

V. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CENTRAL TRACING SERVICE

A. Methods of Procedure

1. "The Meeting of Cards Principle". The most widely used means of tracing missing persons employed by a number of agencies including the International Red Cross, the German Bureaux and the Central Location Index, is known as the "meeting of cards" or "encounter" system. According to this method, when "A" enquires after "B" their names are carded into an index where they wait until "B" or possibly "C" enquires after "A". As the names of "A", "B" and "C" are added to the index a considerable body of information is accumulated against which to screen subsequent enquiries. Nevertheless, there can be no known locations, i.e., persons found, until there is a junction or "meeting" of "A" with "B" or "C". Consequently, many enquiries are never answered, and, in any event, except in the rare case, a great lapse of time occurs before any answer is forthcoming.

This system operates with reasonable efficiency when homogeneous groups, such as nationality groups are concerned; and when both parties are living and desire to communicate with each other. In handling large groups of mixed nationalities, however, operational difficulties preclude a high rate of efficiency. In addition, and this is its most serious disadvantage, it provides no basis for locating victims of war and persecution, who have died. This system alone is not adequate for meeting the problem which has developed in Germany as a result of the war.

2. "The Search Principle". A system of tracing based on the "search principle", includes "the meeting of cards" as its first step. Those who are not located, instead of remaining inert in an index, are actively investigated. All available records are closely examined. Local authorities at the place of last known residence, and every tracing agency

likely to have pertinent information are contacted. Finally, an individual investigation is conducted including personal visits, interviews with acquaintances, and any other means which will locate the missing person. This system is the only one adequate for solving current tracing problems.

3. A Consolidated Tracing Service. The tracing operation may be conducted through a single consolidated agency which brings together all available records and information, and in turn receives all enquiries. It implies the maintenance of a gigantic index of information concerning each person known to have been displaced or to have perished as a result of persecution. It also implies a wide network of investigators to carry out field work, or an interlocking system of agencies which will provide that service under centralized direction.

Such a centralized bureau offers many advantages, but its operation is a gigantic undertaking presenting almost insurmountable difficulties. It would require a large international staff familiar with the languages and the internal problems of each nation, as well as a great number of Archivists and technical experts qualified to handle documents of great variety and complexity. It would entail the expenditure of huge appropriations such as no international organization now existing would be willing to make available.

4. A Decentralized Tracing Service. An alternative procedure is to delegate the responsibility to agencies especially created and particularly qualified for discharging specialized aspects of the problem. This is the system which was adopted for the Central Tracing Service. It consists of agencies operating on three levels :-

- (1) A National Tracing Bureau within each nation to receive initial inquiries concerning the missing of its own

likely to have pertinent information on this subject. It is
in individual investigation as suggested by the
visit, interviews with special agents, and the
which will focus the search. The case is the only
one which has been treated during the period.

3. A Generalized Search System. The Search

operation may be conducted through a single centralized
agency which will cooperate all available records and
files, and in fact receive all information. It is the
responsibility of a single agent of information
and it is not meant to have been placed on the
of a search operation. It also provides a
responsibility to carry out the search in
of a search which will provide the
of the search.

It is suggested that a search system be developed
of the operation is a single centralized agency
responsibility for the search. It is the
national search system with the
of the search, as well as the
investigation and search of the
of the search and control. It is
expansion of the search system to be
operation will be the result of the search.

4. A Generalized Search System. In this

operation it is suggested that the search system be
especially created and controlled by the
specialized agents of the search. The search
has been the search system. It is
agents operating on these levels.
(1) A National Search System which is
initial search covering the search of the

nationality, to serve as a repository for official records of their displaced or deceased missing nationals, and to conduct investigation on a national level.

(CORE/P(45)54, Para. 2, 6, 7).

(2) A Zonal Tracing Bureau within each zone of occupied Germany operating under the complete jurisdiction of its own Zone Commander to institute searches referred to it for investigation and to collect and pass on all available records uncovered in the zone. (Ibid., Para. 3, 5, 6, 7.)

