

**Zeitschrift:** Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross  
**Herausgeber:** International Committee of the Red Cross  
**Band:** - (1950)

**Rubrik:** Relief for prisoners of war, civilian internees and prisoners of war become civilian workers

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 15.03.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## **IV. Relief for Prisoners of War, Civilian Internees, and Prisoners of War become Civilian Workers**

### **RELEASE AND REPATRIATION**

The release and repatriation of prisoners was a matter which took up less of the Committee's time in 1950 than in previous years. All countries bound by the 1929 Prisoners of War Convention had ended war captivity, except for prisoners serving sentences.<sup>1</sup>

After negotiations in Madrid and Berlin, the Committee succeeded in August in arranging for the repatriation of some hundreds of Germans who had escaped from France and were held in Spain. Similarly, démarches in Berlin and Shanghai led to the return of 800 Germans from China.

### **PRISONERS OF WAR BECOME CIVILIAN WORKERS**

The German Federal Republic opened a Consulate-General in Paris on October 1, 1950. As the Consulate, however, could not immediately take over the functions exercised by the Committee in behalf of former German prisoners of war who had become civilian workers, the ICRC, in agreement with the German and French authorities, continued more or less as before. This work was outlined in some detail in the 1949 Report.

---

<sup>1</sup> In June, the Albanian Red Cross confirmed that all German prisoners of war—some 250—had left Albania for home. A similar communication was made by the Polish Red Cross in regard to the last German prisoners held in Poland.

Relief to a total of some 800,000 French francs was issued by the Committee to these workers from its own funds, or from balances left on other gifts. Some of these men, because of unemployment or sickness, were in difficult circumstances. In certain cases, the Paris Delegation arranged accommodation for them with the Salvation Army; it assisted them by advice, approaches to the Authorities and by paying medical fees, chemists' bills and travelling expenses.

#### PRISONERS UNDER INDICTMENT OR SENTENCE

Clothing and toilet articles were issued to the 850 German prisoners still held in France. Distribution of this relief and of small amounts for the purchase of minor personal necessities was arranged through welfare assistants, who were acquainted with the men and their needs.

Delegates continued, as in 1949, to attend courts-martial, and make arrangements with defence counsel.

In June, 1949, the Berlin Delegation was not given permission to visit Werl Prison, where Germans condemned for war crimes by the British Occupation authorities were held. The Delegation renewed its request in May 1950, following a reorganization in the British High Commissioner's office. A Delegate was allowed a visit in June, and conversed freely with the men.

Landsberg Prison, in the American Zone, was visited a first time in October, 1949. A request made in May, 1950, to allow a second visit led to results only in December, after repeated negotiations and a personal intervention of the head of the Delegation. He himself visited the prison at the beginning of January, 1951.

Representations were made on behalf of Germans detained in Jugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

In February, 700 Japanese prisoners—including 40 tuberculous—mostly serving sentences of imprisonment, were transferred from Indonesia to Japan and handed over there to the Occupation Authorities. A Delegate accompanied them on this journey. The ICRC was also interested in the transfer to Japan,

to serve the balance of sentence there, of Japanese military personnel held in Manus Island, the Philippines, at Hong Kong, and in Malaya, Burma and Indo-China.

At the end of May, M. Bieri, who was then Delegate at Hong Kong, visited the ship bringing back 80 Japanese prisoners from Indo-China.

---