

Summary

60 years ago, a registration bureau for the civilian population affected by the Second World War came into existence in London, the activities of which have gradually developed further in the course of time. For more than half a century, the main task of the International Tracing Service (ITS) has been to provide the former civilian persecutees of World War II with certificates about the stay in camps or the forced labour suffered during the events respectively about registrations in the immediate post-war time. This enables the group of persons concerned to assert their rights in the form of pensions, compensation or fund payments. The ITS whose work is controlled by an International Commission (IC), consisting of eleven member governments, as ruling body and directed and administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva has more than 25,000 linear metres of personal records at its disposal for the fulfilment of this task. At the moment, the conversion from pure paper into electronic archives is taking place. Furthermore, the IC/ITS is presently elaborating the regulations concerning the implementation of historical research already decided on. After completing the humanitarian work, it will be necessary to determine the final legal form. The diversity of the personal registrations is reflected in a selection of documents that have been preserved to the most different extents from the various places of persecution until today.