

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE
CHILD TRACING BRANCH

HISTORY OF THE
I. T. S. CHILD TRACING

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED

BY

MISS VERA SAMSONOFF, Chief, Information Division.

28th September, 1951

Arolsen
Germany

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INTERNATIONAL TRADING SERVICE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HISTORY OF THE

U. S. S. S. R.

REPORT AND SUMMARY

MISS VERA SANDHORN, CHIEF, INFORMATION DIVISION

1954

28th September, 1954

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE
CHILD TRACING BRANCH
APO 171 US ARMY

HISTORY OF THE I.T.S. CHILD TRACING BRANCH

ERRECTION OF THE CHILD TRACING BRANCH

In compliance with instructions of the Director-General of the International Refugee Organization, with letter dated 21. March 1950 the Child Search Branch in Esslingen was closed down on 30. September, 1950. All files and archives were removed to the International Tracing Service Headquarters, Arolsen, where a new Child Tracing Branch was established on 1. October 1950.

The mandate of the Child Tracing Branch was the following:

- a. Checking of incoming enquiries for missing children against the records held by the I.T.S. and notifying the enquirers of the results obtained.
- b. Forwarding the incoming correspondence resulting from action initiated prior to 31. August, 1950, to the appropriate quarters.
- c. Replying to enquiries (legal, social, medical etc.,) which may be received in connection with children whose cases are held by the I.T.S.
- d. Servicing the IRO Child Welfare offices respecting identification and documentation of children, and in tracing for relatives.

Although these services were limited in comparison to the Child Search mandate, a great amount of correspondence within and outside of Germany was involved, and therefore a qualified staff was required. Twelve indigenous employees were selected in Esslingen and transferred to the I.T.S. Hqs. Arolsen. Additional staff was recruited locally. Apart from the routine work, the Child Tracing Branch had to complete the work which was unfinished on 30. September, 1950. This work involved the following actions:

- a. Sorting and classifying, and sorting by hand the Christian Name Index consisting of 260,000 cards.
- b. Checking of 23,000 Children Birth-Certificates.
- c. Evaluation by hand of 18,000 meetings of cards sorted out by IBM System.
- d. Completion of the processing of 13,000 questionnaires (L.R.P. Returns).
- e. Receiving, evaluating and processing further replies from the German Administration concerning unaccompanied children.
- f. Taking immediate action on 1,000 cases backlog resulting from the closure of the Child Search Branch, and the move of its archives to the ITS Hqs.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADING SERVICE
CHILD IN CARE BRANCH
AND THE US ARMY

HISTORY OF THE I.T.S. CHILD CARE BRANCH

ERECTON OF THE CHILD TRADING BRANCH

In compliance with instructions of the Director-General of the International Refugee Organization, a letter dated 27 March 1950 and Child Search Branch in London was closed down on 30 September, 1950. All files and records were turned over to the International Refugee Service Headquarters, Geneva, where a new Child Trading Branch was established on 7 October 1950.

The mandate of the Child Trading Branch was the following:

- a. Checking of incoming enquiries for missing children against the records held by the I.T.S. and copying the answers of the results obtained.
- b. Forwarding the incoming correspondence received from action initiated prior to 31 August, 1950, to the appropriate quarters.
- c. Replies to enquiries (legal, social, medical, etc.) which may be received in connection with children whose cases are held by the I.T.S.
- d. Securing the IRO Child Welfare Office records being identified and documentation of children, and in tracing for relatives.

Although these services were limited in comparison to the Child Search Branch, a great amount of response came within and outside of Germany and Austria, and where a qualified staff was required. Before long, employees were selected in London and transferred to the I.T.S. Headquarters. Additional staff was recruited locally. Apart from the routine work, the Child Trading Branch had to complete the work which was outlined on 30 September, 1950. This work involved the following:

- a. Sorting and classifying, and coding by card the Canadian Home Index consisting of 300,000 cards.
- b. Checking of 27,000 British Birth-Death-Deaths.
- c. Evaluation by hand of 18,000 records of cards sorted out by IBM System.
- d. Completion of the processing of 17,000 enquiries (B.R.T. Returns).
- e. Receiving, evaluating and processing further replies from the United States Administration concerning unaccompanied children.
- f. Taking immediate action on 7,000 cases pending resulting from the closure of the Child Search Branch, and the move of its archives to the I.T.S. Branch.

On the 4th and 5th December, 1950 the Chief of the Child Tracing Branch attended a conference at the IRO Headquarters, Geneva, regarding the completion of the programme in respect of unaccompanied children.

