

“ . . . Whenever the Red Cross scope is broadened,” concluded the speaker, “ every time our delegates open a door hitherto closed, that means a little more humanity comes to the fore and a little more barbarity recedes. We intend to wage war on all forms of deliberate degradation of the defenceless human being. To those who can no longer make their voices heard, we wish at least to bring them our presence, so that all men who are oppressed, who are in irons, tortured and humiliated may feel they are not alone, not abandoned. For what is the purpose of the Red Cross if it is not the defence of an idea which, for centuries past, the *Accademia nazionale dei Lincei* has sought to illustrate: the idea of man’s dignity? ”.

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## A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

The International Tracing Service, directed and administered by the ICRC since 1955, has recently produced a volume of considerable importance after several years work based on documents obtained over the past twenty years. This consists of 612 pages, in addition to an introduction of 50 pages and is entitled, *Vorläufiges Verzeichnis der Haftstätten unter dem Reichsführer-SS, 1933-1945*.<sup>1</sup> (Provisional list of concentration camps and their outside detachments, and of their places of detention dependent on the Reichsführer-SS in Germany and the German-occupied territories, 1933-1945.)

It will be recalled that the ITS published, from 1949 to 1951, a *Catalogue of Camps and Prisons in Germany and German-occupied territories, 1939-1945*. A new edition of this catalogue, now long out of date, is in the process of preparation. However, the new

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<sup>1</sup> Internationaler Suchdienst, Arolsen, 1969, I. Band.

form given to the German Indemnity Law made it necessary to draw up a special catalogue of places of detention without delay. In fact, a paragraph in this law lays down that the Federal Government has the power to determine by decree those places of detention which should be considered to be concentration camps for the purposes of compensation.

The places of detention mentioned in this catalogue are classified in different categories according to the actual authority on which they depended. Apart from concentration camps which, with their detachments and sub-detachments, constitute the most important group (259 pages), eleven other categories are mentioned. To take one example, the 170 detachments of the Dachau concentration camp alone cover 30 pages.

The catalogue gives the following information on each place of detention: name and exact location, whether for men or for women, dates of opening and closing down, other details such as the detainees' employer, the nature of the work, accommodation, etc..., which might facilitate identification.

A 90-page alphabetical register gives easy reference to items including, in addition to the different names of places of detention, detachments grouped under the name of the enterprise, or organization for which they worked, and abbreviations.

This work will certainly be most useful to all having to deal with the painful problems concerning the indemnification of the victims of the concentration camp system. It can be considered to be the first volume of the new edition of the catalogue mentioned above which, in a subsequent volume, will comprise more detailed information on the concentration camps and other types of places of detention, such as prisons of the police, Gestapo, justice and the armed forces.