(3) The Central Tracing Bureau to operate as a central clearing house between the Zonal and National Bureaux, to ensure the transfer of pertinent records and information to appropriate national bureaux, and to retain in its Central Records Office those records which, owing to their nature, cannot be decentralized (Ibid., Para. 4, 6, 7.).

B. The National Tracing Bureaux.

The conduct of tracing on a national level is entrusted to officially recognized National Tracing Bureaux, the nature and organization of which varies from country to country. In general, however, the bureaux of the Western Countries developed from Ministries or other repatriation agencies organized by the Allied governments in London before liberation. Those in the East, were, for the most part, organized at a later date, specifically to deal with the enormous problems of their displaced population.

(1) The following National Bureaux are working in closest liaison with the Central Tracing System:-

- (a) France. The national bureau for France is the Bureau National Francais des Recherches, attached to the Ministère Anciens Combattants et Victimes de la Guerre. This bureau was originally a part of the Ministere des Prisonniers de Guerre, Déportés et Réfugiés which developed from the

nationality, to give as a condition of naturalization... records of their affidavits or contracts... and to conduct investigations on a national level... (1) A local training bureau... Germany operating under the... have conducted to... investigation and... recovered in the... (2) The... significant... create the... appropriate... and... records... to be... to be...

The National Training Bureau

The object of finding... stated to... the... country... and... of the... of the... in the... at a... of their... (1) The... with the... the... to the... in... of the... of...

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Comité des Repatriés created by General de Gaulle to handle repatriation. It was the first of the national bureaux to be created in the West.

- (b) Belgium. The Service d'Identification et de Recherches is a part of the Commissariat Belge au Repatriement. The Commissariat was created by the decree-law of 27 June 1944 (Article 2) for the purpose of organizing the repatriation of Belgium nationals. As the problem of repatriation became less pressing towards the end of June 1945, the Commissariat turned its attention to the problem of the missing. On 29 September 1945, a concerted effort was undertaken to conduct a census of all who had not returned, on the basis of which a systematic examination of the problem was made. The Belgian bureau, like the French, is a continuation of repatriation activities set up in London to handle the problem immediately after liberation.
- (c) The Netherlands. The Informatiebureau Van het Nederlandsche Rood Kruis, a private agency, was designated by the Netherlands government to function as an official bureau on 12 September 1945. The problem of tracing in the Netherlands was complicated from the start by the existence of many tracing agencies maintained by such organizations as Les Bureaux de l'Ancien Mouvement de la Résistance, Les Bureaux d'Information Néerlandais pour Ouvriers en Allemagne, and La Commission Juive de Coordination à Eindhoven. It was not until the creation of the Central Tracing Bureau that a unification of the various agencies was effected.

- (d) Luxembourg. The national tracing bureau for Luxembourg is a section of the Commissariat au Repatriement, created by decree on 2 August 1944. As in France and Belgium the service was a development of repatriation and did not receive primary attention until that problem approached solution.
- (e) Poland. The officially recognized bureau in Poland is the Biuro Informachyne (Information Bureau) of the Polish Red Cross. It was organized in 1918 for tracing persons missing during World War I; it maintained a small staff after the war for tracing missing civilians, and in 1939 was augmented to meet the problem arising from World War II. Its files were completely destroyed at the destruction of Warsaw in 1944, but its services were continued in outlying districts. In April 1945 the decentralized records were brought together and a unified service reinstated in Warsaw.

In addition to the officially recognized national bureau in Warsaw, extensive records of Polish displaced persons in Germany compiled by the London Polish Red Cross and maintained at Lemförde have been of great value in locating missing Polish nationals, by all odds, the largest of the national problems.