At this conference the Chief of the Child Tracing Branch proposed that the files concerning the children declared ineligible by IRO, in view of their German or Austrian origin, should be referred to the German Suchdienst. This proposal met with the approval of the IRO Headquarters.

It was further suggested that the cases on foundings i.e. nameless children, should be transferred to the German Suchdienst, with the request to refer back to IRO all cases of children who, after further investigation, should be found to be non-German and therefore eligible for IRO services. This proposal also met with the agreement of the IRO Headquarters.

As a result of this conference an agreement was reached between the Director of the International Tracing Service and the Chief of the Children Section of the German Suchdienst, Hamburg, on 28. February, 1951, concerning the transfer of the above mentioned cases to the German Suchdienst.

The German Suchdienst requested the I.T.S., who is the custodian of the German Authorities Returns (L.R.P.) to assist them in bringing their Index in order. The Suchdienst is sending information concerning German children under the guardianship of the "Jugendaemter" to the I.T.S., requesting the completion of the information required.

Meanwhile negotiations have taken place between the Director of the International Tracing Service and the Allied High Commission for Germany, for the latter to take over the I.T.S.

It was known that the Allied High Commission would accept the takeover of the I.T.S. if certain activities were limited, and therefore a drastic reduction in staff took place on 31. March, 1951.

**CHILD TRACING UNDER ALLIED HIGH COMMISSION
FOR GERMANY!**

On 1st April, 1951, the date of the takeover of the International Tracing Service by the Allied High Commission for Germany, the Child Tracing Branch was reorganized into a section and consolidated with the Tracing Branch.

The Child Tracing Section had the following functions:

- a. To receive incoming enquiries for missing children, check these against records in possession of the I.T.S. and inform the enquirer of the results obtained.

b.

On 1st and 2nd December, 1957 the Chief of the Child Tracing Branch attended a conference at the I.A.E. Headquarters, Geneva, regarding the completion of the program in respect of unaccompanied children.

At this conference the Chief of the Child Tracing Branch proposed that the files regarding the children desired for identification by I.A.E. in view of their German or Austrian origin, should be referred to the German Embassy. This proposal met with the approval of the I.A.E. Headquarters.

It was further suggested that the cases of foundlings I.A.E. unaccompanied children, should be referred to the German Embassy, with the request to refer back to I.A.E. all cases of children who, after further investigation, should be found to be non-German and therefore eligible for I.A.E. services. This proposal also met with the agreement of the I.A.E. Headquarters.

As a result of this conference an agreement was reached between the Director of the International Tracing Service and the Chief of the Child Tracing Branch of the German Embassy, Hamburg, on 28 February, 1957, concerning the transfer of the above mentioned cases to the German Embassy.

The German Embassy requested the I.A.E., who is the custodian of the German unaccompanied children (I.A.E.) to assist them in bringing their files in order. The German Embassy is sending information concerning German children under the guardianship of the "Kriegsheimat" to the I.A.E., requesting the completion of the information required.

Meanwhile negotiations have taken place between the Director of the International Tracing Service and the Allied High Commission for Germany, for the latter to take over the I.A.E.

It was known that the Allied High Commission would accept the takeover of the I.A.E. if certain activities were limited, and therefore a limited reduction in staff took place on 31 March, 1957.

CHILD TRACING UNDER ALLIED HIGH COMMISSION FOR GERMANY

On 1st April, 1957, the date of the takeover of the International Tracing Service by the Allied High Commission for Germany, the Child Tracing Branch was reorganized into a section and consolidated with the Tracing Branch.

The Child Tracing Section had the following functions:
a. To receive incoming enquiries for missing children, check these against records in possession of the I.A.E. and inform the applicant of the results obtained.

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- b. To receive incoming enquiries for missing relatives, to be checked against the records in possession of the I.T.S. and inform the enquirer of the results obtained.

The Allied High Commission for Germany agreed to work in close co-operation with the IRO Child Welfare i.e. to transmit to IRO all available information which is held, or may be received by the I.T.S. concerning unaccompanied children, or their relatives, but refused to follow up any tracing clues.

DISPOSITION OF FILES :

As from 1. April, 1951, the Child Tracing Section was engaged in the final disposition of cases regarding unaccompanied children, as a very large number of the cases held by the I.T.S. were combined tracing and welfare cases. Concerning this disposition the I.T.S. undertook negotiations with the IRO Headquarters, and on 3. September, 1951 the following agreement was reached:

1. Active Cases:

Active cases of IRO eligible children still in Germany should be sent to the Child Welfare Office in the Zone of origin, or present residence of the child.

