

HISTORY

British Zone Division

INTRODUCTION

Any attempt to write a history of the International Tracing Service in the British Zone of Germany must be based to a large extent upon monthly and annual reports issued in the past, and must contain a summary of the events and actions leading up to the formation of the British Zone Division.

Pre-I.T.S. Period

To find the origins of tracing, the reader must be taken back to SHAEF Headquarters sometime in 1944, when it was realized that major problem facing the Allied Armies after the capitulation of the Axis Forces would be the recovery of prisoners-of-war, including the search for missing prisoners. In the British Zone this search was largely concluded by the end of 1945 as far as the bulk of p.o.w.s. was concerned. After this date, two major tasks were given to those responsible for tracing. The first task was to pursue thousands of missing relative cases, most of which originated from UK and USA. The second task was to carry out the directives of the Allied Control Council in respect of the search for civilian missing, then estimated at several millions. It was France, one of the principle countries engaged on the problem of civilian missing in Germany, who pressed in the Control Council in Berlin for a concerted action to obtain information on missing Allied civilians, by systematic research into documents and public records of all kinds. Each Zone Commander-in-Chief agreed to the plan for such research to be undertaken. In the British Zone the resultant order issued to the German Authorities was called "Zone Policy Instruction No.4"; this was in spring of 1946. The order (in English) was sent to the Germans at provincial level and they were instructed to carry it out. To go a little ahead of the narrative and to say that the results of the Z.P.I. No.4 were not good, requires some explanation of the flaws. The first mistake arose from the fact that the order was issued in English. A comparison of

- (a) Individual Tracing
- (b) Documents Search
- (c) Child Tracing



various versions in German, produced by the different leader revealed a 1-  
 teration in some of the final details. The second mistake arose from the  
 fact that the returns were to be handed upwards to Land level and thence  
 to Military Government. This left no possibility for full checking of returns  
 at Kreis level to be undertaken. The third fault lay in the deadlines dates.  
 Two months were envisaged for the delivery of the first lot of returns,  
 but when one considers the time taken in translation of the order into Ger-  
 man and its transmittal through the German Administrative channels to the  
 lowest level, it was found that in many cases harassed Buergermeister and  
 their staffs were left with only 2 - 3 weeks for the completion of this  
 part of the work, which was of course totally inadequate. The second stage  
 of six months may be considered too long. Due to the fact that the whole  
 action was placed in German hands, with little or no possibility of Allied  
 supervision, the best that one can say about the results of Z.P.I.4 is that  
 they were poor. The German Authorities were, in most cases overworked, in  
 others unclear as to what was required, and in some cases definitely hos-  
 tile to take over what was more convenient to leave covered. The load of  
 individual cases carried by the Allied Search Officers was in the main  
 relative-cases and not for genuine Allied missing. In any case, it left  
 the officials little time to help or direct the German Authorities. Even  
 had they found that time knowledge of the task and direction was lacking  
 in many cases. It was unfortunate that the original foundation staff  
had at this time either be transferred to the UNRRA Central Tracing Bureau  
in the US Zone or been re-called to more orthodox Army duties.

It is necessary to mention the UNRRA Central Tracing Bureau, of which  
 much has been written elsewhere, only in so far as it affected the British  
 Zone. It was established by order of the control Council to co-ordinate  
 the work of the Zonal Bureaux set-up in each of the four Zones. Additio-  
 nally, it was to be the reception center of documentary evidence collected  
 by the Zonal Bureaux. As a co-ordination Agency, the C.T.B. failed largely due  
 to the opposition to a supervision of its Bureau by one of the four occu-  
 pying Powers. However, the general pattern in the British Zone was set,  
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- (a) Individual Tracing
- (b) Documents Search
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various versions in Germany, produced by the different leaders revealed a 1-  
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 fact that the reports were to be handed over to Lord Javal and those  
 to Jeffrey Downman. This left no possibility for full checking of reports  
 at Great Javal to be undertaken. The third (and last) in the Berlin case,  
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 one end to the other through the various administrative channels in the  
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- (a) Individual Trading
- (b) Document Search
- (c) CIMA Trading

As the later was in the early period, the responsibility of UNRRA in the British Zone and not the Zonal Bureau, and as it finally came to be a semi-independent branch of the I. T. S., it can be disregarded for the purpose of this survey as it will, no doubt, be fully recorded elsewhere.

The documents furnished by the German Authorities were received in large quantities due to the policy of setting fixed deadlines for the whole Zone. First deadline material received late arrived with early material for the second deadline, and therefore the Zonal Bureau was filled to overflowing with tons of material which the limited staff could not possibly cope. Due to lack of supervision of the German Authorities at lower levels, the material was usually received in an insufficient number of copies, and the necessary copies had to be produced by the staff of the Bureau for distribution. Each interested country received one copy of the material relating to its own nationals. By order of the controlling Authorities, only information of dead was sent to Eastern European countries. The second copy of all material was sent to the general Central Tracing Bureau, and the third copy of most of the basic material (graves and death reports) remained on file in the Zonal Bureau. As soon as the copying and distribution of the majority of the material was completed, the decision was reached to close the Bureau on the grounds that its task was almost completed. Nothing was of course further from the truth. In January, 1947, the British Zonal Bureau was closed and the British Red Cross Society valiantly undertook the task of finalizing individual tracing cases and exploiting and distributing the remaining documents received under Z.P.I.4. It was considered that this would take six months. At this stage, one important change in individual tracing took place. All German relative cases were handed-over to the German Red Cross Society, allowing the British Red Cross to concentrate on the non German cases. On the side of records, the BRCS did a splendid job of work in copying and distributing the considerable amount of material on hand, but rectification of mistakes was handicapped by the complete absence of field personnel. After eight months, the BRCS ceased its services and the legacy of individual cases and records still on hand was again taken-over by the control Commission. A small staff of one official with a British Assistant and 15 Clerks were detailed to carry-on this task. It may interest the reader to note that at this time

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12 months after the supposed final deadline for the receipt of Z.P.I.No.4 material, documents were still being received from Kreise. The small staff worked well under difficult conditions. A major problem was the lack of supervisory staff. The officer responsible was not able to devote his energies to the task of working on this documents continuously as his presence was required twice per month in Berlin as British Member of the Central Tracing Policy Board. The greatest problem of the winter 1947/1948 was severe electricity cuts. The scale of candle issues was one per room, and if the reader imagines 6-8 people with one candle between them trying to study closely-typed documents, there will be no doubt as to how much work was done after sunset on an average of four days per week between November, 1947 and February, 1948. As the mornings were equally dark, and as many of the staff relied upon trains and busses to bring them to work at the normal time, an earlier start offered no solution.

To summarize this period it can be said that a great effort was made to distribute the mass of material received under Z.P.I. No.4; but no action to discover or correct the many mistakes was possible. In the field of individual tracing, successes were tremendous, especially when one considers that this search for individual missing was no easy task. It was difficult in some cities to find the streets let alone the houses, given as the time last address of the missing person, registers and indices of the German civil authorities had in many cases been destroyed or removed to other parts of the country for safe keeping. Although no figures are available to us, it is known that over 70,000 individual tracing cases were handled by the British Zone in the pre-I.T.S. period.

#### THE BRITISH ZONE DIVISION OF THE I.T.S.

At the end of 1947 the International Refugee Organization, having taken over the former UNRRA Central Tracing Bureau at Arolsen, created the International Tracing Service. Plans for the formation of the British Zone Division of the I.T.S. were approved at a conference held in Goettingen in February 1948. It seemed that a Bureau on the scale on the one closed in January, 1947 was needed. The problem remained substantially the same and was added to by the requirements of various Authorities in connection with the expanded programme for resettlement of displaced persons and by



the Western Governments in support of claims laws. By this time, the Western Governments had opportunity to exploit the material received <sup>by</sup> from them from the British Zone. They had discovered many errors and omissions and their cries were, as might be expected, long and loud.

The British Zone Division was opened at Goettingen on 16 March, 1948.

This pleasant university city, almost undamaged by war, was not the ideal situation for a Zonal Headquarters as it was too near the Southern border of the Zone. Bad Salzungen or another central town would have been far more satisfactory from the point-of-view of communications in the Zone and, due to the presence in that town of the Allied Liaison Branch and most of the Allied Missions accredited to the Control Commission, would have been excellent for liaison purposes. However, at the time no accommodation was available. Three other factors were taken into consideration:

(a) There existed in Goettingen a trained cadre of personnel taken-over with the records from the Control Commission.

(b) Goettingen had a satisfactory road communication with Headquarters I.T.S., lying 100 kilometres distant.

(c) A certain amount of accommodation was available. A remark about accommodation will be found under the paragraph dealing with administration.