- (f) The United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The problems of tracing in these nations is fundamentally different from those of the Continent. They are not as much concerned with problems of population displacement as of tracing the relatives in Europe of their own nationals. The British Red Cross Society has been appointed as the official

(a) Section 101 - The purpose of this section is to provide for the establishment of a system of public health services, to be known as the Public Health Service, which shall be organized and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Act and subject to the supervision and control of the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

(b) Section 102 - The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare shall, as soon as practicable, submit to the President a plan for the establishment of the Public Health Service, which shall include a statement of the purposes and objectives of the Service, a description of the organization and structure of the Service, and a statement of the estimated cost of the Service for the first fiscal year and for each of the next five fiscal years.

(c) Section 103 - The President shall, within 90 days after the date of the submission of the plan to him, transmit to the Congress his recommendations with respect to the plan, and shall also transmit to the Congress a report on the progress of the establishment of the Service during the first fiscal year and during each of the next five fiscal years.

(d) Section 104 - The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare shall, as soon as practicable, submit to the President a report on the progress of the establishment of the Service during the first fiscal year and during each of the next five fiscal years.

(e) Section 105 - The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare shall, as soon as practicable, submit to the President a report on the progress of the establishment of the Service during the first fiscal year and during each of the next five fiscal years.

(f) Section 106 - The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare shall, as soon as practicable, submit to the President a report on the progress of the establishment of the Service during the first fiscal year and during each of the next five fiscal years.

(g) Section 107 - The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare shall, as soon as practicable, submit to the President a report on the progress of the establishment of the Service during the first fiscal year and during each of the next five fiscal years.

(h) Section 108 - The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare shall, as soon as practicable, submit to the President a report on the progress of the establishment of the Service during the first fiscal year and during each of the next five fiscal years.

(i) Section 109 - The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare shall, as soon as practicable, submit to the President a report on the progress of the establishment of the Service during the first fiscal year and during each of the next five fiscal years.

(j) Section 110 - The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare shall, as soon as practicable, submit to the President a report on the progress of the establishment of the Service during the first fiscal year and during each of the next five fiscal years.

bureau for the United Kingdom. The Central Location Index, a voluntary agency composed of eleven welfare societies, performs that function for the United States.

(g) In addition to these bodies, the Central Bureau utilizes the facilities of recognized groups throughout the world. They vary in nature from the national Red Cross Societies, as in Greece and Italy, to official governmental agencies, as those of Norway and Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. By means of these agencies the Central Tracing Service, acting through the Central Tracing Bureau, is truly international in character.

(2) The Coordination of National Bureaux. The necessity of coordinating the tracing program on a national level presented itself urgently to the national bureaux first when the lessening of repatriation revealed the full extent of the tracing problem. On the invitation of the Belgian government representatives of the Western countries, the Central Tracing Bureau, and the Directorate of Prisoners of War and Displaced Persons of the Allied Control Authority, together with observers from the Eastern nations, met in Brussels on 8, 9, and 10 December 1945, to examine the implications of the problem⁽¹⁰⁾. At this meeting it was decided that cooperation on an international level was essential, and that it could best be effected by the establishment at the Central Tracing Bureau of a Coordinating Committee made up of technicians representing their bureaux. (Résolutions de la Conférence Internationale pour l'organisation des recherches, tenue à Bruxelles les 8, 9 et 10 Décembre 1945). This Committee held its first meeting at the Central Tracing Bureau on 15th December 1945.

3. The United States Zone Bureau of Documents and Tracing.

C. The Zonal Tracing Bureau.

The four Zonal Bureaux operate under the complete jurisdiction of their own Zone Commander subject only to the general policies of the Allied Control Council and the Central Tracing Policy Board (CORC/P(45)54, Para. 3(b)). They may maintain search parties, and admit Liaison Officers as the Zone Commander considers it necessary (Ibid., para. 5). They are responsible for instituting searches in their own Zone including those which the Central Bureau is unable to answer from its records (Ibid., Para. 3 (a), 6 (d)). They search systematically for records and make available all information uncovered in the Zone to the Central Bureau (Ibid., Para. 7(a)). Although each of the Zonal Bureaux performs the same function, their organization and method operation varies.

