

**Guide to the Indexes for the Deschenes Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals  
(C.I.W.C.)**

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**General (Volumes 4111-4203)**

- For an explanation of the Deschenes Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals (C.I.W.C.) file numbering system and to find out which Volume contains a certain file, please refer to the digitized Finding Aid in Excel. It is fully searchable and contains all of the Volume listings. These listings were transcribed in Excel from information provided to LAC by the DOJ's Records Services and Information Management Division.
- As a **general overview** of contents for the Deschenes Volume range 4111-4203:
  - **4111-4120** contain transcripts of **in-camera proceedings** (See the In Camera Transcripts Index in Volume 4258 and In Camera Witnesses Index in Volume 4255);
  - **4121-4125** contain **in-camera exhibits** (See the In Camera Witnesses Index in Volume 4255);
  - **4126-4154** contain **operational files** (see the Subject Index of Operational Files in Volume 4256 and the Personal Index of Operational Files in Volume 4257);
  - **4155-4190** contain **individual case files** (see the Case Files Index in Volume 4255 and the Master List in Volume 4155);
  - **4191-4194** contain **miscellaneous files**
  - **4195-4197** contain **miscellaneous operational files** (see the Subject Index of Operational Files in Volume 4256 and the Personal Index of Operational Files in Volume 4257);
  - **4198-4201** contain **public exhibits** (see the Public Witnesses Index in Volume 4255);
  - **4202-4203 AND 4193** contain **public transcripts** (see the Public Transcripts Index in Volume 4258 and the Public Witnesses Index in Volume 4255)
- General guidelines:

- Consult the appropriate index depending on the type of documentation you are looking for. Detailed descriptions of each index follow.
- Locate the C.I.W.C. file number on the index card. This is generally a series of two or three numbers such as 1020-2-2 or 2055-2-A1.
- Search for the file number in the Deschenes Commission spreadsheet in Excel. This spreadsheet will tell you which **Volume** the file is located in (far left-hand column).

### **Subject Index of Operational Files (Volumes 4256, 4270)**

- This is the first of two separate indexes of operational files used by the C.I.W.C.
- The index is arranged **alphabetically** by **subject** (Volume 4256 A-T, Volume 4270 U-Z).
- Most of this index refers to **correspondence**. However, there are also references to **conventions, subpoenas, judgments, studies, reports and publications**.
- The information is typed on 4x6-inch index cards. There is no born-digital equivalent (i.e. no database).
- The information on each index card generally includes subject, date, file number, and brief description. For index cards pertaining to correspondence, this description includes the names of the recipient, sender, and any cc'ed recipients, and a brief explanation of the letter's contents.
- Most of the operational files to which this index refers should be found in Volumes **4126 to 4154**.
- Broadly speaking, the subjects in this index comprise community groups & associations; human-rights groups; NGOs; committees; ethnic federations; veterans' associations; countries and states; archival repositories and documentation centres; barrister and solicitor societies; bar associations; law firms; provincial law societies; courts; universities, briefs, titles of grey literature/studies/newspaper articles/books/speeches; armies; media organizations and press councils; embassies and high commissions; Acts; orders-in-council; registries of war criminals; treaties and conventions; video productions; Government of Canada departments and agencies; meetings with ministers/superintendents/directors; foreign ministries; royal commissions.
- The subjects covered in this index are too numerous to transcribe comprehensively for the moment. Some of the organizations, institutions, processes and places and terms that appear more frequently in C.I.W.C. correspondence and documentation include: Berlin Document Center; Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association; Canadian Jewish Congress; Canadian Police Information Centre; CSIS; Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine; Commission-Report; CTV W-5; Employment & Immigration Canada; European Commission and European Court of Human Rights; Exhibits; External Affairs; Extradition; Federal Court of Canada; Federal Court of Appeal; Fifth Estate; France; Galazien Division; Galacia Division; Germany; Health & Welfare; Holland; Iron Guard; Israel; Latvia; League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada; Mennonite Central Committee; National Defence; North American Jewish Students' Network; Orders in Council; Office of Special Investigations (OSI); Poland; Public Archives of Canada; R.C.M.P. and R.C.M.P Task Force on War Criminals; Secretary of State; Simon Wiesenthal Centre; Solicitor General of Canada; Soviet Evidence; Riga Ghetto (The Society of Survivors From The).

- Certain subjects denote smaller **sub-indexes** within the larger alphabetical subject-based index. These sub-indexes are indicated by a typed heading on a yellow tab. Unlike the parent index, the sub-indexes are not always arranged alphabetically. Details below.
  - These sub-indexes are titled and arranged as follows:
    - **Conventions**
      - refers to international conventions about war crimes, statelessness, human rights
      - arranged in no apparent predetermined order, but this is not really an issue as there are very few cards in this sub-index
    - **Hearings**
      - From April 10/85
        - Arranged chronologically; refers to correspondence and memos regarding the first batch of hearings
      - Hearings from: March 24, 1986
        - Arranged chronologically; refers to correspondence and memos for second slate of hearings
    - **Judgments**
      - Arranged alphabetically by title of court case
      - Relate to past precedents regarding the handling of war criminals
    - **Legal Documents/Miscellaneous**
      - Sub-index arranged according to file numbering system (1020-2a, 1020-2b, etc)
      - Contains references to resolutions, charters, amendments, declarations, international court cases, etc.
    - **Master List**
      - Arranged alphabetically; incl. correspondence, memos, other information; refers to the list used to code the war crime suspects in the case files (2055-2) series
    - **Reports (Internal from Justice Deschenes – Staff)**
      - Various Canadian and International-authored reports about war crimes & war criminals
    - **Reports (Internal to Hon. J. Deschenes)**
      - Correspondence, memos etc submitted to Deschenes, arranged chronologically
    - **Reports (Internal Misc.)**
      - Correspondence, memos re: internal reports, arranged chronologically
    - **Studies, Reports & Articles**
      - Bibliographical reference tool divided into two sub-sub- indexes
        - **Authors**
          - Articles, remarks, speeches etc pertaining to war crimes and crimes against humanity, arranged alphabetically by last name of author.
        - **(No Title)**
          - The title has fallen out of the yellow tab, but like the Authors index, this refers to publications, reports

etc pertaining to war crimes, arranged alphabetically by title.