The Office policy and procedures were quickly worked-out and the Executives and Administration began to function. The two Branches the Tracing Branch (dealing with individual tracing cases) and the Records Branch were formed. It would not be fair to dwell on the problems and the struggles of this early period, for their unfair not to mention the stalwart efforts of the Officers and their German and DP Staff during this period. Without interest, keenness and devotion, the Foundation would not have been so solid. The basic procedures of work in the Division, including filing and correspondence systems, were laid-down in consultation with the Director of the I.T.S. and his Deputy, and except for minor changes have remained unaltered.

In order to summarize the main developments in the Division, it would seem best to divide his story between the Branches, and because the Records Branch has the greatest problems, we will take this Branch first.

RECORDS BRANCH

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The British Home Ministry was asked at Göttingen on 12 March, 1948.

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situation for a local headquarters as it was too near the...  
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terminated effort was made to clear the backlog of unprocessed material inherited from the predecessor Organisation. Distribution to National Agencies was discontinued because of complaints about the inaccuracy of the material, and because the distribution would if it was visualised, become the prerogative of HQ I.T.S.; the Zone Division remaining as collection and processing units as far as incoming documents were concerned. What then of the mistakes, errors and omissions of ZPI No.4? The Divisional staff engaged itself on two analysis. The first, a statistical analysis, and the second a detailed analysis of the results of ZPI No.4 as seen from library copies of the material in our possession. The results were some what astounding. To quote an example:-

Deaths reported by Kreise	3 7,809
Deaths found in medical and hospital records	9,398
Death certificates received	69, 496
Graves reported	313, 932

There was clearly something urgent to be done about these discrepancies - but what? The planners put their heads together and soon decided that a complete re-check of ZPI No.4 would have to be undertaken to correct the mistakes, fill in the omissions and complement the returns with material available subsequent to the ZPI No.4 period. In other words, a complete new action must be undertaken as soon as possible. The first consideration, after having studied the information and reaching this conclusion as to the intention, was to decide on the method of implementation, and this soon became clear. A new directive to the German Authorities at Land level would clearly produce similar results to those produced by the ZPI No.4. What was required was a direct approach by the I.T.S. field investigators to the lowest level of the German administration, and this on a basis of a group of Kreise at one time, so that an even flow of returns could be received by the Divisional Offices, who would hope to review it quickly and avoid the backlog experienced in the earlier action period. Clearly, the Allied Authorities would prefer an approach on the basis of single documents or cases rather than in the form of a new overall directive. In April 1948, one month after the founding of the Division, a plan was completed and forwarded to the Control Commission for approval. The I.T.S. hoped for a speedy decision. In doing so, it had overlooked one important point - this was 1948 and not 1945.

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3,700	Deaths reported by relatives
2,750	Deaths found in medical and hospital records
67,450	Deaths certificates received
317,332	Graves reported

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There was talk of establishing a West German Federal Government; of giving the Germans much more freedom of action, and of reducing Allied Control at lower levels to supervisory instead of executive status as hitherto. A Senior CCG Official raised the following question when he had studied our proposals-- "If the British Kreis Officers can only recommend and advise the German Authorities and cannot give them orders to do this and that, how can the I.T.S. which is an International Agency call upon the Germans to perform all these tasks? Of course, he was 100% right. The I.T.S. had his back against the wall. Its hopes of straightening-out the Z.P.I. No.4 to the satisfaction of interested, and indeed anxious Governments seemed to be shattered. However, we maintained our standpoint in this problem as regards the job to be done and held that the way we had proposed was in fact, the only possible way of solving the problem. The decision of the Control Commission was communicated to the I.T.S. on 31 December, 1948. It was a favourable decision and the I.T.S. was then able to go ahead according to plan.

The intervening period was not wasted. A few ZPI No.4 documents still trickled into Goettingen addressed to the long non-existent "55 Search Bureau" and were attended to. The accumulation of records was slowly liquidated and transferred to Arolsen. From June onwards our Field Investigators were posted to us. They and their staffs were trained and sent out from Goettingen on trips of 1-3 weeks duration. They operated on prison targets, extracting details of war-time prisoners of all categories. This work had been barely touched before in the Zone and was very important, particularly to those countries who had formulated claims laws to allow the payment of pensions to former inmates of concentration camps and prisons. Special permission of the Control Commission was readily granted for this action, and a part from its excellent value, it proved a splendid training ground for our field staff. The prison action was continued into 1949 and resulted in the extraction of 104,220 names of non-German prisoners, including a large number of deceased reported by normal Kreis sources.

As the first step towards achieving our requirements in respect of documents, an instruction for the use of field personnel was drawn-up by the Divisional Headquarters. This instruction was issued under the code name "Operation FERRET" and was the "Plan for Conduct of field Search Operation in the British Zone of Germany" Preliminary conferences were held with the Ministries of the Interior of the Laender and later with the Regierungspraesidenten

There was talk of establishing a West German Federal Government; of giving the  
 German much more freedom of action, and of reducing Allied Control to lower  
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The intervening period was not wasted. A few key documents still  
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As the first step towards achieving our requirements in respect of 50-  
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 "Operation KUBARK" and was the plan for Conduct of Field Search Operation in  
 the British Zone of Germany. Preliminary conferences were held with the Minis-  
 tries of the Interior of the Federal and later with the Regierungspraesidenten

in the Regierungsbezirke. In spite of the fact that CCG approval was received on 31 December, 1948, it was not possible to hold the first conference at Kreis level until the beginning of March, 1949. This first conference was followed in turn by each of the 190 Kreise in the Zone. These conferences proved as interesting as they were valuable. According to the size of the Kreis, the delegates varied in number from 40 to 300. However, the smaller Kreis conferences were the most interesting.

They were usually held in a local, and beer and coffee seemed to be an essential part of the proceedings. By this means it was possible to have contact with all the Gemeindedirektoren (Parish Clerks) at once - this usually on market day. The I.T.S. Official was able to explain to them what was required, and results have certainly shown the great value of these conferences. In addition to the Gemeindedirektoren these meetings were attended by the heads of Kreis Offices with which the I.T.S. required contact. They included Polizei (Police), Standesamt (Registrar of births, deaths and marriages), Friedhofsverwaltung (Cemetery Administration etc.)

The work in the first Kreise proceeded, and the first returns were received in Goettingen at the end of June, 1949. When this material was reviewed, certain minor changes were found to be necessary in the original plan, and although these changes were really minor in character, they did in fact alter the time programme which had to be somewhat prolonged. Additionally, it was found necessary to introduce rigid proformas for reporting purposes including NIL returns. Eventually however, more interest was taken. Take the example of the Kreis Official who received from one of his Parishes - "Foreign graves: NIL - no foreigners buried in this parish." The Kreis Official queried - "If not, why not?" By the end of 1949, material have been received from 59 Kreise and this have been reviewed in the Divisional Offices. The following figures may be of interest to the readers:

From these 59 Kreise -

(a) 26,685 death cases were reported as compared with 20,081 reported under ZPI No. 4; an increase of 25%.

(b) Landkreis Hildesheim, which is a typical example of many Kreise in the Zone where all documentary evidence is destroyed, shows the following results. 39% of all cases were cleared when the "Operation FERRET" - material was received by us, 63% of all cases were cleared as results of a follow-up by correspondence. As 208 of the uncleared cases are death cases of unknown

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in the Department. In light of the fact that 600 approval was received on 15 December, 1963, it was not possible to hold the first conference at Kuala Lumpur until the beginning of March, 1964. This first conference was followed in many of each of the 150 States in the area. These conferences proved an interesting and as they were valuable according to the view of the States, the delegates varied in number from 40 to 100. However, the smaller States conferences were the most interesting.

They were usually held in a local and best and better suited to be an essential part of the proceedings. It was found that it was possible to have contact with all the delegates (British Colonies) at one time. This was done by the I.T.S. Official who was able to explain to them what was required, and training have certainly shown the great value of these conferences. In addition to the semi-annual meetings were attended by the heads of Kuala Lumpur with which the I.T.S. reported contact. They included Police, Customs, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Immigration, etc., etc.

The work in the first States proceeded, and the first returns were received in December at the end of June, 1965. This material was reviewed, certain other changes were found to be necessary in the original plan, and although this changes were really minor in character, they did in fact alter the programme which had to be somewhat prolonged. Additionally, it was found necessary to introduce right programs for reporting purposes including the returns. However, more interest was taken than the example of the Kuala Lumpur trial who received from one of his Parliaments - Foreign Growth: Nil - no foreign have been in this position. The Kuala Lumpur Official stated "It was very well" by the end of 1965, material have been received from 58 States and this have been reviewed in the Divisional Offices. The following figures may be of interest to the reader:

- From these 58 States -
- (a) 25,088 death cases were reported as compared with 20,067 reported under the No. 1 on increase of 25%.
  - (b) 1,000,000 births, which is a typical example of many States in the area where all documentary evidence is destroyed, show the following results:
  - 91% of all cases were cleared when the "OPERAS" for "FBI" material was received by us. 6% of all cases were cleared as results of a follow-up by correspondence. As 20% of the unreported cases are 4 each case of minimum

concentration camp inmates, which can not be resolved, this sum can be deducted from the total number of unclear cases, leaving 23% to be cleared.