1. The British Search Bureau. The first of the zonal bureaux to be organized was the Missing Personnel Search Bureau of the PW Branch, British Control Commission for Germany, which was set up early in 1945 to assist in the movement of prisoners of war. When the organization of the Central Tracing Service made necessary the establishment of a zonal bureau, its activities, already greatly enlarged, were expanded to include the tracing of displaced persons. The British bureau operated from the beginning on a definite "search principle" (see above V, A, 2), and is largely responsible for the use of that method in the Central Tracing Service.

2. The French Zone. Tracing in the French Zone of Occupation is organized under the Direction des Personnes Déplacées, a part of Gouvernement Militaire de la Zone Francaise d'Occupation. It is consequently a military operation using military personnel, and was organized to conduct search activities for persons and records when the French Military Government was organized.

The Joint Training Bureau operates under the complete jurisdiction of their own Joint Government and is the general policy of the Allied Central Council and the Central Training Policy Board (COUNCIL) (see para. 1). They may maintain search parties, and shall maintain officers as the Joint Government considers it necessary (para. 2). They are responsible for investigating personnel in their own area including those within the Central Bureau in order to know from its records (para. 3 (a), (b), (c)). They shall systematically for records and shall maintain all information uncovered in the Joint to the Central Bureau (para. 4). Although each of the Joint member parties has the same function, their organization and method operation varies.

1. The British Search Bureau. The first of the Joint Bureau to be organized was the British (see para. 1). It was formed of the 14 Branch, British Central Council for Germany, which was set up early in 1945 as a result of the success of operations of war. When the organization of the Central Training Bureau was necessary the establishment of a local bureau, its activities, already partially assigned, were expanded to include the training of captured personnel. The British Search Bureau then the holding on a further "search parties" (see above para. 1, 2) and be largely responsible for the use of their methods in the Central Training Bureau.

2. The French Bureau. Training in the French Bureau of Cooperation is organized under the Direction des Services de Liaison, a part of Government Ministère de la Guerre (see above para. 1). It is comparatively a military organization being military personnel, and was organized to conduct search activities for persons and records when the French Military Government was organized.

3. The United States Zone Bureau of Documents and Tracing

The United States Zonal Bureau is the only one operated with UNRRA personnel. Although it began limited operations with the organization of the service, it was not finally established until January 1946. Its organizational pattern coincides with the German administrative political sub-division lines, and it functions through a tracing and a documents division roughly comparable to those of the Central Tracing Bureau (see below V D.). Its operational procedures within the zone are set forth in UNRRA, U.S. Zone Headquarters, Administrative Order No.56, 30 April 1946, and its relations with the Central Bureau are specified in UNRRA, Central Headquarters, D.P. Operations, Germany, Order No.42, 24 May 1946.

4. U.S.S.R. Zone. Little is known of the organizational structure or operational methods of the U.S.S.R. Zonal Bureau. It is located in Berlin and operates as a part of Headquarters Soviet Control Council, Berlin.

(10). Officials of the French National Bureau had earlier consulted on the same problem with representatives of UNRRA, E.R.O. As far as is known no action was taken beyond the exchange of information. (Summary Account of a Meeting held on 11 August 1945 at the E.R.O. of UNRRA.)

Germany may inaugurate searches for their relatives and to which enquiries for those of doubtful or indeterminate nationality should be addressed (Ibid., Para 5 (b)).

In addition to the Executive and Administrative Staffs, the Central Bureau is organized into two divisions corresponding to its dual functions.

1. The Records Division is organized to perform the first function of the Tracing Bureau. Its duties fall under three headings:

3. The United States Army Bureau of Inspection
and Training

The United States Army Bureau of Inspection
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operated with USAF personnel. Although it began limited

operations with the organization of the service, it was

not finally established until January 1952. The organization

pattern overlaps with the German administrative structure

and is located along the same lines as the German

army division roughly comparable to those of the United

States Army (see below, p. 2). The organization is

within the same area as the German Army, U.S. Army

Administrative Order No. 12, 10 April 1952, and is

with the Central Bureau and operates in the same

manner. U.S. Operations Bureau, Order No. 12, 10 April

4. U.S.A.R. Base, Europe

organizational structure of operations as follows:

