

- e) the development of Mass Tracing through more methodical blocking of lists of missing persons in the DP Assembly Centres, securing the services of more German newspapers and expanded broadcasting facilities;
- f) the centralisation of all tracing questions with more and more countries through the unique channel of their National Tracing Bureaux;
- g) the taking over of tracing activities formerly performed by agencies such as the A.J.D.C.

As regards the collecting of documents, their cataloguing, processing, photostatting, carding, a very considerable amount of material has been gathered or released to the ITS by the US occupation authorities, and great efforts are being made for an extensive carding of these documents.

The Master Index, the essential function of which is to reflect accurately the contents of the documents held and thus hasten the checking of the incoming enquiries, has increased considerably in volume. The number of cards, which a year ago was 1,876,599, was increased in 12 months by 1,505,348 and totalled 3,381,742 on 31st December 1948.

One of the major events in the year has been the planning of the expanded Child Search Branch and the establishment, for the approval of the General Council of IRO, of a budget which would make it possible to execute in one year's time the very difficult task of searching for the missing non-German children. The granting by IRO of a Child Search budget of \$ 585,000 since 1st October 1948 has increased the funds of ITS to approximately 1 million dollars."

The staff, which, at the end of 1947 had been 267, increased in the 12 months of the year to 1021 showing an extremely high turnover which, as one can well imagine, had most detrimental effects on the work. It amounted to 274 departures and 485 engagements. Among the departure was that of Mr. Roman Flohr, Deputy-Director and former Director of the OIB, who resigned in September 1948.

As to the volume of the work performed, a statistical chart is appended, (Appendix No.7) in which comparative figures are given for the years 1945-1950. It is felt, in spite of the inevitable dryness of any accumulation of figures, as this statistics are broken down and actually cover the essential grounds of ITS' activity, as also they are accompanied by remarks meant to enlighten the reader, that they will constitute the most eloquent and easily read summary of the work performed. The alternative could only have been a written description which would seem unbearably long to the readers.

## 2. 1949

The outstanding features of the year, as given in the Director's Annual report, were:



a) The installation of IIS/HQs in the Arolsen Barracks.

The consequences of this long hoped-for move have been of great importance:

- i) through the special concentration of the various services, very substantial economies could be realised in all directions;
- ii) by having at last about three times more office space, the staff was given adequate working conditions which had a good effect on health as a whole and on the quality and quantity of work produced;
- iii) with the assistance of the U.S. Army, who provided the necessary wood and equipment, the documents could at last be displayed on new shelvings etc. and the indices properly set up and displayed, which made everything accessible and rendered all checkings easier.
- iv) it made possible the transfer to Arolsen of approximately 30 tons of concentration camp original material, so far kept in Eschlingen in the U.S. Division, which greatly simplified the checkings to be made against it by hundreds every day and permitted, with the new means obtained in personnel, a more rapid completion of its processing, sorting and classifying;
- v) again, the larger office space, the final availability of the numerous typewriters which had been budgetted for over a long period and the proper examination of the documents which must be carded for the Master Index, made it possible to do extensive carding. This resulted in the insertion in the Master Index of many hundreds of thousands of cards, with all the consequences deriving therefrom on the checkings and sending out of reports to enquirers;
- vi) finally the larger office space allowed the IIS to increase considerably its indigenous personnel. While IRO HQ, Geneva, accepted to give to IIS a few new positions for international staff, which was fortunately possible within the dollar means at its disposal, a very considerable increase of the ceiling of the Deutsche Marks allocation to cover the salaries of the indigenous personnel was granted expediently by the U.S. Occupation authorities with the help of IRO Operations, Bad Kissingen. Thus, the number of indigenous staff at HQ which was 385 on 31st December 1948, was gradually brought up to 849 on 31st December 1949.

The above observations are made to show that if the considerable expansion of the IIS output and services, as shown in the present report, did not occur sooner, it was solely due to the fact that material difficulties made it impossible.

b) the installation of a German Civil Registry Office (Sonderstandesamt) at Arolsen

*The duties of such an office are:*

- a) to enter in a Deathbook - as foreseen by the German law - all deaths which have occurred in the war years and which were not so far thus registered, more particularly in the Concentration Camps and their many Commands;
- b) to establish proper death certificates for all such death cases which have not yet been certified.