In addition to the Kreis action accomplished during 1949- 101,611 names including 4,260 deceased were extracted from concentration camp hospitals, mental hospitals, Auslaenderlager (foreign workers camp), concentration camp, labour, police and legal records. The main targets set for the year 1949 were achieved. The best results were obtained in Schleswig-Holstein where a 11 foreign grave locations with very few exceptions were known and where the corresponding death certificates were also at hand. All exhumations had been reported in this Land, but in many cases the exact locality of the re-internment could not be given, as the Allied Authorities transferred their dead without giving details to the Germans. In the other Laender the results, though not quite so good, were satisfactory. Several problems arose in connection with graves. It very often happened that a person who died in a Kreis was buried in another Kreis or even an other Land, and this required much follow-up work by the Divisional Offices. It was found that the tracing of grave locations of people who died in hospitals was often quite difficult and involved, as in most cases, especially in the city of Hamburg, the hospital registers did not indicate the place of burial. Again it was found necessary to check all the Standesamtzweitbuecher (second registers), and doing so, brought to light many new cases and led to a large number of late registrations. Some difficulties were experienced with this late registration, particularly in Land Niedersachsen. Only in the beginning of October, 1949 were regulations issued by the Minister of the Interior of Land Niedersachsen, and the I.T.S. had a great amount of unclear cases awaiting further investigations and possible late registration.

In the field of records, four other major targets were commenced in 1949. The first was the Gestapo files held by CCG Intelligence, Duesseldorf. These files were processed and revealed 75,000 names of non-German nationals. The second target was the ~~treatment~~ records of the Landeskrankenanstalt Walsrode, holding registers of treatment in reserve hospitals during the war-years; third- Personenstandsarchiv Luetgendortmund (the same as Walsdorf); fourth- the establishment of details of all camps in the Zone during the war-years together with details of nationalities, guards, general conditions, etc. These details were supplied for the I.T.S. catalogue of camps and prisons which became a work of reference placed at the disposal of all interested Authorities including Western European Government and the German Laender.

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concentration camp inmates, which can not be resolved, this sum can be deducted from the total number of inmates, leaving 15,000 to be cleared.

In addition to the Kreis action accomplished during 1943-1944, names including 1,200 deceased were extracted from concentration camp hospitals, for hospitals, (foreign workers camp), concentration camp, labour, police and legal records. The main targets set for the year 1943 were achieved. The best results were obtained in Schleswig-Holstein where a 11 foreign grave locations with very few exceptions were known and where the corresponding death certificates were also at hand. All examinations had been reported in this land, but in many cases the exact locality of the re-burial could not be given, as the Allied authorities transferred their dead without giving details to the Germans. In the other lands, the results, though not quite so good, were satisfactory. Several problems arose in connection with graves. It very often happened that a person who died in a Kreis was buried in another Kreis or even in other land, and this required much follow-up work by the Divisional Offices. It was found that the tracing of grave locations of people who died in hospitals was often quite difficult and involved, as in most cases, especially in the city of Hamburg, the hospital registers did not indicate the place of burial. Again it was found necessary to check all the Stenogramm- (second registers), and going so, brought to light many new cases and led to a large number of late registrations. Some difficulties were experienced with this late registration, particularly in land Niedersachsen. Only in the beginning of October, 1943, were registrations issued by the Minister of the Interior of land Niedersachsen, and the I.T.S. had a great amount of unworked cases awaiting further investigations and possible late registration.

In the field of records, four other major targets were completed in 1943. The first was the Gestapo files held by the Landesamt für Volkswohlfahrt. These files were processed and re-verified 75,000 names of non-German nationals. The second target was the treatment records of the Landeskrankenkasse (holding registers of treatment in reserve hospitals during the war years; third - the Landesamt für Volkswohlfahrt (the same as Landesamt); fourth - the establishment of details of all camps in the zone during the war years together with details of nationalities, guards, general conditions, etc. These details were supplied to the I.T.S. catalogue of camps and prisons which became a work of reference placed at the disposal of all interested authorities including Western European Government and the German leaders.

The beginning of the year 1950 was fraught by many problems, the greatest of which was the time factor in our operations. It was not clear whether we would have to close in March, or June, or when. However we went ahead with our field operation plans and this has proved to be the correct course. It was decided that the complementary action on the "FERRET" returns would be the responsibility of the Divisional Offices and would be carried out by correspondence in all possible cases, releasing the field staff for two important tasks. The first task was to continue to examine and collect information from legal and medical records and to develop exploitation of the relatively untouched sources of industrial records to be found in the Zone. The second task was to commence the physical checking of graves. As the correct establishment of deaths was most essential to the success of "Operation FERRET", we will first give a few notes about this second category. It was proved, over and over again, that the only way to be absolutely sure of the accuracy of grave reports was to actually physically investigate all unclear or doubtful cases on the spot. Field Officers therefore began this physical graves checking in the spring of 1950. This necessitated the formation in the Divisional Offices of a Cemeteries Section within the Records Branch, whose task it was to produce a card index of every cemetery in the Zone where non German nationals were interred; to request and assemble a plan of each of these cemeteries, and to prepare, for the field Officers concerned, work programmes in respect of each cemetery indicating uncleared cases. This naturally put a strain on the already overworked Branch, which was not relieved until the close of the Child Search operations at the end of May, when the necessary staff became available. The results of the cemeteries so far checked are satisfactory, several new cases having been brought to light and most of the uncleared cases clarified. One fault in the "Operation FERRET" plan was discovered through the physical graves checking. This was the fact that "Operation FERRET" covers the period up to the end of the war, where in naturally, graves found in cemeteries extend down to the present day. This accounts for a not inconsiderable discrepancy in figures, which, of course, had to be reconciled.

On the side of records collection made during 1950, exploitation of medical and industrial records must now be referred to. The main medical records at Personenstandsarchiv Luetgendortmund and Landeskrankenanstalt Walarode have already been mentioned. The position of these two targets at the time of writing is as follows:-

(a) Personenstandsarchiv Luetgendortmund was completely finished on 12

The history of the year 1950 was brought by many factors, the greatest of which was the fact that in our operations it was not considered to have to include in detail or time, or otherwise to deal with our main operation plans and this has proved to be the correct course. It was decided that the responsibility for the "KURT" records would be the responsibility of the Divisional Offices and would be carried out by correspondence in all possible cases, retaining the field staff for the important cases. The first task was to continue to examine and collect information from legal and medical records and to develop exploitation of the relatively numerous sources of industrial records to be found in the home. The second task was to continue the physical checking of graves. As the current establishment of deaths was most essential to the success of "Operation KURT", we will first give a few notes about this second category. It was proved, over and over again, that the only way to be absolutely sure of the accuracy of grave reports was to actually physically investigate all possible or doubtful cases on the spot. This Division therefore began this physical grave checking in the spring of 1950. This necessitated the formation in the Divisional Offices of a Graveyard Section within the records branch, whose task it was to produce a card index of every cemetery in the area where non German national graves were situated; reports and records a part of each of this category, and to prepare, for the field offices concerned, work programmes in respect of each cemetery including unmarked graves. This naturally put a strain on the already overworked branch, which was not relieved until the close of the Child Search operations at the end of 1951, when the grave-keeping staff became available. The results of the cemeteries so far checked are satisfactory, several new cases having been brought to light and most of the unmarked cases clarified. One fails in the "Operation KURT" plan was discovered through the physical grave checking. This was the fact that "Operation KURT" covers the period up to the end of the war, whereas naturally, graves found in cemeteries extend down to the present day. This accounts for a not inconsiderable discrepancy in figures, which of course, had to be reconciled.

On the side of records collection made during 1950, exploitation of medical and industrial records must not be referred to. The main medical records at present are the records of the Luftwaffe and the Luftwaffe records have already been mentioned. The position of these two targets at the time of writing is as follows:-

(a) Luftwaffe records were completely finished on 15

August, 1950. The final results of the work on this target was an index in duplicate (one divided by nationalities and one in alphabetical order) containing 11,350 information cards including 561 death cases.

