboom

Eingetragen auf mündliche schriftliche Anzeige des Arztes Doktor der Medizin Kramer in Auschwitz vom 1. September 1942

Die Übereinstimmung mit dem Erdbuch wird bescheinigt

Vergeben, genehmigt und unterschrieben

Auschwitz, den 9. 9. 1942

Der Standesbeamte In Vertretung _____

Der Standesbeamte In Vertretung _____

Telefonat _____

Ehrsch _____

(Standort) _____

Printout of Microfilmed Death Certificate for Dutch Jew David Aandagt, September 9, 1942

The microfilms from Moscow finally gave the ITS proof of the deaths of thousands of victims in Auschwitz. Documents were often filmed hastily under bad conditions. The focus was on recording the victims' names. Some documents are partly illegible, like this one, where the finger of the employee holding the book was in the way.



Neue Dokumente für internationalen Suchdienst

Kopien bisher unter Verschluss gehaltener Akten und Karteikarten präsentierte der Direktor des Moskauer Generalstaatsarchivs, Anatolli Prokopenko (links), gestern beim Internationalen Suchdienst in Arolsen. Im Gepäck hatte die Sowjetische Delegation die Zusage an den Suchdienst, nach der Aufnahme von 46 Auschwitz-Todesbüchern nun auch Dokumente kopieren zu können, um deren Herausgabe 25 Jahre lang gekämpft wurde. Bildmitte: Charles-Claude Biedermann, Direktor des Suchdienstes in Arolsen - rechts: Alexei Krichtalovitsch, stellvertretender Suchdienstleiter aus der UdSSR. (Foto:stim)



Hessische/Niedersächsische Allgemeine Report on a Press Conference in Arolsen, November 10, 1989

In November 1989 the ITS negotiated with the Central State Archive in Moscow to film more documents, including those from Sachsenhausen concentration camp which had been taken to Moscow in 1945. Acquiring such documents helped many victims of Nazi persecution and their relatives.

Printing out Microfilm in the ITS Photo Lab, Arolsen, circa 1991

To incorporate filmed documents in its archive, the ITS had to print the microfilms document by document. The printouts were then given page numbers and stored in folders in the archive. Names in the documents were recorded on cards for the *Central Name Index*.

Audio Station

Interviews

“ In 1994 I was in Moscow for four weeks. Then there were trips to the UK, several to Belarus – in Minsk. One time in Minsk I arranged a last-minute trip to Brest for a week in the same period; I was in Ukraine several times; Prague, twice in the Czech Republic. ”

Constanze Schmidt

“ Once, in Speyer, we were in a psychiatric hospital or something. ... I didn't have a clue about euthanasia or anything ... So you really just looked for the names – is that maybe a Polish forced laborer or a German Jew? – and you microfilmed it. ”

Jens Paul

Employees Describing their Document Acquisition Experiences in 2018

The ITS continued to acquire documents until 2006. In the end, the focus was on Eastern Germany and countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The two employees here describe their trips and the often unusual working conditions.

*“ When we were on the road, you never knew what to expect.
... In big companies, you were taken into the cafeteria. But in
some places you were taken down into the filthiest cellar, in the
winter, with open windows, and then you had to improvise. ”*

Jens Paul

*“ Back then in Moscow, I was totally irritated at the start by these
huge masses of German files. ”*

Constanze Schmidt

ITS 817						ITS 817	
221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221
221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221
581	1.2.17	Wiesbaden	Bonn	26.8.44	22.8.44		
582	1.2.17	Bonn	Bonn	26.8.44	22.8.44		
583	1.2.17	Bonn	Bonn	26.8.44	22.8.44		
584	1.2.17	Bonn	Bonn	26.8.44	22.8.44		
585	1.2.17	Bonn	Bonn	26.8.44	22.8.44		
586	1.2.17	Bonn	Bonn	26.8.44	22.8.44		
587	1.2.17	Bonn	Bonn	26.8.44	22.8.44		
588	1.2.17	Bonn	Bonn	26.8.44	22.8.44		
589	1.2.17	Bonn	Bonn	26.8.44	22.8.44		
590	1.2.17	Bonn	Bonn	26.8.44	22.8.44		

Suchdienst in der Bonner Haftanstalt

Kurz vor Aktenvernichtung

14-16 Tage später wären sie zu spät gekommen. Dann wären die Akten vernichtet gewesen, die zwei Mitarbeiter des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Arolsen gestern in der Justizvollzugsanstalt an der Wilhelmstraße durchforsteten. Der Suchdienst, eine Einrichtung des Internationalen Roten Kreuzes, forscht in den Bonner Akten nach allen Ausländern, die zwischen 1933 und 1945 in dem Gefängnis waren. Der Nachweis dieser Zeit kann für eine noch unbekanntere Zahl von Menschen Bedeutung in Fragen der Wiedergutmachung oder der Rente haben. In Arolsen werden die Namen mit den dort gespeicherten verglichen.

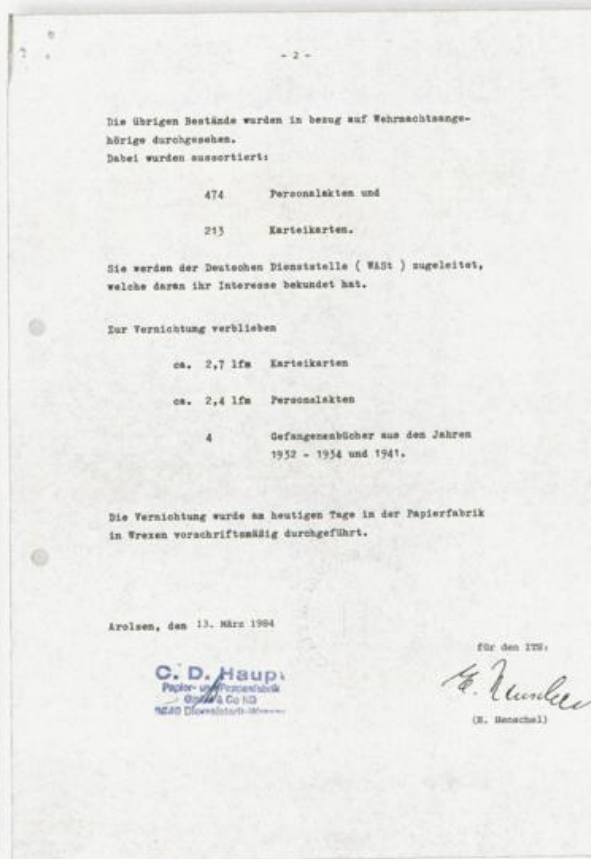
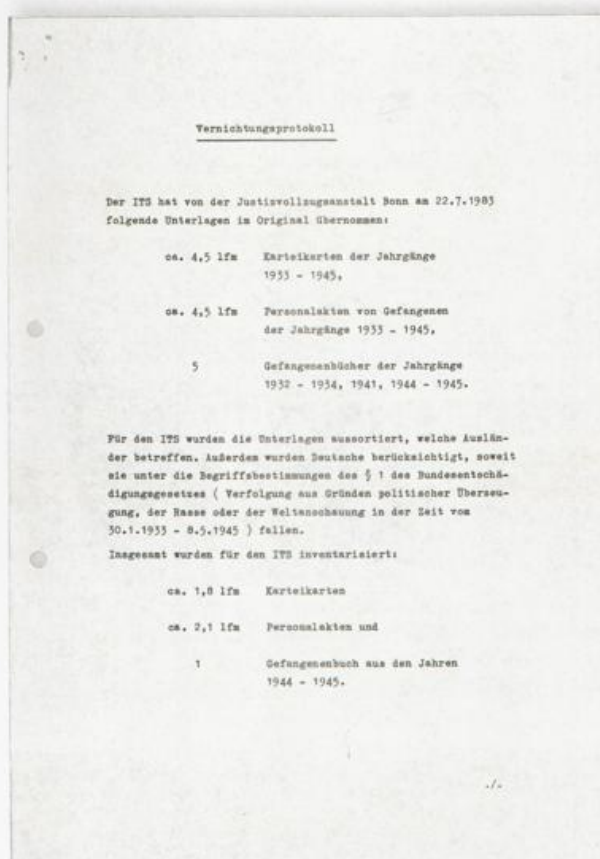
In der Haftanstalt, die in allen Bereichen unter Raummangel leidet, soll durch Aktenvernichtung Luft im Archiv geschaffen werden. Unterlagen, die 30 Jahre alt sind, werden freigegeben für den Reißwolf. In 14 Tagen, so Dr. Peter Höflich, Leiter der Justizvollzugsanstalt, wären die Aktenberge nicht mehr dagewesen.

The Bonner Generalanzeiger Reported on the Document Acquisition, July 22, 1983

Securing the files from Bonn Prison was one of the first new document acquisition efforts in the Federal Republic of Germany. The ITS often acquired files shortly before they were due to be destroyed, as was the case here. At the time, there were no laws requiring authorities to hand over their files to a state archive.

Redactions in the Original Prisoner Register of Bonn Prison from 1944/45

After acquiring the documents, ITS employees redacted the names of all prisoners not included in the target group of foreigners or victims of Nazi persecution. This action was based on a restrictive German compensation law from the 1950s, even though its narrow definition of persecution had been publicly criticized since the early 1980s.

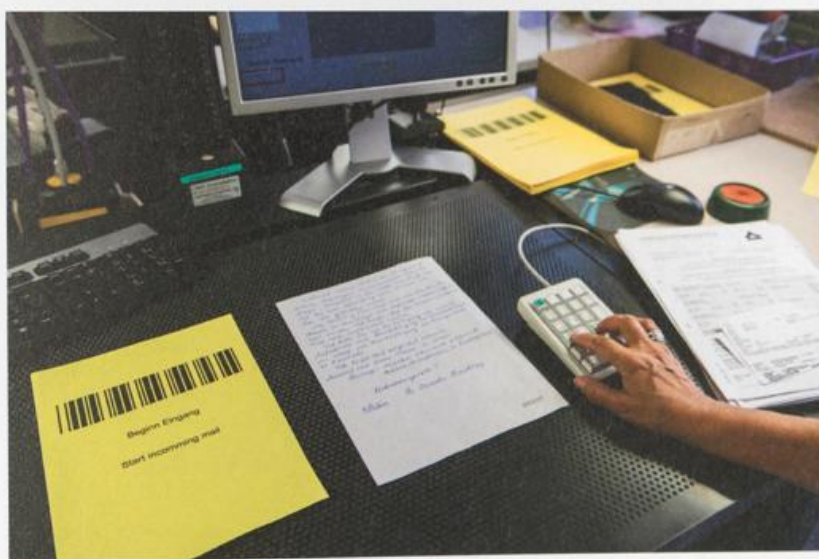


ITS "Destruction Log" for Bonn Prison Documents that had been Separated out, March 13, 1984

The Bonn documents were separated according to the dubious criterion defined in Paragraph 1 of the German compensation law, and many were permanently destroyed by the ITS. This shows how public debates and new research concerning the Nazi persecution of social outsiders and other "forgotten victims" had passed by the ITS in the 1980s.

Digitization and Preservation

The ITS was a pioneer in the digitization of archival material. Its first major project was launched in the late 1990s to speed up the process of providing information from the archive. While there was limited space in the crowded rows of shelves, multiple employees can conduct research in parallel on computers. The daily use of the documents also resulted in wear and tear. Digitization thus protects the valuable collections in Arolsen from irreversible further harm or even destruction. Although nearly all of the holdings have been scanned, digitization and preservation constitute a long-term challenge.



Preparing to Scan a T/D File, Bad Arolsen,
August 22, 2018

One major digitization project concerns the nearly three million *Tracing/Documentation files* (T/D files), which preserve all correspondence with and about individual victims of Nazi persecution. The scanning process starts by removing all metal, checking the sequence of pages and the stamping of the documents.

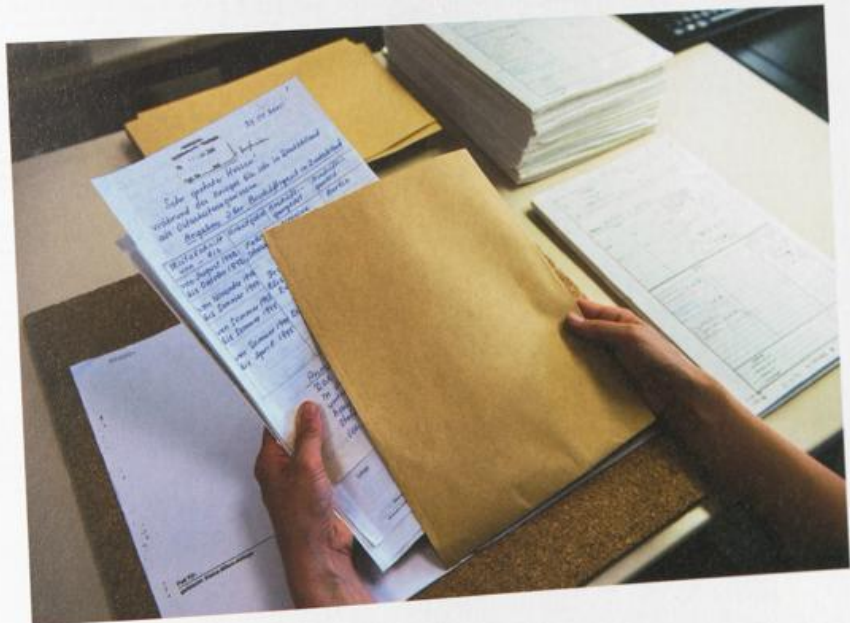
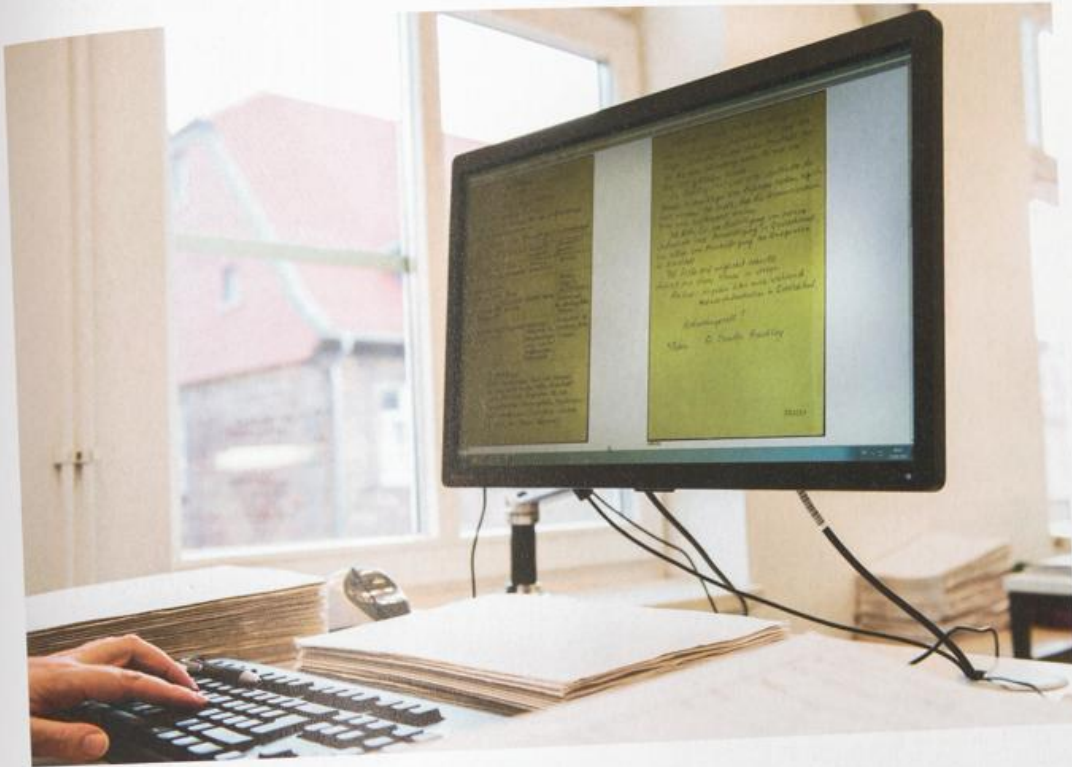
Scanning a T/D File Image by Image, Bad Arolsen,
August 22, 2018

For T/D files like this one for former forced laborer Sinaida Baschlay, the front and back of each document are scanned individually. Barcode sheets are inserted to separate the incoming and outgoing correspondence. A computer uses this to automatically generate the proper digital folder structure.



**Metal Removed from around 24,000 T/D Files
to Prepare them for Scanning**

To prepare each file, all metal is removed (staples, paper clips, pins, etc.) to ensure clean scanning and prevent long-term damage through rust or tearing. The waste metal shown here was taken from around 24,000 files over the course of three months in the spring of 2018.



Quality Control for the Scanning Process on a Computer Screen, Bad Arolsen, August 22, 2018

After scanning, quality control is carried out on a screen so the document can be scanned again if necessary. The digital copies are then imported into the archive system, and relevant information, such as names, birthdates and file numbers, are manually entered in the archive database.

Storing Scanned Documents in Acid-Free Protective Envelopes, Bad Arolsen, August 22, 2018

To complete the combined digitization and preservation efforts, the *T/D* file material is placed in acid-free envelopes to protect the paper from decay. Most holdings in the *Arolsen Archives* are stored in fire- and water-resistant protective cartons.

