

Zeitschrift: Annual report / International Committee of the Red Cross
Herausgeber: International Committee of the Red Cross
Band: - (1965)

Rubrik: Special Services

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: 16.01.2026

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

He also went to a recently modernized detention centre near Titograd, and he enquired about the political detainees he had previously visited and who had since been released.

6. SPECIAL SERVICES

Central Tracing Agency, Geneva

Twenty years after the end of the Second World War, this service is still one of the most important of the ICRC and its activity has shown only a slight tendency to decrease. In 1965, the Agency received 54,203 enquiries and various communications (61,449 in 1964) and the mail it sent out comprised 59,616 items (60,987). It instituted 15,907 investigations for which it received 8,000 replies, of which some 5,000 were positive.

In the year under review the Agency issued 2,278 certificates of captivity in respect of prisoners of the 1939-45 war. These certificates are generally issued to veterans or former resistance fighters nearing retiring age who, to supplement the pensions to which they are entitled, must give proof that they were prisoners of war or interned civilians. The records of the Agency are often the only possibility of obtaining such proof, especially in the case of countries whose archives have been destroyed or dispersed.

The Agency's work is generally carried on in close co-operation with the Information Bureaux of National Societies. In 1965, for instance, the Agency had copious correspondence with the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR and with National Societies of other Eastern European countries. In many cases, this co-operation produced positive results.

Some conflicts have set the Agency special tasks. This was particularly the case in the Indo-Pakistani conflict. During that conflict, the Agency notified the names of 510 Pakistani prisoners of war in India and of 566 Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan. It also transmitted the relevant capture cards and notified the names of 550 interned Pakistani civilians and 51 Indian civilians. These figures, which increased considerably during the first few weeks of 1966, do not fully convey the amount of work which

the control of the lists of names involved; duplications were frequent and there was no uniformity of spelling.

In connection with the situation in Vietnam, the Agency transmitted 1,549 messages from one region of this war-torn country to another. In the Middle East, it continued to act as an intermediary for the transmission of family messages between Israel and the Arab States as well as between the various parts of war-torn Yemen. For these two Middle East sectors, the number of messages forwarded exceeded 2,700.

International Tracing Service (Arolsen)

1965 was the year of the XXth anniversary of the International Tracing Service (ITS). The tragic events which made the creation of this institution necessary in 1945 are well known. In consideration for the unfortunate victims the ITS was intended to help, it refrained from celebrating this anniversary. At the same time there was another anniversary : ten years before, in 1955, the ICRC was entrusted with the management of this Service, which is the most important source of information on the fate of persons deported or displaced during the Second World War in Germany and countries occupied by the German forces.

It is of interest to observe that, twenty years after the end of the war, the ITS activity is still considerable ; its staff today consists of 230 persons. In order to convey an idea of the work accomplished by the ITS, we give below the number of enquiries received each year since 1951, when statistical records of its work were started :

1951 :	52,000	1959 :	126,000
1952 :	53,000	1960 :	115,000
1953 :	67,000	1961 :	129,000
1954 :	103,000	1962 :	155,000
1955 :	138,000	1963 :	101,000
1956 :	158,000	1964 :	198,000
1957 :	204,000	1965 :	130,000
1958 :	155,000		

Total : about 1.9 million

Moreover, the ITS is still adding many documents to its already copious records.

Medical Personnel Section

Pursuant to its statutes, the ICRC, in readiness for any possible conflicts, "shall contribute to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the Medical Services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities" ; it has taken part in various international meetings, has maintained close contact with the nursing world, and has accomplished important missions, particularly in Africa.¹

War Disabled Service

This Service continued to concern itself for the Yemeni war disabled for whom the ICRC, with the assistance of the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, made it possible to go to Cairo to be fitted with artificial limbs.²

In all, 44 Yemeni disabled, in nine groups, went to the Egyptian capital.

¹ See p. 31 (General missions in Africa) ; p. 50 (The ICRC at the 17th Meeting of the League Nursing Advisory Committee) and p. 54 (XIIIfth Congress of the International Council of Nurses).

² See p. 24.

SUMMARY TABLE OF RELIEF DISTRIBUTED OR FORWARDED BY THE ICRC IN 1965

including relief in kind and cash, bought or drawn from the ICRC's own funds, as well as supplies distributed or forwarded by the ICRC as a neutral intermediary on behalf of various donors (National Red Cross Societies, governments or private donors).

Material Relief is but one of many aspects of the ICRC's humanitarian activity

<i>Country</i>	<i>Category of persons assisted</i>	<i>Value in Swiss francs</i>
<i>Cambodia</i>	Funds remitted to the Red Cross for assistance to refugees	15,000
<i>Congo</i>	Medical supplies for hostages at Buta . . .	10,000
<i>Cyprus</i>	Distribution of relief to population affected by the events	126,400
<i>France</i>	Gifts in kind received by Geneva for the children of "harkis"	40,558
<i>Greece</i>	Consignment of cheese and clothing to the Hellenic Red Cross for political detainees and destitute civilian population	17,000
<i>Japan</i>	Cash donation to the Japanese Red Cross for the Hiroshima hospital	2,000
<i>Jordan</i>	Consignment of clothing and foot-wear from the Swiss Red Cross for refugees	6,000
<i>India</i>	Consignment from Geneva of blood plasma, medical supplies, and milk powder to the Indian Red Cross : — beginning of relief action for refugees .	296,823
<i>Hungary</i>	Despatch from Geneva of medical supplies to the Hungarian Red Cross	8,545
<i>Laos</i>	Distribution of relief to refugees	73,000
<i>Pakistan</i>	Despatch from Geneva of blood plasma, medical supplies and powdered milk : — beginning of relief action for refugees .	381,868
<i>Poland</i>	Despatch from Geneva of medical supplies to the Polish Red Cross	23,640
<i>South Vietnam</i> . . .	Action for refugees and disabled : Distribution of relief supplies bought locally, sent from Geneva or sent direct by donor Societies	251,552
<i>South Vietnam NLF</i>	Despatch from Geneva to the NLF delegate in Moscow of donations in kind forwarded through Geneva by the Swedish, Finnish, Danish and Indian Red Cross Societies ; Despatch by sea of the donation from the Centrale Sanitaire Suisse	109,000
<i>North Vietnam</i> . . .	Funds remitted to the Red Cross in Hanoi (ICRC, Swedish and Japanese Red Cross Societies) ; despatch of medical supplies by air from Geneva to Hanoi	110,000
<i>Yemen</i>	Distribution of food and clothing to the population ; fitting of disabled with artificial limbs ; cost of medical missions ; operating cost for the Uqhd hospital, including the Jeddah delegation	1,777,000
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	Individual cases, detainees, refugees, etc. .	71,342
	TOTAL	Sw. frs.
		3,319,728