

Auxiliary indices to the Master Index had to be established in order to evaluate exhaustingly the content of the archives. The main auxiliary indices will be mentioned under "IV. Special working methods" (cf. page 9)

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM THE ITS

The criteria vary constantly according to which the archives are consulted. It depends on the type of questions put to the ITS which section of the archives is to be consulted. Certain sections such as the War-Time Documents came only recently into use on a larger scale. The principal types of information required are mentioned below :

Tracing inquiries

Despite the fact that the tracing of missing persons forms today only about 10% of the inquiries, this type of work is mentioned first as it was initially the main activity of the ITS and last but not least because "Tracing" forms part of the title of the ITS. First of all it must be stressed that the ITS does not, so to speak, trace anyone anywhere. Its tracing activity is restricted to the scope of its archives. Only if a lead on a sought person is found in the archives it is followed up by addressing inquiries to other agencies. It must not be forgotten that the most recent information the ITS holds on a person dates from at least fifteen years ago. This information might be found on a list of the inmates of a DP-camp dissolved long ago or on an emigration list of the early fifties. Once such a lead is found the real tracing starts. It is done through the intermediary of various agencies and particularly through the National Red Cross Societies. The ITS respects the following principle : an address should never be disclosed to the inquirer without the formal consent of the person that was found.

Excerpts from documents

One must keep in mind that the content of ITS' archives generally cannot be confirmed by other sources. The CC- and Post-War-Time records are unique. The sources for the War-Time documents have practically become inaccessible or have been destroyed. The circle of persons within the sphere of the ITS have, however, to produce for various reasons evidence of their detention, of the fact that they contracted diseases or received medical treatment at a given moment, or must just prove where they lived at a given time during a period which reaches from the beginning of the war to the immediate post-war time i.e. from 1939 to 1951. It must be remembered that these persons were not registered anywhere else during this period. In answer to such requests the ITS draws up excerpts of its documents in the appropriate form (cf. annex No. 1 : certificate of incarceration

in a CC; annex No. 2 : certificate of residence (i.e. during the aforementioned period); annex No. 3 : excerpt from documents for various purposes).

Today 90% of the activity of the ITS consists in such excerpts in various forms. The main reasons for which these excerpts are required are given below :

CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION

For claims for compensation on account of National-Socialist persecution mainly the proof of detention in a CC, found in the respective section of the archives, is required. In 1949, according to compensation laws of some "Länder" of the Federal Republic of Germany, the first requests reached the ITS. Under the terms of the respective law of 1954 for the entire Federal Republic and to a much larger extent under the supplementary legislation of 1956 these requests formed the majority of inquiries addressed to the ITS, reaching up to 80% of the total.

From 1945 to 1951 DPs were not obliged to register with the German authorities. Therefore, they need for their claims, in addition to the proof of their detention, evidence of their residence during the immediate post-war period. This information can only be secured from the UNRRA and IRO registration records.

The same type of evidence is requested by the ITS for indemnification schemes of other countries and of the UNHCR.

EVIDENCE OF PHYSICAL INJURIES

Diseases and injuries are mentioned in the documents of all three sections of the archives. There are also to be found the results of medical inspections at the entry into a CC and on arrival in a DP-camp. Such medical records are required in order to substantiate claims for compensation for physical injuries according to the German indemnification law or for invalidity pensions of many countries. Even physicians ask for these records as a basis for their present treatment of a patient.

RESTITUTION CLAIMS

Claims are lodged with the Federal Republic of Germany by former prisoners for valuables withdrawn from them in a CC. The necessary evidence can be found on the individual effects card where all personal property withdrawn from a prisoner in a CC is recorded.

PROOF OF EMPLOYMENT AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE

Foreigners who worked in Germany during the war had to be insured against accidents by their employers. More and more former workers need evidence if possible that they were insured or at least for which period and for whom they worked, when they reach the age to receive a pension. This evidence is required as well for German as for other insurance companies.

in 1945 under the name of a committee of residence (i.e. during the
dissemination period) under the name of a committee from documents for
the same purpose.

Today 5% of the activity of the IZB consists in such examples
in various forms. The main reasons for which these examples are
produced are given below.

CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION

For claims for compensation on account of National-Socialist
persecution during the period of 1933-1945, found in the
negative section of the register, as required in 1945, according
to the provisions of the Federal Law of 1952, under the terms of the
law, the first requests received in 1952, under the terms of the
provisions of 1952, and the entire Federal Republic and to a work
later carried under the provisions of the law of 1952, these
requests formed the majority of requests addressed to the IZB,
amounting up to 80% of the total.

From 1955 to 1960, the rate was reduced to 10% with the
German authorities. Therefore, they had to find claims in addition
to the group of those National-Socialist victims of their residence
during the remaining post-war period. This information can only be
obtained from the IZB and the registered records.

The same type of requests is requested by the IZB for inland
dissemination of other countries and of the IZB.

