

any Germans, except victims of Nazi persecution. Accordingly, the central headquarters of the CTB was established at Arolsen, Germany, together with the UNRRA Headquarters.

8. In January 1947, with the end of UNRRA in sight, retrenchment in activities consequently necessary, and the transfer of UNRRA Headquarters to Paris imminent, the future of the CTB was reviewed. The PW & DP Directorate stated its requirements to be first of all the completion of the work of the records branch, including child tracing; and, secondly, mass tracing through newspapers and radio in order that information so obtained could be passed to the NTB. The arrangement finally adopted was that of decentralising to the zonal tracing bureaux individual and child tracing, while retaining in Arolsen a central records office and mass tracing. This plan went into effect in February 1947, and UNRRA undertook to continue the operation until the cessation of UNRRA operations on 30 June of that year.

C. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

9. During the First Part of the First Session of the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization in February 1947, the Executive Secretary was instructed "to proceed to the study of the special problem raised by the continuation of the activities of the CTB after 30 June 1947 and to put forward all necessary plans on this subject in connection with the entry into operation of the IRO".

c. In May of the same year the Preparatory Commission further examined the question and, "convinced of the supreme importance of the tracing of missing persons" resolved "to ensure the continuation of tracing activities by means of an International Tracing Bureau, taking into consideration..." that its "scheme would be closely modelled on the proposals of the Conference of National Tracing Bureaux held in Brussels on 15 September 1946". These proposals for the continuation on

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a European scale of the activities already organised by the CTB in Germany had also obtained the support of the recent Conference of the National Tracing Bureaux held in Prague on 3 March 1947. As a consequence, the UNRRA CTB was taken over by PCIRO as from 1 July 1947. As recommended by the Executive Secretary, the activities of the CTB were to be centered on three main functions;

- (1) collective search,
- (2) formation of a library and catalogue,
- (3) tracing on an international scale,

while the NTB were to continue the individual tracing of their respective nationals and the CTB was to be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the NTB.

11. In implementing the resolution just mentioned, the Executive Secretary enlisted the help of the ICRC and requested the secondment of their senior tracing expert, Mr. Maurice Thudichum. This was agreed and a report prepared which was presented to the Preparatory Commission in October 1947. The Executive Secretary was then directed to convert into an International Tracing Service "the present Central Tracing Bureau, its staff, facilities and functions... and to extend the mandate of the ITS to include as far as possible the tracing of all non-German nationals, and of such German nationals as would be eligible under the Constitution of IRO, who have disappeared by reason of the war".

12. All interested Governments whether or not member of the Preparatory Commission, as well as voluntary societies engaged in tracing work, were to be invited to relate their tracing activities to the work of the ITS and arrangements were to be made for the exchange of basic tracing information.

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13. Interested countries were to be notified that, in view of the non-permanent character of the IRO, the ITS could continue to function for a maximum of two or three years and would, during that period, so organise its work as to make feasible the turning over to some more long-term body such tracing functions as remained incomplete as the conclusion of its own activities.
14. Negotiations were to begin with the occupation authorities for the amalgamation and full subordination of the zonal tracing bureaux to the ITS, as well as for arrangements for the collections of necessary documents held by the military authorities or otherwise to be found in the occupational areas; and for suitable arrangements whereby the headquarters might remain in Germany.
15. On 1 January 1948, under the direction of Mr. Thudichum, the International Tracing Service came into being. At this point there were two major jobs to be done: co-ordination of international tracing activities, and re-organisation and re-alignment of the former CTB and zonal bureaux. Contacts were made with all the countries primarily interested in tracing. Liaison officers from France, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy and Luxembourg, who had previously been attached to the CTB, were transferred to the ITS headquarters, and logistical support was given them. (It is to be noted that the ITS held two international tracing conferences in Arolsen in 1948 and 1949).
16. Agreement was then obtained from the United States military authorities for the ITS headquarters to remain in Arolsen. This central headquarters was to be responsible for all policy planning, liaison with NTB and tracing agencies, and the direction and supervision of zonal field offices. Here was to be centralized individual tracing activities; mass tracing; and the processing, distribution and preservation of documents received from other agencies or collected in the field.
17. It was decided to set up ITS zonal divisions in the British and United States

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Zones of Germany to act as central agents for collecting material in their respective areas and undertake tracing on individual cases as requested by headquarters. Each zone was divided into a certain number of areas with tracing search teams attached.

18. In the British Zone, the IPS division came into being in March 1948 and was established at Goettingen. This entailed closing down and taking over the records of the 55th British Search Bureau (the holding unit of the Control Commission for Germany), which has been in existence since August 1947 and was the last successor of the original zonal bureau.
19. In the United States Zone, the former UNRRA and PCIRO United States zonal tracing bureau was taken over on 1 April 1948 and finally set up at Esslingen.
20. In the French Zone, since tracing activities had always been conducted by the French military authorities at Rastatt, this arrangement was continued on a basis of close collaboration with the ITS. In Berlin the original CTB Liaison Office, situated in the United States Sector, was absorbed by the ITS and continued as a collecting and distributing office for the three Western sectors, as well as maintaining liaison with the Soviet Sector and Soviet Zone.
21. The year 1948, therefore, represented the first part of what can be called a three-year plan. It was a period of re-organization, consolidation and co-ordination, entailing considerable re-equipment in terms of personnel and materials.
22. The year of greatest harvest was 1949. Search plans were in full swing and the processing of documents was accelerated, resulting in the largest number of positive results ever recorded. Full co-operation existed between the ITS and the NTB and tracing agencies; the maximum assistance was afforded by the occupying

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authorities; and German officials in general understood the work of the ITS and were helpful.

23. Also during this year the expanded Child Search Programme was launched by the ITS. Its mandate was to find and identify the maximum number of displaced children in the minimum amount of time, as well as to locate the relatives of these children. The method adopted to achieve this task in Germany was known as the Limited Registration Plan, which is described later in this paper.

D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

24. Although it was necessary to begin as early as 1949 planning for the eventual transfer of the ITS to some other body, the volume of work in progress remained undiminished until the spring of 1950; and even despite the curtailments that finally became unavoidable the most important activities have been continued.

25. Apart from, and in addition to, the accomplishments of the UNRRA CTB and agencies working with it, which were considerable, the accomplishments of the ITS during the three-year period ending 31 December 1950, greatly contributed to by the work of the various liaison offices attached to the ITS, are most impressive. The most noteworthy of these accomplishments and the methods by which they were achieved are the following:

Collecting and processing of records.

26. Already by the end of 1947 a vast accumulation of material had been collected by the CTB and zonal tracing bureaux and was in course of processing. Most of this material had been assembled as a result of the military directives issued in 1946, which required the Germans to report and return records concerning UN nationals, though it was found that such reporting was often extremely inaccurate and incomplete. In order, therefore, to ensure a thorough documents search and