

International Tracing Service

Tracing service, archives and documentation center in Bad Arolsen with largest collection of documents pertaining to victims of Nazi persecution

ITS: Organizational History



Formation of UNRRA November 1943 in Washington

Strategic planning re: war victims and displaced persons



Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces 1944-1945

Registration of Nazi victims and DPs



United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration 1945-1947

Primary purpose: Identification and repatriation of DPs



International Refugee Organization 1947-1951

Repatriation/ Welfare/ Emigration; re-uniting families



Allied High Commission for Germany 1951- 1955

Welfare/ Emigration of DPs



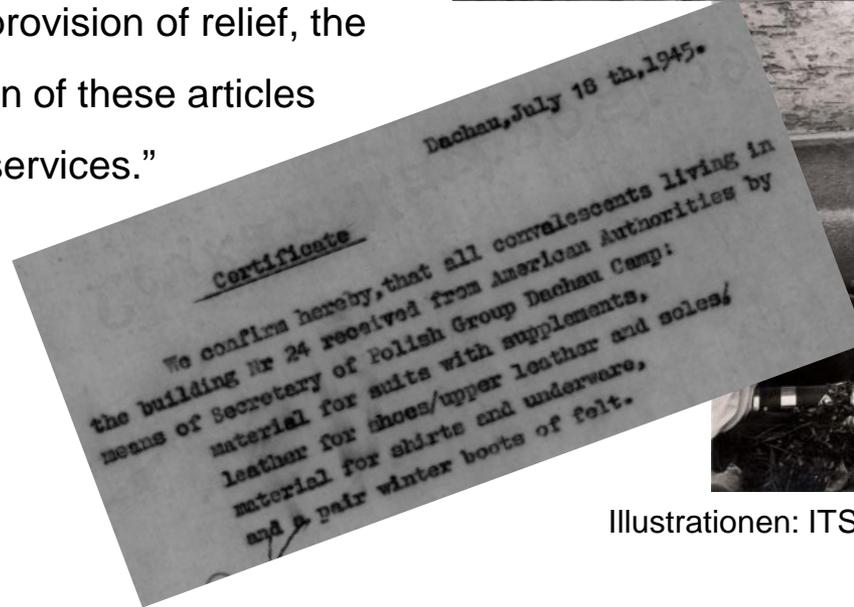
International Committee of the Red Cross 1955-2012

Management of ITS as tracing service

Initial Victim Relief Services

“To plan, coordinate, administer or arrange for the administration of measures for the relief of victims of war in any area under the control of any of the United Nations through the provision of food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other basic necessities, medical and other essential services; and to facilitate in such areas, so far as necessary to the adequate provision of relief, the production and transportation of these articles and the furnishing of these services.”

- November 9, 1943 -



Illustrationen: ITS, YV, Gedenkstätte Buchenwald

Registration

“I went to the American Consulate which had been set up in Buchenwald and they gave me a piece of paper and I wrote where I was born, the date, my father’s details. This gave me a lifeline to have a meal from UNRRA... Once I got this piece of paper – how can I explain? – well it meant the world to me. All of a sudden I realized that I was a human being.”

- Josef Perl -



522410
634957 90210 42

A.E.F. D.P. REGISTRATION RECORD

Original Duplicate

M. Single Married
 F. Widowed Divorced

(2) Family Name: **Weintraub Josef** (3) Other Given Names: **Josef** (4) Sex: **M.** (5) Marital Status: **Single** (6) Claimed Nationality: **Polish**

(7) Birthdate: **9.11.1917** (8) Birthplace: **Kalisz** (9) Province: **Poland** (10) Country: **Poland** (11) Religion (Optional): **Jew** (12) Number of Accompanying Family Members: **1**

(13) Number of Dependents: **1** (14) Full Name of Father: **Icek Weintraub** (15) Full Maiden Name of Mother: **Chana Weinteter**

(16) DESIRED DESTINATION: **Palestine.** (17) LAST PERMANENT RESIDENCE ON RESIDENCE JANUARY 1, 1938: **Kalisz** (18) Province: **Poland** (19) City or Village: **Poland** (20) Country: **Poland**

(21) Usual Trade, Occupation or Profession: **Hess Lichtenau** (22) Performed in What Kind of Establishment: **Goldcup** (23) Other Trades or Occupations: **Goldcup**

(24) Languages Spoken in Order of Fluency: **a. Polish b. German c. Jewish** (25) Do You Claim to be a Prisoner of War? **No** (26) Amount and Kind of Currency in your Possession: **None** (27) Signature of Registrant: **Josef** (28) Signature of Registrar: **[Signature]** (29) Date: **23.7.46.** (30) Center No. **USA**

(31) Destination or Reception Center: **Hess Lichtenau** (32) City or Village: **Goldcup** (33) Province: **Poland** (34) Country: **Poland**

(35) Code for Jews: **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28**

Wife: **Sara** (36) Husband: **Josef**
 Son: **Gerson**

RESETTLED TO: **USA ON 6.6.47**

D.P. - 2
10-3075-1

Illustrationen: YV, ITS

Repatriation

No refugee, who freely expresses valid objections against a return to his or her homeland should be forced to do so.

