

**UNRRA SELECTED RECORDS AG-018-011:  
European Regional Office (ERO). Subject Files, 1942-1948**

**2016.140.1.**

**RG-67.054M**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
Tel. (202) 479-9717  
E-mail: [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

**Descriptive summary**

Title: UNRRA Selected Records AG-018-011: European Regional Office (ERO). Subject Files

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Washington, DC 20024-2126

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**Administrative Information**

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United Nations Archives and Records Management Section

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United Nations,

New York, NY 10017

Tel. (212) 963-4414

E-mail: [arms@un.org](mailto:arms@un.org)

<https://archives.un.org/>

The finding aid for the materials housed at the United Nations can be found at:

[https://archives.un.org/sites/archives.un.org/files/files/Finding%20Aids/2015\\_Finding\\_Aids/AG-018-011.pdf](https://archives.un.org/sites/archives.un.org/files/files/Finding%20Aids/2015_Finding_Aids/AG-018-011.pdf)

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Processing history: Finding aid adapted from inventory provided by the United Nations Archives and Records Management Service by Aleksandra Borecka July 2016

### **Administrative history**

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) was an international relief agency, largely dominated by the United States but representing 44 nations. Founded in 1943, it became part of the United Nations in 1945, and it largely shut down operations in 1947. Its purpose was to "plan, coordinate, administer or arrange for the administration of measures for the relief of victims of war in any area under the control of any of the United Nations through the provision of food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other basic necessities, medical and other essential services". Its staff of civil servants included 12,000 people, with headquarters in New York. Funding came from many nations, and totaled \$3.7 billion, of which the United States contributed \$2.7 billion; Britain \$625 million and Canada \$139 million. The Administration of UNRRA at the peak of operations in mid-1946 included five types of offices and missions with a staff totaling nearly 25,000: The Headquarters Office in Washington, The European Regional Office (London), the Twenty-nine servicing offices and missions (2 area offices in Cairo and Sydney; 10 liaison offices and missions in Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Trieste; 12 procurement offices in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Cuba, India, Mexico, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela; 6 offices for procurement of surplus military supplies in Caserta, Rome, Honolulu, Manila, New Delhi, Paris, Shanghai), the sixteen missions to receiving countries (Albania, Austria, Byelorussia, China, Czechoslovakia, the Dodecanese Islands, Ethiopia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Korea, the Philippines, Poland, Ukraine, Yugoslavia), and the Displaced Persons Operations in Germany.

UNRRA cooperated closely with dozens of volunteer charitable organizations, who sent hundreds of their own agencies to work alongside UNRRA. In operation only three years, the agency distributed about \$4 billion worth of goods, food, medicine, tools, and farm implements at a time of severe global shortages and worldwide transportation difficulties. The recipient nations had been especially hard hit by starvation, dislocation, and political chaos. It played a major role in helping Displaced Persons return to their home countries in Europe in 1945-46. Its UN functions were transferred to several UN agencies, including the International Refugee Organization and the World Health Organization. As an American relief agency, it was largely replaced by the Marshall Plan, which began operations in 1948.

The European Regional Office was established in London early in 1944 as a result of the understanding reached among the major Member States during the negotiation of the UNRRA Agreement. It was in a sense the successor to the Inter-Allied Committee on Post-War Requirements, whose head, Sir Frederick Leith-Ross, became Deputy Director General of Administration. He shared the executive direction with Nicolai Feonov, Deputy Director General for Supply, and Lithgow Osborne, Deputy Director General for Services and Areas. Together the three formed an Administrative Council, reporting to the Director General. By the end of 1944 the Director General had delegated to ERO the responsibility for supervision of administration and operations for all Missions in Northwest Europe, and soon thereafter for Displaced Persons Operation and other European Missions. The Administrative structure of ERO underwent many changes, but its major outlines remained fairly stable after the end of 1945. The chief executive, superseding the Administrative Council, was the Personal Representative of the Director General, three major Departments were established, dealing respectively with Supply Relief Services, and Finance and Administration, and each divided into operating and service Divisions, Branches, and Sections. The Registry classification system indicates the major functional groupings.

The ERO took a major part in the closing and liquidation of the European Missions and the Displaced Persons Operations. The archives of those offices were returned to Headquarters in Washington, D.C. through London.

[Source: Original finding aid of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) ]

### **Scope and content of collection**

Selected files relating to displaced persons operations in British Zone (BAOR) and the Australian United Jewish Overseas Relief Team: correspondence, statements of accounts.

### **System of arrangement**

Selected files arranged in two series:

1. Displaced Persons British Zone (BAOR): Spenge, Germany (S-1523-0022)
2. Australian United Jewish Overseas Relief Team (S-1523-0025).

### **Indexing terms**

#### ***Corporate Name:***

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration--History.  
Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad.  
Jewish Agency for Palestine.

Unitarian Service Committee.  
Polski Czerwony Krzyż.

**Genre/Form:**

Correspondence.  
Financial reports.

**Geographic name:**

Spenge (Germany)  
Australia.  
United States--Politics and government.

**Topical Term:**

World War, 1939-1945--Civilian relief.  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.  
War relief--United States--History--20th century.  
Humanitarian assistance, American--Europe--History--20th century.  
International relief.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Sources.

## CONTAINER LIST

**Note:** Due to the EAD project of the United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (UN-ARMS), some of the boxes have been assigned to new series.

This description is based on the finding aid compiled by the United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (Holder of originals). The original finding aid are located at:

UN finding aid:

[https://archives.un.org/sites/archives.un.org/files/files/Finding%20Aids/2015\\_Finding\\_Aids/AG-018-011.pdf](https://archives.un.org/sites/archives.un.org/files/files/Finding%20Aids/2015_Finding_Aids/AG-018-011.pdf)

### **UNRRA selected records AG-018-011: European Regional Office (ERO). Subject Files**

#### **Monetary Accounting Division-General Accounts Branch-Voluntary Agencies Files, 1944-1948**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Number of Pages</b>
S-0522-0090	S-1523-0000-0022	Germany - Spenge - DP British Zone - BAOR 1944-1948	5

	S-1523-0000-0025	Australian United Jewish Overseas Relief Team 1944-1948	55
		Total	60