

# International Tracing Service

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transfer of servicemen and civilians of Bengali origin from Pakistan to Bangladesh and of people leaving Bangladesh for Pakistan.

It also successfully fulfilled its various tasks arising from the Middle East conflict.<sup>1</sup>

The new situations arising in 1973 were not the only ones to which the CTA applied its efforts. The many conflicts that have broken out since 1939 and the movements of large numbers of refugees require it to continue carrying out tasks such as the tracing of displaced or missing persons; the issuing of certificates of captivity, sickness or death; and the reuniting of families.

The Central Tracing Agency, which stores in its card-index information on millions of persons, continues to receive requests from all over the world.

Mention should be made of the Agency's close co-operation with National Societies and with the International Tracing Service (Arolsen), which render much valuable assistance, while it depends at the same time upon the investigations carried out by its own local agencies which it has set up in the Asian sub-continent, Middle East, Indo-China and Chile.

## **INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE**

Founded at the end of the Second World War with the object of gathering in its archives documents concerning the concentration camps and keeping up to date a card-index on former detainees, the International Tracing Service (ITS), which the ICRC has operated since 1955, continued to be very active and received 221,860 enquiries in 1973. This figure exceeded the number received in 1972 by 76,117.

The enquiries referred to the following: requests for incarceration and residence certificates relating to the Compensation Act which came into effect in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1953; requests for death certificates, for photocopies, for information with a view to obtaining an annuity or pension, for information for the preparation of books dedicated to the memory of persons who died as a result of being deported; enquiries from record offices, relating to publications, requests submitted by attorneys-general,

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<sup>1</sup> For details on the work of the Central Tracing Agency in the Asian sub-continent and the Middle East, see pp. 24 and 13 respectively.

and requests for tracing persons and historical and statistical information.

The increased number of requests was mainly accounted for by enquiries from persons seeking information for books dedicated to the memory of deportees (96,858 such requests in 1973, as compared with 43,991 in 1972), and from lawyers (almost four times more numerous in 1973 than in 1972, i.e. 42,448 as compared with 11,805). The latter requests mostly concerned the tracing of witnesses.

After scrutinizing all the requests received, the ITS sent out 245,427 replies in 1972.

Nearly 1.5 million reference cards were made out, bringing the total number of cards entered in the central card-index to 38.5 million.

As in previous years, the ITS acquired a considerable number of documents from several sources, including the "Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen" in Ludwigsburg, the Koblenz Federal Archives, the Berlin Document Centre, the Austrian Resistance Archives in Vienna, the Lublin-Majdanek State Museum and the Upper Austrian branch of the Austrian Red Cross at Linz. The newly acquired documents contain 231,437 names, thus adding to the chances of finding the necessary information for enquirers.

Preparatory work was continued on the second volume of the "Catalogue of places of detention", to supplement the first volume issued in 1969, and on a descriptive list of places of detention.

## **LOGISTICS DIVISION**

The Head of the Logistics Division is in charge of both Relief and Telecommunication Services. It is he who communicates with donors of relief items to the ICRC, and his principal duties are:

- to prepare and supervise relief programmes in co-operation with the delegates-general;
- to communicate with National Red Cross Societies and other donors;
- to set up the framework, in personnel and material, of an organization that will permit the ICRC to undertake relief actions on an