* OCT-FAX *

Original

OSSENBERG & SCHNEIDER PARTNERSCHAFT
EDV-BERATER UND UNTERNEHMENSBERATER

Abbildung 24: Idealzustand der ITS-Arbeitsweise

In entsprechender Weise sind dann neben der Fallbearbeitung auch alle weiteren Tätigkeiten des ITS, z.B. Inventarisierungen, Verkartungen und Integration von Neuerwerbungen mit Hilfe von informationstechnischen Verfahren in elektronischen Bestand vorzunehmen.

Vorgehensweise

Dieser Idealzustand kann innerhalb eines überschaubaren Zeitraums nicht in einem Schritt erreicht werden. Neben der bereits dargestellten Digitalisierung des Dokumentenbestands wäre eine vollständige Neuvkartung durchzuführen, um die Inhalte der ZNK-Datenbank zu erzeugen. Nach sehr groben Schätzungen läge ein derzeitiger Aufwand - bei Rückgewinnung der Daten aus der ZNK - mindestens in der Größenordnung von 500 Personeng Jahren.

Daher wird schrittweise - ohne dieses Ziel aus den Augen zu verlieren - eine Annäherung an die Ideallösung über eine Folge von Teillösungen angestrebt, die

- jeweils in sich abgeschlossene Ergebnisse liefern, die für die tägliche Arbeit des ITS verwendet werden können,

65

102.1.2000
She, bitte besprechen, ob diese Version aktuell ist!
Bad Arolsen, 22.12.1999
she

Ja, die 3.2000

Digitalisierung der Zentralen Namenkartei des Internationalen Suchdienstes

Mit dem Digitalisierungsprojekt in der Zentralen Namenkartei des ISDs wurde im Januar 1998 begonnen. Nach technischen Anfangsschwierigkeiten begann die Aufnahme des Routinebetriebs zum Ende des ersten Quartals 1998.

Von Beginn an wurde, in Anbetracht der zu erwartenden Beschleunigung in der Antworterteilung und somit aus humanitärer Sicht, ein Abschluss der Arbeiten für Spätherbst dieses Jahres festgelegt. Ende November 1998 kam die Einsicht, daß die Masse von ca. 47 Mio. Karteikarten - welche beidseitig gescannt werden mußten - wegen immer wieder auftretenden neuen technischen Schwierigkeiten nicht zeitgerecht zu bewältigen sei. Der Einsatz eines zweiten Scanners zur Erhöhung des Durchsatzes wurde unerlässlich. Damit trug dieser zur Kompensation der bis dahin zu verkraftenden Ausfallzeiten bei.

Im Laufe des Projekts erwies sich eine weitere Vorkehrung als ebenfalls unausweichlich - die Karteikarten in Plastikhüllen einzulegen, die beim Einzug am Scanner aufgrund ihrer Papierstärke große Probleme bereiten.

Die nächste unvermeidbare Maßnahme war, dazu überzugehen, den Großteil der Hinweis-karten „einzutüten“, um deren enormen Verstaubung sowie dem beim Scannvorgang auftretenden nicht unwesentlichen Abrieb- und damit der Verschmutzung der Scanner, gleichzusetzen mit der Verringerung des Durchsatzes - effektiv entgegenzuwirken.

Die Leistung von Überstunden - ab Ende September 1999 bis 21.00 Uhr sowie samstags bis 15.00 Uhr - trug letztlich dazu bei, daß die Digitalisierung der gesamten Kartei am 16. Dezember 1999 termingerecht abgeschlossen werden konnte.

Die Gesamtkosten des Digitalisierungsprojekts beziffern sich auf ca. 4 Mio. DM (incl. der Beratungs- und Personalkosten sowie der Kosten für die Vor- und Nacharbeiten, die Geräte und die Miete).

Der ISD ist überzeugt, in den nächsten zwei Monaten, nach den noch zu erbringenden Folgearbeiten - insbesondere im Softwarebereich (z. B. Durchführung der Zuordnungsläufe) - die Gesamtheit der Images und Datensätze zur ausschließlichen IT-Bearbeitung in der Zentralen Namenkartei zur Verfügung zu haben: der entscheidende Faktor zur Beschleunigung der Kartbearbeitung und somit gerade rechtzeitig für die möglichen Anforderungen aus der Stiftungsinitiative deutscher Unternehmen.

she 22/12/99

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ITS Digital Workflow Concept from Ossenberger & Schneider, July 22, 1997

In the summer of 1997, the IT service provider Ossenberger & Schneider presented a concept for handling inquiries fully digitally at the ITS. It encompassed digital research in the Central Name Index and in all archival holdings. As recommended, the ITS and the service provider soon began implementing some of these solutions.

Internal Report on Scanning the Central Name Index, December 22, 1999

The first big project was the digitization of the Central Name Index in 1998/99 using sheet-feed scanners. The ITS expected hundreds of thousands of inquiries for forced labor compensation. The report shows how difficult, expensive and resource-intensive it was to start digitizing the archive.

Übersicht Digitalisierung, % bis

Stand: 21.08.2006

Bezeichnung	Teilbereich	Dokumentationsbereich	Zeitraum	Anzahl	Einheit	Anzahl bereits gescannt	Anzahl Images gescannt	% Fertig	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fornblattlisten (neu) amerikanische Zone	2.1.1.2	Listen, Kriegszeit	21.07.2004 - 24.09.2004	210.096	Images	62.000	62.000	100						82.000		
Fornblattlisten Unische Zone	2.1.3.1	Listen, Kriegszeit	27.09.2004 - 18.12.2004	276.930	Images	170.000	204.000	100						176.000		
Fornblattlisten französische Zone	2.1.3.1	Listen, Kriegszeit	18.12.2004 - 17.01.2005	92.768	Images	39.500	46.200	100						18.700	18.700	
Zentralkarte der Franz. Zone	2.1.3.2	Karte, alpha	02.06.2000 - 19.07.2000	671.790	Karten	600.000	600.000	100								
Tafelkarte der Franz. Zone	2.1.3.3	Karte, alpha	02.06.2000 - 19.07.2000	108.924	Karten	300.000	300.000	100								
Fornblattlisten (alt) sowjetische Zone	2.1.4.1	Listen, Kriegszeit	17.01.2005 - 01.02.2005	60.790	Images	34.000	40.800	100								
Fornblattlisten (neu) sowjetische Zone	2.1.4.2	Listen, Kriegszeit	01.02.2005 - 17.02.2005	41.103	Images	25.000	30.000	100						53.300	48.670	
Krankenhausunterlagen sowjetische Zone	2.1.4.3	Listen, Kriegszeit				11.000	13.200									
Personenstandskunden Russische Zone I	2.1.4.4	Karte, alpha	21.04.2005 - 28.04.2005	40.181		0									40.181	
Personenstandskunden Russische Zone II	2.1.4.5	Karte, alpha				5.000										1.282
Personenstandskunden Leipzig	2.1.4.6	Karte, alpha	21.04.2005	1.282	Images	0										
Fornblattlisten Berlin	2.1.5.1	Listen, Kriegszeit	24.06.2000 - 19.02.2001	112.879	Images	89.000	66.000	100						42.800	12.200	
Krankenhausunterlagen Berlin	2.1.5.2	Listen, Kriegszeit				11.000	13.200									
Kriegsrufer Berlin-Kater	2.1.5.3	Karte, alpha	28.01.2000	87.864	Karten	0		100								
Fornblattlisten Österreich	2.1.6.1	Listen, Kriegszeit				0	16.800									
Listen Polen	2.1.7.1	Listen, Kriegszeit				0										
Listen Russland	2.1.8.1	Listen, Kriegszeit				0										92.881
Personenstandskunden Moskwa	2.1.8.2	Karte, alpha	18.04.2005 - 21.04.2005	32.831		0										
Listenmaterial Tschechoslowakei	2.1.9.1	Listen, Kriegszeit				0		100								
Verschiedene Zonen und Kreise	2.1.10.1	Listen, Kriegszeit	18.12.2004 - 18.12.2004	7.177	Images											
Listen Belgien	2.1.11.1	Listen, Kriegszeit														
Listen Frankreich	2.1.12.1	Listen, Kriegszeit														
Listen Jugoslawien	2.1.13.1	Listen, Kriegszeit														
Listen Niederlande	2.1.14.1	Listen, Kriegszeit														
Listen Norwegen	2.1.15.1	Listen, Kriegszeit														
Berliner Kater (4. französisches Verbleiben)	2.2.1.1	Karte, alpha	04.2000	280.848	Karten	300.000	300.000	100						300.000		
Albaner Karte	2.2.1.2	Karte, alpha				5.000										
Balkan Karte	2.2.1.3	Karte, alpha				60.000										
Russen Karte	2.2.1.4	Karte, alpha				300.000										
Listenmaterial zu Kart	2.2.1.5					15.000								67.400	232.707	318.888
Individuelle Kriegszeitkarte	2.2.2.1	Karte, alpha	seit 03.08.2002	1.083.866	Images	2.209.000	4.400.000	49,39						341.596	127.285	
Personenstandskunden Westzone allgemein	2.2.2.2	Karte, alpha	17.02.2005 - 19.04.2005	498.264	Images	300.000	300.000	100						300.000		
Karte der Organisation Todt	2.2.2.3	Karte, alpha	17.04.2000	23.220	Karten	20.000	40.000	100						20.000		
Listen Norwegen (D.F.)	2.2.1.2	Listen, Kriegszeit				2.000										
Listen Bayern (D.F.)	2.2.1.3	Listen, Kriegszeit				200										
Listenmaterial Gen. Bau-trup Berlin	2.2.2.1					2.800	5.000									
Listenmaterial Arbeitsamt Warschau	2.2.2.2	Listen, Kriegszeit	2.5.2005 - 9.5.2005	38.044	Images	13.500	18.200	100								
Grüßkarten	2.2.4.1					3.850	4.820									
Verschiedene Schiffsbesatz	2.2.5.1					16.000	22.800									4.531
Unbekannte Tote (o.N.)	2.2.5.2		28.04.2005 - 2.8.2005	13.230	Images	6.900	7.800	67								
Zwischenraum KRZ				4.392.899		8.701.950								0	1.378.730	58.870
Nachkriegszeitlicher OP-2-Karte	3.1.1.1	Karte, alpha	10.06.1999 - 08.05.2001	3.367.612	Karten	3.300.000	5.250.000	100						67.400	487.070	950.341
-KIL OP-Karten Rücklauf			3.2006	84	Ordner											748.181
AJDC Karte Transporte	3.1.1.2					30.000	30.000									
KEM-Unterlagen (Umschläge)	3.2.1.1					25.000	30.000									
CM-Unterlagen Deutschland	3.2.2.1					8.750.000										
CM-Unterlagen Italien	3.2.2.2					0										
CM-Unterlagen Österreich	3.2.2.3					0										
CM-Unterlagen Schweiz	3.2.2.4					0										
CM-Unterlagen Schweden/Dänk	3.2.2.5					100.000	120.000									
OP-Krankenunterlagen (Umschläge)	3.3.3.1	Karte, alpha				10.200	12.240									
Hongkong-Alten	3.2.3.1					0										181.888
LINHC-Ümschläge	3.2.3.2					147	180.000	100								128.000
Emigrationslisten	3.3.1.1	Listen, Ntz				365	128.000	100								
OP-Listen	3.3.1.2	Listen, Ntz	ab 9.2006	777	Ordner	128.000	180.000	69								
F18-Listen 777	3.3.1.3	Listen, Ntz	30.03.2004 - 29.04.2004	777		38.000	43.900	7777								



Internal Report on Scanning Progress in Parts of Collections 2 and 3, August 21, 2006

This interim report outlined the progress of the document scanning process, which had started in 1999. The list of holdings from the second and third collections of the Arolsen Archives conveys an impression of the mass of documents and the length of the process, which is still not completed.

Sinaida Iwanowna Baschlay

1914 - ?

Former forced laborer Sinaida Baschlay from the Soviet Union is one of nearly three million people with a *T/D file*. She was a draftswoman who lived and worked in Kharkov before the Germans deported her for forced labor in 1942. She had to work as a maid and in the armaments industry, first in Berlin and later in a small town near Marburg. When she returned to Kharkov in 1945, she faced rejection. "Working for the enemy" was considered treason in the USSR. From the 1990s, Sinaida Baschlay became an advocate for Soviet Nazi victims to be recognized and compensated.



Sinaida Baschlay Working as a Secretary for the Society of Nazi Victims, Kharkov, circa 2000

In the successor states of the Soviet Union, many former forced laborers and concentration camp prisoners were in a difficult situation. They suffered social and health problems from the lasting effects of persecution, post-war discrimination and social upheaval. This made it all the more important to fight for their interests.



Während meiner Arbeit am Kriegswert
meinen damaligen Aufenthaltsort war das
Lager „Steimbel“ in der Nähe Neustadt, wo
ich bis zum Abschied nach Heimat am
Juni 1945 geblieben wurde.
Am Frühling 1945 sind alle Ausländer, die
damals in dem Lager sich befunden haben, registriert
worden. Ich hoffe, dass die Namensverzeichnisse
noch aufbewahrt werden.
Ich bitte Sie um Bestätigung von meinem
Aufenthalt und Beschäftigung in Deutschland,
vor allem von Beschäftigung am Kriegswert
in Neustadt.
Ich hoffe auf möglichst schnelle
Antwort und danke Ihnen in voraus.
Beilage: Angaben über mich während
meines Aufenthaltes in Deutschland.

Kobachtungsvoll!

Staus Fr. Sinaida Baschlay

000007

After the Liberation, Sinaida Baschlay Returned Home to the Soviet Union, Kharkov, circa 1946

The forced laborers who returned were considered traitors in the Soviet Union. Tens of thousands were deported to camps, where many died. Sinaida Baschlay was relatively lucky: she was able to resume her profession in Kharkov. But she did not talk about her experiences in Germany until the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

In 2000 Sinaida Baschlay Searched for Proof of her Forced Labor in Germany, April 24, 2000

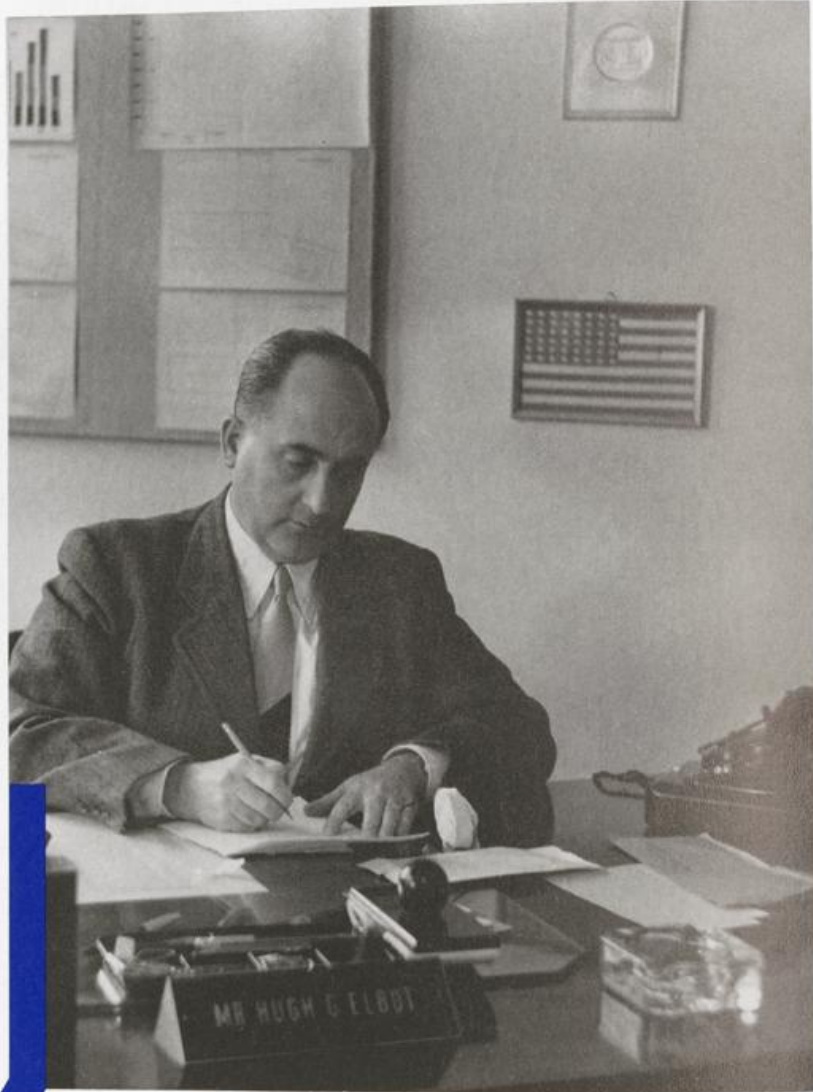
For her compensation claim, Sinaida Baschlay needed proof of her persecution. Like many former forced laborers, she contacted German authorities, who often forwarded letters to the ITS if they could not find evidence themselves. This is what the State Archives in Marburg did: in 2002, the ITS sent her the proof she needed.



Who Managed and Manages the Institution?

The *Arolsen Archives* have always had an international focus, from the founding of the ITS in 1948 to the present day. First run by the *International Refugee Organization* (IRO), then the *High Commission for Occupied Germany* (HICOG) from 1951, management of the ITS archive passed, after lengthy debate, to the *International Committee of the Red Cross* (ICRC) in 1955. Since then it has been financed solely by the German government. In 2013 control of the ITS passed to an *International Commission* which had existed as a supervisory body for the ITS since 1955 but had not been active in this role for a long time. However, it was above all the individual directors on site who truly shaped the course and daily work of the ITS over time.