(b) Landeskrankenanstalt Walsrode-This target is expected to be finished, as far as the main work is concerned, by the sickness records from reserve hospitals all over Niedersachsen continue to be received daily in Walsrode, it will be necessary for the I.T.S. to keep one clerk at the Landeskrankenanstalt. At the time of writing, 609 hospital registers have been processed and the index contains 54,500 location cards.

A third major target of the same nature has been known to the I.T.S. since 1948. This was the Landesversicherungsanstalt, Hamburg. Due to the condition under which these records were stored, and to shortage of staff and other commitments on the part of the I.T.S. This target is only now being commenced. The French Search Mission whose technical Headquarters is at Goettingen, has offered clerical assistance on this target, which is of major interest to that mission as well as the I.T.S. No other details can be given at this stage. Work is also progressing at the Landesversicherungsanstalt, Luebeck, and at the time of writing over 3,500 names of non-German nationals have been extracted.

Industrial records are as varied in number as in size and any attempt to catalogue them would prove boring to the reader. Their main value lies in the fact, that, on the one hand they give clues for individual tracing cases, and on the other hand they are useful to various Governments in connection with compensation claims. One major industrial target with the British Zone Division has investigated should however be mentioned. This is the Ruhrknappschaft. Investigation into this target revealed that the Deutsche Kohlenbergbauleitung held records of non-German nationals working in various coal mines not only in the British Zone but also in the US Zone. Investigations so far have produced 93,770 names of non-Germans.

Several other interesting targets have come to light during 1950, which give information of the deaths of Western nationals in the East Zone of Germany and the territory at present under Polish administration. One of these targets was the Hauptstaendesamt in Hamburg. Investigation of public registers of East Prussia revealed 1,111 death certificates. A few death cases from East Prussia were also discovered in the records of the Naval Documents Center at Kiel. The mention of Naval Documents must be coupled with a note that unfortunately, the task of tracing persons drowned at sea is not always easy. As an example, the ship owners

...The final results of the work on this target was an index in duplicate (one divided by nationality and one in alphabetical order) containing 1,350 individuals and including 500 death cases.

(b) Investigation of the target is expected to be finished as far as the work is concerned by the division records from various hospitals all over Westphalia continue to be received daily in Weimar, it will be necessary for the I.S. to keep one alert at the Landwehranstalt. At the time of writing, 500 hospital registers have been processed and the index contains 2,500 hospital cards.

A third major target of the new nature has been known to the I.S. since this was the Landwehranstalt Hamburg. Due to the conditions under which these records were stored and the shortage of staff and other elements on the part of the I.S. this target is only now being commenced. The French Secret Mission whose technical headquarters is at Göttingen, has offered detailed assistance on this target, which is of major interest to that mission as well as the I.S. No other details can be given at this stage. Work is also proceeding at the Landwehranstalt Hamburg, and at the time of writing approximately 500 names of non-German nationals have been extracted.

Individual records are as varied in nature as in size and any attempt to categorize them would prove boring to the reader. Their data value lies in the fact that, on the one hand they give clues for individual tracing cases and on the other hand they are useful to various departments in connection with communication chains. One major industrial target which the British Zone Division has investigated should however be mentioned. This is the Industriehafen. Investigation into this target revealed that the Industriehafen was not only in the records of non-German nationals working in various coal mines but also in the British Zone but also in the US Zone. Investigation so far have produced 21,710 names of non-Germans.

Several other interesting targets have been set light during 1950, which give information on the habits of Western nationals in the East Zone of Germany and the territory at present under Polish administration. One of these targets was the Hospital in Hamburg. Investigation of public registers of last years revealed that death certificates, few death cases from East Prussia were also discovered in the records of the Naval Documents Center at Kiel. The mention of Naval Documents must be coupled with a note that unfortunately, the task of tracing persons thrown at sea is not always simple. An example, the ship owners

at Emden did not report missing ships to any official body and therefore, their own records are the only evidence available. One firm of ship owners supplied the British Zone Division with the names of 23 missing persons of which 19 sailed on ships with home station Stettin. These of course would not normally have been available to the British Zone Division, and we are now giving more attention to the records of the shipping companies, especially when, as in the case of this firm in Emden, their main office was originally in the Eastern Zone or in New Poland.

It is not easy to summarize in a few pages the work of 2½ years. However, it should be clear to the reader that the greatest attention was paid to the correct reporting of graves and deaths. There are two principal reasons for this. Firstly, to provide the necessary evidence to support legal claims in such matters as settlement of estates, re-marriage, etc. Secondly, the information assisted the various Governments in their exhumation and repatriation programmes. A glance at the statistics of the "Operation FERRET" - action at the time of writing, may be of interest.

Number of Kreise from which returns have been received (the whole of the British Zone)	190
Number of Kreise reviewed	123
Number of Kreise with whom second action (by correspondence) is in progress	109
Number of Kreise completely closed	35

From the a/m Kreise, the following statistics are to be noted:-

No of Kreise reviewed

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	GRAVES		DEATH CERT.		DEATH CASES		% INCREASE
	1946	1950	1946	1950	1946	1950	
123	51,504	72,547	38,866	62,908	72,263	90,880	26

Mass graves

(i.e. of bodies)

not included

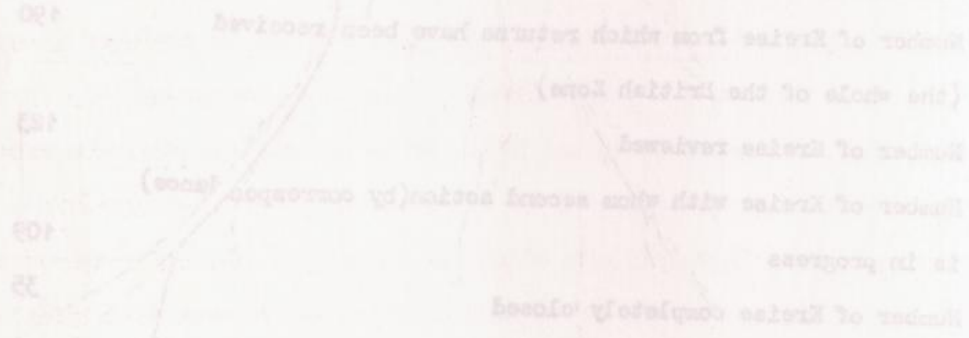
in above

totals:- 115,315 126,085

115,315 126,085

As shown this report missing since no official body and therefore, their  
 own records are the only evidence available. One item of ship records as listed  
 the British Home Division with the names of 13 missing persons of which 12 sail-  
 ing on ships with home station destinations of course would not normally have  
 been available to the British Home Division, and we are now giving more attention  
 to the records of the shipping companies, especially when, as in the case of this  
 item in London, their main office was originally in the London Home or in New  
 Zealand.

It is not easy to summarize in a few pages the work of 1 1/2 years. However,  
 it should be clear to the reader that the greatest attention was paid to the  
 correct reporting of graves and deaths. There are two principal reasons for this.  
 Firstly, to provide the necessary evidence to support legal claims in such matters  
 as settlement of estates, insurance, etc. Secondly, the information needed by  
 various governments in their examination and registration programs. A glance  
 at the statistics of the Operation FATHOM section at the time of writing, may  
 be of interest.



From the above tables, the following statistics are to be noted:-

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS				No. of Graves reviewed
GRAVES	DEATH CERTS.	DEATH CERTS. & IN- FORMED	GRAVES	
1946	1946	1946	1946	1946
1950	1950	1950	1950	1950
1954	1954	1954	1954	1954
1958	1958	1958	1958	1958
1962	1962	1962	1962	1962
1966	1966	1966	1966	1966
1970	1970	1970	1970	1970
1974	1974	1974	1974	1974
1978	1978	1978	1978	1978
1982	1982	1982	1982	1982
1986	1986	1986	1986	1986
1990	1990	1990	1990	1990
1994	1994	1994	1994	1994
1998	1998	1998	1998	1998
2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018
2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL

The figures given in the above table for mass graves requires some explanation. The bodies of the victims of the war-years are interred in many mass graves throughout the Zone. It will be remembered that at the time when the I.T.S. began its operation in 1948 all these bodies had been entered for a minimum of three years and therefore, identification without recourse to exhumation was impossible. The I.T.S. has not been engaged on exhumations and therefore had to rely for its information on reports received from the various Allied Missions, who themselves carried-out exhumations for the purpose of identifying or re-interring, or repatriating to their native country the bodies of the various war victims. Apart from these Allied sources many reports, of varying grades of reliability, have been received from the German Authorities. In some cases the German Authorities have themselves undertaken exhumations in order to resolve unclear cases. The latter, however, usually applied in the case of single graves and not mass graves.

