

The new beginning

On 1st July 1947, the **IRO** (International Refugee Organization) takes over the Central Tracing Bureau which, as from 1st January 1948, accomplishes its task under the name

“International Tracing Service – ITS”

that is still valid today.

This institution helps the millions of refugees from Europe with the emigration to the United States of America, Australia, Israel etc. But also with the repatriation to their home countries which is still important.

In April 1951, the **HICOG** (Allied High Commission for Germany), the highest controlling body of the three Western Powers for the Federal Republic and West Berlin, takes charge of the management of the International Tracing Service.

When in 1954 the abrogation of the Occupation Statute in Germany is prepared, considerations are also made concerning an institution that guarantees the continuation of the International Tracing Service.

The course is set for a continued existence of the ITS under the supervision of the **ICRC** (International Committee of the Red Cross) in Geneva, an institution of a neutral and impartial character.

Holders of the Mandate



SHAEF

=

Conversion of the Foreign Relations Department of the British Red Cross into a Tracing Bureau

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces



UNRRA

=

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration



IRO

=

International Refugee Organization



HICOG

=

Allied High Commission for Germany



ICRC

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Cyril L. Widger remains in Arolsen as Director ad interim

International Committee of the Red Cross

- 1943 Major Eyre Carter
of the Foreign Office
Relief Department
15. 02. 1944 Names unknown
to
30. 06. 1945
01. 07. 1945 – Colonel J.R. Bowring
to Director of UNRRA CTB
30. 06. 1947 1945–1947
– Roman P. Flohr, Director
of UNRRA CTB 1947
01. 07. 1947 Maurice C. A. Thudichum
to Director, 1947–1951
30. 03. 1951
01. 04. 1951 Executive Board consisting of
to three members:
05. 05. 1955 Hugh G. Elbot
(US-Representative and Chairman
of this Executive Board)
Jan Sconce, later
Cyril L. Widger (British representative)
Armand E. Klein (French representative)
06. 05. 1955
to
05. 06. 1955
- as of 06. 06. 1955 – E. Jaquet and M. Borsinger
June 1955
– N. Burckhardt, Director
July 1955 to 30. 06. 1970
– A. de Cocatrix, Director
01. 07. 1970 to 31. 12. 1977
– Dr. P. Züger, Director
01. 01. 1978 to 31. 10. 1985
– C.-C. Biedermann, Director
since 01. 11. 1985

In an official letter, Dr Konrad Adenauer, the Federal Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of that time, asks Dr Paul Rueger, the President of the ICRC, that the latter assumes, initially for a period of 5 years, the direction and administration of the ITS.

The ICRC agrees to this request.

