

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces

On 15 February 1944, the newly established SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces) took over the Central Tracing Bureau, which had been set up at the British Red Cross, Foreign Relations Department, in 1943.

The SHAEF was established in order to replace the controlling organization, Chief of Staff, Supreme Allied Command (COSSAC). The new headquarters had the task of co-ordinating the entire armed forces (army, navy and air force) of Great Britain, the USA and other allied nations, which had already been assembled in England since January 1942.

The seat of SHAEF was at London from February till August 1944, at Versailles from August 1944 to May 1945 and at Frankfurt on the Main from May till July 1945.

SHAEF was dissolved in July 1945.

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) which was established as early as 1943, took over responsibility for the Central Tracing Bureau on 1 July 1945. This organization had the task of caring for and repatriating millions of non-German refugees.

UNRRA was dissolved in 1947 when the majority of the refugees had been assisted and repatriated.