The creation of this German Civil Registry Office was, of course, of primary interest to the IIS, but the readiness of the German Authorities to establish it and finance this Office, proves that the interest of the

The Investigation of the German Civil Registry Office

The investigation of this long paper has been done of course

through

i) through the special examination of the various services, so-  
ly substantial measures could be realized in all directions;

ii) by having at least about three times more office space, the staff  
was given adequate working conditions which had a good effect on  
health as a whole and on the quality and quantity of work produced;

iii) with the assistance of the U.S. Army, the provided the necessary  
wood and equipment, the furniture could at last be disposed of  
new shelving etc. and the tables properly set up and designed,  
which made everything accessible and rendered all checking easier;

iv) it made possible the transfer to a room of approximately 30 times  
of concentration and original material, so far as in Berlin  
and in the U.S. Division, which greatly simplified the checking  
to be made; it is intended every day and continued, with  
the new means obtained in personnel, a new kind of organization of  
the processing, sorting and classifying;

v) again, the larger office space, the final availability of the  
various typewriters which had been ordered for over a long  
period and the greater convenience of the documents which must be  
checked for the index, made it possible to be executed  
easily. This resulted in the transfer in the index of  
many hundreds of thousands of cards, with all the consequences  
having therefore on the checking and sorting out of papers  
to employees;

vi) finally the larger office space allowed the IIS to increase con-  
siderably the different personnel. With 2500 men, however, the  
needed to give to the IIS a few new positions for technical staff,  
which was formerly possible within the office space of the  
division, a very considerable increase of the output of the  
division had to be effected to meet the various office require-  
ments was granted especially by the U.S. Government. This in-  
crease with the help of the German Civil Registry Office, the  
number of employees went on to 300 on the 1st January 1953,  
1953, and gradually brought up to 500 on the 1st January 1954.

The above observations are made to show that the considerable  
expansion of the IIS output and services, as shown in the present report, did  
not occur sooner, it was solely due to the fact that material difficulties  
were it impossible.

The Investigation of a German Civil Registry Office  
(Continued)

a) to enter in a handbook - as foreseen by the German law - all  
deaths which have occurred in the war years and which have not  
yet been recorded, now particularly in the concentration  
camps and their many branches;

b) to establish proper death certificates for all such death cases  
which have not yet been certified.

The creation of this German Civil Registry Office was, of course,  
of primary interest to the IIS, but the readiness of the German Authorities  
to establish it and finance this Office, proves that the interests of the

Germans was equally great. The reason for this is that information relating to deaths of German nationals existing in the Concentration Camp documents held by the IIS were at last to become accessible to the Germans.

Next to the documents which are signed and stamped and can therefore be made use of by that Office, the IIS has a very considerable amount of papers which bear notes or signs relating to deaths and which constitute strong presumptions that death actually occurred. There is no doubt that the Convention on declarations of death of missing persons now being prepared by the United Nations Organisation and which will most likely be concluded and ratified by a number of Governments in the near future, will confer paramount importance to these papers and that a very large proportion of the declarations of death issued will be based on these documents.

The promulgation of a General Claims Law (Wiedergutmachungsgesetz) by the German Administration in the U.S. Zone and the probability of the new German Government promulgating another, to cover the three western zones, have put the IIS before a new and highly important task. In view of the fact that a great number of those who require indemnification have not the proofs necessary to back up their claims and because of the importance of the information collected by the IIS, the latter is requested to furnish those who address themselves to it, with copies of documentary evidence or with certificates of incarceration.

A second Conference of National Tracing Bureaux, convened by the Director, was held at the IIS HQ on 1st to 3rd September, 1949. The National Tracing Bureau Branches of Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, the Polish Red Cross, the French Zonal Tracing Bureau, the C.C.C., the French Military Government and IRO U.S. British and French Zone were represented.

This conference afforded to the delegates the opportunity of a detailed visit and an examination of the work so far achieved. It also permitted the countries represented to stress their most pressing requirements.

In regard to the Staff this heavy and highly productive year has again been marked by an excellent morale and spirit. At Central HQ in the Zone HQs and in the field, the zeal and devotion of everyone has been worthy of praise. The confidence placed in IIS by so many Governments, by IRO

Germany was equally great. The reason for this is that industrial re-  
turn to basis of German industrial existing in the Communist Camp de-  
scribed held by the IIR was at least as heavy as those applicable to the Germans.