Hugh G. Elbot



1951

Hugh G. Elbot, Chairman of the ITS Administration under HICOG, at his Desk in Arolsen, circa 1952

A US citizen, Hugh G. Elbot was the leading figure at the ITS under HICOG from 1951 to 1954. He was a lawyer who had worked for US intelligence during World War II. He ran the ITS with the authority of the occupiers, but also sought connections with the Germans in the early days of the Cold War.



**Elbot during a Speech at the Former Barracks
in Arolsen, circa 1952**

Until 1951, the work of the ITS under the IRO was closely tied to relief efforts for Displaced Persons. Elbot reoriented and restructured the ITS. He dramatically reduced the number of staff, set up the archive, established closer cooperation with the German authorities and helped standardize the information that was provided.



**Mural in the New ITS Main Building in Arolsen,
completed in 1953**

This and three other related murals were painted by an artist from Kassel in the stairwell of the new building one year after it was completed. They reflected the self-portrayal of the ITS at the time, serving survivors in the tradition of the Allied liberators. In 1983 the murals were removed during renovation work.

PA:RA - Mr. Guy J. Swope

October 1, 1953

AHC:ITS - Hugh G. Elbot

U.S. Interest in ITS

Pursuant to our recent conversation concerning the subject matter, there follows a summary of services rendered to U.S. Government agencies by ITS:

- a. ITS services the U.S. Escape Program of FOA with information on background and eligibility in an average of 1,500 escapee cases a month.
Reference: Mr. Falk, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Kelly, Frankfurt.
- b. ITS services CIC, U.S. Army, with information on background of several hundred displaced persons, including immigrants to U.S., a month. The Kassel office of CIC dispatches special representatives to ITS Arolsen several times a week to pick up such information.
Reference: Major Maleady, CIC Headquarters Stuttgart; Major Hardy, CIC Frankfurt; Major Leyton, CIC Kassel.
- c. ITS services OSI office (Office of Special Investigations) of the U.S. Air Force in Rotwestern near Kassel with information on the background of displaced persons/applicants for the Air Forces in a varying number of cases.
Reference: Inquiry at U.S. Air Force Headquarters in Wiesbaden.
- d. ITS services the U.S. Department of Justice Overseas Branch, Munich with information on applicants for unblocking of blocked property in the U.S. where the applicant claims to have been a persecutee.
Reference: Mr. Harold Lee, Chief, Overseas Branch of the U.S. Department of Justice, Munich.
- e. ITS services U.S. Consulate in Germany with information on the background of displaced persons/applicants for U.S. immigration visas. After exchange of information with Supervising Consul General L'Heureux, it is estimated that the implementation of the U.S. Refugee Relief Act of 1953 by the end of this year will require a much larger work load of inquiries at ITS on visa applicants.
- f. ITS is expected to furnish information in the near future on a project described to you orally, to J-2 EUCCOM.
Reference: Lt.Col. Raymond, J-2 EUCCOM, Col. Davis, J-3 EUCCOM, Headquarters Frankfurt.

Dokumente in Arolsen

Was geschieht mit den Originaldokumenten der KZ-Lager Buchenwald, Dachau, Flossenbürg, Mauthausen, usw., die sich momentan in Arolsen im Observatoire International des Recherches befinden, um explizit zu werden?

Die Amerikanische Armee hat bei ihrem Vormarsch in Deutschland diese Dokumente beschlagnahmt und somit sind jene Eigentum der amerikanischen Armee. Es sind diese Dokumente kein Beweisstücke der deutschen (Nazis) und Verbrechen in den KZ. Das Gewicht geht nun, Herr Adenauer hätte bei den Alliierten Hochkommissionen in Deutschland verschiedentlich angekündigt, damit diese Dokumente der Bundesregierung zurückgegeben werden sollen.

Wir sind überzeugt, dass unsere Annahmen mit dieser Rückgabe nicht unverständlich sind, aber welche Schritte durch unsere Regierung mit den Alliierten zu unternehmen, damit jene Dokumente so rasch in die Hände der deutschen Regierung fallen?

Auf dem Kongress der F.I.L.D.H. in Paris, schlug Holland vor, einzutreten in der I.M.G. zu intervenieren, damit die Dokumente nicht bleiben, und Holland machte ebenfalls den Vorschlag, eine Internationale «Commission de gestion des documents d'Arolsen» zu bilden, mit kompetenten Leuten natürlich. Dieser Vorschlag wurde einstimmig von allen anwesenden Nationen angenommen.

ZEICHEN DER ZEIT

Adenauer, Ministerpräsident der westdeutschen Bundesrepublik, ist gestorben. Kommt natürlich in den Himmel. Der himmlische Geber hat Petrus, ähnlich wie ich, empfängt unseren Adenauer. Dieser fragt sofort nach seinem Kollegen und Vorgänger, dem schonen Adl. Petrus weist auf eine Gestalt hin, die regungslos in einer Ecke sitzt. Adenauer tritt hinzu und begrüßt Adl. mit einem recht freundlichen: «Guten Tag, Herr Adolf Hitler». Keine Antwort. Adenauer glaubt, der Herr sei ein bisschen schwerhörig geworden und erneuert seinen Gruß: «Recht guten Tag, Herr Kollege Adolf Hitler». Wieder keine Antwort. Da Petrus eben vortritt, fragt unser Adenauer nach dem Grund dieser recht sonderbaren Haltung Adl. Darauf Petrus: «Wie, Herr Adenauer, sehen Sie denn nicht, das dies bloss der Körper Hitler ist; sein Geist ist schon längst wieder drinnen.» Tablão.

99

Elbot Commenting on the Use of the ITS Archive by US Authorities, October 1, 1953

HICOG ran the ITS for a limited period because HICOG was only a temporary institution. The Federal German Government was interested in the archive. But should it be given to the Germans? This was a charged issue for Elbot, not just because of the Nazi period, but because various US services used the ITS archive for their own purposes.

Rappel, Journal of a Luxembourg Survivors' Association, on the Future of the ITS, 1952

The question of the future management of the ITS was hotly debated. *Rappel* was one of several international newspapers and journals which, prompted by Elbot, spoke out against giving the archive to the Germans. Many concentration camp survivors felt it was unacceptable for Germans to be in charge of the documents again.

1955



West German Chancellor Adenauer and ICRC President Ruegger Signing the Bonn Agreement, 1955

The *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)* offered an alternative to handing over the ITS to the Germans. It took control of the ITS in 1955. The ICRC had extensive tracing experience. But its leadership was problematic for the USA because the ICRC insisted on neutrality and maintained contact with the Soviet Union.

Mittwoch, den 14. Dezember 1955

Bundesanzeiger

Nr. 241 - Seite 3

Abkommen über die Errichtung eines Internationalen Ausschusses für den Internationalen Suchdienst.

The Government of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America...

IN DER ERWÄGUNG, daß ein Internationaler Suchdienst in Europa geschaffen werden sollte, um die Familien der Vertriebenen und Flüchtlinge, die in nationalsozialistischen Konzentrations- oder Lagerstätten gefangen gehalten wurden, oder ihre Angehörigen, die solche oder andere Wirkungen ihrer Verhaftung und internierten Zustimmungen empfangen zu können.

IN DER ERWÄGUNG, daß die Alliierte Hohe Kommission für Deutschland die Verantwortung für die Durchführung dieses Internationalen Suchdienstes, die durch den UNRWA und der internationalen Flüchtlingsorganisationen obliegt, übernommen hat.

IN DER ERWÄGUNG, daß sich die Regierung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland gemäß Artikel 14 des Statutes Teil des Vertrages zur Regelung des Krieges und Besetzung Ostdeutschlands vom 23. August 1949 in dem am 23. Oktober 1949 in Paris unterzeichneten Protokoll über die Beziehungen der Bundesregierung zu den Bundesmitgliedern der Bundesrepublik Deutschland verpflichtet hat, die Form der Organisation der Suchdienstleistungen in Ostdeutschland im Einklang mit dem Statut des Internationalen Suchdienstes festzulegen zu werden.

BEWUSST, darauf, daß die Alliierte Hohe Kommission zu beiden Seiten hat und daß der Regierung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, der Bundesrepublik Österreich, der Österreichischen Republik, der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika sowie den Niederlanden, Belgien, Frankreich, Großbritannien und den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika gemäß dem Internationalen Suchdienstvertrag die Verantwortung für die Durchführung dieses Internationalen Suchdienstes übertragen ist, in der Erwartung, daß die Verantwortung für die Leitung und Verwaltung des Internationalen Suchdienstes zunächst für die Dauer von fünf Jahren von Institutionen des Internationalen Suchdienstes in dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz zu übertragen werden.

IN DEM WUNSCH, die auf diesem Gebiet bestehende internationale Zusammenarbeit zu fördern, die Mitarbeiter weiterer internationaler Staaten, der Wissenschaftlichen Institute und anderer internationaler Organisationen zu ermutigen, in der Zusammenarbeit mit dem Internationalen Suchdienst, in der Zusammenarbeit mit dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz zu arbeiten, -

SIND WIE FOLGT ÜBEREINGEKOMMEN:

Artikel 1. In dem Artikel des Internationalen Abkommens, dem die Unterzeichnerstaaten beigetreten sind, ist in dem ersten Absatz die Besetzung des Internationalen Ausschusses für den Internationalen Suchdienst wie folgt festgelegt:

1. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird durch einen Ausschuss von achtzehn internationalen Experten bestanden, die von den Unterzeichnerstaaten ernannt werden, die für diese Ernennung von Interesse sind. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz geleitet und wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

2. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

3. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

4. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

5. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

6. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

7. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

8. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

9. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

10. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

11. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

12. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

13. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

14. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

15. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

16. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

17. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

18. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

19. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

20. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

21. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

22. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

23. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

24. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

25. Der Internationale Ausschuss wird von dem Vorsitzenden ernannt, der nach der Wahl dieses Ausschusses die Leitung des Internationalen Suchdienstes in Ostdeutschland übernimmt. Der Ausschuss wird von dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz unterstützt.

Agreement Constituting an International Commission for the International Tracing Service

The Governments of the Kingdom of Belgium, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America...

CONSIDERING that an International Tracing Service was established in Austria for the purpose of assisting persons and families, identifying, locating and reuniting persons, and that the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America...

CONSIDERING that the Allied High Commission for Germany assumed responsibility for the operations of the International Tracing Service, which was previously operated by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the International Refugee Organization.

CONSIDERING that under Article 1 (b) of Chapter 7 of the Statute of the Settlement of Matters Arising out of the War and the Occupation (as amended by Schedule IV to the Protocol on the Termination of the Occupation Regime in the Federal Republic of Germany, signed on 23 October 1954) the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany undertakes to assist the reconstruction of the operations of the International Tracing Service.

NOTING that the Allied High Commission has ceased to exist and that the Government of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, in accordance with the Protocol on the Termination of the Occupation Regime in the Federal Republic of Germany, signed on 23 October 1954, have agreed that the International Tracing Service, which was established in Austria, shall be transferred to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the responsibility for the direction and administration of the International Tracing Service shall be transferred to an initial period of five years from the entry into force of the above-mentioned Protocol.

DESIRING to maintain the international collaboration which has been established in connection with the International Tracing Service, and to promote its activities and development, -

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1. This Agreement shall constitute the International Commission composed of one representative of each of the Contracting Parties to the present Agreement and which shall be presided over by one of these representatives. The first Chairman of the International Commission shall be the Belgian representative.

2. The International Commission may be assisted by other representatives designated by other Contracting Parties to the present Agreement and which are invited to attend by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative, and a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross may, upon request, be present at the meetings. There shall be a copy of the minutes of all meetings of the International Commission.

3. The International Commission shall be convened initially by the Chairman and later that every three years after the expiry of the term of office of the Chairman. It shall meet as it may decide, provided always that the Chairman shall convene a meeting at any time at the request of at least two members of the Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative or of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

4. The International Commission shall take its decisions by a simple majority of its members present and participating, and in cases where the International Commission decides otherwise by any other procedure it expressly provides.

5. The International Commission shall establish its own rules of procedure, subject to approval by the Contracting Parties.

6. The International Commission shall have the duty of maintaining communication between the Commission represented on the Commission in matters relating to the International Tracing Service and of providing directives, agreed with the International Committee of the Red Cross, for the operation of the International Tracing Service.

7. The directives referred to in paragraph 6 of this Article shall be transmitted for action to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

8. In details concerning the implementation of the directives referred to in paragraph 6 and the cooperation between the International Commission and the International Committee of the Red Cross shall be regulated by special agreements between the International Commission and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

9. The Government represented in this Agreement hereby authorizes the Chairman of the International Commission.

10. On their behalf to enter into the Agreement set out in this Article.

11. When herein empowered by a unanimous vote of its members or by a majority of its members, as may be determined by a resolution of the above-mentioned Agreement.

12. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees shall be invited to assist a permanent observer to the International Commission in such other activities of persons who wish to do so.

13. Non-Contracting Organizations having a well-defined interest in the operations of the International Tracing Service may submit suggestions to the International Commission and, under conditions to be determined by the Commission, be invited to take part in the deliberations concerning these suggestions.

14. Any of the Governments represented on the International Commission and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees shall have the right to maintain, at their own expense, a permanent liaison office at the International Tracing Service.

Accord instituant une Commission Internationale pour le Service International de Recherches

Les Gouvernements du Royaume de Belgique, de la République Française, de la République Fédérale d'Allemagne, de l'Etat d'Israël, de la République Italienne, du Grand Duché de Luxembourg et du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord et des Etats-Unis d'Amérique...

CONSIDERANT qu'un Service International de Recherches a été créé en Autriche dans le but de faciliter aux personnes, aux familles, aux individus, de retrouver leurs proches et de les réunir, et que les Gouvernements des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, de la République Française, de la République Fédérale d'Allemagne, de l'Etat d'Israël, de la République Italienne, du Grand Duché de Luxembourg et du Royaume de Belgique ont accepté de contribuer à la reconstruction de ce Service International de Recherches.

CONSIDERANT que le Haut Commissaire des Réfugiés pour l'Allemagne a assumé la responsabilité des opérations du Service International de Recherches, qui a été précédemment dirigé par l'Administration des Nations Unies pour le Secours et le Rétablissement (A.N.S.R.A.) et l'Organisation Internationale des Réfugiés (O.I.R.).

CONSIDERANT que l'Article 1 (b) du Chapitre 7 du Statut de la Convention sur le Règlement des Questions Arisées de la Guerre et de l'Occupation (tel qu'amendé par le Protocole de la Convention sur le Règlement des Questions Arisées de la Guerre et de l'Occupation, signé à Paris le 23 Octobre 1954) engage le Gouvernement de la République Fédérale d'Allemagne à assister la reconstruction des opérations du Service International de Recherches.

NOTANT que le Haut Commissaire des Réfugiés pour l'Allemagne a cessé d'exister et que les Gouvernements du Royaume de Belgique, de la République Française, de la République Fédérale d'Allemagne, de l'Etat d'Israël, de la République Italienne, du Grand Duché de Luxembourg et du Royaume de Belgique ont accepté de contribuer à la reconstruction de ce Service International de Recherches.

DESIRANT maintenir la collaboration internationale établie dans ce domaine, et encourager la coopération dans les activités de recherche, de localisation et de réunification des personnes disparues, et de promouvoir les activités et le développement du Service International de Recherches, -

SONT CONVENUS DE CE QUI SUIT:

Article 1. Il est créé par le présent accord une Commission Internationale composée d'un représentant de chacun des Contractants à cet Accord et présidée par l'un de ces représentants. Le premier Président de la Commission Internationale sera le représentant belge.

2. La Commission Internationale peut être assistée par d'autres représentants désignés par d'autres Contractants à cet Accord et qui sont invités à assister par le Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies ou son représentant, et un représentant du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge peut, sur demande, être présent aux réunions. Il y aura une copie des procès-verbaux de toutes les réunions de la Commission Internationale.

3. La Commission Internationale sera convoquée initialement par le Président et par la suite tous les trois ans après l'expiration de son mandat. Elle se réunira à l'endroit qu'elle décidera, pourvu qu'elle se réunisse au moins deux fois par an à la demande de deux membres du Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies ou de son représentant ou du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge.

4. La Commission Internationale décidera, à la majorité simple des membres présents et participant, et dans les cas où elle décidera autrement par toute autre procédure qu'elle exprime explicitement.

5. La Commission Internationale établira ses propres règles de procédure, sous réserve de l'approbation des Contractants.

6. La Commission Internationale aura le devoir de maintenir la communication entre la Commission représentée sur la Commission en matière relative au Service International de Recherches et de fournir des directives, d'accord avec le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge, pour l'opération du Service International de Recherches.

7. Les directives mentionnées au paragraphe 6 de cet Article seront transmises au Comité International de la Croix-Rouge pour application immédiate.

8. Les dispositions de détail sur l'application des directives mentionnées au paragraphe 6 et sur la coopération entre la Commission Internationale et le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge seront réglées par des accords particuliers entre la Commission Internationale et le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge.

9. Les Gouvernements représentés par les présentes au présent Accord autorisent le Président de la Commission Internationale.

