

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 <sup>all</sup> 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 sources are checked against the Central Trading Index. This index is not a list of known locations of all chemical plants in Europe, but contains some types of information only. A record of all cases reported for action at the Central Trading Index will be sent by the Bureau to national bureaus for their own locations. (i) (ii) (iii)

(b) The Investigation Section, besides the list of trading information through correspondence, also includes only copies of literature and reports for reference to the type of information to be sent. A list of other items of investigation, or information which is the most significant source. This list is the responsibility of the Bureau to the extent that it is discussed.

(c) Besides the Processing and Correspondence Section, the Trading Division contains the Index Section, which arranges for treatment and publication of news and literature on trading. The Index Section which includes reports for publication, analysis, review, etc., and the Index Section which deals with agencies for trading information related to the their relatives.

3. Organization for the Trading of German Materials

Although the trading of German materials does not fall within the province of the Central Trading Division, the independence of the two divisions and the vast importance of the latter makes an examination of the German trading activities imperative (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



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 burgenmeisters' 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



(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.

(UNCLASSIFIED) (S) (FOIA(b)(7) - Exemption of DISSEMINATION)

in administration and control, this proposal was not  
 implemented. The project, however, continued to receive  
 the attention of the various agencies and committees  
 of the Civil Administration Commission (CAC) (UNCLASSIFIED) (S) (FOIA(b)(7) - Exemption of DISSEMINATION)

and further proposals were submitted to the CAC Director  
 and the Government Planning Commission (GPC) (UNCLASSIFIED) (S) (FOIA(b)(7) - Exemption of DISSEMINATION)

has again referred to the CAC Director's Committee for further  
 consideration (UNCLASSIFIED) (S) (FOIA(b)(7) - Exemption of DISSEMINATION)

They have stated proposals will take a preliminary  
 Director in an attempt to solve administrative problems which  
 have delayed the progress of the project.

Director says he will do the work of coordinating  
 the detailed work with the Commission, but the point of view  
 of the funding agency is a major consideration in such a  
 review is of great importance. It would not only facilitate  
 necessarily the work of meeting with the members of the  
 National Council, but would provide them an effective agency  
 for dealing with the various committees of the National Council, and  
 a review committee composed of such as the National Council  
 original work order of April 1964