Next to the documents which are signed and stamped and are therefore  
in made use of by West Office, the IIR has a very considerable amount of

papers which the notes or signs relating to debts and which constitute  
strong presumptions that debts actually occurred. There is no doubt that

the Convention on obligations of debts of existing German now being nego-  
tiated by the United Nations Organization and which will most likely be con-

cluded and ratified by a number of Governments in the near future, will  
confirm previous information to those papers and that a very large propor-

tion of the obligations of debts issued will be based on these documents.

The promulgation of a General Order (Reichsgesetzblatt)

by the German Administration in the U.S. has not the possibility of the  
new German Government investigating another, to cover the three western re-

new, have put the IIR before a new and highly important task. In view of  
the fact that a great number of those who require industrialization have not

the goods necessary to back up their claims and because of the importance  
of the information collected by the IIR, the latter is requested to fur-

nish those who address themselves to it, with copies of documentary evi-  
dence or with certificates of authenticity.

A second Conference of National Trading Bureaus, convened by the

Director, was held at the IIR HQ on 1st September, 1949. The partici-  
pating Trading Bureaus of Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and the

Netherlands, the Polish Red Cross, the French Royal Trading Bureau, the  
G.O.C., the French Military Government and IRO U.S., British and Korean

have been represented.

This conference attended to the delegates the opportunity of a deta-  
iled visit and an examination of the work as far as possible. It also partici-

ated the countries requested to stress their most pressing requirements.  
In regard to the staff this being and highly productive year has a

been been marked by an excellent morale and spirit. At General H. in the  
form life and in the field, the zeal and devotion of everyone has been ex-

hibited of course. The confidence placed in IIR by our Government, by IRO

and by the many thousands of those who count on it for the alleviation of their anxieties, of which numerous proofs were given in 1949 is the happy consequence of this general attitude of "service".

In the same Annual Report for 1949, the residual work load of ETS was evaluated as follows:

- (1) Completion of the exploitation of Concentration camp documents.
  - i) Distribution through photostat copies to the five western European countries of the individual papers relating to their nationals - to be achieved by 31st July 1950.
  - ii) Photostatting of some original card indices, books and lists in order to preserve these invaluable original documents against destruction through constant use - to be achieved by 28th February 1951.
- (2) Registration and recheck of graves in both US and British Zones on which several foreign missions count for the execution of their own task, i.e. the exhumation and repatriation of bodies of their deceased nationals - to be achieved by 30 June 1950.
- (3) Completion of the collection of German Civil Administration documents which could be achieved in the U.S. Zone by 30 June 1950 provided the material not yet furnished from approximately 16,500 sources (out of 123,800) is received before 31st March 1950.

in the British Zone by 30th June 1950 if none of the new targets found or still to be found are explored.

- (4) Processing of the German Civil Administration Documents from the U.S. Zone: with the present staff, this could be achieved in 1955 only.  
from the British Zone: this could be achieved by 31st December 1950.
- (5) Exploration and exploitation of special targets discovered in both zones through field tracing officers (see Zone Division reports page 26 and page 32).

The time required to carry out this work cannot be evaluated. There is no doubt, however, that the information available from these new sources would be of paramount interest to many Governments.

- (6) Supplying the German Civil Registry Office with the original documents relating to deceased inmates of CC camps (220,000 names) the registration of all names in Sterbebuch and establishment of certificates of death; official registration by this Office of all births which occurred in CC camps and in the Lebensborn organisation; estimated time required - 5 years, i.e. to the end of 1954.

(7) Carding:

- i) of CC material for insertion in the Master Index which will constitute the last indispensable phase of exploitation of this material as it will preserve it against the dangers of wear and tear, permit it to be classified in the Library and complete the Master Index; this will amount to 3,700,000 cards and will require a period of 12 months.
- ii) IRO records (movement and embarkation lists etc.) will amount to approximately 1,200,000 names and will require a period of 4 months.
- iii) British Zone; known Civil Administration Documents, 2,000,000 names - 6 months.

and by the many thousands of those who came on it for the evacuation of their families, of which numerous groups were given in 1945 in the papers of the General Staff of "Warfare".

