

The ITS naturally keeps also more detailed statistics subdivided into different spheres of activity which are closely watched. Possible developments within the different working-schemes are evaluated. Such data as might be obtained from the responsible authorities are considered. The evolution of the legislation is followed and other sources of information are used. One might take into consideration all known facts, but estimations even for the near future of the incoming work were all the same inaccurate. A single conclusion can be drawn from the past experiences : new programs take longer to develop than foreseen by their initiators; the number of claims i.e. for the ITS requests of evidence, is usually higher than calculated, as the possibility that unsubstantiated claims could be lodged is not taken into consideration by the initiators. Then the authorities who require evidence from the ITS are much slower in registering and in sifting the claims than foreseen and can therefore not make use of the ITS' information as early as expected.

The above figures however, show clearly that information is needed from the ITS still to quite an extent twenty years after the war. Furthermore, from temporary lulls as in 1963 it cannot be concluded that the work of the ITS will definitely decrease.

IV. SPECIAL WORKING METHODS OF THE ITS

In consulting its archives ITS encounters difficulties which are presumably less known to other tracing services. Some of the methods by which these difficulties are overcome will be shown below :

Establishing the origin and examining the contents of the documents

When, three years after the end of hostilities, the ITS came into possession of the first CC documents, these had already passed through many hands and were no longer in good order. A CC document does not always show its origin clearly, i.e. by which CC it has been established and what it exactly indicates. Only a systematic comparison with previously identified documents or the checking in the Master Index of names mentioned therein will often elucidate origin and contents of a newly acquired document.

Incomprehensible designations were often used on purpose in the CCs. Extensive researches were necessary to find their significance. As an example the abbreviation "NN" will be found as designation of a special class of prisoners. It was found that "NN" stands for "Nacht und Nebel" (night and fog) and that prisoners designated as such were the victims of large razzias of suspects of resistance movements in Western Europe. The relatives of this category of detainees were not supposed to receive any news about the prisoners'

fate and the detainees should not leave the CC alive. There are other code-names, the exact meaning of which has not yet been elucidated.

The designations were abbreviated in an arbitrary manner. Thus the following abbreviations were used in the records of a CC infirmary : "M", "MS", "MVS" and "MVSt". The riddle was solved when an individual case was treated. Some of the documents where the inquirer was mentioned showed the above abbreviations but one bore the remark "Malaria-Versuchs-Station" (experimental malaria station). A former prisoner who had worked in this section of the infirmary confirmed this concurrence. In fact, here artificially infected prisoners were subjected to medical experiments with the object to test the effectiveness of certain anti-malaria drugs. This information is of great importance for the ITS to serve as evidence for the substantiation of claims for compensation submitted by the victims of pseudo-medical experiments.

The ITS encounters today less difficulties in this field thanks to the large extent of its archives and to its past experience.

However, only the treatment of many individual cases makes it possible to determine whether entries in a given document correspond with the facts. If, in the course of the investigation of a case, conflicting remarks are discovered, namely contradictions between different documents or between a document and the indications given by the inquirer, a corresponding note containing the questionable remark is added to the document. This is meant as a warning for those who will consult the document for other cases. If such "warnings" become numerous - fortunately this is very rare - the document is not consulted anymore or the doubtful entry is given as such in the information submitted by the ITS. There are, for instance, a certain number of cards established by the "Schreibstube" of CC Dachau which bear the rubber stamp "DELIVERED IN THE CAMP BY U.S. ARMY" or "DELIVERED IN OUT-DETAIL BY U.S. ARMY". This inscription does not signify with certainty that the person concerned has been liberated by the U.S. Forces. Experience has shown that all cards of the "Schreibstube" of CC Dachau on which, before the liberation of the camp, no remarks on the death, the release or transfer of the prisoner were written, were issued with this stamp. At the moment of liberation of CC Dachau one was not aware of the fact that during the last weeks the "Schreibstube" had not anymore been notified accurately of the deaths which occurred in the out-details or even in the camp. The ITS therefore only uses this information if other information is available on the person dating from after the liberation. Otherwise the content of the rubber stamp is only given under "remarks".