10. A cet effet, ils ont signé, pour leur pays, le présent Accord.

11. A condition, si elle est autorisée par une majorité unanime de ses membres ou par une majorité de ses membres, telle qu'elle sera déterminée par une résolution de l'Accord mentionné.

12. Le Haut Commissaire des Réfugiés pour l'Allemagne sera invité à désigner un observateur permanent de la Commission Internationale au Service International de Recherches, à l'exception des personnes qui souhaitent participer aux délibérations de la Commission sans être membres de celle-ci.

13. Les Organisations non-contractantes ayant un intérêt bien défini dans les opérations du Service International de Recherches pourront soumettre à la Commission Internationale des suggestions et, sous conditions à être déterminées par la Commission Internationale, être invitées à participer aux délibérations de la Commission sans en être membres.

14. Toute des Gouvernements représentés à la Commission Internationale et le Haut Commissaire des Réfugiés pour l'Allemagne auront le droit de maintenir, à leurs propres frais, un bureau de liaison permanent au Service International de Recherches ou de l'un de ses bureaux.

The Bundesanzeiger Published the New Core Document for the ITS, December 14, 1955

The preamble to the Bonn Agreement, covering the creation of an ITS International Commission, defined the institution's new foundations and tasks. The ICRC took charge, for a limited time initially. The German government handled financing, while the International Commission protected the archive.

Nicolas Burckhardt



Nicolas Burckhardt, First ITS Director Appointed by the ICRC, Arolsen, circa 1965

Burckhardt moved from Geneva to Arolsen in 1955. Like all later ICRC directors of the ITS, he already had a career in the ICRC, spoke German and was a Swiss citizen. The portrait of Red Cross founder Henry Dunant behind Burckhardt reflects the reorientation of the ITS: from this point on, it emphasized its exclusively humanitarian mandate.

Albert de Cocatrix



1970

Albert de Cocatrix, Second ITS Director from the ICRC, Speaking to Visitors, Arolsen, 1975

Albert de Cocatrix came to Arolsen in 1955 as the deputy director and held the office of director from 1970 to 1977. He was the first to start opening the ITS for research and remembrance. He was highly respected by the employees. But the German government was increasingly critical of the new direction taken in Arolsen.

Albert de Cocatrix Speaking at a Meeting of the Neuengamme Survivors Association, Paris, 1975

Engaging with associations of victims of Nazi persecution in Western Europe was an important aspect of the opening of the ITS pursued by Albert de Cocatrix in the 1970s. With appearances such as these, he clearly positioned the ITS on the side of the survivors.



Jubiläum beim Internationalen Suchdienst

Jubiläen werden überall gefeiert, die Jubilare stets geehrt. Meistens dafür, daß sie eine Reihe von Jahren ihren Arbeitsplatz nicht gewechselt haben. Eine Feierstunde besonderer Art wurde Mitte November in Arolsen bei Kassel im Gebäude des Internationalen Suchdienstes (ITS) begangen. Acht Mitarbeiter dieser in der ganzen Welt bekannten Einrichtung des Roten Kreuzes haben ein viertel Jahrhundert damit verbracht, Schicksale von Menschen aufzuklären, die infolge des Zweiten Weltkrieges und der Nazi-Verfolgung umgekommen sind oder ihre Angehörigen verloren haben. Für diese im Sinn des Wortes hu-

manitäre Arbeit dankte der Direktor des ITS, Albert de Cocatrix, Hildegard Thiele, Olga Kuznecovs, Maria Sawczenko, Lieselotte Utry, Erich Henschel, Jerzy Mikulski, Wladyslaw Stalinski und Kurt Heinemann. Die Namen der Geehrten weisen bereits aus, daß einige von ihnen aus Osteuropa stammen. Gerade ihrer Kenntnis ist jedoch die Aufklärung vieler Schicksale zu danken, weil sie diese Sprachen und Schreibweisen beherrschen. Wievielen Verfolgten sie zu Rente und Anerkennung als NS-Opfer verholfen haben, wird man nie erfahren.

Freiheit und Recht Article on the Tribute to Long-Standing ITS Employees, 1973

In the 1970s, ITS employees were honored by a director in this way for the first time after 25 years, and their work was publicly recognized. De Cocatrix probably wrote the article himself.



De Cocatrix (Left) Visiting the Auschwitz Concentration Camp Memorial, 1971

While Elbot had clearly positioned the ITS on the side of the West in the early 1950s, de Cocatrix sought contact beyond the borders of the Iron Curtain in the 1970s, especially in Poland. This gave the ITS the chance to also microfilm documents there.



Prominente Besucher beim ITS

Von links nach rechts:
 Prof. Calic, Prof. Kogon, Pierre Gregoire, Prof. Goergen und Direktor de Cocatrix.

Der Vorstand des Internationalen Komitees für die wissenschaftliche Erforschung der Ursachen und Folgen des Zweiten Weltkrieges (Luxemburg) verwirklichte kürzlich den langgehegten Plan, dem Internationalen Suchdienst in Arolsen einen Besuch abzustatten. Der Direktor des Suchdienstes, Albert de Cocatrix, begrüßte den Präsidenten des Komitees, Pierre Gregoire, ehemaligen Außenminister des Großherzogtums Luxemburg, dem Vizepräsidenten Prof. Dr. Eugen Kogon, Verfasser des Standardwerkes „Der SS-Staat. Das System der deutschen Konzentrationslager“, den Generalsekretär Prof. Etouard Calic, u. a. Autor des Buches „Hitler und sein Imperium“, sowie Prof. Etouard Goergen, Schatzmeister des Komitees. Den Gästen wurden die wesentlichen Teile der Archive gezeigt und entsprechende Erläuterungen gegeben. Als ehemalige Vorkämpfer in der wissenschaftlichen Forschungsarbeit seit Jahren tätig sind, bekundeten die Besucher besonders reges Interesse für die Aufgaben und die Arbeit des ITS, die auf der Basis des mittlerweile einmalig in der Welt vorhandenen Dokumentenmaterials fortgeführt wird. Als Ergebnis dieses Besuchs wurde eine erweiterte Zusammenarbeit der beiden Institute auf dem Gebiete der wissenschaftlichen Forschung in Aussicht genommen.

Allgemeine Jüdische Wochenzeitung Article about a Research Visit to the ITS, 1976

Director de Cocatrix's new strategy included opening the ITS for scholars and in-house research. He broadly interpreted the mandate of the ITS and invested money and personnel in it. This was criticized by the German government and the ICRC. It is not clear whether this is why de Cocatrix left the ITS in 1977.

Philipp Züger

1977



ITS Director Philipp Züger (right) with his Deputy, Charles-Claude Biedermann, Arolsen, 1985

Philipp Züger came to Arolsen in 1978 as the third director appointed by the ICRC. With his deputy Charles-Claude Biedermann, he reversed the opening initiated by de Cocatrix in just a few years. He streamlined processes at the ITS, and the work atmosphere declined at the same time.

Historie
Besprechung am 14. März 1978, 11 - 12,00

Anwesend: Herr Dr. F. Züger, Direktor
Herr Opitz
Herr Siebel
Herr Greulich
Herr Jeck

Thema: Arbeiten in der Historischen Abteilung
"Handbuch" oder Untersuchungen über bestimmte Verwaltungs- und Arbeitsvorgänge in den Haftstätten des Dritten Reiches

Herr Opitz gibt zunächst eine Übersicht über die Ursprungspläne, danach war vorgesehen, das Handbuch dreiteilig zu konzipieren. Ein allgemeiner Teil, der eine Beschreibung aller Verwaltungsvorgänge in den Konzentrationslagern umfasst (Registrierung, Kennzeichnung, Arbeitseinsatz, Revier usw.), eine umfassende Darstellung aller 23 Konzentrationslager (nach Beispiel KL Dachau) und als Teil drei ein geographisches Verzeichnis aller Haftstätten (wie Beispiel Regierungsbezirk Düsseldorf).

Herr Züger stellt die Frage, welche Hilfe eine solche Publikation in Rahmen der Bearbeitung unserer personenbezogenen Dokumente darstellt.

Es besteht Übereinstimmung, dass

1. die Arbeit für die Auswertung personenbezogener Dokumente fast keine Bedeutung hat, dass aber der ITS die einzige Stelle ist, die eine solche Veröffentlichung durchführen kann
2. die historische Bedeutung eine solche Veröffentlichung rechtfertigt
3. vom Handbuch wird nach außen nicht gesprochen
4. im Tätigkeitsbericht werden diesbezüglich nur Untersuchungen von Vorgängen publiziert
5. zur Bearbeitung für 1978 sind vorgesehen die KL Buchenwald, Neuengamme und Mauthausen, darüber hinaus wird das Kapitel Ghetto weiter bearbeitet und evtl. die Darstellung über Evakuierungsmärsche begonnen.

Herr Greulich wird gebeten, möglichst bis zum Ende des Monats Stellung zu nehmen

1. welche Arbeiten sind bereits fertiggestellt
2. wer wird wann was arbeiten.

Dokumentenerwerb
Der Dokumentenerwerb soll jeweils unter dem Gesichtspunkt der momentanen Aufgabenstellung der Historischen Abteilung betrieben werden. Herr Greulich und Herr Jeck können nicht gemeinsam zwecks Dokumentenerwerbs ausserhalb sein.

Zur Auswertung des Staatsarchivs Darmstadt vom 10. bis 14.4.1978 ist neben Herrn Greulich Herr Henschel vorgesehen, da dort eine ganze Reihe von Schutzhaftakten vorhanden sind.

Zur Verteilung
an alle Anwesenden
14. März 1978
H. Siebel

Minutes of Züger's Meeting with the ITS Historical Department, March 14, 1978

Züger first turned to the *Historical Department* and its projects, which de Cocatrix had broadly expanded. Züger felt that these were not part of the responsibilities of the ITS. In this meeting, it was initially agreed that they would no longer be mentioned externally. The department and its projects were wound down by 1983.

- 28 -

durchaus soweit gehen, dem Direktor des Internationalen Suchdienstes, wenn die Kollegen des Ausschusses zustimmen, die Ermächtigung zu geben, auch bei den Gesprächen für den Etat 1983 zu sagen, wir möchten nach Möglichkeit von diesen Einsparungen ausgenommen werden.

Herr Krauß:
Nach dieser Erklärung ist Dr. Kroneck damit einverstanden, die Verhandlungen bezüglich des Personals unter Berücksichtigung der finanziellen und finanziellen Beschränkungen, die heute vorliegen (fast in allen Ländern erweitert, weiterzuführen, Danke!

Besprechen wir jetzt den zweiten Punkt, den Herr Perez in den Blickpunkt stellte, den Zugang wissenschaftlicher Forscher zu den Dokumenten.

Wir sind hier als Ausschuss verpflichtet, die Einhaltung der Abkommen zu wahren. Sie sagten, daß die Abkommen vorsehen, den Betroffenen selbst und für humanitäre Zwecke Auskünfte zu erteilen, und daß demzufolge, obwohl Sie es bedauern, den Forschern Abgang erteilt werden müssen - wenigstens ausserhalb. Ich glaube, das ist die richtige Einstellung. Unsere Zielsetzung besteht jetzt darin, für uns als Ausschuss und als Mitgliedstaaten alle zur Verfügung stehenden Informationen über die Vergangenheit zu erhalten. Die Forscher stellen für mich die Zukunft dar, und es wird ihnen vielleicht - zu gegebener Zeit - erlaubt sein, in die Archive Einsicht zu nehmen, wenn diese der Öffentlichkeit freigegeben werden. Aber jetzt muß der Ausschuss feststellen, daß wir unter Berücksichtigung der Abkommen, Herrn Perez mit seinem Vorschlag Recht geben müssen, daß den Forschern ab heute Nachforschungen in den ISD-Archiven nicht erlaubt sind.

Herr Perez:
Darf ich dazu etwas sagen? Es gibt im Grunde nichts Neues an diesem Zustand, er besteht weiter. Sie wissen, der IAI/ISD unterstützt Herr Dr. Züger vorwiegend in seinen Anstrengungen.

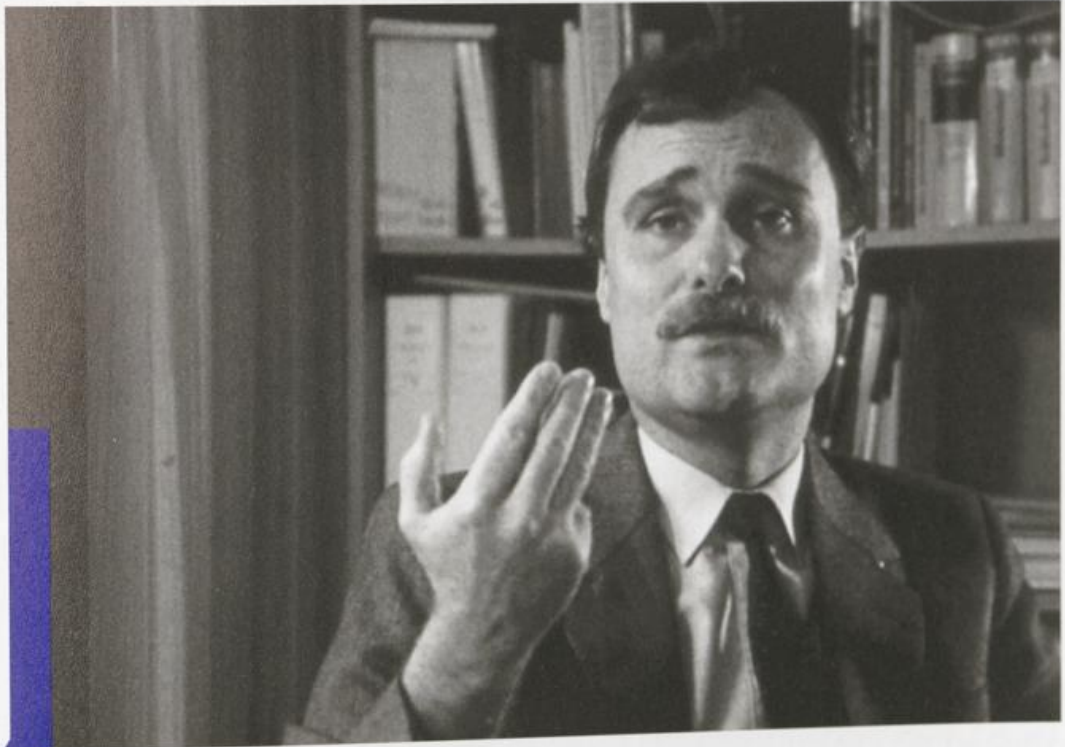
Herr Züger:
Ich glaube, daß diese moralische Unterstützung für mich wichtig ist, eben weil ich in fast täglichem Kontakt mit den Forschern, die um Zugang zu den Unterlagen bitten, konfrontiert zu werden. Ihre moralische Unterstützung ist mir sehr wichtig. Wenn man ungegriffen wird, oft mit bösen Worten, möchte man sich auf jemanden stützen können.

Excerpt of Minutes of the International Commission Meeting in Bonn, May 10, 1984

The last step in the reversal of the opening process was the *International Commission's* decision, brought about by Züger, that the archive should be closed again to researchers and the public. While the archive had gradually become more difficult to use, from this point on it was completely inaccessible.

Charles-Claude Biedermann

1985




ITS Director Charles-Claude Biedermann Explaining the Four Mandates of the ITS in the Film *Traces*, 1987

In 1985, economist Charles-Claude Biedermann became director of the ITS. Shown here is his reference to the four ITS mandates defined in the 1955 agreement – but instead of "providing access" he spoke of "reviewing." This reference to the four mandates was used to legitimize the sealing-off of the ITS during Biedermann's term until 2006.

TV Hören + Sehen,
23.9.1999

21.00 Panorama  160 92.075
Berichte - Analysen - Meinungen

21.45 CityExpress  914.472
Familienserie (D, 1999)
23. Freiheit - Gregor und Tanja empfangen Swetlana am Gefängnistor. Die zunächst friedliche Stimmung schlägt schon auf der Fahrt nach Sylt um. **45 Min.**
□ Mit Sabine Bach, Günter Junghans u. a.

22.30 Tagesthemen 120

23.00 Gesucht wird...

Biedermanns Reich 65.168

Der Intern. Suchdienst und die NS-Opfer
Polnische NS-Opfer klagen an. Um eine Wiedergutmachung geltend machen zu können, müssen sie bis zu fünf Jahre auf die Bescheinigung ihrer Heilzeit warten. Verantwortlich für den Skandal: der internationale Suchdienst in Arolsen. **45 Min.**

23.45 Ein Fall für Mac 1.886.656

Krimiserie (USA, 1995)
Liebe macht blind - Naturschützerin Jessica sitzt wegen einer militanten Aktion in Haft. Mac Heath verteidigt die Ex-Kommissionin, obwohl er befangen ist. **45 Min.**
□ Mit Michael O'Keefe, M.C. Gainey u. a.

0.30 Nachtmagazin 6.132.540

MLZ, 23.9.99

Heute Abend im ARD-Fernsehen:

Polnische NS-Opfer fordern Ablösung des ITS-Direktors

FR, 1.10.99

Suchdienst unter Druck

Vorwürfe gegen ITS aus Polen und den eigenen Reihen

Many Media Outlets Reported on Problems at the ITS in Autumn 1999

In the mid-1990s and especially around 1999, the ITS and Director Biedermann were the focus of massive public criticism. This revolved around extremely long waiting times for information, the ongoing exclusion of researchers and the bad working environment under which many employees suffered.