WITNESSES OF PHYSICAL TORTURE

Witnesses and injuries are mentioned in the documents of all
sections of the register. There are also to be found the re-
sults of medical inspections at the end of 1945 and an initial
in a 1952 law. Such medical records are required in order to en-
sure claims for compensation for physical injuries amounting to
the second installment law of the Federal Republic of Germany of any
National-Socialist victims and for those records as a basis for their
present treatment of a patient.

PROFITABLE CLAIMS

Claims are lodged with the Federal Republic of Germany by former
prisoners for various reasons. There is a 1952 law. The necessary
evidence can be found in the individual ethnic card where all
relevant requests were made from a prisoner in a 1952 record.

1952 OF EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Workers who worked in Germany during the war had to be
insured against accidents by their employers. More and more former
workers need evidence if possible that they were insured or at least
for which period and for what they worked, when they reach the age of
retirement. This evidence is required as well for German as
for other insurance companies.

EMIGRATION AND NATIONALIZATION

Former DPs require for these purposes excerpts from documents from the post-war-time archives in lieu of certificates of good conduct (polizeiliche Führungszeugnisse).

PROOF OF DEATH

This evidence found in the three sections of the archives is necessary to solve legal questions according to civil law. There is a SPECIAL REGISTRAR'S OFFICE in Arolsen which is authorized to register deaths of CC-inmates which occurred in the former German Reich or in German occupied territories. The necessary documentary evidence is put at the Registrar's disposal by the ITS.

PROCEDURE OF DECLARATION OF DEATH

All courts of the first instance of the Federal Republic of Germany received instructions to submit to the ITS all requests for declaration of death concerning the circle of persons falling within the scope of the ITS. The ITS may then be able to furnish evidence not only of deportation or detention in a CC of the person for whom a declaration of death is required, but also the actual date and place of death which renders the action for declaration of death unnecessary. The ITS also examines all procedures submitted by the member nations to the United Nations International Bureau for Declarations of Death in Geneva.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON CCs etc.

Based on the above mentioned historical archives general information is given on CCs and other camps and their organization.

In the years from 1949 to 1951 the ITS published a "Catalogue of Camps and Prisons in Germany and in German Occupied Territories from 1.9.1939 to 8.5.1945" of over 900 pages. This register shows camps of different categories from CCs to simple camps where foreign workers lived, in geographical order, i.e. subdivided into various countries, localities are indicated alphabetically and under each locality the camps or prisons which existed there. In contradiction to the catalogue's title, information on CCs goes sometimes back to 1933.

The second edition of this publication is already exhausted. The ITS, therefore, decided to prepare a revised and extended edition.

The old catalogue was based mainly on testimonies given by former prisoners, as the ITS had at that time practically no documentation on the CCs at its disposal. It has been mentioned above to which extent the ITS' archives had been expanded since the catalogue was edited. Similar registers of camps had been established by some countries in the meantime which were also put at the disposal of the ITS.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

From the history and laws of the United States, it is evident that the government was established in 1787, and that the Constitution was adopted in 1789.

The first Congress met in 1789, and the first President, George Washington, was inaugurated in 1789. The first President was inaugurated in 1789, and the first Vice President, John Adams, was inaugurated in 1789.

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In the first instance, with the assistance of a historian a wider scheme was drawn up within which the new edition of the catalogue should be expanded. Preference was now to be given to documentary evidence as against the testimonies.

Thereupon all sections of the archives including the historical one were to be checked for evidence to be included in the catalogue. The photocopies of the relevant documents are collected thematically. This work will soon be terminated. It was surprising how many new or more precise data were found in the personal documents of the three sections of the archives. Not only exact dates of opening or closure of CCs and their commandos were established, also important movements during a camp's existence and previously unknown work commandos could be ascertained.

In a third phase this documentation will have to be sifted, certain (still uncertain) questions will have to be elucidated and finally excerpts will have to be established according to the scheme mentioned above.

The new catalogue will not only give more ample information, many errors of the old one will be rectified. Historical institutes of several countries give already valuable assistance to the ITS. The exact geographical location of each town or village to be mentioned in the catalogue has to be ascertained. A specialized group is entrusted with this complicated work.

This last phase of the preparatory work of the catalogue, the sifting of the documentation and excerpting therefrom the necessary data is still in its initial stage. However, as all documents concerning one camp are filed together, specific inquiries on a given camp can already now be answered according to ITS' most recent data. In fact quite a number of such requests are received currently.

III. VOLUME OF WORK

In order to give an impression of the current work the ITS has to deal with, only the YEARLY TOTALS OF INCOMING REQUESTS will be given below. This is only possible as far back as to the year 1951 when the present statistics were introduced :

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1951: 52 000 | 1956: 158 000 | 1961: 129 000 |
| 1952: 53 000 | 1957: 204 000 | 1962: 155 000 |
| 1953: 67 000 | 1958: 155 000 | 1963: 101 000 |
| 1954: 103 000 | 1959: 126 000 | 1964: 198 000 |
| 1955: 138 000 | 1960: 115 000 | 1965: 130 000 |

Total of incoming requests ca. 1,9 million