*UN General Assembly
February 1946*

Form NO. 1 15 Train No.: 2-11127 L. M. XXXI
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
Displaced Persons' Operation, Germany, U.S. Zone

Team No. 1062 Team Location Angsburg

Nominal Roll of Authorized Movement of Displaced Persons
 from Angsburg camp to Poland destination on 19th April 1946 date

Cite Authority for Movement: _____

UNRRA escort Miss Wynnes Signature and titles of UNRRA officers initiating movement

No.	Name	Nationality	Sex	Age	D. P. Identification Card No.	Remarks	
						G. Nr.	F. Nr.
281	Nachtigall David	Pol.	M	29	none	3773	13283
282	Speiser Dora	"	W	28	none	3774	13284
283	Gulerny Maria	"	W	32	none	3775	13285
284	Gulerny Herzogel	"	M	32	none	3776	13286
285	now. 283, 284 D.P.II. of same camp	do	do	do	do	do	do
286	Wajlowicz Moniek	Pol.	M	23	06371	3777	13287
287	"	"	M	35	none	3778	13288
288	"	"	M	32	none	3779	13289
289	"	"	M	21	none	3780	13290
290	"	"	M	22	none	3781	13291
291	"	"	M	27	none	3782	13292
292	"	"	M	21	none	3783	13293
293	"	"	M	23	none	3784	13294
294	"	"	M	35	488566	3785	13295
295	"	"	M	32	none	3786	13296
296	"	"	M	28	none	3787	13297
297	"	"	M	27	none	3788	13298
298	"	"	M	25	none	3789	13299
299	"	"	M	23	none	3790	13300
300	"	"	M	23	none	3791	13301
301	"	"	M	28	none	3892	13302



Illustrationen: USHMM, ITS

Organizational History of the ITS continued

While the ICRC managed the ITS from 1955 until 2012, it did so formally at the behest of an **International Commission** of 10, then 11 member states (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States)

- 1955-2007 Often behind the scenes but official oversight of ITS by International Commission, according to the Bonn treaties
- 2007-11 Work with ICRC toward making the archives more open and accessible (archives officially opened to the public at end of 2007)
- 2011-12 As part of the new Berlin treaties IC accepts more active role in overseeing the ITS as the ICRC concludes its management role and the IC searches for and hires a new director to head up the ITS under its new role as an archives and documentation center, while still receiving up to 1200 tracing and/fate clarification requests each month.

ITS Archive: ca. 30 Million Documents

Until 1945: individual persecuted person-related (and administrative) documents from KZ, prisons, ghettos, labor camps; index catalogue Reichsvereinigung der Juden; forced labor documents; Gestapo materials.

After 1945: includes listing of forced laborers, Child Search Branch; AJDC; documents pertaining to DPs/ DP-Camps: administration and care; medical records, registration cards, materials related to repatriation, and emigration. Includes index cards, personal effects, and finding aids (such as the central Names Index) and the tracing and documentation (T/D) files.

A of June 2013: recognized as part of UNESCO Register Memory of the World



The ITS Today

Center for Documentation, Information and Research on Nazi Persecution, Forced Labor and the Holocaust

Transitioning from a tracing service to a research center, the work of the ca. 275 staff members is divided between tracing and clarification of individual fates of Nazi victims, securing and making accessible archival holdings for research on individuals and themes, promoting academic and genealogical research, pedagogy for schools and universities, and preserving the memory of the victims, whose documents it preserves.



ITS Challenges and Public Access

- Digitization and keeping digitized documents readable and accessible at the ITS and at its partner institutions in the IC member states and eventually putting the collections (at least parts of them) on the internet
- Moving toward public access:
 - indexing beyond the level of individual names
 - cataloging files, originally organized according to how the Allies found them, and for the purposes of a Red Cross-like tracing
 - developing flexible software to transcend (and avoid too much dependence on) original software developer

Preparing Staff for Transformation toward more Public History Role

- Hiring more academically trained archivists and historians
- Utilizing experience and expertise and motivation and accessibility of those current staff without formal academic training
- De-compartmentalizing traditional tracing tasks so that one staff member or a small coordinated team takes responsibility for each individual search inquiry from start to finish

Other Public History Priorities

- Increasing especially European public and scholarly awareness of our holdings
- Public workshops for genealogical researchers
- Workshops for families of Nazi victims
- Utilizing the new status of having the ITS archives included in the UNESCO Memory of the World registry to make sure all original documents securely stored and preserved in appropriate archival buildings.
- Networking with other Holocaust research and public history institutions

In summary, what makes the ITS unique?

- International archive, so national privacy laws do not apply (IC developed data privacy principles of 25 years for ITS archives), under international control but paid for and located in Germany
- Documentation center created by the Allies with materials accumulated from sites of Nazi persecution (concentration and labor camps, ghettos, prisons, forced labor documentation) and camps for Displaced Persons, specifically to bring together information about victims of Nazi persecution

QUESTIONS?