HNA, 1.10.99



Presse und Rundfunk beim ITS in Bad Arolsen: Im Zentralarchiv erläuterten gestern Direktor Biedermann (Fünfter von rechts) und Koordinator Udo Jost (Sechster von rechts im Hintergrund) die Arbeitsweise des Suchdienstes. (Fotos: Hermann)

INTERNATIONALER SUCHDIENST

Alle Vorwürfe zurückgewiesen

WLZ, 12.10.99

Mitarbeiter schildern aus ihrer Sicht die Situation beim Suchdienst:

„Es ist noch schlimmer geworden“

Mannheimer Morgen,
15.10.99

Internationaler Suchdienst im Kreuzfeuer der Kritik

DGB prangert Missstände an / ITS-Direktor dementiert

HNA, 29.10.99

INTERNATIONALER SUCHDIENST

Geldgeber Bund will sich zu Vorwürfen nicht äußern

Withdrawal of the ICRC

Biedermann had to leave in 2006 after clashing with representatives of the *International Commission* about access to the ITS archive. He was followed by three more directors from Geneva before the ICRC withdrew from its management role at the end of 2012 due to the opening and reorientation of the ITS and passed control to the *International Commission*.

2006

Member States of the *International Commission*:
Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy,
Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom,
United States of America

Rebecca Boehling



2013

ITS Director Rebecca Boehling (center) at the UNESCO Ceremony, Arolsen, June 18, 2013

At the start of 2013, Rebecca Boehling, a history professor from the US, became the first expert in Nazi crimes to lead the ITS. In June 2013 she celebrated the inclusion of the ITS on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register together with Andrzej Misztal, Chairman of the *International Commission*, and a UNESCO representative.

Ablage: IA ✓
ZVS

Verkittet anlässlich einer Mitarbeiterversammlung
mit dem IA am 17.10.2013 im Bürgerhaus
01.10.13 Jh

**New Mission Statement of the ITS International Commission
for the International Tracing Service (ITS):**

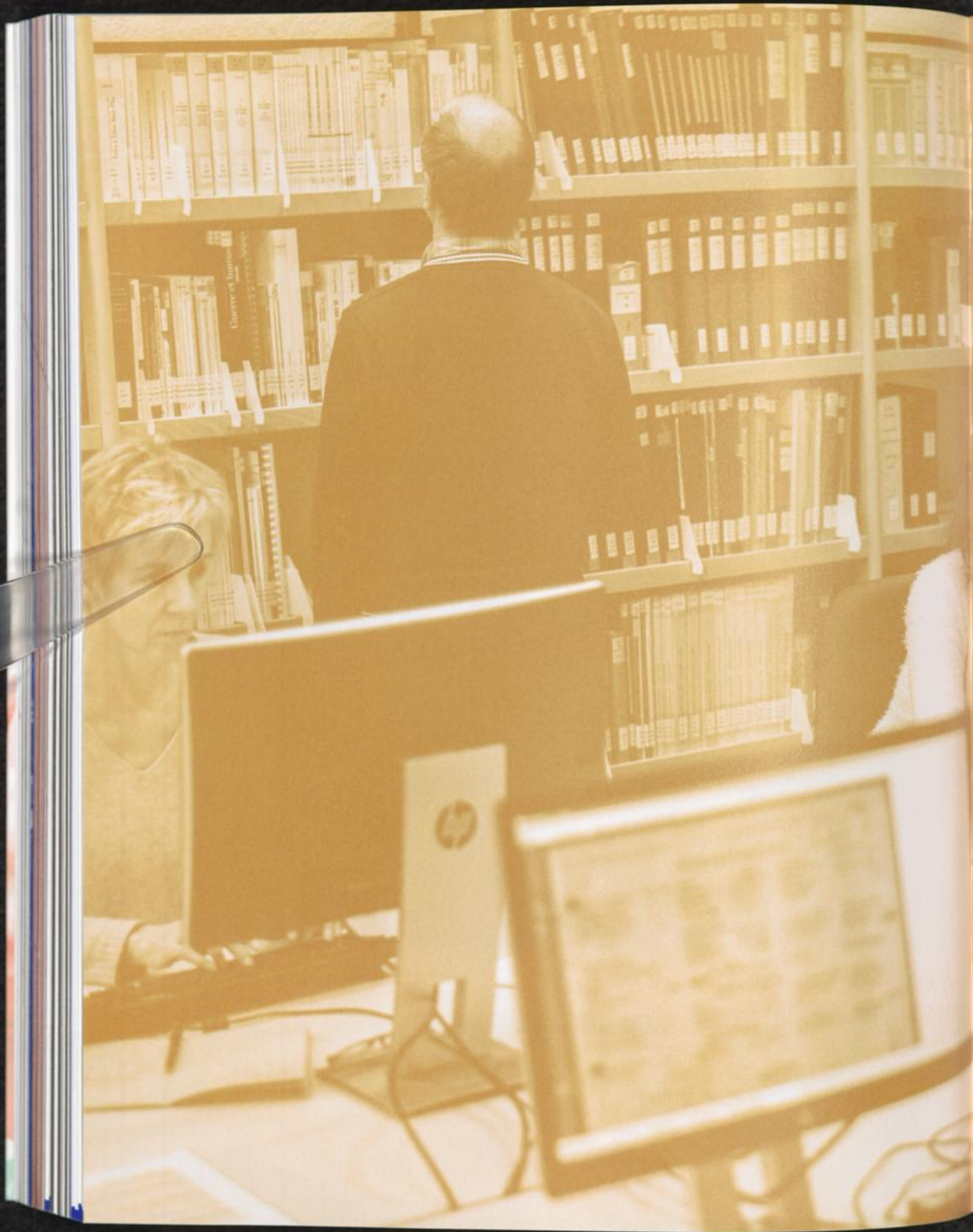
To preserve, conserve and open up the ITS archives to public access;
to modernise and make more effective its services to Nazi victims
and Holocaust survivors and those who seek to trace the fate of
family members persecuted by the Nazis and their allies; and to integrate
the ITS into the European and international network of research and
educational institutions focused on Nazi persecution, the Holocaust
forced labour and displaced persons.

Neues Mission Statement des ITS-Internationalen Ausschusses für den ITS:

Der ITS muss sein Archiv aufbewahren, konservieren und für die Öffentlichkeit
zugänglich machen, seine Dienstleistungen gegenüber Nazi-Opfern und
Überlebenden des Holocaust und all jenen, die das Schicksal ihrer Familienmitglieder
in Bezug auf Verfolgung durch die Nazis und ihre Alliierten aufzuklären versuchen,
modernisieren und die Arbeitsabläufe dazu effektiver machen, und sich in ein
europäisches und internationales Netzwerk von Forschungs- und Bildungsinstituten
integrieren, die sich mit der Verfolgung durch die Nazis, dem Holocaust, Zwangsarbeit
und Displaced Persons beschäftigen.

**The ITS Receives a New Mission Statement from the
International Commission, Arolsen, October 17, 2013**

In 2013 the *International Commission* assumed
responsibility for the ITS and set new goals with
the director it appointed. The transformation from
a tracing service into a professional archive and
documentation center shaped Rebecca Boehling's
term in office, which lasted until the end of 2015.



Openness versus Isolation

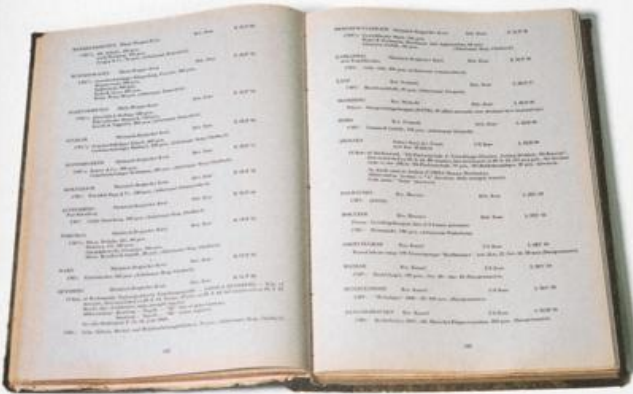
The ITS had a very turbulent relationship with the public. For years, the archive was not accessible to researchers. This was criticized in the media in the 1990s and 2000s, along with the shockingly long waiting times for information. The ITS developed a reputation for always isolating itself. As a result, an earlier phase of openness had been forgotten.

In the 1960s and 1970s, research was carried out in Arolsen by numerous survivors, scholars and memorial initiatives. The ITS also supported remembrance and commemoration projects and conducted its own historical analyses and research, all of which was to facilitate the processing of inquiries. But in the early 1980s, the doors of the archive closed. The ITS justified its isolation on the basis of data protection and with reference to its main humanitarian mission of finding missing victims of the Nazis and clarifying their fate. Despite massive protests, the ITS held to this for over 20 years.

Growing international pressure from politicians and the media finally led to the renewed opening of the archive in 2007. Today the main responsibilities of the *Arolsen Archives* include supporting and carrying out research and educational activities.

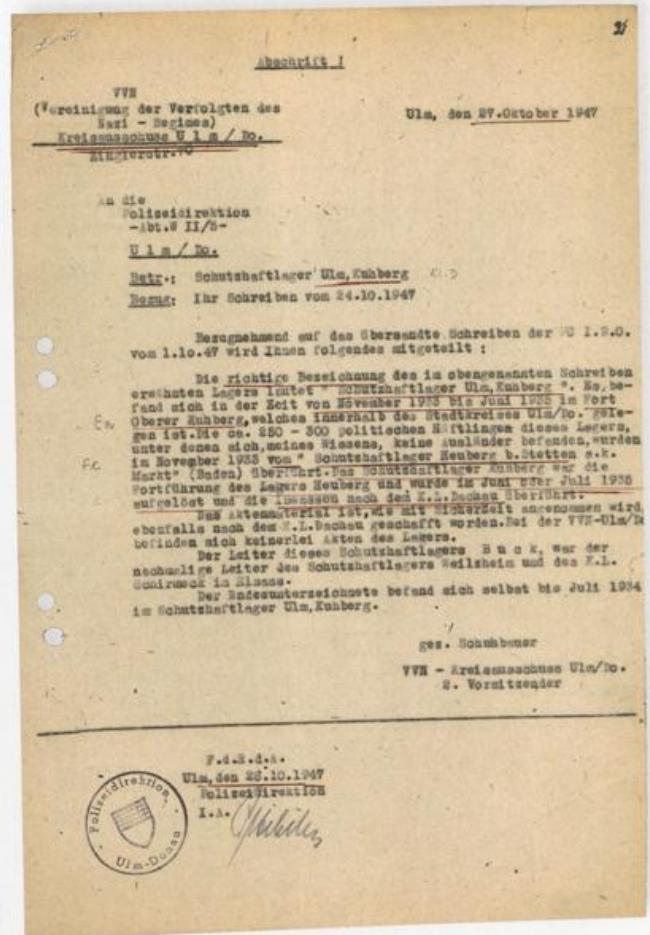
Lists of Imprisonment Sites: Early ITS Research

To trace people and provide information, it was essential to compile knowledge of imprisonment sites and mass crimes. From the late 1940s to early 1980s, the ITS conducted a large research project on Nazi imprisonment sites across Europe. It also collected early testimonies from thousands of survivors who shared their knowledge about the camps in questionnaires. The ITS was thus often the first point of contact for authorities with questions about classifying and recognizing individual camps. This specific activity sometimes led to tension with the Federal Ministry of Finance which handled compensation.



Catalogue of Camps and Prisons in Germany and German-Occupied Territories, 1949

The national and zonal tracing bureaus needed information about the camps to respond to tracing inquiries. Nearly every office initially compiled its own lists of the locations of such sites. This data was combined in this first catalog, which was later expanded and revised.



Report from Survivor Josef Schuhbauer on the "Ulm Protective Custody Camp, Kuhberg", October 27, 1947

To document the many detention sites, employees in Arolsen evaluated all of the seized documents. There were many gaps, however. This is why survivors were questioned as well. Around 1950, the ITS sent out thousands of questionnaires asking for information about the camps.

KUNSTHAFTENLAGER CAMP DE CONCENTRATION CONCENTRATION CAMP		des Konzentrations (1933 - 1945) de la période d'existence (1933 - 1945) of the period (1933 - 1945)		1) Einrichtung Structure 2) Letzte Einweisung Dernière mention Last mention 3) Evakuierung Evacuation 4) Abtransport Transportation 5) Anwesen Presence 6) Art der Arbeit Nature of work 7) Unternehmung bzw. Bemerkungen Lagerort et sonstige Accumulation and remarks	
Außenkommando Commando extérieur Outlying commando	Unterkommando Sous-commando Sub-commando	Mannn / Frauen hommes / femmes Men / Women	1) Einrichtung Structure 2) Letzte Einweisung Dernière mention Last mention 3) Evakuierung Evacuation 4) Abtransport Transportation 5) Anwesen Presence 6) Art der Arbeit Nature of work 7) Unternehmung bzw. Bemerkungen Lagerort et sonstige Accumulation and remarks	Mannn / Frauen hommes / femmes Men / Women	1) Einrichtung Structure 2) Letzte Einweisung Dernière mention Last mention 3) Evakuierung Evacuation 4) Abtransport Transportation 5) Anwesen Presence 6) Art der Arbeit Nature of work 7) Unternehmung bzw. Bemerkungen Lagerort et sonstige Accumulation and remarks
STETTIN-EREDOW Neules (Herzog Pommern)			1) 1761, 1933 (1761) des Land- gerichtes Stettin vom 2.4.1934		2) 11.3.1934 (1934) des Land- gerichtes Stettin vom 2.4.1934
TONRODORF/See von KL 3a			(Einzelnamen siehe unter Kapitel: Konzentrationslager, Seite 44)		
ULM-KUHBERG Wannenberg			1) Nov. 1933 (amtl. Bericht)		2) 2.6.1933, als Justizvollstän- diger wurde nach KL Die Oberrhein (amtl. Bericht)
WEEDEN nennschloß EREN-WEEDEN Neules (Wetzlarbezirk)			1) Juni 1933 (Schreiben des Preussisches JG amtl. des Justiz vom Juni 1933)		
WITTHOOR Hamburg			1) 21.4.1933 (KL-Akt 104)		2) 17.10.1933, nach KL Fölsch- haus Oberelbe (KL-Akt 104 und amtl. Bericht)
ZWICKAU Sachsen			1) 10.12.1933 (KL-Akt 104)		2) Dez. 1933 (1933)-Anzeige

Register Of Places Of Detention Under The Reichsführer-SS 1933-1945, Arolsen, 1979

Into the early 1980s, the ITS strove to document all Nazi detention sites in Europe. The last directory of such sites was published in 1979, but it was missing many forced labor camps and ghettos from an earlier 1949 version. The German government wanted the published list to be restricted to sites it had recognized for compensation purposes.

- 2 -

Verzeichnisses, diese Lager ins Verzeichnis aufzunehmen. Die dargestellten Umstände, die mit der normalen Strafvollzug der Justiz auch unter Berücksichtigung der besonderen Umstände während des Krieges nicht mehr gemein hatten und besonders auch die Auswahl der eingesetzten Lagerleitung und des Wachpersonals, geben diesem Lagerkomplex einen außergewöhnlichen Charakter, der uns veranlaßt hat, diese in das von uns vorgesehene Verzeichnis aufzunehmen.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

K. Burckhardt
Direktor des ITS

AG/Su

Arolsen, den 17. Januar 1969

An das
Bundesministerium der Finanzen

5100 BONN
Rheinldorfer Str. 100

Sehr geehrte Herren!

Ich nehme Bezug auf das zwischen Herrn Asterat MOTT in Ihrem Hause und unserem Herrn GITHI am gestrigen Tage geführte Telefongespräch wegen einer Stellungnahme zu einem Schreiben der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Emslandlager, Komitee der Moorsoldaten - ohne Datum- ausgefertigt von Herrn BOGDAL, Ov-Erkenschwick gerichtet an das Bundesministerium der Finanzen.

Wie bereits am Telefon ausgeführt, hatte Herr BOGDAL eine Kopie dieses Schreibens auch unserer Dienststelle zugesandt und wir fügen zu Ihrer Information eine Kopie unserer Antwort an Herrn BOGDAL bei.

Eine Stellungnahme zu dem Schreiben des Herrn BOGDAL Ihren Hause gegenüber glauben wir am besten durch einen Hinweis auf das Konzept zu der Erläuterung zum Kapitel "Strafgefängnislager in Emsland" in unseren "Vorkläufigen Verzeichnisse von Konzentrationslagern und deren Außenkommandos sowie anderen Haftstätten unter dem Reichsführer-SS in Deutschland und deutsch besetzten Gebieten" geben zu können. Eine Kopie dieser Erläuterung fügen wir der Einfachheit halber bei. Das gesamte Vorwort hatten wir Ihnen bereits am 31.10.1968 zugesandt.