U.S.A.R. Base, Europe. It is located in Europe

as a part of headquarters Soviet Central

(20). Officials of the French National

Commission on the same problem with representation of the

U.S.A. as far as its name is concerned and the

change of information. (Summary report of a

11 August 1952 to the U.S.O. of USAF.)

D. The Central Tracing Bureau.

As defined in the basic agreements under which it operates (see above IV, C, 3) the Central Tracing Bureau functions as a central clearing house between the zonal and national bureaux and not as an executive body (CORC/P(45)54, Para. 4,6.). In general, it performs two functions. First, it is the channel through which the zonal bureaux make available to the national bureaux all documents and other information uncovered in the zones (Ibid., Para. 7(a)), and through which the various national bureaux make available to each other such records as may be of interest to them (Ibid., 7(b)). The Central Bureau retains in its Central Records Office only those records which, owing to their nature, cannot be decentralized, breaking down and processing those of a mixed nature for despatch to the national tracing bureaux concerned (Ibid., Para. 7 (d)). Second, the Central Tracing Bureau acts as the agency through which enquiries for tracing individuals are transmitted to the zonal bureaux for search in the field. If the national bureau is unable to answer the enquiry as a result of its investigation, the national agency forwards it to the Central Bureau, from where, if search still fails, it is transmitted to the appropriate zonal bureau, (Ibid., Para 6.). Likewise, the Central Tracing Bureau is the official channel through which displaced persons in Germany may inaugurate searches for their relatives and to which enquiries for those of doubtful or indeterminate nationality should be addressed (Ibid., Para 6 (b)).

In addition to the Executive and Administrative Staffs, the Central Bureau is organized into two divisions corresponding to its dual function.

1. The Records Division is organized to perform the first function of the Tracing Bureau. Its duties fall under three headings :-

(a) The Records Processing Section prepares material analyzed by the Registration Unit, for the use of the national

The Central Funding Bureau

As defined in the basic agreement under which it

operates (see above II, 1) the Central Funding Bureau

functions as a central clearing house between the local and

national banks and not as an executive body (XIX(4)(b)).

Para. 4.6. In general, it performs the functions. First,

it is the channel through which the funds transfer take

place to the national banks and through which

information is received in the form of (1) the

through which the national banks transfer funds

and which each country on its part of interest

(2) The Central Bureau retains in its possession

only those receipts which, along with other

receipts, bearing date and amount, are of a kind

which are needed for the national banks to

(3) Para. 4.7. Second, the Bureau is

not an agency through which receipts

are transmitted to the national banks

in the field. If the national banks in

country as a result of the investigation, the

it would be to the Central Bureau, the

it is submitted to the appropriate

(4) Para. 4.8. In addition, the Central

the official channel through which the

through any investigation procedure the

with receipts for those of interest or

nationality should be addressed (19), Para. 4.9.

In addition to the receipts and

State, the Central Bureau is operating

corresponding to the first function.

1. The second function is to

the first function of the Central Bureau. The

under three headings:

- (1) The location of documents and maintenance of a catalogue of all documentary evidence regarding missing persons.
- (2) The despatch of records received at the Central Tracing Bureau to appropriate agencies.
- (3) The preservation of records concerning stateless persons and those of undetermined nationality.

The functions of the Records Division are of two types: the accumulation and analysis of data which result in publishable studies to be used as a source of information; and the mechanical processing, by sorting, breakdown, and reproduction, of documents clearing through or retained by the division so that the information contained therein may be disseminated. Although some overlapping is unavoidable, in general the first function is performed by the Documents Intelligence Section, and the second is the responsibility of the Processing Section.

