

issue was doubtful or controversial, or when an important question of policy was involved, the decision was postponed until the member returned to Geneva, where the case was submitted to the whole Board for discussion and decision. In this way, the members alternatively sat for periods of time separately in the field and together at Headquarters.

The Chairman of the Board, a former President of a supreme court of appeal and an experienced judge, had the task of seeing that the Board fulfilled its functions in the fair and impartial manner in which judicial proceedings are conducted in courts of justice. A Recorder was charged with keeping the registers and archives and conducting the administrative work connected with the Board.

The number of cases submitted to the Board was very large : at the end of June, roughly 3,000 appeals had been received at the Headquarters of the Board, half of which had been dealt with, and 3,000 more had been made in the field and were in process of being submitted.

SECTION XII

International Tracing Service

As successor to the IGCR and UNRRA, the IRO assumed responsibility for the work of tracing the millions of civilians who disappeared during the war. In the course of its meeting in October 1947, the Preparatory Commission decided to create an International Tracing Service to replace the Central Tracing Bureau of UNRRA. This new division of the Organization came into being on 1 January 1948.

The International Tracing Service has its central headquarters at Arolsen in the United States Zone of Germany. It directs the activities of a French office in Berlin and zonal divisions at Esslingen in the British Zone of Germany and at Gottingen in the United States Zone of occupation, and maintains close relations with a French Zonal Tracing Bureau at Rastadt. These offices are staffed by a total of 639 persons, of whom 405 have been recruited from among refugees and Germans. Employment of German nationals is essential to maintain continuity of operations, because many refugee employees are lost through repatriation or resettlement.

It is the task of the ITS to seek to determine the fate of all persons who disappeared between September 1939 and May 1945, and to assemble at its central headquarters all documents concerning such persons.