In dem Kapitel "Strafgefängnislager in Emsland" sind unsere Konklusionen über diesen Komplex enthalten, wie sie sich aus dem zur Verfügung stehenden Unterlagen allgemeiner Art über diese Lager ergeben. Der ITS verfügt jedoch über keine individuellen Strafakten mit Ausnahme einiger Listen mit Hinweisen über Ausländer, die erkennen lassen, ob die politischen und kriminellen Gefangenen auf bestimmte Lager verteilt worden sind. Nach dem wenigen vorhandenen Material scheinen in allen Lagern der Emslandgruppe auch "politische" Gefangene gewesen zu sein. Aus diesem Grunde ist es uns nicht möglich, besonders auf die auf Seite 1 der Eingabe der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Emslandlager an das Bundesfinanzministerium genannten Lager BORGEMOOR, ASCHENKOPFERMOOR und NEUSUTRUM einzugehen.

Wir möchten aber noch darauf hinweisen, daß uns die in den vorerwähnten Konzept beschriebenen Charakteristiken der Strafgefängnislager in Emsland veranlaßt haben, in Gegensatz zu dem Titel des von uns herausgegebenen

/./

ITS Statement on the Penal Camps in the Emsland Region, January 17, 1969

Although the ITS was not an academic institution, into the 2000s it frequently advised authorities regarding the recognition of individual sites of imprisonment. As early as 1964 and 1969, the ITS compiled a list of imprisonment sites, which the compensation authorities used as a tool for investigating eligibility of applicants.

Josef Schuhbauer

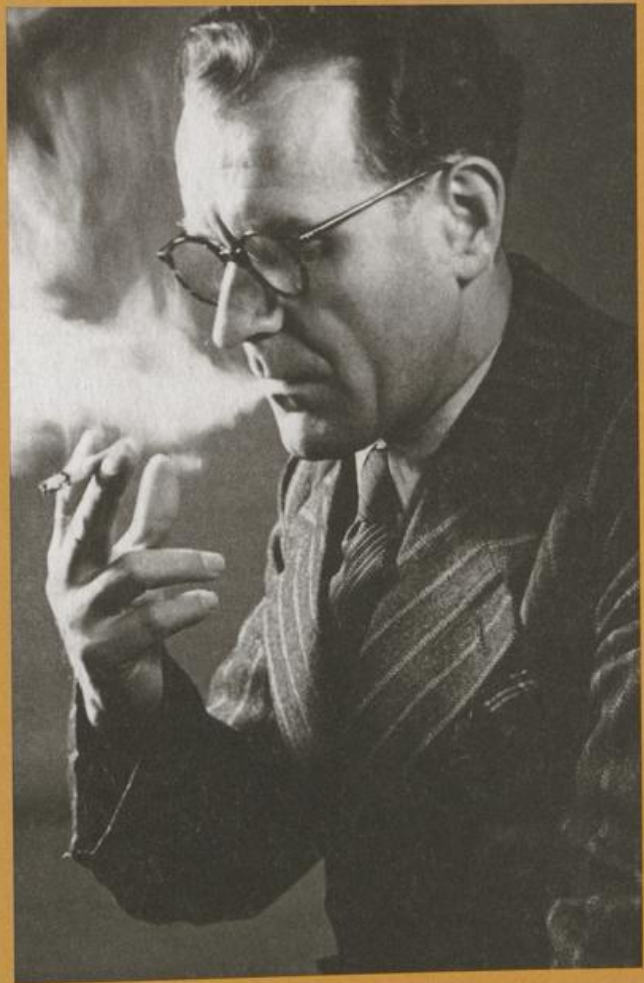
1906 - 1974

After his liberation from a concentration camp, Josef Schuhbauer was committed to the analysis and documentation of Nazi crimes. The Nazis had originally arrested Schuhbauer in 1933 when he was active amongst communist circles in Ulm. With only a short break, he remained imprisoned until 1945: in the Heuberg, Oberer Kuhberg, Welzheim and Buchenwald camps. He was also in the Kassel-Druselstal subcamp of Buchenwald, where prisoners were forced to carry out construction work. There the SS appointed Josef Schuhbauer as the camp elder, making him responsible for ensuring a smooth daily routine.



Josef Schuhbauer (3rd fr. r.) in Liberated Buchenwald with Württemberg Survivors, April 27, 1945

Josef Schuhbauer was a founding member of the *Heuberg-Kuhberg-Welzheim Camp Association*, a group of concentration camp survivors from Württemberg. He was also a member of the *Association of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime (VVN)*. From 1966 his health deteriorated due to the lasting effects of the abuse he experienced in Buchenwald.

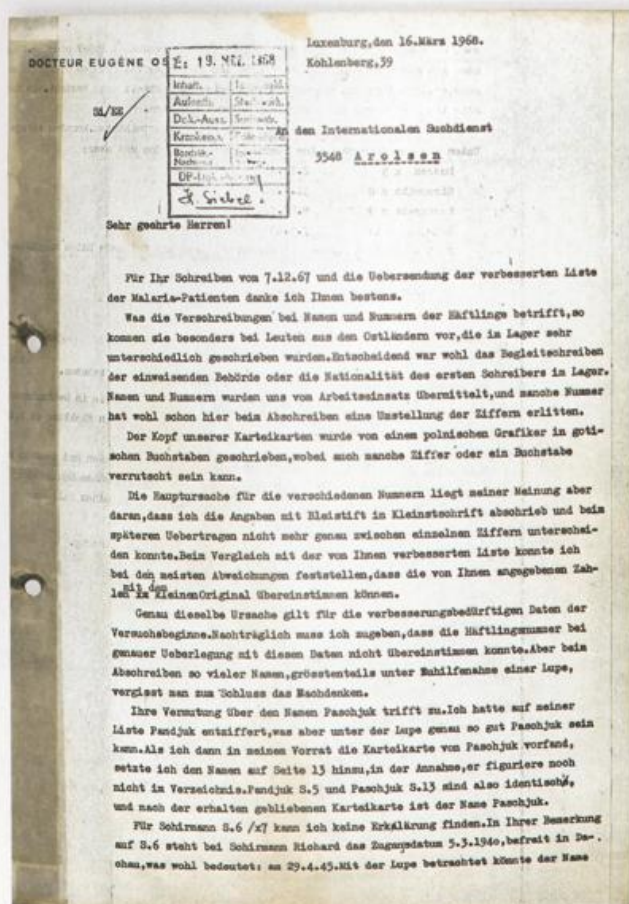


Josef Schuhbauer, probably in Ulm, after 1945

After the liberation, the trained roofer returned to Ulm, where he first found a job in the police criminal investigation department. He was later elected to the Ulm local council representing the *Communist Party of Germany (KPD)*.

Research in Arolsen in the 1960s and 1970s

In the late 1960s, the ITS opened its archive for the first time to numerous survivors, scholars and memorial initiatives. The ITS also supported the creation of memorial sites and book projects, like the Memorial Book of the Federal Archives for the Victims of the Persecution of Jews in Germany. These activities were proudly recorded in its annual reports. The ITS investigated the Nazis' human medical experiments itself to answer special questions in individual compensation cases. This began to change in the early 1980s, however, and by 1984 the ITS had gradually closed its archive again.



Excerpt from a Letter from Former Prisoner
 Eugène Ost to the ITS, March 16, 1968

Eugène Ost helped the ITS decipher documents from concentration camps on human medical experiments. He had been a clerk at the malaria station in Dachau. This knowledge was needed for checking compensation cases. From 1961 former concentration camp prisoners from Eastern Europe who had been victims of human medical experiments could claim compensation.

Es ist möglich, dass die Teilnahme des Internationalen Suchdienstes (ITS) am VI. Internationalen Medizinischen Kongress ein gewisses Erstaunen hervorruft. Der ITS wurde jedoch nicht nur gegründet, um nach den Opfern der Verfolgung des Naziregimes zu forschen, sondern auch um die Unterlagen dieser Zeit zu sammeln und aufzubewahren und den Regierungen, Organisationen und zuständigen Behörden ebenso wie den betreffenden Personen zugänglich zu machen.

Seit seiner Gründung hat sich die Tätigkeit des ITS so entwickelt, dass diese in ihrer Art einzigartige Institution dank des ständigen Erwerbs neuer Unterlagen das Dokumentationszentrum der Verfolgungszeit geworden ist. Die nach Art und Ursprung so verschiedenen Archiv-Abteilungen des ITS sind sehr umfangreich, wenn auch leider fragmentarisch, denn die Dokumente der Konzentrationslager und anderer Haftstätten sollten keinesfalls in die Hände des Feindes fallen. Obwohl diese Dokumentation ziemliche Lücken aufweist, ist sie ausserordentlich wichtig für die Opfer der Verfolgung als unanfechtbarer Beweis ihrer Deportation.

Diese Dokumentation umfasst eine grosse Anzahl von Unterlagen betreffend Krankheitsfälle, die den Entscheidungsbehörden und Vereinigungen der Deportierten zur Verfügung gestellt werden. Sie sind den fünf Archiv-Abteilungen des ITS zugeordnet.

Die ABTEILUNG KONZENTRATIONSLAGER-DOKUMENTE enthält individuelle Dokumente, wie Revierkarten (mit Angaben über den Gesundheitszustand bei der Inhaftierung, über Schutzimpfungen, Krankmeldungen und Revier-Behandlungen), sowie Listen der Lagerarztuntersuchungen mit Angaben über die Arbeits- oder Transportfähigkeit der Häftlinge.

In der ABTEILUNG KRIEGSZEIT-DOKUMENTE findet man Namenlisten, die von den Krankenhäusern, dem Gesundheitsamt und den behandelnden Ärzten aufgestellt worden sind, sowie Informationen über Sterbefälle.

Die ABTEILUNG NACHKRIEGSZEIT-DOKUMENTE besitzt Krankenpapiere für ungefähr 100.000 Personen, die sich von 1945 bis 1950 in den Lagern der DP's (Displaced Persons) befanden. Darunter sind auch ehemalige Häftlinge der Konzentrationslager und Zwangsarbeiter.

Das KINDERSUCH-ARCHIV bewahrt Dokumente und ärztliche Gutachten für die Kinder von Deportierten auf. Diese Kinder der DP's waren während des Krieges von ihren Eltern getrennt worden.

Die HISTORISCHE ABTEILUNG verfügt über medizinische Dokumente allgemeiner Art, hauptsächlich von den Konzentrationslagern. Es gibt ausserdem vierteljährliche Berichte über medizinische Kontrolluntersuchungen in den Laboratorien, Wochen- und Monatsberichte der Krankenhäuser, monatliche, viertel- und halbjährliche Meldungen der Krankenreviere, Laborbestimmungen, Eingangs- und Abgangszahl der Deportierten, Verordnungen und allgemeine Bestimmungen der Krankenreviere, sowie Veröffentlichungen und

Excerpt from the Speech by the ITS Director at the
 International Medical Conference in Prague, 1976

Director Albert de Cocatrix stressed the self-image of the ITS in the 1970s as a "center for documenting the time of persecution." He reported that the ITS had evaluated 59 human medical experiments in eight concentration camps in the context of claims for compensation.

3. Bewertung von ITS-Unterlagen für wissenschaftliche und publizistische Arbeiten

- Der wissenschaftliche Buchhandel wurde wieder durch seine Dokumentationsdienste Wissenschaftler, Schriftsteller und Publizisten bei ihren Arbeiten unterstützt.
- Mitte Januar vertrat Herr Professor Dr. Krzysztof DENIS-WARONCZYK, Warschau, zwei Wochen beim ITS, um Material für seine künftige Publikation über den Zweiten Weltkrieg, illegale Gruppen und Organismen in den verschiedenen Konzentrationslagern zu sammeln.
- Mitte Februar war Herr Tomasz SIEBERT, Redakteur von "Der neue Tag", Oberösterreichischer Arbeiter, in Wien, um seine Arbeit in Auschwitz, die er seit dem 1. September 1974 begonnen hat, durch die ITS-Unterlagen zu vertiefen.
- Anfang März nahm Herr Bernhard KOSMEIER, Bonn, Einsicht in das Dokumentationsmaterial des ITS für sein Referat über das Schicksal der Halbkolonnenjuden.
- Im April suchte Herr Richard TEUTSCH, Hebräische Universität, Jerusalem, das ITS auf, um die künftige Dokumentation kennenzulernen und insbesondere für sein geplantes Buch "Über das Schicksal der Juden in Vassingen", die ihm trefflichen Unterlagen zu überprüfen.
- Ende April sprach Herr Oberstaatsanwalt Felts BLASCHKA, Düsseldorf, beim ITS vor, um Informationen über das Schicksal der jüdischen Bevölkerung im Bereich der Gestapo Düsseldorf einzuholen.
- Im Juni war Herr Professor Richard PLANT, New York, eine Woche in Berlin, um Informationen über das Schicksal der jüdischen Bevölkerung im Bereich der Gestapo Düsseldorf einzuholen.
- Ebenfalls im Juni kam Herr Elmar LUCHTERHAND, Professor der Soziologie, City University of New York, um für seine soziologische Studie zum Herabdruck statistische Auswertungen sämtlicher Konzentrationslager zu erhalten.
- Ende Juni informierte sich Herr Leopold GRÜNWARD, Wien, über deutsche Häftlinge und bezieht die einzelnen Abteilungen des ITS.
- Herr Professor Dr. Dr. Rüdiger LAUTMANN von der Universität Bremen und seine Mitarbeiter, Herr Winfried GRUSCHAT, Herr Egbert SCHMIDT und Herr VIERERBE, besuchten mehrmals den ITS für ihre Studienarbeiten über sogenannte Handgruppen in den Konzentrationslagern.
- Ende Juli war der Dozent, Herr Dr. Marian OLSZEWSKI, Poznan, wegen seiner historisch-wissenschaftlichen Forschungen beim ITS. Er beabsichtigt die Publikation eines Nachschlagewerks über Haftstätten im Gebiet des ehemaligen "Warthegaus".

- 15 -

- Im September kam Herr A. C. MCCLELLANE aus Australien zum ITS, um wegen seiner künftigen Veröffentlichung verschiedene Fragen über die "Kleine Festung Theresienstadt" zu klären.
- Ende September stattete Frau Lydia CHAZOEL, Ortschaft, zwei Tage dem ITS einen Besuch ab und beschränkte die Dokumente von verschiedenen Konzentrationslagern und des Kinderarchivs für ihren geplanten Film über das Thema "Kinder hinter Maschendraht".
- In der zweiten Novemberhälfte nahm Frau Dr. Wanda KISHCHENKO, Warschau, in Begleitung von Frau Maria KARASZOWSKA, Polignac, Einsicht in die Unterlagen des KL Ravensbrück und wertete sie für eine Publikation aus.
- Ende November kam Herr Serge KLARFELD, Rechtsanwalt in Paris, zum ITS, um wegen seiner künftigen Veröffentlichung über die Deportationen aus Frankreich Einsicht in die Dokumente des ITS zu erhalten.

4. Auswertung von Dokumenten für Dissertationen und Prüfungsarbeiten

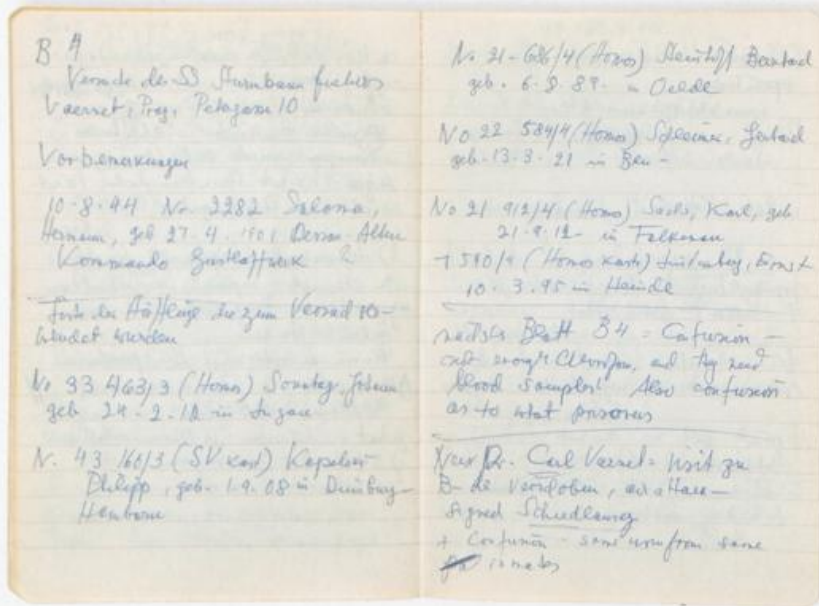
- Die Möglichkeit, beim Internationalen Suchdienst entsprechendes Material zu finden, bedeutete für einige Studenten eine grosse Hilfe.
- In der zweiten Aprilhälfte suchte Frau Gabriele KANOW, Düsseldorf, zwei Tage den ITS auf, um verschiedene Unterlagen für ihre Seminararbeit an der Pädagogischen Hochschule, Ludwigslagen, einzusehen.
- Mitte August kam Frau Annette KREUTZ, Aachen, gemeinsam mit ihrem Mann, um Dokumentenmaterial für eine Prüfungsarbeit an der Pädagogischen Hochschule, Aachen, über "Verfolgung der Juden im Dritten Reich in Aachen" zu konsultieren.