2. Closed Cases :

- a. Repatriation cases should be destroyed, in accordance with Sec. 3 (1) of the IRO Departmental Instruction No. 9.
- b. Resettlement cases, where governments of resettlement countries have requested the documents, will be forwarded through the IRO Mission, or direct if no IRO Mission exists, to the designated agency or governmental office.

The following governments have requested the children's documents :

Australia, Canada, Israel, Sweden, and New Zealand.

Cases of children who have been resettled to countries where the governments have not yet requested the documents: these should be kept pending further instructions.

- c. Local settlement cases i.e. cases concerning children who have been resettled in Germany, will be retained until further instructions are given. Negotiations in this connection are taking place between the International Tracing Service and the International Social Service.
- d. Cases outside the IRO mandate and incomplete cases: These cases include information on non-German children who have been found to be outside the mandate of IRO and such children for whom a decision could not be taken, due to insufficient information available for the determination of IRO eligibility. These cases remain pending further instructions. Negotiations between IRO, ITS, and ISS are at present taking place as to the disposition of these files.

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b. To receive incoming enquiries for missing relatives, to be checked against the records in possession of the I.T.S. and inform the applicant of the results obtained.

The Allied High Commission for Germany agreed to work in close co-operation with the IHO Office in Berlin, to transmit to IHO all available information which is held, or may be received by the I.T.S. concerning unaccompanied children, or their relatives, but released to follow up any tracing cases.

DISPOSITION OF FILES

As from 1 April 1957, the Child Tracing Section was engaged in the final disposition of cases regarding unaccompanied children, as a very large number of the cases held by the I.T.S. were pending tracing and welfare cases. Concerning this disposition the I.T.S. undertook negotiations with the IHO Headquarters, and on 21 September, 1957 the following agreement was reached:

1. Active Cases:

Active cases of IHO eligible children will in Germany should be sent to the Child Welfare Office in the home of origin, or present residence of the child.

2. Closed Cases:

- a. Repatriation cases should be destroyed, in accordance with Sec. 2 (4) of the IHO Import-Export Instructions No. 2.
- b. Resettlement cases, where governments of re-settlement countries have requested the documents, will be forwarded through the IHO Mission, or direct to the IHO Mission, to the designated agency or governmental office.

The following governments have requested the children's documents:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Sweden, and New Zealand.

Cases of children who have been resettled to countries where the government have not yet requested the documents, these should be kept pending further instructions.

- c. Local settlement cases, i.e. cases concerning children who have been resettled in Germany, will be retained until further instructions are given. Negotiations in this connection are being held between the International Tracing Service and the International Social Service.

- d. Cases outside the IHO mandate and incomplete cases: These cases include information on non-German children who have been found to be outside the mandate of IHO and upon children for whom a decision could not be taken, due to insufficient information available for the determination of IHO eligibility. These cases remain pending further instructions. Negotiations between IHO, I.T.S. and I.S.S. are at present taking place as to the disposition of these files.

References

Regardless of the decision reached, a nominal roll of such cases should be prepared in order that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees be informed of any action decided upon.

- e. Cases of overaged children should be combined with ITS Adult Tracing cases.
- f. Cases on children who have been reunited with their parents outside of the country of origin should remain with the ITS.

WORK STILL ON HAND:

In addition to the routine work outlined under a. and b. the following work has yet to be completed :

The classification and filing of replies received from the Jugendaemter, giving additional information on B-II forms sent out to the Amtsgerichte, questionnaires on incomplete A-II Returns (769). If time permits, a similar action with the Jugendaemter should be undertaken on C-I forms (5430). To record on the Children Index Card the disposition of all files sent out, in accordance with different agreements reached, to German Suchdienst, IRO Welfare etc.

When this work has been completed, a re-check of the Children Index against the Master Index should be made in order to be sure that all cards concerning children have their copy in the Master Index. Thereafter the Children Index can be destroyed.

2 APPENDICES

Carried forward	17341	485
Polish	1112	2
Polish Jew	1112	2
Norman	714	25
Luxemburg	16	4
Latvian Jew	377	15
Latvian	10	1
Italian Jew	444	23
Italian	74	1
Hungarian Jew	1112	2
Hungarian	1112	2
Swedish	1112	2
Czech Jew	1112	2
Czech	1112	2
Belgian Jew	1112	2
Belgian	1112	2
British Jew	1112	2
British	1112	2
French Jew	1112	2
French	1112	2
German Jew	1112	2
German	1112	2
Yugoslavian Jew	1112	2
Yugoslavian	1112	2
Other	1112	2
Total	17341	485

Regardless of the decision rendered, a copy of the report shall be furnished to the parent of the child and to the child's guardian, if any, as soon as possible after the report is received by the Bureau.