- (a) The Documents Intelligence Section collects documents and information concerning them, maintains a catalogue of available documents wherever deposited, and distributes information to interested bodies. Its primary purpose is to provide a central clearing house for information and research preliminary to the actual procurement of documentary information. It maintains an index of documents for which a search is underway and of those known to have been destroyed, and integrates available knowledge regarding concentration camps, transports, and death marches. It likewise collates for circulation information regarding documentary material in the possession of the national bureaux and studies the resources of such document collections as the Ministerial Collecting Center and the U.S. Documents Center in Berlin.
- (b) The Records Processing Section prepares material analyzed by the Registration Unit, for the use of the national

- (1) The location of documents and materials of a category of all documents available to existing persons.
 - (2) The location of records reported at the Central Training Bureau to appropriate agencies.
 - (3) The preservation of records concerning such persons and those of individual nationality.
- The functions of the various divisions are of two types: the accumulation and analysis of data which results in statistical studies to be used as a basis for the selection and the mechanical processing by various agencies and reproduction of documents directly through or through the Division so that the information appears in the form of abstracts. Although some statistics are available as general the first function is performed by the Research Intelligence Section, and the second is the responsibility of the Training Section.
- (a) The Research Intelligence Section will accumulate and information concerning their activities, a category of available documents which are deposited and distributed information to interested bodies. The study further is to provide a central clearing house for information and research preliminary to the final processing of documentary information. It maintains an index of books sent for which a search is relatively easy. These books to have been deposited, and registers available to judge regarding communications, reports, transcripts, and death records. It issues releases for circulation information regarding documentary records in the possession of the national power and studies the resources of such content collections as the Historical Collecting Center and the U.S. Document Center in Berlin.
 - (b) The Research Intelligence Section prepares statistical analyses by the Registration Unit, for the use of the national

tracing bureaux, and the Tracing Division of the Central Tracing Bureau. Three functions are involved:

- (1) Sending original material to national bureaux concerned.
- (2) Breaking down and/or reproducing mixed lists to facilitate distribution.
- (3) Preparing for the index of the Tracing Division records to be retained by the Central Tracing Bureau.

2. The Tracing Division. This division performs the second function of the Central Tracing Bureau, i.e., the actual tracing of individuals in response to enquiries. Four types of investigation are conducted:

- (1) Individual tracing of cases where sufficient information is available to make possible a field investigation.
- (2) Direct enquiries through postal facilities of
 - (a) individuals for whom a specific last known address is provided, and
 - (b) requests which by their nature can be most expeditiously handled through direct contact with burgermeisters and other local German officials.
- (3) Mass tracing where so few facts are available as to preclude individual search, or where such individual investigation has failed, and
- (4) The tracing of missing unaccompanied children and their parents or relatives.
 - (a) The Processing Section processes all individual searches for despatch by the Correspondence Section. This processing involves clerical work such as transcription of illegible enquiries, registration, map location, and

of the latter makes an abbreviation of the German tracing services imperative (see above II. 3.).

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(4) The ...
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 (a) The ...
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filing. In addition all incoming enquiries are checked against the Central Tracing Bureau index. This index is not a list of known locations of all missing persons in Europe, but contains three types of information only:

- (1) A record of all cases accepted for action at the Central Tracing Bureau and sent by it to the zonal or national bureaux for search.
 - (ii) known locations discovered as a result of such search, and
 - (iii) known locations and death records for stateless persons and for persons of undetermined nationality.
- (b) The Correspondence Section, handles the actual tracing of individuals through correspondence, which involves not only despatch of inquiries and replies but decisions as to the type of communication to be sent, selection of other means of investigation, or forwarding replies in the most expeditious manner. This action is the responsible agent through which the search to the zones is directed.
- (c) Besides the Processing and Correspondence Sections, the Tracing Division contains the Mass Tracing Section, which arranges for broadcast and publication of names and distributes camp-rosters; the Special Section which deals with enquiries for prominent people, missing secret agents, etc., and the Child Tracing Section which deals with ^{all} enquiries for missing unaccompanied children or for their relatives.

E. Organization for the Tracing of German Nationals

Although the tracing of missing German nationals does not fall within the province of the Central Tracing Service, the interdependence of the two problems and the vast importance of the latter makes an examination of the German tracing services imperative (see above II, B.).

