

New Paths in Cataloguing and Research

A lot has happened since the archive opened again in 2007. The provision of information for Nazi victims and their families, and the administration and preservation of the archival documents have been professionalized and are still key responsibilities. But above all, access to the archival collections is improving. For the first time, they are catalogued with archival standards, and new tools are being developed to explain the documents. A reference service department has been established for visitors, and various offers are available to researchers and educators, including workshops, publications and exhibitions.



**British Historian Ian Kershaw Viewing
Death March Documents, Bad Arolsen, 2009**

Since 2007, many scholars and local researchers have visited Bad Arolsen. The ITS has developed numerous projects to make it easier to access the collections. These include research workshops, exhibitions and teacher training seminars.



Call for participation

**International Workshop
ITS Bad Arolsen, October 4-7, 2010**

“Evacuations” and Death Marches

Within the framework of the opening of the ITS archives the formation of a Research Department is one major future objective of the ITS; another aim tends to building up a scientific archive out of the vast ITS-holdings. Despite the different responsibilities both departments work closely together. Creating special inventories on holdings which are connected by topic although they do not belong to the same sub-collections is one example.

The ITS-archive does contain an outstanding collection on the Death Marches. These files do base mainly on the investigation efforts carried out by the ITS (and its predecessor organizations) from 1945/6 to 1951, titled: „Attempted Identification of unknown dead and related information“. The investigation comprehended research of the geographical routes, identification of all mass and individual graves of those who were murdered or who died during these so-called “evacuations”. Furthermore forms were sent out to mayors and representatives to get information on the march itself.

The files do also contain eyewitness testimonies from various perspectives. The collection does give information on geographical and logistic topics. The death toll and if there were differences between the various death marches regarding the possibilities of prisoners' survival etc. are also angles from which the holdings may be examined. Political/ administrative decisions when which Camp was “evacuated” may be seen in new light with the help of the ITS-material.

These and many more research perspectives may be enlightened anew with the help of the ITS-holdings.

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Invitation to a Workshop on Death Marches in Bad Arolsen, October 4–7, 2010

The workshop was organized by the *Research and Education Department*, which was created after the archive opened in 2007. Since then, the ITS has started forming international connections again. A working group was created to study the topic of death marches in detail and to demonstrate the research potential of the archive.

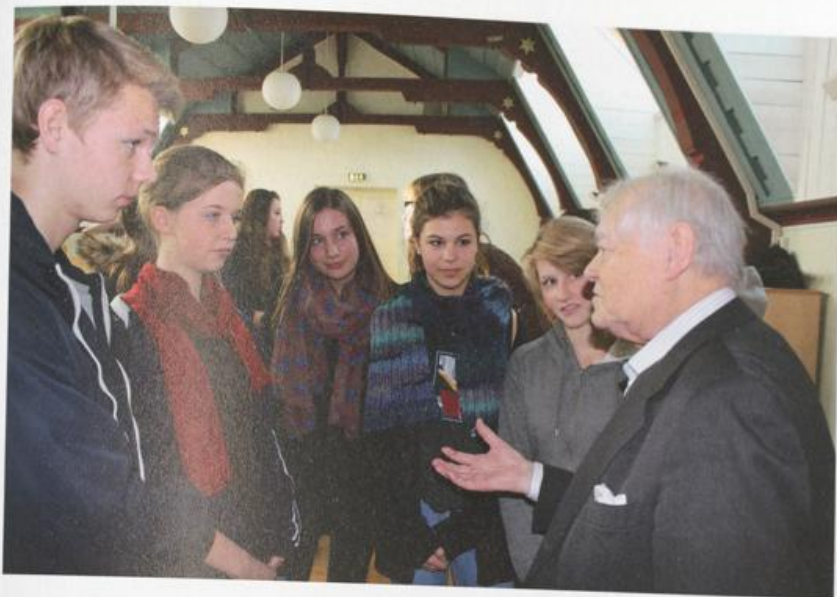


Conference Participants, *Searching for Traces of the Death Marches*, Bad Arolsen, November 23–24, 2011

Ever since the archive opened, conferences have been held regularly to discuss research findings. Workshops, by contrast, focus on exploring the archival collections and the potential they hold for research and education.

Visitors at the Exhibition *The Death Marches in the Documents of the ITS* in Berlin, December 3, 2013

Susanne Urban, head of the *Research and Education Department* at the time, developed the first ITS exhibition on the topic of death marches. Such exhibitions are intended to make the general public aware of the collections and invite them to carry out research.