- 2. Cases in which the child's name is identical with the name of the child in the report shall be handled as follows:
- a. Cases in which the child's name is identical with the name of the child in the report shall be handled as follows:
- b. Cases in which the child's name is identical with the name of the child in the report shall be handled as follows:

WORK SHEET ON HANDS

In addition to the routine work outlined under a and b, the following work shall be completed:

The classification and filing of reports received from the Bureau, giving additional information on 2-11 forms sent to the Bureau, shall be completed as indicated on 2-11 forms (2-11). If time permits, a check shall be made to determine if any of the children listed on 2-11 forms (2-11) are in the Bureau's files. If any of the children listed on 2-11 forms (2-11) are in the Bureau's files, the Bureau shall be notified by the Bureau. If any of the children listed on 2-11 forms (2-11) are in the Bureau's files, the Bureau shall be notified by the Bureau.

When this work has been completed, a report of the Children Index against the Master Index shall be made in order to be sure that all cases concerning children have their copy in the Master Index. Whenever the Children Index can be destroyed.

2 APPENDICES

Statistics on Unaccompanied Located Children
 Combined UNRRA, IRO and ALLIED HIGH COMMISSION
 for GERMANY

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NATIONALITY (Presumed)	CHILDREN LOCATED	RELATIVES LOCATED
	From 1945 to 30. 8.1951	From 1945 to 30.8.1951
Albanian	1	-
Albanian Jew	2	-
Algerian	4	1
American US	148	62
American Jew	7	-
Argentinian	1	1
Armenian	4	2
Austrian	163	88
Austrian Jew	47	-
Belgian	145	53
Belgian Jew	4	-
Brazilian	6	5
British	37	9
British Jew	1	-
Bulgarian	11	4
Bulgarian Jew	3	-
Bylorussian	17	6
Bylorussian Jew	1	-
Canadian	5	3
Chilian	3	1
Chinese	1	-
Columbian	2	2
Costorican	2	1
Czech	850	337
Czech Jew	610	-
Czech E.G.	43	1
Danish	23	7
Dutch	229	94
Dutch Jew	6	-
Estonian	217	69
Finnish	10	7
French	338	130
French Jew	18	-
German	988	397
German Jew	269	-
Greek	41	11
Greek Jew	9	-
Guatemalian	2	1
Hungarian	267	310
Hungarian Jew	1622	-
Irish	1	-
Italian	84	24
Italian Jew	14	-
Latvian	444	213
Latvian Jew	19	-
Lithuanian	377	150
Lithuanian Jew	99	-
Luxemburg	16	4
Mexican	4	-
Norwegian	73	35
Polish	5341	2824
Polish Jew	4712	3
Carried Forward	17341	4855

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NATIONALITY (Presumed)	CHILDREN LOCATED	RELATIVES LOCATED
	From 1945 to 30.8.1951	From 1945 to 30.8.1951
Brought Forward	17341	4855
Polish E.G.	60	-
Portugeese	1	-
Roumanian	96	68
Roumanian Jew	441	-
Roumanian E.G.	4	-
Russian	307	68
Russian Jew	76	1
Russian E.G.	5	-
Spanish	11	3
Swedish	8	2
Swiss	13	7
Turkish	1	1
Ukrainian	600	143
Ukrainian Jew	9	-
Ukrainian E.G.	7	-
Venezuelian	8	-
Yugoslav	584	250
Yugoslav Jew.	30	-
Yugoslav E.G.	234	2
Stateless	123	64
Stateless Jew	173	1
Undetermined	3022	722
Undetermined Jew	71	1
T o t a l	23225	6188

Polish E.G.	60	-
Portugeese	1	-
Roumanian	96	68
Roumanian Jew	441	-
Roumanian E.G.	4	-
Russian	307	68
Russian Jew	76	1
Russian E.G.	5	-
Spanish	11	3
Swedish	8	2
Swiss	13	7
Turkish	1	1
Ukrainian	600	143
Ukrainian Jew	9	-
Ukrainian E.G.	7	-
Venezuelian	8	-
Yugoslav	584	250
Yugoslav Jew.	30	-
Yugoslav E.G.	234	2
Stateless	123	64
Stateless Jew	173	1
Undetermined	3022	722
Undetermined Jew	71	1
TOTAL	23225	6188