In addition all known persons are checked against the Central Trading Index. This index is not a list of known persons of all existing persons in Europe, but contains names of persons only.

(1) A record of all cases reported for action at the Central Trading Index will not be made unless the name of the person is known.

(2) Cases involving persons known to the Central Trading Index and their names are listed in the report for persons of interest in the report.

(3) The investigation section, besides the list of names of persons, includes through correspondence, other persons who only appear in the report and whose names are in the type of communication to be sent. In addition to other names of investigation, an investigation report is the most important matter. This act is in the investigation report through which the names of the persons are directed.

(4) Besides the processing and correspondence section, the Trading Division contains the Central Trading Index which contains the names and addresses of persons and their names and addresses. The Central Trading Index also contains names of persons for payment, other persons, names, and the Central Trading Index with their names and addresses for sending correspondence to their relatives.

2. Investigation for the Trade of German Relatives

Although the trading of German relatives does not fall within the province of the Central Trading Index, the investigation of the list of names and their importance of the latter, when an examination of the German trading relatives relative (see above II, B.).

1. The German "Bureaux". There are operating in Germany at the present time a multiplicity of unauthorized bureaux which hopelessly confuse the situation. Many of them are unscrupulous in their intent and methods; others are well intentioned but ineffective because of the decentralization of information and the duplication of efforts. Search services conducted under the auspices of various religious organizations are widely distributed, but for the most part the "bureaux" are local in nature and extremely limited in their operation.

(a) The Hamburg Bureaux.

The importance of an authorized German tracing bureau was first realised by British officials under whose auspices a system was set up in September 1945, whereby German prisoners of war in Allied hands could communicate with their families. As many undelivered letters accumulated in the Dead Letter Office, it was thought wise for civilians to communicate with the Office; when the enquiries were received, a "meeting of cards" resulted. In October 1945 the service was extended from the British Zone of Occupation to the whole of Germany. This bureau, known as the Central Postal Enquiry Bureau, is under the supervision of the British Army of the Rhine.

A second authorized bureau is the German Zonal Search Bureau (Such-Dienst-Rates Kreuz-Zentrale Hamburg) operated by the German Red Cross under the supervision of 3, Miscellaneous Agencies Detachment of British Military Government. The bureau operates largely on the "meeting of cards" principle, but has supplemented that service by the use of the radio, records, and a restricted field search. It limits its activities to the North-Eastern part of Germany, and the northern part of the French Zone, of Occupation, but works in close co-operation with the

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(a) The Hamburg Bureau.

The importance of an efficient bureau during
war was first realized by British officials in 1914
whose success a system was set up in Hamburg in 1915,
whereby German prisoners of war in Allied hands could
communicate with their families. As they were
located in the West, it was decided to set
up a bureau for division in communication with the
front; when the English were successful in a matter of
order, verified. In October 1915 the bureau was
extended from the British zone of occupation to the
state of Saxony. This bureau, known as the Hamburg
Postal Agency Bureau, is under the supervision of the
British Army of the Rhine.

A second attempt was made in the German zone
South Bureau (South-Brandenburg) which was
operated by the German side under the supervision of a
Military Liaison Agency, Bureau of Postal Agency
Government. The bureau operated largely on the basis
of cards, telegrams, but was organized the service by
the use of the radio, wireless, and telegraph field
service. It limits its activities to the North-German
part of Saxony, and the western part of the French zone.
of occupation, but works in close cooperation with the

Bavarian Red Cross, which operates in the South.

(b) The Munich Bureau.

The German Search Service in Munich is a branch of the Bavarian Red Cross, operating under the supervision of the Public Welfare Branch, Office of Military Government for Bavaria. Like the bureau in Hamburg it operates on the "meeting of cards" principle, but has augmented its service by field searches for special cases through investigation of police and burgermeisters' records, churches, the Red Cross, and other welfare agencies. This bureau operates in close co-operation with the German Zonal Search Bureau in Hamburg, together with which coverage is extended throughout Germany.