There remains the problem of concentration camps. There were in the British Zone two concentration camps. Neuengamme near Hamburg had many commandos (principally in the Areas Bre men, Minden Hannover, and Braunschweig). Bergen-Belsen perhaps better known to the public than any other concentration camp, was the second in the British Zone and had no commandos. In addition to these two camps, there were in the British Zone commandos of Buchenwald and of Dora-Mittelbau. As regards the records of the commandos, these are usually non-existent due to the centralisation of records at the main camps. Of Bergen-Belsen no original camp documentation exists as it was destroyed before the camp was liberated by the Allied Armies. A number of death books of Neuengamme do exist and the information from these is available with the I.T.S. Headquarters. The whole problem of concentration camps is in any case so bound-up with that of the mass graves, that similar remarks must apply (vide-exhumations).

Earlier in this history it was stated that upon the inception of the British Zone Division of the I.T.S. the distribution of documents direct from the Division to various National Agencies was discontinued. However, in order to speed-up the process of making returns from "Operation FERRET" available as soon as possible to those nations who were themselves carrying-out field activity in the Zone, particularly in the field of exhumation, it was decided towards the end of 1949 to re-commence the lateral distribution of documents from divisional level. A second copy of each document had to be made available to the central library at the Headquarters of the Service and this of course necessitated the creation

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The bodies of the victims of the war-gases are buried in many mass graves throughout the country which were remembered at the time when the I.T.S. began its operations in 1945. All these bodies had been entered for a minimum of three years and therefore identification without recourse to examination was impossible. The I.T.S. has not been engaged on examinations and therefore had no help for its information on reports received from the various Allied Nations, who themselves carried out examinations for the purpose of identifying or re-identifying or reporting to their native country the bodies of the various war victims. Apart from these Allied sources many reports of varying grades of reliability have been received from the German authorities. In some cases the German authorities have themselves undertaken examinations in order to resolve doubts. The latter, however, usually applied in the case of single graves and not mass graves.

There remains the problem of concentration camps. There were in the British Zone two concentration camps, Hagerweg near Hamburg and Westerburg (near Hagen). In the area the Westerburg and Hagerweg camps were the perhaps better known to the public than any other concentration camp, but the records in the British Zone and not in Germany. In addition to these two camps there were in the British Zone a number of sub-camps of Hagerweg and of Westerburg. As regards the records of the camps, these are usually non-existent due to the centralization of records at the main camp. Westerburg has no original camp documentation exists as it was destroyed before the camp was liberated by the Allied armies. A number of death books of Hagerweg do exist and the information from these is available with the I.T.S. Headquarters. The whole problem of concentration camps is in any case so bound-up with that of the mass graves, that similar remarks must apply (vice-versa).

Earlier in this history it was stated that upon the inception of the British Zone Division of the I.T.S. the distribution of documents direct from the Division to various National Agencies was discontinued. However, in order to speed-up the process of making returns from "Operation BRIGHT" available as soon as possible to those nations who were themselves carrying out field activity in the Zone, particularly in the field of examination, it was decided towards the end of 1945 to re-commence the lateral distribution of documents from Divisional level. A second copy of each document had to be made available to the central library at the Headquarters of the Service and this of course necessitated the creation

Of an Allied liaison Section in the Divisional Offices to meet the increase of work entailed. Similarly, it was necessary to demand of the German Authorities that all returns be made in duplicate. Unfortunately however, the returns were not always received in duplicate, and it was necessary for the divisional Offices to make the required extra copy. Now therefore, documents of all kinds are passed as rapidly as possible to the various interested Missions. Principally due to the fact, that, as was mentioned earlier, the Divisional Headquarters was not situated centrally in the Zone, it was in close touch with only one of the Missions (the French Mission). This of course has not tended to good liaison. Many minor problems could have been resolved to the mutual advantage of everyone, if all Agencies engaged upon tracing and other Allied tasks had been located in closer proximity. As an example of co-operation possible, the I.T.S. has been able to give on loan for photocopying all cemetery plans coming into its possession, to the French Mission; these being returned after photocopying. The Chief of the French Mission has stated that to have the plans from the I.T.S. has been a great help to him in the planning of his exhumation programmes. As an example of reciprocal liaison it must be stated that the regular receipt of copies of the French programmes of exhumation and repatriation of bodies have been the greatest value to us in our graves action, as we were able to cross-check the German reports indicating exhumation in the case of French nationals, and take appropriate action where the indication of exhumation was proved incorrect. Liaison with other Missions has been most cordial, particularly during 1950, but one cannot help but feel that the mutual co-operation could have been greater, had we all been accommodated in the same location.

This brief report on the work of the Records Branch and its powerful arm, the Field Tracing Staff, cannot be completed without a reference to the organisation of the Branch in the Divisional Offices. The Records Branch has changed in form and size several times since its foundation and now consists of five sections, controlled by the Records Officer. The following is the composition of the Branch:-

Intelligence Section- Responsible for preparing the correspondence action which follows the review of the material received from the field. This Section keeps maps and statistics of the progress of work in the field, and is additionally responsible for the safe keeping of dormant documents held pending completion of field action. The Section maintains an index of all targets known in the Zone, including on each target card a brief history of the target.



Cemetery Section - Developed as a Sub-Section of the intelligence Section, the Cemetery Section is now working as an independent Sub-Unit of the Records Branch, and, as has already been mentioned, is responsible for all action in connection with the physical graves checking.

Review Section- Responsible for the review and checking of all documents received from the field. In order to try to complete the review of every Kreis by the end of 1950, this Section has been increased in strength until it is now the largest in the Branch. After the review is completed, work sheets are produced in respect of all uncleared cases. These work sheets are passed to the Intelligence Section for further action with the German Authorities, and the documents received from the field are then passed to the Liaison Section.

Liaison Section- As already mentioned, this Section is responsible for the copying and distribution of information to accredited Search Missions.

Processing Section - forms the registry plus dispatch plus typing pool of the Branch. The registry and dispatch of the Processing Section is responsible for keeping an exact check on all correspondence of the Branch as well as the general filing system employed.

The total staff employed in the records Branch at the time of writing is 80 German and DP Personnel.

As this was only an outline of the work performed by the Records Branch in the Divisional Offices and by the field, no summary is needed by the reader, but we may do well, in the midst of all these serious matters of graves and concentration camps, etc. to end upon lighter vein. One of the smaller parishes in the Zone was required to submit a cemetery plan indicating position of non-German graves. The no doubt very busy parish official liaised with the village schoolmaster. Evidently a competition involving the drawing of a picture of the cemetery resulted, and the lucky owner of the best drawing was rewarded by having his artistic "cemetery plan" sent to the I.T.S.

It is safe to say that tracing and exploitation of records, difficult though the process have been, would have been of even greater difficulty in any other country but this. The efficiency of the German, his love of registers, card indices and the like, and above all this his thoroughness, is legendary. What better example of German thoroughness can be given than this:-

Amongst the instructions given by the I.T.S. during the Kreis conferences was one that all graves must be reported and that special attention must

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General Editor - developed as a sub-section of the Intelligence Section  
the General Editor is the working as an independent sub-unit of the records  
branch and as such, has already been mentioned in reports for all years in con-  
nection with the 7 pages given already.

General Editor - responsible for the review and checking of all documents  
received from the field, in order to try to complete the review of every item  
by the end of 1950, this section has been increased in strength until it is now  
the largest in the branch, after the review is completed, work sheets are prepared  
in terms of all documents reviewed, these work sheets are passed to the Intelligence  
Section for further action with the German Authorities and the German Trans-  
mission Unit, and that the field are then passed to the Liaison Section.

General Editor - is directly responsible for the  
copying and distribution of information to accredited Search Masters.  
The Liaison Section have the registry plus dispatch plus typing job of  
the Liaison Section and copies of the processing section is responsible  
for keeping an exact check on all correspondence of the branch as well as the  
General Editor's section.

The total staff assigned to the records branch at the time of writing is  
50 persons and 12 horses.

As this was only an outline of the work performed by the records branch  
in the Liaison Section and by the field, no account is made by the reader  
how we may be well in the light of all these various matters of process and con-  
struction, etc., and also lighter volume of the matter outside in the  
how we are required to submit a new very plain intelligible version of non-German  
documents, no doubt very very plain official letters with the village school-  
master, etc., a very plain intelligible version of a picture of the country  
received, and the body cover of the book having been received by having his

article "country plan" sent to the I.S.O.  
It is said to my mind, and explained in reports, although though  
the process has been, would have been of even greater difficulty in any other  
country, but the attention of the German, his love of registers, and indices  
and the fact, and above all, that his thoroughness is legendary, that latter analysis  
of German thoroughness can be given here.  
Amongst the instructions given by the I.S.O. during the Liaison Conference  
was one that all reports must be reported and that special attention must

be given to isolated graves which, due to the war, may have been located outside cemeteries in hedge-rows, on the sides of the railway and so on. Nothing was missed in one Kreis, where the Kreis Official reported the finding of a cross bearing the name "Foul Ground". It appears that the savants agreed that this must indeed be the last resting place of the mortal remains of a British soldier, who was unlucky enough to get himself killed at that particular spot. The local registrar was summoned and the death <sup>was duly registered with the usual solemnity and a</sup> certificate was ~~death~~ issued. The I.T.S. are in possession of the death certificate. Subsequent enquiries on the part of the I.T.S. led to an exhumation. The German Authorities reported that no body could be found in the "grave" and furthermore they were unable to state by whom and to where the body had been removed.