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NATIONALITY (Grouped)	PERCENTAGE	
	From 1945 to 30.6.1952	From 1945 to 30.6.1952
Polish U.S.	100	100
Portuguese	1	1
Romanian	100	100
Romanian Jew	44	44
Romanian U.S.	307	307
Russian	100	100
Russian Jew	100	100
Russian U.S.	100	100
Spanish	100	100
Swedish	100	100
Swiss	100	100
Turkish	100	100
Ukrainian	100	100
Ukrainian Jew	100	100
Ukrainian U.S.	100	100
Yugoslavian	100	100
Yugoslav	100	100
Yugoslav Jew	100	100
Yugoslav U.S.	100	100
Italian	100	100
Italian Jew	100	100
Uncertain	100	100
Uncertain Jew	100	100
Total	1000	1000

Statistics on Missing Children

Combined UNRRA, IRO and ALLIED HIGH COMMISSION f. Germany

NATIONALITY (Presumed)	ENQUIRIES RECEIVED			ENQUIRIES SOLVED
	From 1945 to 30.8.1951	Children born before 1935	Balance	From 1945 to 30.8.1951
Albanian	4	-	4	-
Algerian	1	-	1	1
American US	26	-	26	12
Armenian	1	-	1	-
Austrian	20	3	17	5
Austrian Jew	-	-	-	1
Belgian	41	5	36	8
Belgian Jew	-	-	-	2
Brazilian	1	-	1	1
British	5	-	5	1
Bylorussian	17	-	17	-
Canadian	4	-	4	-
Czech	467	27	440	144
Czech Jew	5	-	5	4
Danish	7	-	7	3
Dutch	99	7	92	19
Dutch Jew	-	-	-	2
Estonian	31	1	30	24
French	134	7	127	24
French Jew	-	-	-	6
German	265	7	258	70
German Jew	1	4	1	7
Greek	16	-	16	1
Greek Jew	2	-	2	-
Guatemalian	2	-	2	1
Hungarian	190	5	185	32
Hungarian Jew	-	-	-	18
Italian	592	82	510	25
Italian Jew	1	-	1	4
Latvian	118	3	115	76
Latvian Jew	-	-	-	2
Lithuanian	268	-	268	47
Lithuanian Jew	2	-	2	8
Luxembourg	4	-	4	4
Norwegian	140	-	140	59
Polish	15643	2376	13267	3938
Polish Jew	13	-	13	42
Roumanian	79	-	79	18
Russian	231	2	229	26
Spanish	6	1	5	3
Ukrainian	86	2	84	20
Yugoslav	755	34	721	130
Yugoslav E.G.	4	-	4	1
Stateless	78	1	77	12
Undetermined	3380	203	3177	424
Undetermined Jew	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	22739	2766	19975	5226

Statistics on Minor Children

Combined USSR, EEO and Allied High Commission Germany

NATIONALITY (Presumed)	ENGINES RECEIVED		ENGINES SOLD	
	From 1945 to 30.6.1951	Collateral from before 1952	From 1945 to 30.6.1951	From 1945 to 30.6.1951
Underdetermined	2590	803	3177	
Swedish	78		78	
Yugoslav E.G.	4		4	
Yugoslav	755	24	751	120
Ukrainian	88		88	88
Spanish	8		8	88
Russian	231		239	88
Romanian	78		78	88
Polish	1563	2376	1327	1000
Norwegian	140		140	140
Luxembourg	4		4	4
Lithuanian Jew	2		2	2
Lithuanian	268		268	268
Latvian Jew	118		118	118
Latvian	4		4	4
Italian Jew	282		282	282
Italian	189		189	189
Hungarian Jew	190		190	190
Hungarian	2		2	2
Greek Jew	2		2	2
Greek	76		76	76
German Jew	282		282	282
German	121		121	121
French Jew	122		122	122
French	71		71	71
Portuguese	21		21	21
Dutch Jew	99		99	99
Dutch	21		21	21
Danish Jew	21		21	21
Danish	21		21	21
Czech Jew	487		487	487
Czech	21		21	21
Canadian	4		4	4
Syrian	4		4	4
British	12		12	12
British Jew	12		12	12
Belgian Jew	41		41	41
Belgian	20		20	20
Austrian Jew	17		17	17
Austrian	26		26	26
American US	26		26	26
Albanian	4		4	4

TOTAL 2573 2766 3239 2528