(c) The Berlin Bureau.

An authorized bureau known as the German Search Service was set up on 1 March 1946 under the authority of the Internal Affairs and Communications Division, Public Welfare Branch, of OMGUS. This bureau likewise operates on the "meeting of cards" principle, and since it is of recent origin, it is not likely to perform a useful service within the near future. Its greatest value would seem to be in its operation as a local agency for the Berlin area working together with the more firmly established Munich and Hamburg bureaux.

2. A Central German Tracing Bureau. The question of the advisability of establishing a centralized tracing service for the German population was first brought to the attention of the Allied Control Authority Directorate of Internal Affairs and Communications on 14 September 1945. At its request the Civil Administration Committee set up a group to study the organization of such a service (DIAC/CAC/M(45)4, 18 September 1945, Para. 14 b), and in due time a proposal was advanced

Bavarian Red Cross, which operates in the South.

(b) The Bavarian Red Cross

The Bavarian Red Cross operates in a branch of the Bavarian Red Cross, operating under the supervision of the Public Health Service, Office of Military Government for Bavaria. Like the Bureau in Berlin it operates on the "voluntary basis" principle, but has appointed its service by their activities and special needs through investigation of public health organizations, medical supplies, and Red Cross and other welfare agencies. The Bureau operates in close cooperation with the German Social Service Bureau in Munich, together with which coverage is provided throughout Germany.

(c) The Bavarian Red Cross

An authorized German agency in the German Red Cross was set up on 1 March 1945 under the authority of the Federal Office for Administration, Bavaria. Public Health Service, Office of Military Government for Bavaria, on the basis of their principle, and was set up to provide coverage of its own health service. It is authorized to provide health service within the area of its jurisdiction. This was to be in the operation as a health agency for the Bavaria and existing together with the now newly established Federal and Military Government.

(d) A German Social Service Bureau

The Bureau of the Social Service Bureau is a special service of the German Red Cross, which is subject to the supervision of the Allied Control Authority, Office of Military Government and Administration for Germany. It is authorized to provide health service within the area of its jurisdiction. This was to be in the operation as a health agency for the Bavaria and existing together with the now newly established Federal and Military Government.

VI. GERMAN RESPONSIBILITY AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADING AGENT
 (DIAC/P(45)42, 18 October 1945). Because of difficulties in administration and finance, this proposal was not implemented. The problem, however, continued to receive the attention of the Missing Persons Bureau Sub-Committee of the Civil Administration Committee (DIAC/CAC/MPBSC/P(45) 1), and further proposals were entertained by the IA & C Directorate at its Seventeenth Meeting on 10 January 1946. The matter was again referred to the Directorate's Committee for further consideration (DIAC/Memorandum (46) 9.). The German Planning Staff have started preparatory work under a (provisional) Director in an attempt to solve administrative problems which have delayed the acceptance of the proposal.

Whatever may be said of the merits of establishing the centralized bureau under discussion, from the point of view of the tracing problem as a whole the creation of such a service is of utmost importance. It would not only facilitate immeasurably the work of tracing certain categories of missing displaced persons, but would provide also an effective agency for tracing the German relatives of United Nations' nationals, a service determined necessary as early as General Eisenhower's original SHAEF order of April 1945.

- 1. This includes persons at present receiving care from U.N.R.R.A. in Germany, persons eligible for but not in receipt of such care but now dead.
- 2. U.N.R.R.A. cannot accept responsibility for tracing any Germans except victims of Nazi persecution.
- 3. Pending establishment of direct channels to appropriate agencies, U.N.R.R.A. can accept responsibility for routing enquiries regarding persons who may not be eligible.
- 4. The Chief of Operations in Germany is responsible for negotiations with the Allied Control Authority regarding U.N.R.R.A. questions for tracing and their relationship to the total activities for tracing in Germany.
- 5. The E.R.D. is responsible for coordinating U.N.R.R.A. policy with the policy of National Tracing Bureau, in so far as it concerns those persons eligible for U.N.R.R.A. care.

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