Identification of a person in the documents

The problem mentioned above hampers the work of the ITS less than the difficulty of identifying a person at all in the document or with full certainty. The causes of this obstacle are manifold : incomplete or incorrect personal data recorded in the document, wrong spellings due to linguistic difficulties arising between the registrar and the registrant, incomplete or false information given by error or on purpose by the registrant or later by the inquirer. The latter cause adds much to the ITS difficulties.

Surnames :

The system of phonetic-alphabetical classification adopted for the Master Index has already been mentioned. Some further explanations seem, however, necessary. The system is built up on an empirical basis and is constantly extended according to the newest experiences. German and Romanic surnames do not involve any particular difficulties. In the case of very common surnames such as MEIER the phonetical equivalents MEYER, MAIER, MAYER, MAIR etc. are naturally classified together.

The numerous Slavonic or Oriental Jewish names (more than 60%) have to be dealt with in a special manner. Syllables such as cak, csak, tzak are classified uniformly under the German phonetic form of the sibilant tschak. Names with the vowels e, i, y, ü, o and u in Slavonic nomenclature are also assembled. Therefore, a person with the Polish name SZEPANSKIEVICZ, which can be written in 480 different ways, could not be identified unless the phonetic system is applied in the Master Index. (Cf. annex No. 5 : "Allgemeine Regeln des alphabetisch-phonetischen Klassierungssystems").

First names :

First names of foreign origin figure in the ITS documents often in the German form. Whenever the bearer of a given first name changes the country of residence he is inclined to translate it into the language of the new country. If the bearer's nationality changes due to a new delimitation of political frontiers he translates his first name as well. In the case of some new frontier delimitations the translation of first names and even surnames were compulsory. Jewish first names can be indicated in their Hebraic or Yiddish form or in the language of the country of residence, or they can even be replaced by local non-Jewish first names. Thus, the name of MOSES can change into Mojsche, Moszeh, Moszko, Moise or Moritz, Maurice, Mieczyslaw and even Max. That is why the ITS has empirically constituted a card-index of equivalent first names comprising about 25.000 forms of names. Very common names such as John (Johann, Hans) appear in the ITS documents under 191 forms. The card-index of equivalent first names is constantly completed by examples drawn from daily experience.

The system of phonetic alphabetization... is based on the principle of... the system is... the system is...

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Thus, the ITS will show the equivalence of first names which appear in different forms in the enquiry and in ITS documents (for instance Moses = Max).

Date of birth :

For persons coming from certain parts of Europe the date of birth is not always a reliable indication. This does not arise from the difference existing between the Gregorian, the Julian or the Israelite lunar calendars but it is due to the fact that certain ethnic groups attach little importance to the date of birth - even to the year of birth.

In addition, false declarations made by the registrants have to be taken into account. Some declared themselves younger or older as CC inmates in order to be considered as fit for work and to escape from annihilation. Others changed their age after the war in order to emigrate more easily. Some ITS documents indicate only the year of birth or the age of the persons concerned.

Place of birth :

As a result of linguistic difficulties arising between the registrar and the registrant names of the birth-places were often distorted to such an extent that they cannot be recognized anymore or, instead of the authentic birth-place a better known town nearby or the name of a province was entered. In order to rectify such errors maps and gazetteers are to be consulted. Experience has shown that the last residence before the arrestation or deportation is more reliable and a better means of identification.

In view of the fact that the usual personal data (surname, first name, place and date of birth) are often insufficient to ensure identification, the ITS has included other particulars, some of which are mentioned below :

Serial number of the detainee :

Numbers issued to the CC inmates are extremely important for their identification. In certain documents the prisoner figures alone under his serial number. The special books in which serial numbers and prisoners to whom they were issued had to be registered, have not come into possession of the ITS, which had, therefore, to reconstitute them in form of card-indices from the relevant CC documents. If, for instance, a prisoner whose serial number is known used a code-name which he often does not remember anymore, such an index is the only key to the question. Misspellings of surnames by the camp registrars can also be rectified by this means.