In the same Annual Report for 1945, the technical work of the

was estimated as follows:

(1) Completion of the exploitation of investigation camp documents.

(2) Distribution through technical experts to the five working units from documents of the individual papers relating to their units - to be achieved by July 1950.

(3) Photostating of new original and technical, books and plans in order to preserve them in suitable original documents against destruction through war - to be achieved by March February 1951.

(4) Retention and review of papers in both US and British hands on which general foreign relations came for the expansion of their own staff, i.e. the retention and expansion of bodies of their own nationals - to be achieved by 30 June 1950.

(5) Completion of the collection of German Civil Administration documents which could be achieved in the US by 30 June 1950 and which the material not yet received from approximately 10,000 sources (out of 12,000) is received before 31st March 1950.

in the US by 15th June 1950 from of the new targets found to be found and achieved.

(6) Processing of the German Civil Administration documents from the U.S. regarding the present staff, this could be achieved in 1950 only.

From the British hand this could be achieved by 31st December 1950.

(7) Expansion and exploitation of special targets discovered in both zones through their working officers (see also Division reports page 26 and page 28).

The time required to carry out this work cannot be estimated. There is no doubt, however, that the information available from the few sources would be of permanent interest to any Government.

(8) Supplying the German Civil Administration Offices with the original documents relating to German matters of US origin (120,000 copies) the registration of all items in Germany and establishment of all attention of German official registration by the Office of all items which occurred in US zones and in the independent states - to be estimated the required 2 years, i.e. to the end of 1952.

(7) Germany

(1) On US material for location in the German hand which will ensure the last individual phase of exploitation of the material as it will preserve it against the dangers of war and cost, funds it to be estimated in the library and complete the hand index; this will amount to 2,500,000 cards and will require a period of 12 months.

(2) The records (movements and capturing lists etc.) will amount to approximately 1,500,000 cards and will require a period of 4 months.

(3) British hand; German Civil Administration documents, 2,000,000 cards - 6 months.

The carding of the above-mentioned material alone (excluding special targets) will thus take approximately 22 months, i.e. 31st October 1951.

- (8) Insertion of cards in the Master Index at the maximum rate of 400,000 cards per month.

	5,5 million	(3½ US Zone, 2 British Zone)	German Documents
	3,7 "	"	CC material
	1,2 "	"	IRO

Total 10,4 millions, which will be achieved in 26 months, i.e. 1st March 1952.

- (9) Supply of information. This will remain, for many years to come, the main task of the ITS, but the volume of the work involved is absolutely unpredictable.
- (10) Preparation and publication of a general catalogue of all the documentary evidence relating to victims of the Nazi regime being either in the Library of the ITS or known to exist with various National Tracing Bureaux or Agencies. Such a catalogue is a pressing need for ITS itself and for all Governments.
- (11) Inventory of all documents which will have to be transferred to a successor agency or the Military Authorities, or else destroyed.
- (12) In order to estimate the residual workload of the Child Search Branch, one must look again at its mandate, which is as follows:
  - (a) to find the children kidnapped by the Nazis and other non-German children who have become displaced and unaccompanied as a result of the war;
  - (b) to identify these children, establish their citizenship and provide them with documentation;
  - (c) to bring them into communication with their parents or other relatives.

The task described under (a) will be completed some time in 1950.

(1) In Germany, when the field investigations under the Limited Registration Plan are completed, as a result of which it is expected to register approximately 3,000 more children;

(2) Outside of Germany, when all individual case records at present held by the IRO Missions have been consolidated at Child Search Branch Headquarters and when the results of the appeal for governmental cooperation are on hand.

It is obvious, however, that the tasks described under (b) and (c) of the mandate are long range ones, and cannot be completed in 1950. In order to have a comprehensive picture of the residual problem of unaccompanied children, one must look into the international actions that have taken place previously in connection with this problem. An international agreement concerning the guardianship of minors, which was signed in 1902, and ratified in 1904, is still considered valid. This is particularly interesting as Germany was one of the signatories. This agreement makes provision for the setting up of three types of guardianship:

- (i) Guardianship set up under the aegis of the country of which the minor is a national
- (ii) Guardianship set up by the diplomatic or consular agent, in accordance with the law of the country of which the minor is a national.
- (iii) Guardianship set up by the authorities of the country in

The carrying of the above-mentioned material alone (excluding the  
total figures) will thus take approximately 12 months, i.e. 365  
October 1951.

