

On June 9, Mr. Hoffmann visited the Nampula military hospital and the prison in that town where detainees are held pending their transfer to the capital. He also called at a reception centre accommodating African civilians (men, women and children) who had fled from their homes because of events. A further visit he made in the same region was to the Vila Cabral hospital.

On June 13, Mr. Hoffmann went to the "Campo de Trabalho Prisional" of Malabane in the Limpopo valley, some 190 miles from Lourenço Marques. He interviewed without witnesses some of the former combatants detained there.

Gambia

The Ministry of Education has informed the International Committee of the Red Cross that its Government is prepared to introduce courses on the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions in primary school programmes. This decision follows on Mr. Laurent Marti's recent visit.

He is at present carrying out a tour of West Africa in order to have the principles of the Red Cross and the ICRC's work better known in schools. First results are encouraging.

IN GENEVA

At the Central Tracing Agency

Investigations into the Plight of Air-Crews.—The Netherlands Red Cross Society recently informed the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva of the discovery, during land-reclamation work in the Zydersee region, of the remains of British service-men and aircraft. It requested the Central Tracing Agency, at ICRC headquarters, to consult its files on British air-crews who had crashed over the Dutch coast during the Second World War, and whose bodies had never been recovered.

The ICRC soon communicated detailed information on 33 aircraft reported missing since 1942. One of the Agency's index-cards may be quoted as an example. This referred to a "Mosquito" which crashed on November 13, 1942, at 12 h. 45. This information had been sent by the Wehrmacht High Command to the War Office in London through the intermediary of the ICRC. Further information was provided by civilians who had seen planes crash in flames and from some of which the crews had been able to bale out. Often these civilians secretly informed the Central Tracing Agency, which was thus able to compile documents which it carefully preserved in its records.

Thanks to the information supplied by the ICRC, and by the expert appointed to examine wreckage, it may be possible to learn the fate, and identify the bodies of air-crews reported missing over twenty years ago.

The F. family case.—The F. family of Zagrab consisted of the mother and father, who were not happy together, and four children.

In 1943, Mrs. F. had to be admitted to hospital. Her husband took advantage of her absence to go to Hungary with his nine years old son Jozsef. He gave the child to understand that his mother had died and he then abandoned the child in an orphanage. It was not until 1956, when a relative in Hungary wrote Mrs. F. that her husband was dead that the deceit was brought to light.

Mrs. F. then asked her relative to contact the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to request it to seek her son. Thanks to the Central Tracing Agency's vast records it was possible to trace the young man. He had left Hungary during the events of 1956 and migrated to England. The British Red Cross was able to send the ICRC his address.

Jozsef F., as was to be expected, could hardly believe that the mother he had thought dead for the last 23 years was in fact alive. Mrs. F. for her part, being without news of her missing son since the upheaval of the Second World War, had given up all hope of finding him.

Mother and son, delighted with the turn of events, have expressed to the ICRC all their joy. With this positive result the Central Tracing Agency was able to close the file on the F. family case.