**Survivor Eric Imre Hitter Talking to Students,
Berlin, December 3, 2013**

To accompany the exhibition, a talk was held with survivor Eric Imre Hitter, whose story was recounted in the exhibition. In April 1945, the SS forced the 15-year-old Jewish Romanian boy on a death march from Flossenbürg concentration camp. He was liberated on the march by US soldiers.

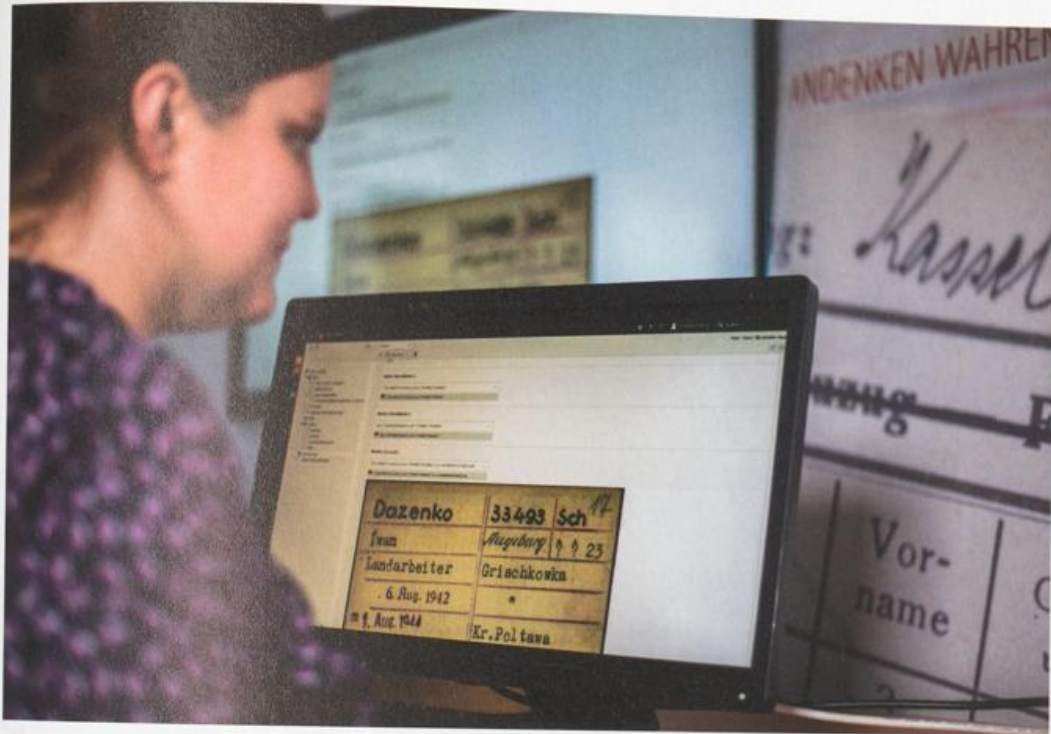
Freilegungen – First Academic Publications

Following the conference *Searching for Traces of the Death Marches*, the ITS established its own series of books to publish research findings on the history of Nazi crimes and their consequences.



**Professional Cataloguing of the Archival
Collections, Bad Arolsen, August 21, 2018**

Now that the ITS has opened up again to become an archive and documentation center, its collections are being catalogued for the first time. Many inquiries today relate not only to people but also to places or specific topics. New archival descriptions are therefore being developed to enable this kind of approach to the documents.



Working on the e-Guide, an Online Tool from the Arolsen Archives, Bad Arolsen, June 28, 2018

The e-Guide is an online tool that provides simple, understandable, well-illustrated and interactive explanations of the main document types held in the Arolsen Archives. This enables users with varying levels of prior knowledge to decipher the documents independently.

Research in the Reading Rooms of the Arolsen Archives, Bad Arolsen, August 21, 2018

Visitors receive support as they conduct research in the digital archive on site. Nearly the entire collection has now been digitized. They can also use the library, which has works on Nazi history, as well as newspapers and journals from the camp committees of former prisoners and the associations of victims of Nazi persecution.

Infographics

Use of the Archive for Research, Education and Remembrance

From 2015 to 2018, 9271 research requests were received from 49 countries, and hundreds of users carried out research on-site. The digital archive can also be accessed through partner institutions of the *Arolsen Archives*, known as copyholders: every member state of the *International Commission* is entitled to receive a copy.