5. Presse und Rundfunk

- Wie in den vergangenen Jahren, fanden auch in 1976 einige Journalisten den Weg zum Internationalen Suchdienst und nahmen regen Anteil an seinem Aufgabengebiet und seiner Dokumentation.
- Im September kamen Herr Dr. Laszlo DENES, Journalist aus Tel Aviv, und im Auftrag des Daily Telegraph, London, Herr ERNST, Fotograf aus Essen.
- Im Oktober stattete Herr Jan PREJZNER von der Polnischen Presse-Agentur, Bonn, mit seiner Gattin dem ITS einen Besuch ab. Danach hat er in 7 Zeitungen beziehungsweise Zeitschriften ausführliche Artikel über den ITS veröffentlicht. Der ITS möchte Herrn PREJZNER für seine Bemühungen herzlich danken.
- Am Jahresende weilte Herr Norman J. MELNICK, Journalist aus West Orange (USA), zu einem Informationsbesuch beim ITS, um einen ausführlichen Bericht schreiben zu können.
- Die Herren Hans-Heinrich STRIPPEL von der "Waldeckischen Landeszeitung" und Wolfgang LEYA von der "Waldeckischen Allgemeinen" brachten wieder bei

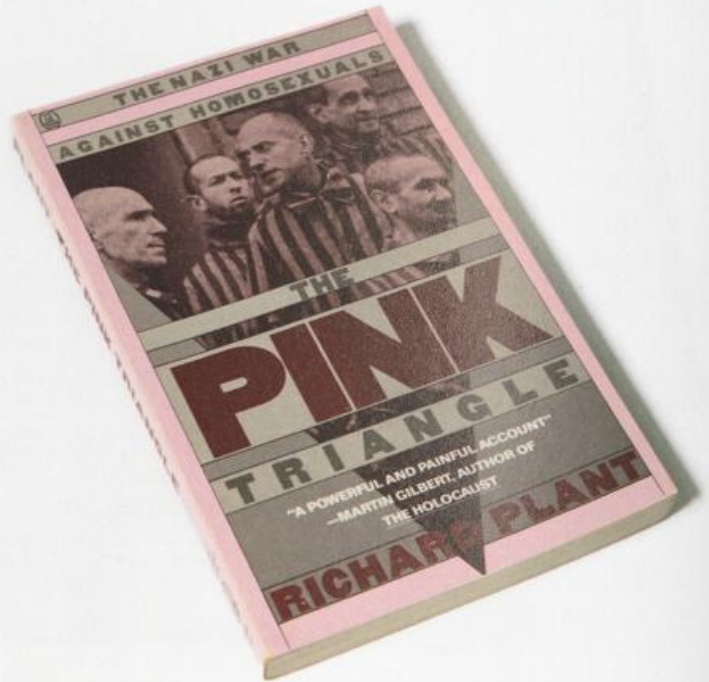
ITS Annual Report, 1976

The ITS described its participation in networks and its support for researchers in its annual reports in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1976, for example, it covered the research of Rüdiger Lautmann and Richard Plant into the persecution of homosexuals, and the participation of ITS director de Cocatrix at the International Medical Conference in Prague.



Excerpt from Richard Plant's Notebook, June 1976

In June 1976, Plant conducted research at the ITS into the Nazi persecution of homosexuals. In his notebook he recorded his findings, such as information about the hormone experiments of Danish SS doctor Carl Vaernet in Buchenwald. These had mostly been carried out on homosexual prisoners in September and December 1944.



10 Years after Researching in Arolsen, Plant published his findings in 1986

A German translation was published in 1991. His book and the findings of Rüdiger Lautmann, who also researched at the ITS in the 1970s, are now standard works about the Nazi persecution of homosexuals. More than 10,000 homosexuals were imprisoned in concentration camps and often assigned to the most strenuous labor details.

“ I spent long weeks in these archives, which did more than ‘testify to the extermination, torture and slavery’ inflicted by the Third Reich, but preserved, sifted, and organized the testimony so it could never be denied. ”

(p. 194)

“ Life at Arolsen was wearisome. During the day I was busy scanning lists, entries, rosters in the company of the dead or missing. My evenings were spent alone, typing notes or walking through the tiny village, which ignored me. The prevailing beery coziness of the inns repelled me, and I imagined all these redfaced men with their paunches had been in the SS. ”

(p. 196)

**Excerpts from the Epilogue of *The Pink Triangle*
by Richard Plant**

Richard Plant described his impressions of the ITS and the city of Arolsen in the 1970s. Plant was Jewish and homosexual himself and had left Germany at the start of the Nazi dictatorship. His father committed suicide with his second wife shortly after the November pogroms of 1938.

Gerhard Schleimer

1921 - 2006

In September 1944, the SS doctor Carl Vaernet abused Gerhard Schleimer for hormone experiments in Buchenwald. After he had been arrested by the Berlin criminal police in 1941, he spent three years in prison and was then sent to Buchenwald. The Nazis persecuted him under Paragraph 175, which criminalized sexual relations between men. To this day, few biographies of homosexual prisoners are known. They were subject to especially harsh conditions in the camps. Gerhard Schleimer first had to work in a quarry. After 1945, he was silent about his experiences for a long time, because homosexuality continued to be a criminal offense.

“ When you're still young, it's easier to get over some things, but after a while the past catches up with you, and then it seems as if it were just yesterday. You could actually say that it had a physical and psychological impact. But you got on with life anyway. ”

Gerhard Schleimer on the Lifelong Effects of the Medical Experiments, October 25, 2000

Der Bundesminister der Finanzen
 VI O 1472 = Sch - 77/52


Bonn, den 31. Mai 1952
 Bismarckstr. 118-124, 10000

An die
 Allied High Commission
 for Germany - International
 Tracing Service
 (16) A r o l s e n (Haldock)

Betr.: Fürsorge für Überlebende Opfer von Menschenversuchen;
 hier: Eingabe des Herrn Gerhard Schleimer,
 Berlin-Schöneberg, Göttemstr.76, geboren am
 13.3.1921 in Berlin.

Der vorbenannte Gerhard Schleimer hat mir einen Antrag
 auf Fürsorge für Überlebende Opfer von Menschenversuchen vor-
 gelegt und darin geltend gemacht, daß er vom 12.9.1943 bis 23.
 4.1945 unter der Häftlingsnummer 22 584 in Konzentrationslager
 Buchenwald inhaftiert war. Sofern sich Unterlagen für diese Be-
 hauptung bei der dortigen Dienststelle befinden, wäre ich für
 die Übersendung von Abschriften dankbar.

In Auftrag
 gen. Schmidt
 Beglaubigt
 Reg.-Sekr.



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**Inquiry from the Ministry of Finance Regarding
 Gerhard Schleimer's Time in the Camp, May 31, 1952**

Schleimer applied for compensation for the medical experiments he was subjected to. He did not disclose that the Nazis had persecuted him as a homosexual. At the time, the ITS could not yet provide proof of the experiments, because many abbreviations in the concentration camp documents relating to the experiments had not yet been deciphered.

Protests against the Isolation of the ITS

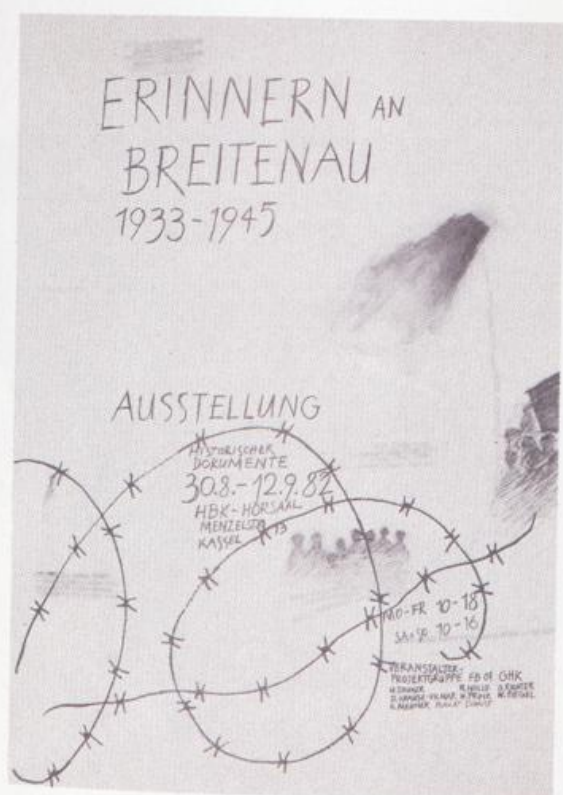
Just as West German society and historians started discussing and researching “forgotten victims” of the Nazis, the ITS closed the doors of its archive in the early 1980s. One reason was the growing importance of data privacy issues, which made it difficult for the ITS itself to acquire documents. Also, the ITS saw itself as a purely humanitarian institution. The archive’s closure led to many protests right from the start. A turnaround and reopening did not take place until 2007, when political pressure at the international level grew, as did criticism of the ITS management in the media.

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worden, daß die Antwort uns nicht mehr geholfen hat. Ich kann mich mit dieser von Ihnen geübten Praxis, dringende menschliche Anliegen und wissenschaftliche Fragen durch "Langfristigkeit" der Bearbeitung zu "lösen", nicht einverstanden erklären. Ich verstehe dies umso weniger, als die Gesamthochschule Kassel Ihnen Hause gegenüber in mehreren Fällen alle zur Verfügung stehenden historischen Akten - und zwar unbürokratisch - zur Verfügung gestellt hat. Ich bitte deshalb um Verständnis, daß ich diesen heutigen Brief an Sie gemeinsam mit unserer in dieser Sache seit dem 7.1.1983 geführten Korrespondenz dem Internationalen Komitee des Roten Kreuzes in Genf vorlege. Ich werde auch den Oberbürgermeister der Stadt Kassel und den Hessischen Kultusminister in Kenntnis setzen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

P.S.: Das Ihren Brief vom 4.8.1983 zur persönlichen Information beigelegte Schreiben der Stadt Hagen habe ich nicht weitergegeben. Ich sende es Ihnen hiermit dankend zurück.



Flyer for the Exhibition *Remembering Breitenau 1933-1945*, August 30 to September 12, 1982

From the early 1980s, local memorial initiatives campaigned for the remembrance and investigation of the early concentration and labor education camp in Breitenau. "Dig where you stand" was the motto of many initiatives throughout Germany, which dealt locally with buried Nazi history and stood in solidarity with unrecognized victims of the Nazis.

DR-Sekretariat
Eingangskalender: 26.3.84
Code: 55184 Visum: 10
zur Bearbeitung:
<small>Kasseler Postfach 10100</small>

Gesamthochschule Kassel, FB 1 - Postf. 10100 - 3500 Kassel

An den
Direktor des Internationalen
Suchdienstes
Herrn Dr. Züger
3548 Arolsen

GhK

Gesamthochschule
Kassel
Universität des Landes Hessen
Fachbereich 1
Erziehungswissenschaft
Humanwissenschaften

Prof. Dr. D. Krause-Vilmar

Heinrich-Platz Straße 40
D-3500 Kassel-Oberrad
(0561) 8041, Durchw. 804
Tele: 92572 ghkka d
Zimmer-Nr. _____
Sekretariat 804
Zimmer-Nr. K-V/AV
Aktenzeichen _____
Datum 22.3.1984

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Züger,

an 7.1.1983 habe ich Sie in einem Brief gebeten, gemeinsam mit Herrn Prinz für wenige Tage in Ihrem Hause arbeiten zu dürfen. Wie Ihnen bekannt war, führt Herr Prinz mit mir gemeinsam im Auftrag der Stadt Kassel eine Untersuchung zur Geschichte der jüdischen Gemeinde der Stadt Kassel durch. Von besonderer Bedeutung ist die Vorbereitung eines Gedenkbuchs, das veröffentlicht werden soll. Ich habe Ihnen gegenüber Herrn Prinz als einen sorgfältig arbeitenden und verantwortungsbewußten jungen Wissenschaftler vorgestellt.

Auf diesen meinen begründeten Antrag hin erhielt ich von Ihnen eine ablehnende Antwort, zu der ich mich in einzelnen, soweit historische Urteile darin enthalten waren, nicht mehr äußern wollte. Ich bat Sie erneut mit Brief vom 8. Juli 1983 um einen Gesprächstermin. Dieses Gespräch sollte dazu dienen, einen wissenschaftlichen Arbeitsaufenthalt von Herrn Prinz und mir in Arolsen möglich zu machen. Ihre Antwort vom 4. August 1983 enthielt kein größeres Entgegenkommen als die Bereitschaft, mir die ITS-Möglichkeiten, die Sie mir bereits schriftlich dargelegt hatten, mündlich zu erläutern.

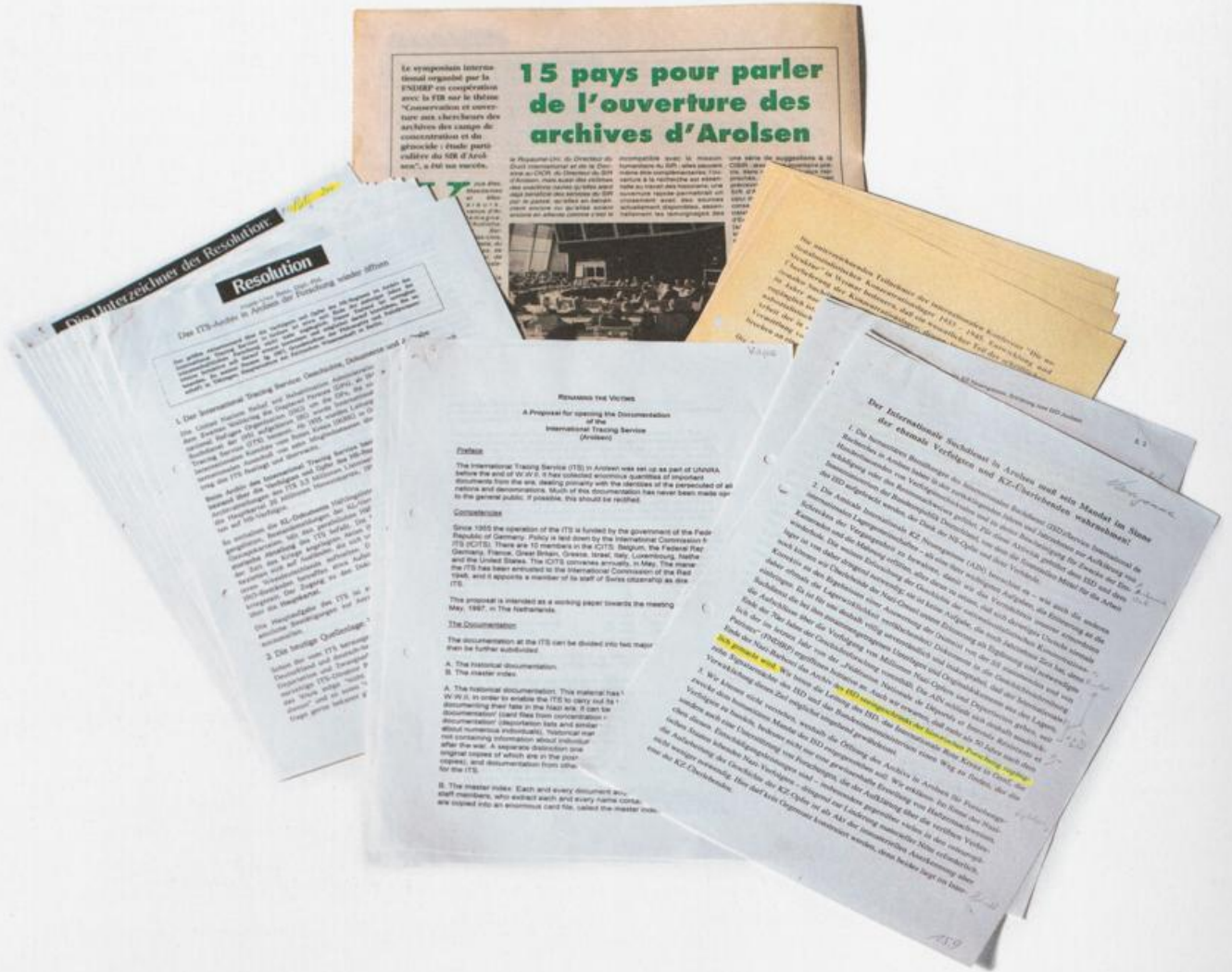
Im Übrigen teilten Sie mir am 4.8.1983 mit, daß Sie sich um eine Lösung beim Hessischen Datenschutzbeauftragten bemühen werden. Inzwischen sind sieben Monate vergangen, ohne daß ich von Ihnen etwas zu meinem Antrag gehört habe.

Eine zwischenzeitlich geäußerte Bitte, mir zu zwei gefangenen Priestern aus den im ITS befindlichen Unterlagen des ehemaligen KZ Dachau etwas mitzuteilen (für die Eröffnung unserer Ausstellung "Erinnern an Breitenau 1933-1945" anlässlich des Diözesan-Katholikentages in Fulda im August vorigen Jahres) ist von Ihrem Hause so verspätet beantwortet

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Letter from Dietfried Krause-Vilmar from Kassel Comprehensive University to the ITS, March 22, 1984

In 1980, Krause-Vilmar researched the history of Breitenau at the ITS. But from 1983 he was denied access to the archive. He protested against this. In this letter, he announced that he would contact the ITS managing organization, the ICRC in Geneva, among other offices. But the ICRC supported the new isolation strategy in Arolsen.



Selection of Petitions, Appeals and Declarations for Opening the ITS Archive, 1990s

Letters of protest were sent not only to the ITS but also to the *International Commission* of the ITS, the *International Red Cross*, members of German parliament and the press. This was meant to increase the pressure on the ITS to open the archive. The comments on the resolutions here are from ITS employees at the time, who studied them carefully.