TRACING BRANCH

At the time of the establishment of the British Zone Division in March, 1948 provision was made for the conduct of individual adult tracing. As was mentioned earlier over 70 000 individual cases were handled in the Zone up to the closing of the British Red Cross Society's Bureau. No new tracing cases were accepted by the records Sub-section of displaced Persons Division but outstanding replies were sent to enquirers as a result of reports received from the German Authorities, or from index findings.

A tracing Branch in the British Zone was organized in the latter days of March, 1948 and began to function on 1 April, 1948. Two major difficulties were experienced, the first one existing throughout the life-time of the British Zone Division. This difficulty arose through lack of field personnel. The original personnel establishment for the British Zone Division visualized the provision of class II International Staff for field tracing, the same as in the US Zone. However the Control Commission refused the appointment of any more Class II personnel in the British Zone, over-and-above those already engaged in the I.R.O. Displaced Persons Operation. The personnel establishment was therefore pruned to meet budgetary requirements and the result was that three International Officers, each with a class I clerical assistant were provided for the Division. Owing to the overriding demands of the Records Branch in connection with the correction of the Z.P.I. No.4 returns, it was necessary to employ these officials on the various records duties to which we have already referred. This state of affairs has remained with us until the end. The second difficulty was that owing to the decision to continue Child Tracing activities, the tracing Officers appointed to the Divi-

be given to isolated cases which, due to the way they have been located and  
 side connections in background on the side of the railway and on adjoining  
 was missed in the British, where the British reported the finding of a  
 cross during the case "John Brown". It appears that the records showed  
 that this case was instead of the last meeting place of the exact remains of a  
 British soldier, who was seriously injured to get himself killed at that point.  
 other spots, the local registers was examined and the death certificate was  
 issued in 1918, and in possession of the death certificate subsequent evidence  
 on the part of the I.R.G. led to an examination of the German authorities report  
 and that no body could be found in the "grave" and furthermore they were unable  
 to state by whom and to where the body had been removed.

TRAINING BRANCH

It should be noted that the establishment of the British Army Division in March,  
 1948 provision was made for the conduct of individual adult training, as was  
 stated earlier over 10,000 individual cases were handled in the year up to the  
 closing of the British Red Cross Society's Bureau. The new training cases were recog-  
 nized by the records department of displaced persons Division but outstanding  
 replies were sent to headquarters as a result of reports received from the German  
 authorities, or from other sources.

A training branch in the British Army was organized in the latter days of  
 March, 1948 and began to function on 1 April, 1948. The major difficulties were  
 present, the first one existing throughout the life-time of the British Army Di-  
 vision, this difficulty arose throughout of their personnel, the original person-  
 nel establishment for the British Army Division was the provision of class  
 II International staff for field training, the same as in the US Army, however the  
 British Army, over- and above themselves engaged in the I.R.G. Displaced Persons  
 Question. The personnel establishment was therefore pressed to meet both  
 requirements and the result was that three International Officers, each with a  
 class I official assistant were provided for the Division, only to the over-  
 siring demands of the Institute Branch in connection with the correction of the  
 E.P.I. No. 4 returns, it was necessary to employ these officials on the various  
 records duties to which we have already referred. This state of affairs has remai-  
 ned with us until the end, the second difficulty was that owing to the decision  
 to continue with field training activities, the training Officers appointed to the Divi-

sion had to undertake Child Tracing duties in addition to those covering adult enquiries. This state of affairs was remedied in September, 1948 when a separate Child Tracing Branch with its own staff was appointed to the Division. The work performed in the intervening months was as good as possible under the circumstances, but inevitably the system of one week of individual adult tracing and the next week of child tracing was forced upon us. It was found impracticable to undertake or to handle both types of cases together owing to the varying social and other backgrounds existing between individual and child cases. It was necessary therefore, to concentrate our efforts on the one type of case for a period and then switch to the other type of case which required completely different approach. As mentioned before the majority of tracing investigations were made by correspondence. During the first 9 months up to the end of 1948 the I.T.S. corresponded directly with all levels of the German Administration in order to solve individual adult cases. The reader will remember that during this period we were awaiting CCG to approve the right of the I.T.S. to have direct access to the German Civil Authorities. The action taken during this period was therefore, strictly speaking, done without the approval of the Occupying Power. It was known, however, that CCG had no objections in the case of individual enquiries. In order to speed-up the work as much as possible on both sides, proforma letters were drawn-up and were used in as many cases as possible. Most proformas had answer-slips attached for the convenience of the offices to which the enquiries were directed. Correspondence with German Offices was in the German language exclusively and with Allied Offices in the English language.

During the early period, test cases were carried-out to determine the time-limit necessary to allow of receiving replies from the German Authorities. The time-limit fixed eventually was 8 weeks from the time of dispatch of the enquiry from Coettingen. To operate this system effectively, a reminder Index had been in use throughout.

One of the biggest difficulties in connection with persons likely to be living in the Zone as DPs was the problem of movement between Camps. The DPs were normal human beings and no laws existed to restrain them from free personal movement. Very often a DP would move from one camp to another, either temporarily, or permanently, or even to other Zones, without informing anyone. The I.T.S. realised that it did not possess the opportunity to make an overall coverage of the Zone for each individual case. There were two methods of approaching the solution of this problem. The first method was for the I.T.S. to hold an Index of resident

also had a number of other people working during the session to those covering adult  
 groups and the whole of affairs was handled in London, 1955 when a report  
 (Hill) working closely with the staff was appointed to the Institute. The work  
 performed in the intervening months was as good as possible under the circum-  
 stances, but inevitably the system of one week of individual adult teaching and  
 the next week of adult teaching was forced upon us, it was found impracticable  
 to maintain on the same basis types of cases together during the working  
 week and other arrangements existing between individual and adult cases.  
 It was necessary therefore to concentrate our efforts on the one type of case  
 for a period and then switch to the other type of case which required emphasis  
 by different approaches mentioned before the majority of teaching investigations  
 were made by correspondence. During the first 3 months up to the end of 1955 the  
 I.T.S. concentrated chiefly on all levels of the German Administration in or-  
 der to solve individual adult cases. The reader will remember that during this  
 period we were awaiting the approval of the I.T.S. to have direct  
 access to the German Civil Authorities, the matter when during this period was  
 therefore, strictly speaking, done without the approval of the German Govern-  
 ment. It was known however, that the I.T.S. had no objection in the case of individual cases  
 dealing with the spread of the work as much as possible on both sides, previous  
 letters were drawn up and sent back in as many cases as possible. Last year  
 we had rather little success for the convenience of the Office to which the  
 enquiries were directed. However, when German Offices was in the German  
 language, naturally and with direct Office in the British language.  
 During the early period, last year was carried out to determine the dis-  
 tinct necessity to allow of receiving replies from the German Authorities.  
 The last time fixed eventually was 8 weeks from the time of dispatch of the  
 enquiry from London. It is possible to operate this system effectively, a regular link  
 had been in the meantime.

