



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



International Tracing Service
Inscribed on the International Register in 2013
Memory of the World

ITS

International Tracing Service
Service International de Recherches
Internationaler Suchdienst

How the General Inventory is structured

The general inventory offers an overview of all archival collections kept in the archives of the International Tracing Service (ITS). The collections comprise myriads of different document types either created by Nazi authorities and organizations or produced at the initiative of the Allies and humanitarian organizations in the post-war period. Among them are such documents as came out as a by-product of the work done by the ITS and its predecessor organizations. Aside from originals, the collections include many document copies.

Meeting the requirements of its original mandate, the ITS created the collections in its role as a tracing and contact office for survivors and the next-of-kin of victims of Nazi persecution. As the value the documents had for the accomplishment of these tasks depended on the evaluation of the documents leading to the clarification of individual fates, the origin of the documents was of secondary importance. Accordingly the documents were not sorted by provenance (origin), as is a tradition with German archives, but filed by their factual reference and chronologically by their date of receipt.

The general inventory submitted here reflects a 'work in progress', i.e. it will be regularly updated to keep pace with the advance of the description work. The archival processing of the collections will entail the insertion of further documents into the single sub-collections, ie their eventual expansion. At the same time the data already available on the single sub-collections will be successively completed by detailed descriptions of the collections that will allow users a more in-depth access to the documents.

The General Inventory of the International Tracing Service (ITS) is available in the English, French and German languages.

Archival Tree

The structure of the General Inventory is shown as a navigable tree. Proceeding from the highest level, the user can call up the single hierarchical levels of the collections. Wherever use has been made of ITS-specific titles or terms requiring a detailed explanation, an explanatory text is stored in the background. If no proper explanatory text is contained in the tree structure, it makes sense to search the term in question in the glossary. Wherever possible, the explanations of terms available are linked directly in the text.