

5) Historical Section

The Historical Section holds documents of general nature which refer to the categories of persons with which the ITS is concerned, i. e.

victims of concentration camps and other persecution,
foreign labourers and DP's

Documents of this kind are analysed, classified and examined here.

Most important is the collection of documents pertaining to concentration camps and persecution. Available here are mainly decrees and orders of the then Ministries and NS-offices, predominantly those which were under the authority of the Reichsführer SS, such as RSHA = Main Security Office of the Reich (Section IV/Gestapo, Section V/Criminal Police Office of the Reich) and of the SS-WVHA=SS Main Office for Administrative and Economic Affairs), which took over the administration of the concentration camps in March 1942. Added to that are documents of general and statistical nature of the individual concentration camps. Furthermore, situation reports furnished by the chief public prosecutors have been collected which give information about prisons, taking into special consideration the evacuation of these from the eastern districts of the Reich.

In the possession of the Historical Section are also regulations with regard to the assignment of foreign labourers in the area of the Reich during the war.

The regulations also available of relief organizations such as UNRRA and IRO are, on the other hand, only very seldom consulted, as the question of the legal status of displaced persons can be considered today as cleared up.

Moreover, the Historical Section has a subject library, specifically concerning the individual concentration camps, the persecution of Jews in the different countries, publications of Jewish communities, of the Red Cross etc. Only such publications were acquired of which one could expect that they contain, with regard to the tasks of the ITS, indications of tangible facts. Also at disposal, are the trial records against the main war criminals before the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg in 1945/46.

The activity of the Historical Section also consists in describing general facts of the persecution, as deriving from the available documents.

The examination of newly acquired documentary material, which increased in 1974 to an extent not reached until now, is made in view of the preparation of the Register of Places of Detention. It was originally planned to publish a Supplementary Volume to the "Preliminary Register of Concentration Camps and their Commandos and of other places of detention under

The Historical Section holds documents of general nature which refer to the categories of persons with which the ITC is concerned, i.e.

victims of concentration camps, foreign prisoners and Jews.

Documents of this kind are assigned to the Historical Section by

the competent authorities in the collection of documents pertaining to concentration camps and persecution. A special task is the handling of documents of the German Ministry and the Reich Security Office, particularly those which are in the possession of the Reich Security Office, such as the Reich Security Office of the Reich (Section IV), Section V/Criminal

Division of the Reich and the Reich Security Office for Administration - Economic Affairs which took over the administration of the concentration camps in March 1942. Added to this are documents of general and special nature of the Reich Security Office, particularly those which have been collected by the Reich Security Office, being into special consideration the documents of these from the eastern districts of the Reich.

The possession of the Historical Section are also regulations with the assignment of foreign prisoners in the area of the Reich.

The Historical Section also handles of relief organizations such as UNRRA and other relief organizations, as the question of the legal status of displaced persons can be considered today as

Moreover, the Historical Section has a subject library, especially concerning the Jewish question camps, the persecution of Jews in the Reich and countries, institutions of Jewish Government, of the Reich and other countries. Only such publications were acquired of which one could expect that they contain, with regard to the issue of the ITC, indications of importance. Apart from this, are the trial records against the main war criminals before the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg in 1945/46.

The activity of the Historical Section also consists in describing general parts of the persecution, as deriving from the available documents.

The examination of newly acquired documentary material, which increased in 1974 to an extent not reached until now, is made in view of the preparation of the Register of Names of Detention. It was originally planned to publish a supplementary volume to the "Prisoner's Register of Concentration Camps and their Commanders and of other places of detention under

the control of the Reichsführer-SS, 1939-1945" established in 1969, but in the course of the years, owing to the unexpected large number of new documents, it became evident that a revised edition is indispensable.

Owing to the examination of this documentary material 7 early concentration camps which existed before the war, 73 outlying commandos and 8 subcommandos of the war period have been discovered. Added to the aforementioned camps and commandos are places of detention whose existence was already known to the ITS, for which, however, proof could now be furnished that in certain camps for men, also female prisoners were incarcerated and vice versa. Concerned herewith in detail are the following camps: 1 early concentration camp and 14 outlying commandos of the war period for which evidence of female inmates could be procured, and 9 outlying commandos for which evidence of male inmates was procured. Numerous new data was also of great importance e.g. opening and closing dates of 10 early concentration camps and of approximately 600 commandos resp. subcommandos. Furthermore alterations of less importance were made with regard to more than 100 commandos resp. subcommandos.

Furthermore, necessary information is extracted from the documentary material for the planned issue of the "Handbook of Concentration Camps".

The exact analyses of concentration camps as well as detailed description on structure, organization and administration of commandos will be the essential criteria of this Handbook. The book will be supplemented by a geographical register of all further known places of detention - for example ghettos and prisons - containing geographical and statistical facts.

As the documents are very voluminous and because one can expect an increasing number of new documents, it has become necessary to establish a subject index. The contents of the aforementioned documents are summarized on index cards. This subject index, after completion, will enable the user to find documents pertaining to a certain subject and will thus facilitate the answering of requests in the historical and statistical files. This subject index will also be time-saving for visitors (historians, candidates for a doctor's degree etc.) when locating the required documents.

Besides the various activities of the Historical Section within the scope of examination of documents, work was started in 1970 and 1972 which made the creation of individual work-groups necessary.

The Historical Section holds 1.272 files.

(35 employees)