There, the list will show the registration of later names which appear in different forms in the subject, and in the documents for the same person - (a).

Date of Birth :

For persons coming from certain parts of India the date of birth is not always a reliable indication. This date may differ from the date actually given in the documents, the latter on the other hand being correct. In such cases the date of birth given in the documents should be taken as the date of birth, even in the case of persons.

In addition, false declarations made by the registrants have to be taken into account. Some persons themselves pointed out other as their relatives in order to be considered as fit for work and to escape the restrictions. Others changed their age after the war in order to obtain more credit. Some of these persons indicate only the year of birth or the age of the person concerned.

Place of Birth :

In a number of instances difficulties arising between the registrant and the registration office of the birth-place were often due to such an extent that they cannot be overlooked. In order to avoid this, the registrant should be asked to give a better known town or village of the province and entered in order to verify such errors. The registrants are to be advised that the fact that the fact of residence before the registration or declaration is more reliable and a better basis of identification.

In view of the fact that the name of the person is often given in the documents, the date of birth and the other information to ensure identification, the IN has included other particulars, some of which are mentioned below :

Serial number of the document :

Where issued to the IN, the serial number is extremely important for their identification. In certain documents the person's name is given under his serial number. The serial number in which serial numbers are entered is also very important and to be registered. Where the name is given in the IN, which has therefore, to be registered, the name is given in the IN, which has therefore, to be registered. In the case of a person whose name is known as a town-name, which is often done and recorded in the IN, such as in the case of the person's identification of persons by the name register can also be verified by this means.

Treatment of cases based on family groups :

Certain ITS documents comprise in addition to the information on the registrant certain indications on close relatives. The ITS endeavours, therefore, when dealing with a case, to consult as well any documents relating to the members of the family of the person in question. In order to identify a person already the father's and the mother's first names and the mother's maiden name are taken into consideration. Documents which comprise complete family groups are particularly valuable in this respect.

If the destinies of various members of a family group are compared, from the fate of one member the fate of another can be deduced. (Cf. annex No. 4 : "Zusammenstellung der Familienangehörigen aus den Nachkriegszeitunterlagen"). Here, for instance, the birth-place of the son (No. 3) shows the simultaneous residence of the mother (No. 2) and indirectly of the father (No. 1) as well. The information comprised in the grandfather's (No. 4) documents refer to the simultaneous residence of the grandmother (No. 5) always starting from the son (No. 3) born in 1946.

Examination of documents in the form of lists :

The ITS holds a large number of lists, for instance of transports of CC prisoners. Each list refers to a certain transport giving the places of departure and destination, the date of departure or of arrival and the names of all prisoners included in the transport. These lists are naturally kept in chronological order. Even if such a list comprises thousands of surnames it is easier to consult than the Master Index with its 20 million cards. Such a list comprises only persons who had the same fate at a given date. If the inquirer can, therefore, indicate time and place which correspond to such a list it can be consulted with advantage if the checking results of the Master Index were negative. Two examples are given below :

- According to a request a certain FELLER Gustav, born 25.10.1903 is said to have arrived in CC Buchenwald at a given date. The checking result of the Master Index is negative. However, in the transport-list of this CC at the given date a TRELLER Gustav, born 25.10.1903 is mentioned. Identical first name and date of birth have allowed to identify this person.

- The inquirer LIPNIK Berta, born 25.2.1898 indicates that she lived in the DP-Camp Landsberg in 1947. Again the checking result of the Master Index is negative. However, in a list of the DP-Camp Landsberg of 5.5.1947 a SCHÜTZ Berta, born 25.2.1898 appears. Thereupon the ITS asked the inquirer for her precise personal data and learned that Schütz was her maiden name and that she had only married in 1948, information which she had forgotten to indicate in her first request.

Treatment of water based on health records

During the summer months it is difficult to obtain the information on the records of the patients on their health. The information is scattered in various places and is not always complete. It is necessary to check the records of the patients in order to identify the cases and to determine the extent of the disease. The information is scattered in various places and is not always complete. It is necessary to check the records of the patients in order to identify the cases and to determine the extent of the disease.

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