(8) Issuance of cards to the Master Index at the maximum rate of 100,000  
cards per month.

2.5 million (25 million) German Documents  
5.7 million (57 million) material  
1.2 million (12 million) material  
Total 9.4 million, which will be achieved in 12 months, i.e.  
1st March 1952.

(9) Supply of information. This will require, for many years to come,  
the main task of the IIC, but the volume of the work involved is  
appreciably appreciable.

(10) Preparation and publication of a general catalogue of all the dis-  
cernible evidence relating to victims of the Nazi regime being  
either in the library of the IIC or known to exist with various  
National Research Bureau or agencies. Such a catalogue is a pre-  
requisite for the IIC and for all Governments.

(11) Inventory of all documents which will have to be transferred to a  
successor agency or the Military authorities, or else destroyed.

(12) In order to estimate the residual workload of the IIC it is  
proposed, one must look again at the mandate, which is as follows:

- (a) to find the children kidnapped by the Nazis and their non-Ger-  
man children who have become displaced and unaccompanied as a  
result of the war;
- (b) to identify these children, establish their citizenship and  
provide them with documentation;
- (c) to bring them into communication with their parents or other  
relatives.

The task described under (a) will be completed some time in 1950.

(1) In Germany, when the IIC investigation under the limited  
Registration Plan are completed, as a result of which it is expected  
to register approximately 2,000 new children;

(2) Outside of Germany, when all individual case records are pre-  
sent held by the IIC Mission have been processed at IIC  
Search Branch Headquarters and when the results of the appeal for  
Governmental cooperation are in hand.

It is obvious, however, that the tasks described under (b) and  
(c) of the mandate are long range ones, and cannot be completed in  
1950. In order to have a comprehensive picture of the residual pro-  
blem of unaccompanied children, one must look into the inter-  
national actions that have taken place previously in connection with  
this problem. An international agreement concerning the guardian-  
ship of minors, which was signed in 1902, and revised in 1904, is  
still considered valid. This is particularly interesting as Ger-  
many was one of the signatories. This agreement makes provision  
for the setting up of three types of guardianship:

- (i) Guardianship set up under the laws of the country of which  
the minor is a national;
- (ii) Guardianship set up by the diplomatic or consular agent,  
in accordance with the law of the country of which the mi-  
nor is a national;
- (iii) Guardianship set up by the authorities of the country in

which the minor is residing, and in accordance with the local law. The agreement provides that the second type of guardianship shall take place only in such cases in which the law of the country of which the minor is a national makes no provision for the setting up of guardianship for minors residing in a foreign country. A further condition to be observed before this second type of guardianship can be set up is that no clause in the laws and regulations of the state in which the minor resides prevents the setting up of guardianship by diplomatic or consular agents of a foreign nation. The last type of guardianship shall be set up only in such cases in which, for some reason, neither of the other two types is possible.

The reason for the inclusion of this agreement is that it is evident that the terms of this agreement, or, for that matter, of any other agreement which provides for the permanent settlement of the problem of unaccompanied children, can only be applied when the identity and nationality of the child is clearly established. In order, therefore, to provide the basis for a settlement of the problem of unaccompanied children, it is absolutely necessary that the work of proper identification and documentation of unaccompanied children falling within the mandate of the IRO be brought to a conclusion.

which the other is residing, and in accordance with the local law. The agreement provides that the second type of guardianship shall take place only in such cases in which the law of the country in which the minor is a national makes no provision for the setting up of guardianship for minors residing in a foreign country. A further condition to be observed before this second type of guardianship can be set up is that no clause in the law and certain terms of the state in which the minor resides prevents the setting up of guardianship by diplomatic or consular agents of a foreign nation. The last type of guardianship shall be set up only in such cases in which, for some reason, neither of the other two types is possible.

The reason for the inclusion of this agreement is that it is evident that the terms of this agreement, or for that matter, of any other agreement which provides for the payment of maintenance of the problem of unaccompanied children, can only be applied when the identity and nationality of the child is clearly established. In order, therefore, to provide the basis for a satisfactory solution of the problem of unaccompanied children, it is absolutely necessary that the work of proper identification and documentation of unaccompanied children taking within the meaning of the ILO be brought to a conclusion.