One of the biggest difficulties in connection with previous letters likely to be  
 living in the law as it was the problem of movement between Ompa. The I.T.S. were  
 normal being and we have decided to restrict to restrict them from this purpose.  
 movement, very often a 12 week time from one step to another, either temporarily  
 or permanently, or even to other cases without interrupting activity. The I.T.S. re-  
 ally that it did not possess the authority to raise an overall coverage of the  
 law for each individual case. There were two methods of approaching the solution  
 of this problem. The first method was for the I.T.S. to hold an index of residents

DPs in the Zone. This method was unattainable because of the fact that the British Authorities were unable to give the ITS such a living Index and because of the insuperable problem of keeping up-to-date with the amendments made necessary by the many official and personal moves made by the DPs. The second solution to the problem was to prepare a list for circulation to all Displaced Persons Assembly Centres and Camps, and after lengthy negotiation with the Regional Offices of Displaced Persons Division, this solution was finally agreed to. It reduced the number of single letters to be prepared by the ITS and to be answered by Displaced Persons Division units; these letters being replaced by a system of weekly lists. There were however, drawbacks to the list system. A great deal of work was thrown upon the Tracing Branch in having to prepare the weekly lists amounting to some 400 copies. The lists had to be kept down in size in order to facilitate handling by the recipients a maximum of about 100 names being put on each list. The sharp increase in intake of enquiries received from autumn, 1949 onwards gave rise to an inevitable backlog of cases awaiting their turn to be put on various lists which were distributed in sufficient copies to allow of distribution to all DP camps. It was the intention, that after having checked the lists and sent the results of their findings to the ITS, the Assembly Centre Commanders should cause the lists to be hung on camp notice boards. By this method it was hoped that some DPs reading the lists may have seen the names of some of their friends or acquaintances and would have given all information to the ITS. Unfortunately, these lists were rarely displayed in the manner we had hoped and the ITS staff was not large enough to handle the problem by ~~himself~~ itself. Again in criticism, it must be stated that whilst some Assembly Centre Commanders paid personal attention to the ITS weekly lists, others were content to leave the checkings entirely in the hands of a clerk whose interest in the cases, and in the sad story behind many of them, was negligible. The fault probably lay with the ITS whose Public Relations Staff was noticeably inactive in matters of this kind. During the course of summer of 1949 the Tracing Officer and the field Staff paid visits to all Relief Detachments of the CGC, when they were given the opportunity to explain some of the work of tracing to Assembly Centre Commanders, and at the same time to hear of their difficulties in this connection. These meetings were extremely beneficial, and as a result there was a noticeable improvement in reports received from all sources. In fairness, the reader must understand that these Assembly Centre Commanders were extremely busy people with very small clerical staffs at their disposal. The positive replies to tracing enquiries received in 1948 was 17,8 %.

The in the 1950s method was unsatisfactory because of the fact that the British  
 Authorities were unable to give the ITC such a living Index and because of the  
 insuperable problem of keeping up-to-date with the amendments made necessary by  
 the rapid official and personal moves made by the ITC. The second solution to the  
 problem was to prepare a list for circulation to all displaced persons assembly  
 Centers and Camps, and after lengthy negotiations with the Regional Offices of  
 Displaced Persons Division, this solution was finally agreed to. It reduced the  
 number of single letters to be prepared by the ITC and to be prepared by Dispa-  
 sed Persons Division with letters being replaced by a system of weekly  
 lists. There were however, drawbacks to the list system. A great deal of work was  
 done upon the weekly branch in having to prepare the weekly lists containing  
 to some 500 copies. The lists had to be kept down in size in order to facilitate  
 handling by the post office. Lists of about 100 names being put on each list.  
 The first attempt in order of dispatch received from the ITC, only one was  
 able to be investigated because of cases existing their turn to be put on various  
 lists which were distributed in sufficient copies to allow of circulation to  
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 or acquaintances and would have given all information to the ITC. Unfortunately,  
 these lists were rarely displayed in the manner we had hoped and the ITC  
 was not large enough to handle the problem. Again in addition,  
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 tention to the ITC weekly lists, others were content to leave the checking enti-  
 rely in the hands of a clerk whose interest in the cases, and in the end story  
 behind many of them, was negligible. The ITC's problem lay with the ITC whose  
 liaison relations with the ITC were not necessarily as active as matters of this kind during  
 the course of summer of 1955 the ITC's Field Office and the Field Staff paid visits  
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 bly Centre Commanders were extremely busy people with very small clerical staffs  
 at their disposal. The positive replies to ITC's enquiries received in 1955

This figure rose in 1949 to 24.5%. The improvement must be largely attributed to the introduction of the weekly lists system. Regular lists were at first established for DP Division installations. Later lists were regularly sent to CMLO/CMWS (Civilian labour and Watchmans' Organization), the Yugoslav Central Advisory Council, the Relief Society for Poles, and the Amt fuer Kriegsopfer (AFKO). Special tribute must be paid to the Relief Society for Poles, for their valuable help and assistance in Polish cases and to the CMLO/CMWS. By the efforts and assistance of the latter Organization, we were able to solve many enquiries, which could not be resolved through any other channel. From the time of their introduction in the spring of 1949 until the disbandment of Assembly Centres under Allied Control and of the Tracing Branch of the British Zone Division in July, 1950, when the lists were discontinued, 206 separate lists were published carrying a total of 30,088 names of missing persons. We have already mentioned that many of our problems would have been eased or solved had we been in the possession of an Index of living DPs. The problem was specially acute when one considers the question of letters for onward transmission to enquirers. These were letters giving the results of tracing action taken by the Headquarters of the ITS on behalf of the DPs themselves. Due to the fact that the enquirers lived in Poland or the United States or countries even more remote from Germany, a long time elapsed before any replies were to hand. In the meantime the enquirer had moved his location—once, twice, thrice or even more times. To find him again, in order to transmit to him the results of the ITS investigations often proved a more tough job than many original tracing enquiries, due to the fact that the enquirer was rarely registered with the German Authorities. Unfortunately, no statistics of these categories of "case" have been kept by the British Zone Division, so no details can be presented to the reader. It can be stated, however, that these "cases" constituted a not inconsiderable part of the work of the Tracing Branch.

The reader will not wish to be bored by voluminous statistics, but the following are considered to be the vital figures:-

(a) Total number of cases received from the Headquarters, ITS, which required action in the British Zone.....	21,234
(b) Cases completed by Tracing Branch, B.Z.	
(i) cases with a death report.....	430
(ii) cases with a living report.....	234
(iii) cases with partial information indicating further action outside the British Zone.....	792
(iv) cases closed "No Trace".....	12,711
(v) cases cancelled .....	206
Total of cases on which action was taken	

ONE

This figure was in 1939 to 1941. The improvement must be fairly attributed to the introduction of the weekly lists system. Regular lists were at first established for the Division (initially) and later lists were regularly sent to DMV (German) (German Labour and Economic Organization), the Yugoslav Central Advisory Council, the Polish Society for Jobs, and the Red Cross (Kriegsgefangene). Special lists must be sent to the Polish Society for Jobs for their valuable help and assistance in Polish cases and to the DMV by the efforts and assistance of the latter organization, so were able to solve many enquiries, which could not be resolved through any other channel. From the time of their introduction in the spring of 1939 until the disbandment of the British Home Office, Allied Control and of the Trading Branch of the British Home Office in July, 1950, when the lists were discontinued, 202 separate lists were published carrying a total of 30,000 cases of missing persons. We have already mentioned that many of our problems would have been eased or solved had we been in the possession of an index of living cases. The problem was essentially made with our knowledge of the question of factors for onward transportation to emigrants. There were factors always the results of trading activities by the Headquarters of the ITC on behalf of the ITC themselves, but to the fact that the emigrants lived in Poland or the United States or countries even more remote from Germany, a long time elapsed before any replies were so had in the meantime the computer had moved his location - which, twice or even more times to find him again, in order to transmit to him the results of the ITC investigations often proved a very tough job than any original trading enquiries, but so the fact that the computer was rarely registered with the German authorities. Unfortunately, no statistics of these categories of cases have been kept by the British Home Office, so no details can be presented to the reader. It can be stated, however, that the "cases" constituted a not inconsiderable part of the work of the Trading Branch. The reader will wish to be forewarned by voluminous statistics, but the following are considered to be the vital figures:-

(a) Total number of cases received from the Headquarters, ITC, which required action in the British Home Office.....	2,234
(b) Cases completed by Trading Branch, ITC:	
(i) cases with a death report.....	4,130
(ii) cases with a living report.....	734
(iii) cases with partial information (including further sold in connection with the British Home Office).....	732
(iv) cases closed "as traced".....	12,111
(v) cases cancelled.....	400
Total of cases on which action was taken.....	19,207

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(c) Cases returned to ITS HQ without action because of the limitation of Tracing.....6,161

The Tracing Branch continued its operation till 15 July, 1950 on which date it was disbanded and the Senior Tracing Officer was transferred to Headquarters ITS. The residual tracing operations are being carried out by a small staff in the Executive Office of the Division, and the time of writing, some 380 cases are still on hand. Whilst the case load is progressively reduced each month, the reduction is off-set by a considerable intake of cases from Headquarters ITS, which are either new to the British Zone, or are forwarded as a result of clues discovered elsewhere. Additionally, a considerable number of cases are being reopened because new information has been obtained in the meantime.

The fluctuation of staff employed by the Tracing Branch can be seen in the staff charts shown under Administration.