Video Station

Excerpts

“ *The United States is not prepared to let the last generation of Holocaust survivors die with the fear that they will be forgotten and that their family names will be swept under the carpet. We are not prepared to do that, we cannot do that.* ”

“ *It is generally agreed that knowingly hiding the documentation of the Holocaust is a form of denial.* ”

Paul Shapiro | Titel, Thesen, Temperamente
„ITS Bad Arolsen“ 12.03.2006 | Hessischer Rundfunk

“ *When approached by TTT, the German Foreign Ministry and Interior Ministry point the finger at each other. No one is willing to comment. Only this much can be said: they are not against opening the archive in principle, but the negotiations had simply not reached an end yet.* ”

Commentary | Titel, Thesen, Temperamente
„ITS Bad Arolsen“ 12.03.2006 | Hessischer Rundfunk

Looking Back: Why was the Opening of the ITS Archives such a Long and Complicated Matter?

In 1998, the *International Commission* of the ITS resolved to open the archive. But it was not until 2007 that the archive actually opened. This was thanks largely to years of intensive effort by Paul Shapiro from the *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, who had continually applied pressure through the media and political committees.

New Paths in Cataloguing and Research

A lot has happened since the archive opened again in 2007. The provision of information for Nazi victims and their families, and the administration and preservation of the archival documents have been professionalized and are still key responsibilities. But above all, access to the archival collections is improving. For the first time, they are catalogued with archival standards, and new tools are being developed to explain the documents. A reference service department has been established for visitors, and various offers are available to researchers and educators, including workshops, publications and exhibitions.



**British Historian Ian Kershaw Viewing
Death March Documents, Bad Arolsen, 2009**

Since 2007, many scholars and local researchers have visited Bad Arolsen. The ITS has developed numerous projects to make it easier to access the collections. These include research workshops, exhibitions and teacher training seminars.

ITS
International Tracing Service
Service International de Recherches
Internationaler Suchdienst

Call for participation

**International Workshop
ITS Bad Arolsen, October 4-7, 2010**

“Evacuations” and Death Marches

Within the framework of the opening of the ITS archives the formation of a Research Department is one major future objective of the ITS; another aim tends to building up a scientific archive out of the vast ITS-holdings. Despite the different responsibilities both departments work closely together. Creating special inventories on holdings which are connected by topic although they do not belong to the same sub-collections is one example.

The ITS-archive does contain an outstanding collection on the Death Marches. These files do base mainly on the investigation efforts carried out by the ITS (and its predecessor organizations) from 1945/6 to 1951, titled: „Attempted identification of unknown dead and related information“. The investigation comprehended research of the geographical routes, identification of all mass and individual graves of those who were murdered or who died during these so-called “evacuations”. Furthermore forms were sent out to mayors and representatives to get information on the march itself. The files do also contain eyewitness testimonies from various perspectives. The collection does give information on geographical and logistic topics. The death toll and if there were differences between the various death marches regarding the possibilities of prisoners’ survival etc. are also angles from which the holdings may be examined. Political/ administrative decisions when which Camp was “evacuated” may be seen in new light with the help of the ITS-material.

These and many more research perspectives may be enlightened anew with the help of the ITS-holdings.

1

Invitation to a Workshop on Death Marches in Bad Arolsen, October 4–7, 2010

The workshop was organized by the *Research and Education Department*, which was created after the archive opened in 2007. Since then, the ITS has started forming international connections again. A working group was created to study the topic of death marches in detail and to demonstrate the research potential of the archive.

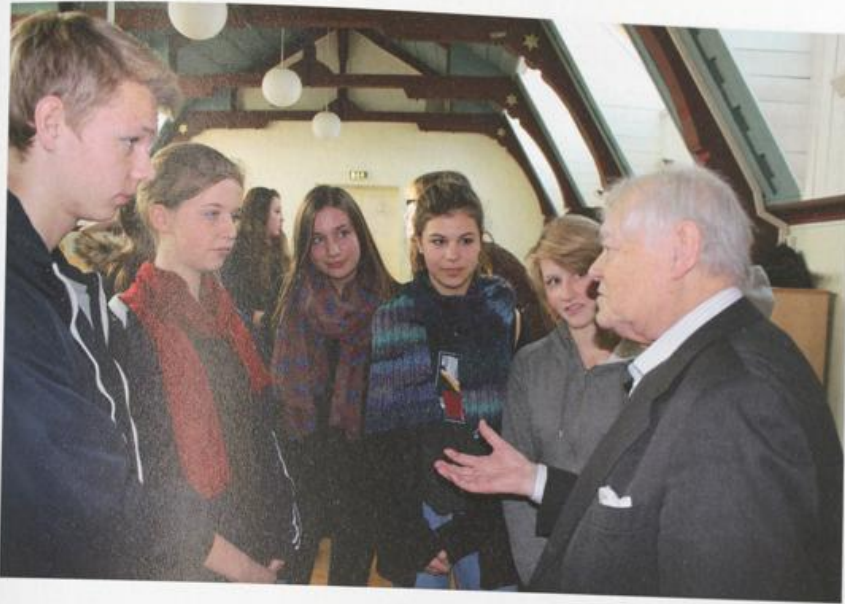


Conference Participants, *Searching for Traces of the Death Marches*, Bad Arolsen, November 23–24, 2011

Ever since the archive opened, conferences have been held regularly to discuss research findings. Workshops, by contrast, focus on exploring the archival collections and the potential they hold for research and education.

Visitors at the Exhibition *The Death Marches in the Documents of the ITS* in Berlin, December 3, 2013

Susanne Urban, head of the *Research and Education Department* at the time, developed the first ITS exhibition on the topic of death marches. Such exhibitions are intended to make the general public aware of the collections and invite them to carry out research.



**Survivor Eric Imre Hitter Talking to Students,
Berlin, December 3, 2013**

To accompany the exhibition, a talk was held with survivor Eric Imre Hitter, whose story was recounted in the exhibition. In April 1945, the SS forced the 15-year-old Jewish Romanian boy on a death march from Flossenbürg concentration camp. He was liberated on the march by US soldiers.

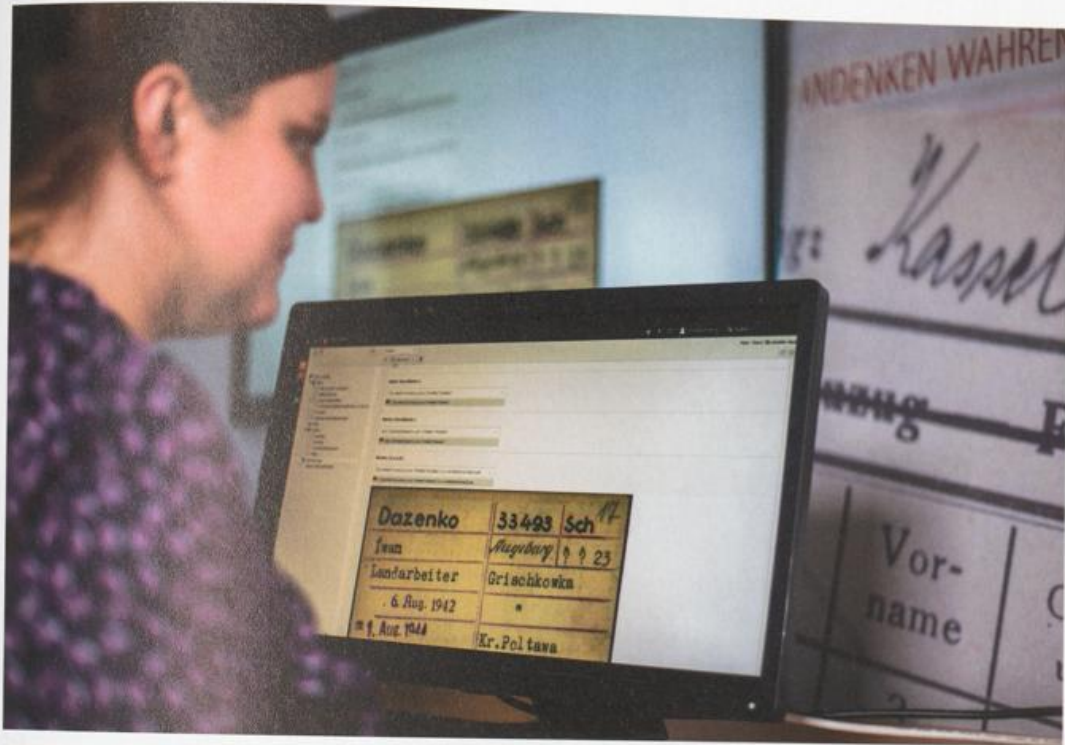
Freilegungen – First Academic Publications

Following the conference *Searching for Traces of the Death Marches*, the ITS established its own series of books to publish research findings on the history of Nazi crimes and their consequences.



**Professional Cataloguing of the Archival
Collections, Bad Arolsen, August 21, 2018**

Now that the ITS has opened up again to become an archive and documentation center, its collections are being catalogued for the first time. Many inquiries today relate not only to people but also to places or specific topics. New archival descriptions are therefore being developed to enable this kind of approach to the documents.



Working on the e-Guide, an Online Tool from the *Arolsen Archives*, Bad Arolsen, June 28, 2018

The e-Guide is an online tool that provides simple, understandable, well-illustrated and interactive explanations of the main document types held in the *Arolsen Archives*. This enables users with varying levels of prior knowledge to decipher the documents independently.

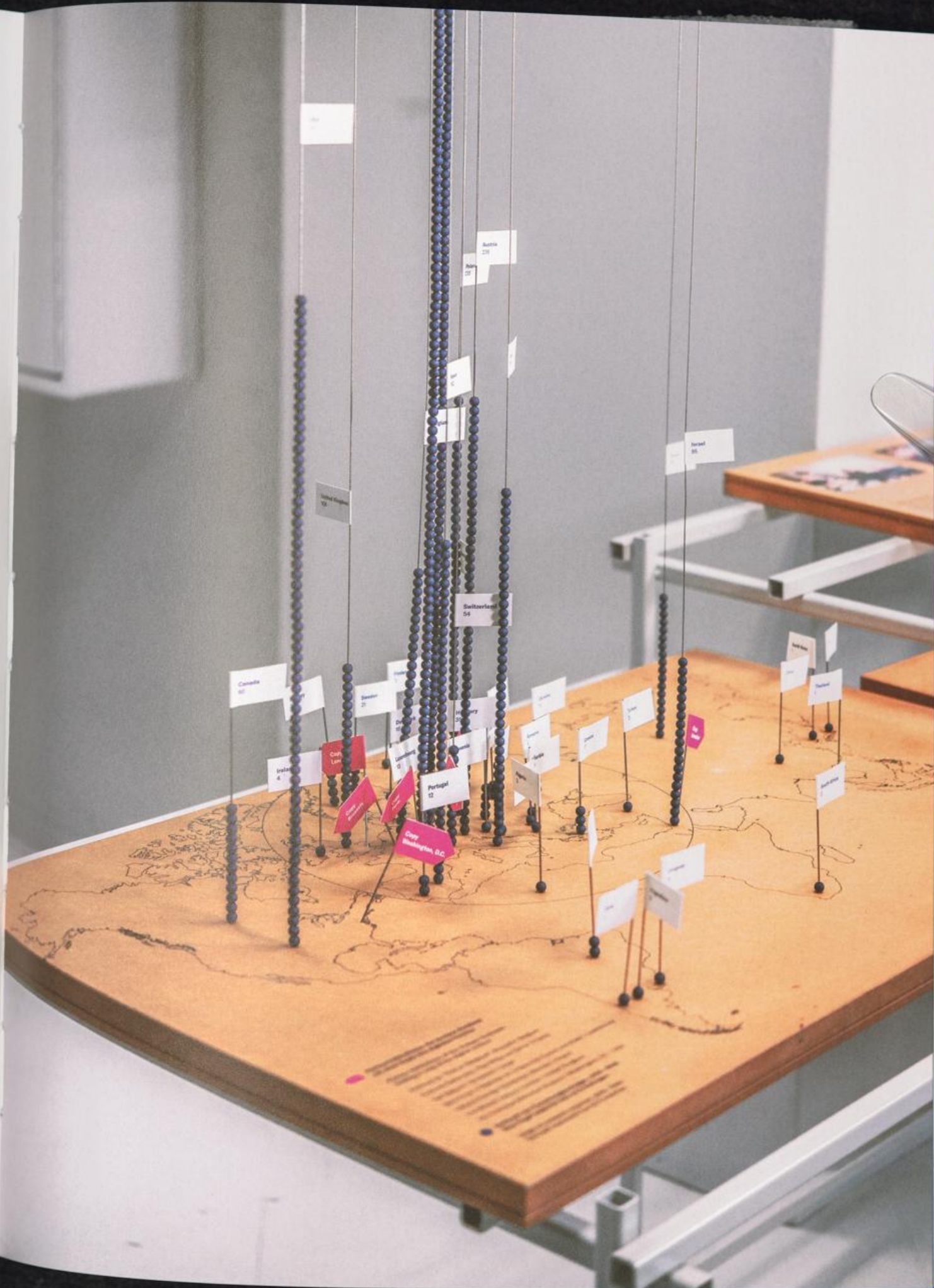
Research in the Reading Rooms of the *Arolsen Archives*, Bad Arolsen, August 21, 2018

Visitors receive support as they conduct research in the digital archive on site. Nearly the entire collection has now been digitized. They can also use the library, which has works on Nazi history, as well as newspapers and journals from the camp committees of former prisoners and the associations of victims of Nazi persecution.

Infographics

Use of the Archive for Research, Education and Remembrance

From 2015 to 2018, 9271 research requests were received from 49 countries, and hundreds of users carried out research on-site. The digital archive can also be accessed through partner institutions of the *Arolsen Archives*, known as copyholders: every member state of the *International Commission* is entitled to receive a copy.



“My father is just one such victim among many millions. They also have no marked graves and no memorials other than the files housed here in Bad Arolsen.”

Thomas Buergenthal,
Holocaust Survivor | His father died in Buchenwald concentration camp

“The Archives offer unparalleled opportunities for a social history of the Holocaust, or Nazism from the perspective of its victims. This is an important counterpart to a perpetrator-centric narrative.”

Dan Stone
Historian

“*Arolsen Archives* stands for historical truths. It is our conscience. But we need to make use of it, as it cannot speak by itself.”

Paul Dostert
Former Chair of the *International Commission of the ITS*

“The *Arolsen Archives* have been in a ‘notspot’ for too long. It is time this unique source of knowledge went where it belongs: in society’s midst, as a moral compass for us all.”

Floriane Azoulay
Director of the *Arolsen Archives*

List of Sources

Cover

- Front Photo of Suzanne Alharal, born March 19 1931 in Lyon, France. Together with her mother, she had been deported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. The mother survived and searched for her daughter in vain after 1945. Source: 6.3.2.1/84142773/ITS Digital Archive, Arolsen Archives
- Back ITS Records Branch Employees next to Concentration Camp Documents, Arolsen, circa 1950. Source: The Stars and Stripes

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 Elbot Family
 Höllenreiner Family
 Kargól-Ożyńska Family
 Scharf Family
 Stoxen Family
 Państwowe Muzeum Auschwitz-Birkenau w Oświęcim (Dr. Wojciech Płosa)
 Picture Alliance, Frankfurt/Main
 Anne Riedel, Kassel
 Richard Rosicka
 Anna Scharf, Strasbourg (†)
 Schwules Museum, Berlin
 Der Spiegel-Verlag, Hamburg
 Staatsarchiv Marburg (Helmut Klingelhöfer)
 Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
 Stadtarchiv Bad Arolsen (Günter Pohlmann)
 Stadtarchiv Bremen
 Stadtarchiv Korbach
 Stars and Stripes, Washington D.C.
 Stiftung Topographie des Terrors, Berlin (Dr. Thomas Lutz)
 Prof. Dan Stone, London
 Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin
 The New York Public Library
 United Nations Archive, New York
 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C. (Dr. Elizabeth Anthony, Paul Shapiro)
 Waldeckische Landeszeitung, Bad Arolsen (Elmar Schulten)
 Yad Vashem, Jerusalem
 Dr. Bernd Joachim Zimmer, Bad Arolsen (†)

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Under the Nazi dictatorship from 1933 to 1945, millions of people were deported and murdered. In order to search for missing persons and clarify their fates one of the largest archives on Nazi crimes was founded in Arolsen. It contains over 30 million documents, index cards and lists, on Holocaust victims and concentration camp prisoners, as well as foreign forced laborers and survivors.

Tracing offices had already been established in World War I, in light of the new dimensions of 20th century warfare, involving mass murder, deportation, imprisonment and flight. But the devastation of World War II was even greater. New structures were therefore set up by the Allies in 1945 to search for the missing victims of Nazi persecution. And for documents that would help clarify their fate.

As a result, the *International Tracing Service* was founded in 1948. Originally a temporary measure, it became a permanent institution when new responsibilities were added to its tracing activities. Since 2019 the institution has been known as the *Arolsen Archives*. It is an international center on Nazi persecution. The collections in the *Arolsen Archives* are a *paper monument*. Millions of fates are recorded in millions of documents, all cataloged within a huge *Central Name Index* – and listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World register. But how did tracing and providing information develop over time? How was the archive created? Who used it and who had access? This exhibition enables answers to these questions and also describes the development of dealing with historical evidence and the victims of Nazi crimes themselves.