



**Deutsches
Rotes
Kreuz**

Press release

Missing persons of the Second World War

GRC is prepared to extend Tracing Service work

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The German Red Cross is willingly available for talks with the Federal Ministry of the Interior to extend the work of the GRC Tracing Service on missing persons of the Second World War beyond 2023. “We are pleased we are receiving positive signals from the Bundestag and from the Ministry to continue this important work of the Tracing Service beyond 2023. To do so, however, we will need support from the Bundestag and the Federal Government in the corresponding budget discussions,” says Gerda Hasselfeldt, President of the GRC. The GRC was not the initiator behind the decision to end the work of the Tracing Service.

Last week, the GRC had pointed out that, according to a joint agreement with the Federal Ministry of the Interior from 2017, the work of the Tracing Service on missing persons of the Second World War is to be discontinued at the end of 2023. For this reason, the German Red Cross, in consultation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, had called upon the population to make inquiries about relatives missing during the war in the near future and no later than December 31, 2021.

Access to the extensive files of the Tracing Service, for example for research purposes, should be guaranteed by the Federal Government in the long term, even after the work of the GRC has ended, says GRC President Hasselfeldt. Last year, 10,091 people made inquiries to the GRC Tracing Service in connection with the Second World War.

Since 1953, the GRC Tracing Service has been institutionally supported by the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

More information about the GRC Tracing Service and online forms for tracing requests: www.drk-suchdienst.de

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