The major problem which has always beset the work of individual tracing has been the time-lag between the work of the Tracing Branch and the records Branch. Theoretically thousands of tracing cases should have been solved, even at Zonal level, by information available from Records. For many reasons, however, this information could not be made available in the Division. It did not become available until it was transcribed on the Index cards in the Master Index at Headquarters ITS. In the meantime, these cases had been investigated on an individual basis in the Zone and the answers supplied. It has never been easy to convince the German Authorities in this connection. Their inevitable reaction has always been to point out that information had been supplied long before through the Records side. Our answer was always, better have done twice and been sure than not to have done at all:

In this report the other situation in Germany has allowed the replacement of a staff in the Tracing Branch with a generally very high standard. The fact that a trained officer, who had been from GCHQ and had considerable experience in tracing, was transferred to the Division of a well-trained local staff. At the commencement of operations in January, 1949 a total of 43 clerical staff were employed in Executive, 14 in Tracing, and 29 in Records - all at Göttingen. By January, 1950 this figure had risen to 47 at Göttingen - (13 in Executive and Administrative, 14 in Tracing, and 20 in Records) and 21 in the Field Office, and a year later it had risen again to 68 at Göttingen and 22 in the Field. This figure do not of course include staff employed in Child Search Units. The following break-down in January, 1950 may be of interest:-

- Executive Office and Administrative Branch
- Tracing Branch
- Records Branch
- Local Staff
- Local Staff
- Local Staff

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(a) - New cases referred to the Division of Investigation of the Treasury Department, July 15, 1950, on which date

The Treasury Branch continued its operations until July 15, 1950 on which date it was disbanded and the Senior Treasury Officer was transferred to Headquarters. The essential Treasury records are being carried out by a small staff in the Executive Office of the Division, and the flow of writing, cases, 180 cases are still on hand. While the case load is progressively reduced each month, the reduction is offset by a considerable intake of cases from Headquarters IRS, which are either new to the Division or are forwarded as a result of other discovered records. Additionally, a considerable number of cases are being reported because new information has been obtained in the meantime.

The limitation of staff engaged by the Treasury Branch can be seen in the staff charts shown under Administration.

The major problem which has always been the work of individual Treasury has been the timing between the work of the Treasury Branch and the records Branch. The essential elements of Treasury cases should have been solved even at some level by information available from records. For many reasons, however, this information could not be made available in the Division. It did not become available until it was transferred on the index cards in the Master Index at Headquarters. In the meantime, many cases had been investigated on an individual basis in the Division and the reports supplied. It has never been easy to convince the various authorities in this connection, that individual records have always been so pointed out that information had been supplied long before the Bureau advised. However, we always better have done better and been sure that not to have done better.

ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH

The reader must not be bored with too many details of Administration. This very important Branch is mainly concerned with unspectacular routine activities, which have no place in this history. However, one of the major problems which has beset the Administration in the British Zone has been insufficient office accommodation involving two moves of offices to other buildings, and the attendant organisation and execution of these moves has involved a considerable amount of work.

Transport was also a great headache for a long time until the last of our Military Jeeps were moved in the early part of 1950. One can only feel that the strain which these vehicles imposed, fell more heavily upon IRO Workshops than upon ourselves and they too must have been glad to see the last of the Military Jeeps. The Austins which supplanted them were excellent little cars for Area Field Staff, but there is no doubt that the Jeep Station Wagon has been the ideal vehicle for the Divisional Offices and for the Regional Tracing Staff. The repair facilities for transport have been excellent. The rapid services given to us by the IRO Zone Workshops at Hannover cannot be passed without comment.

The British Zone Division has been very lucky in that it has had only one serious road accident which involved injuries to personnel. Two or three other accidents have been of a minor nature without personnel injuries and with only minor damage to vehicles. This reflects in no small way upon the Administration and upon the drivers employed.

We have had a constant struggle to maintain staff of the best quality in the most suitable jobs. In this respect the labour situation in Goettingen has allowed the employment of a staff in the Divisional Offices which has been a generally very high standard. The fact that a trained cadre of personnel was taken-over from CCG who had considerable experience in tracing, contributed to the rapid build-up of a well trained local staff. At the commencement of operations in March, 1948 a total of 49 clerical staff were employed (9 in Executive, 14 in Tracing and 25 in Records) - all at Goettingen. By January, 1949 this figure has risen to 59 at Goettingen (13 in Executive and Administrative, 14 in Tracing and 29 in Records) - and 21 in the Field Offices, and a year later it had risen again, to 86 at Goettingen and 22 in the Field. This figures do not of course include staff employed on Child Search duties. The following break-down in January, 1950 may be of interest:-

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Executive Office and<br>Administrative Branch | - 13 Local Staff |
| Tracing Branch                                | - 39 Local Staff |
| Records Branch                                | - 34 Local Staff |

ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH

The reader may not be bored with too many details of Administration. This very important branch is mainly concerned with managerial routine activities which have to place in this history. However, one of the major problems which has beset the Administration in the British zone has been insufficient office accommodation involving two moves of offices to other buildings, and the attendant expense and extension of these moves has involved a considerable amount of work. Transport was also a great headache for a long time until the last of our Military troops were moved in the early part of 1950. One can only feel that the extent which these vehicles enjoyed, they were heavily upon the workshops from their own selves and they too must have been glad to see the last of the Military tanks. The tanks which supported them were excellent little cars for their kind, but there is no doubt that the long distance again has been the least suitable for the Divisional Officer and for the Regional Training Staff. The repair lists for transport have been excellent, the right services given to us by the two new workshops at Hannover cannot be passed without comment.

The British zone Division has been very busy in that it has had only one serious road accident which involved injuries to personnel. Two or three other accidents have been of a minor nature without personnel injuries and with only minor damage to vehicles. This reflects in no small way upon the Administration and upon the drivers employed.

We have had a constant struggle to maintain staff of the best quality in the most suitable jobs. In this respect the labour situation in Germany has allowed the employment of a staff in the Divisional Office which has been a generally very high standard. The fact that a trained cadre of personnel was taken over from GOC who had considerable experience in training, contributed to the rapid build-up of a well trained local staff. At the commencement of operations in March, 1948 a total of 43 clerical staff were employed. In Executive 12 in Training and 31 in Records. All of these staff were employed in January, 1950. This figure has risen to 53 at present (12 in Executive and Administrative, 14 in Training, and 27 in Records) and 21 in the Field Office and a year later it had risen again to 66 at Gostingen and 22 in the Field. This figure is not of course inclusive staff employed on GEMA station duties. The following breakdown in January, 1950 may be of interest:-

- 12 Local Staff
- 39 Local Staff
- 24 Local Staff
- Executive Office and
- Administrative Branch
- Training Branch
- Records Branch

At the time of writing the employment position is as follows:-

Executive Office (including Administrative and Tracing)	- 22 local Staff
Records Branch	- 80 local Staff

The reader will readily see that a great increase of personnel in Records Branch has taken place during 1950. This of course was done with intention of completing the reviewing of material received under operation "FERRET" before close of the Division takes place in December, 1950.

This short note on Administration must include a tribute to the I.R.O. Zonal Offices Staff and our thanks must be given to all departments with whom the I.T.S. has dealt, whether it be the Department of Operations or the Various Administrative Services including Personnel, Transport, Finance and general Administration. The courteous way <sup>in</sup> which the I.T.S. staff members have been received during their various visits to Lemgo and the prompt attention given to the no doubt often exasperating requests of the I.T.S. step-child must be recorded. Without this attention from Zone Headquarters we should never have been able to progress in our duties in the way which has been possible.

A last word about the staff members. 10 nationalities of international staff have worked in this Division together with 8 DP nationalities, and a preponderance of German personnel in the local staff. That all have been able to work together in Harmony to ensure the success of the I.T.S. operations in the Zone is surely an indication of what can be achieved in the sphere of international co-operation, if there exists an objective to be reached, together with the will and the means to reach that objective.

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At the time of writing the assigned position is as follows:

Executive Office (including Administrative and Training) Records Branch	-	25 local staff
	-	50 local staff

The reader will readily see that a great increase of personnel in records branch has taken place during 1950. This of course was done with intention of completing the reviewing of material received under operation "WALKER" before close of the Division takes place in December, 1950.

This short note on administration must include a tribute to the I.R.C. Local Office Staff and our thanks must be given to all departments with which the I.R.C. has dealt, whether it be the Department of Agriculture or the Veterans Administration Services including Personnel, Transport, Finance and General Administration. The courteous way in which the I.R.C. staff members have been treated during their various visits to Tokyo and the prompt attention given to the no doubt often exacting requests of the I.R.C. staff should be recorded.

Without this attention from our headquarters we should never have been able to progress in our duties in the way which has been possible.

A last word about the staff members. To representatives of international staff have worked in this Division together with 8 Japanese staff and a representative of German personnel in the local staff. This all has been done to work together in harmony to ensure the success of the I.R.C. operations in the area. It is a satisfaction of what can be achieved in the sphere of international co-operation if there exists an objective take towards together with the will and the need to reach first objective.