

### Tracing Section

This section is of special importance as the original activity of the ITS is still performed there today. It is really astonishing that after 30 years, tracing inquiries are still made for missing relatives with whom connections were severed due to war events. Of course now the tracing inquiries comprise only 4% of the total number of incoming requests, the average of the last 5 years is 8.000 inquiries per year.

Information concerning the fate of the missing persons is often ascertained in the Concentration Camp Documents Section as well as in the War-Time Documents Section. If the persons sought have survived concentration camp detention resp. war-time events, indications with regard to their whereabouts resp. emigration might be contained in the post-war time documents. In spite of the years that have passed, it is possible in many cases, owing to the co-operation with the different National Red Cross Societies, to locate the missing persons in the countries of emigration and to establish contact with their families. Of course the difficulties increase from year to year.

It must be emphasized that the ITS is not concerned with investigations of every kind. Its activity is restricted merely to examine records held in the archives and then to pursue a lead that has eventually been found.

Taking into consideration the right of the protection of personality of the individual persons, the ITS discloses addresses only with the consent of the person sought.

(7 employees)

After the processing has been finished the positive cases, of which the files now also contain the original documents of the persons in question and the reply of the ITS, are sent to the Central Files. The total number of files stored in the Central Files amounts to approximately 1.500.000. Cases that due to lack of documents have to be answered in the negative are stored separately. These files have not reached a dead-end, because due to new requests or if on DR basis a newly acquired documents, supplementary information is given, resp. instead of negative replies now positive reports can be sent, the files are continuously required. A case where the file is required only once is an exception.

(13 employees)

