



REMEMBERING, RESEARCHING, LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING

As the number of contemporary witnesses to the period between 1933 and 1945 declines, the value of documents for educational work at schools, universities and memorial sites is rising. To convey an understanding of the significance of democratic values to successive generations by examination of the Holocaust and National Socialist crimes, the ITS supports pedagogy with:

- teaching resources (some available for download free of charge)
- exhibits
- workshops

The ITS is committed to the integration in an international network of research and educational institutions. In addition to providing access to the ITS archives and library, the ITS has supported research and scholarship since 2007 by means of its own:

- series of publications
- lectures
- projects related to selected fields of research
- workshops and conferences

Contact the Research and Education Branch:
historical-research@its-arolsen.org

Or go to Online Forms:
www.its-arolsen.org



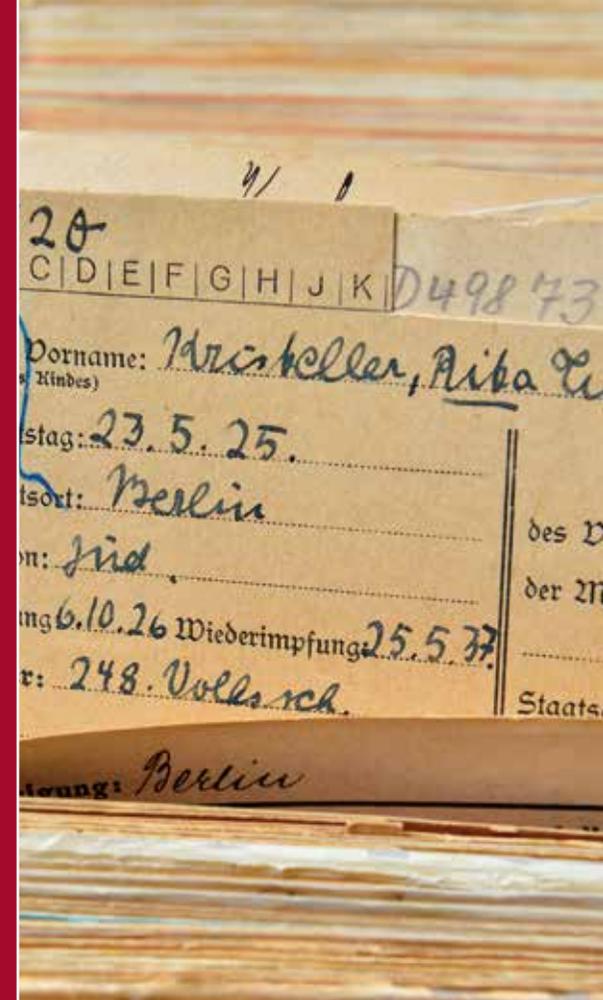
The ITS is governed by representatives from 11 member states: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, and United States. The German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media funds the ITS. Currently, the German Federal Archives is the institutional partner of the ITS. The ITS's unique historical significance is now memorialized with its entry in UNESCO's "Memory of the World" register. But with this recognition comes the obligation for the appropriate permanent preservation of the document collections.



International Tracing Service | ITS

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MILLIONS OF DOCUMENTS – MILLIONS OF FATES

SEARCHING FOR TRACES OF AND REMEMBERING NAZI VICTIMS



A MEMORIAL MADE OF PAPER

For the purpose of reuniting families and clarifying fates, the WWII Allied Forces established a tracing service for the civilian victims of the war and the Nazi dictatorship. They collected documents from concentration camps, Gestapo prisons, and other places of incarceration. These were supplemented by records from the period after 1945, including registration records of forced laborers, the archives of the Child Search Branch and tracing inquiries from all over the world. Based on these collections, the Allies developed the Central Name Index, which today includes roughly 50 million reference cards concerning the fates of 17.5 million persons – a globally unique testimony to the dimension of the atrocities committed against a variety of victim groups by the Nazis.

“We must never forget that the documents on deposit in Bad Arolsen are a sacred memorial held in trust to honor the memories of the millions of victims of the Holocaust and other Nazi atrocities.”

Thomas Buergenthal, survivor and former judge at the International Court of Justice

The ITS archives contain altogether 30 million documents. These records are preserved and described and catalogued according to archival and scholarly standards, and have been made accessible to the public since the end of 2007. Many documents represent symbolic monuments, providing a name, or even a face, and the stories of individual lives to the victims.

CLARIFYING FATES – PROVIDING ANSWERS

A core task of the ITS is the answering of humanitarian tracing requests: Thousands of inquiries from survivors of the National Socialist terror and from family members of victims reach the ITS every year. Seven decades after the fall of the Nazi regime, it is mainly the second and third generation who want to know what happened to their own family during the years of persecution. The ITS inquiry staff search for traces of those individuals being sought in the archives, providing answers, explaining the historical background and then sending copies of relevant records. It still happens occasionally, even today, that an inquiry to the ITS results in reuniting relatives and descendants, sometimes well beyond national borders.

To place inquiries relating to persons, please contact:

email@its-arolsen.org

Or go directly to the online Forms:

www.its-arolsen.org

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to know more about the work of the ITS. We report regularly on current events and activities in our newsletter.

communications@its-arolsen.org

THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE (ITS)
IN BAD AROLSSEN IS A CENTER FOR
DOCUMENTATION, INFORMATION, AND RESEARCH
ABOUT NATIONAL SOCIALIST PERSECUTION,
FORCED LABOR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND
THE SURVIVORS IN DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS
AFTER THE DEFEAT OF THE THIRD REICH.
THE ARCHIVES OF THE ITS DOCUMENTS
THE FATES OF MILLIONS OF VICTIMS
WHOSE NAMES AND MEMORY IT PRESERVES.
IN 2013, THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS IN
THE ARCHIVES OF THE ITS AND THE CENTRAL
NAME INDEX WERE INSCRIBED ONTO THE UNESCO
“MEMORY OF THE WORLD” REGISTER.