- **Subpoenas Index & Memos**
  - Alphabetical list of everyone who was subpoenaed by the C.I.W.C.
  - “A etc”
    - The Subpoenas Index is arranged alphabetically by last name of person being subpoenaed – this is what the “A etc” heading refers to.
- **United Nations**
  - Misc docs and correspondence pertaining to UN; no discernible order but does not really affect search-ability as there are only two cards in this sub-index

### **Personal Index of Operational Files (Volumes 4257, 4270)**

- This is the second of two separate indexes of operational files used by the C.I.W.C.
- This index refers primarily to Commission correspondence.
- This index is arranged alphabetically by the SURNAME of the person who is either the author, the recipient, or the subject of the correspondence (A-R **Volume 4257, S-Z volume 4270**).
- The information is typed on 4x6-inch index cards. There is no born-digital equivalent (i.e. no database).
- The information on each index card generally includes person’s full name, date, file number, and brief description. This description usually includes the names of the recipient, sender, and any cc’ed, a short explanation of the letter’s contents, and an indication whether there are annotated comments on the letter.
- Most of the operational files to which this index refers should be found in Volumes **4126 to 4154**.
- Generally, a person’s letter and the response from J. Deschenes acknowledging receipt of that letter, and any other follow-up communiqués, are noted on the same index card, with file numbers given for each.

### **Case Files Index, (Volume 4255)**

#### **4255 Case Files Index**

- This index refers to C.I.W.C. individual case files on the over 700 suspected war criminals whose names were collected in the course of Commission activities. It is arranged alphabetically by last name of suspect.
- The descriptive information on each index card generally includes person’s name, an indication as to whether they are deceased, what their alias is, and what “list” they are on. It also includes the corresponding file number where the case file can be found in the 2055-2 block.
- Most of the case files to which this index refers should be found in Volumes **4156 to 4190**.
- The information on these index cards seems to duplicate the information on the Master List in Volume 4155 (see below for details on the Master List).

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**Public Witnesses Index, and In Camera Witnesses Index (Volume 4270). Witnesses-Public**

- This index refers to the transcripts of testimony made by witnesses during the public hearings of the C.I.W.C.
- It is arranged alphabetically by the witness' last name.
- Descriptive information on each card includes the witness' full name and professional title, date of appearance(s), where exhibit(s) were filed (if any), transcript volume and page number, and any additional remarks.
- Most of the public exhibits to which this index refers should be found in Volumes **4198-4201**. The transcripts of the public hearings should be found in Volumes **4202-4203** as well as in Volume **4193**.

**4270. Witnesses-In Camera**

- This index refers to the transcripts of testimony made by witnesses during the in-camera hearings of the C.I.W.C.
- It is arranged alphabetically by the witness' last name.
- Metadata on each card includes the witness' full name and professional title, date of appearance(s), where exhibit(s) were filed (if any), transcript volume and page number, and any additional remarks.
- Most of the in-camera exhibits to which this index refers should be found in Volumes **4121-4125**. The transcripts of the in-camera hearings should be found in Volumes **4111-4120**.

**Public Transcripts Index, In Camera Transcripts Index, and Photographs (Volume 4258)**

**4258 a. "Public"**

- This index refers to the proceedings of the C.I.W.C. public hearings as recorded in the transcripts.
- It is arranged alphabetically by subject.
- The information is handwritten on 3x5-inch index cards. There is no born-digital equivalent (i.e. no database).
- The subject index covers people, places, organizations, regulations, processes, etc.
- The metadata on each card includes the subject and the transcript volume(s)/page number(s) where it can be found.
- To find out where the transcript volumes are located, consult the Excel Finding Aid. The transcripts of public hearings should be found in Volumes **4202-4203** as well as in Volume **4193**.

**4258 b. "In Camera"**

- This index refers to the proceedings of the C.I.W.C. in camera hearings as recorded in the transcripts.
- It is arranged alphabetically by subject.
- The information is handwritten on 3x5-inch index cards. There is no born-digital equivalent (i.e. no database).
- The subject index covers people, places, organizations, regulations, processes, etc.
- The metadata on each card includes the subject and the transcript volume(s)/page number(s) where it can be found.

- To find out where the transcript volumes are located, consult the Excel Finding Aid. The transcripts of in-camera hearings should be found in Volumes **4111-4120**.

#### **4258 c. Photographs and Negatives**

- This is not really an index per se, but contains black-and-white photographs of suspected war criminals. There is an accompanying list that identifies the subject of a given photograph.

#### **Other Indexes/Guides/etc**

##### **Royal Commission on War Criminals Subject File Classification System Part II: Operational Files**

- This document explains what subjects the C.I.W.C. file numbers refer to for its block of operational files (Volumes 4126 to 4154 inclusively). For example, all “2049-A” documents refer to the October 6, 1986 hearings in Montreal.
- It was used as a source to provide information on the contents of files located in Volumes 4126-4154. This information was transcribed into the appropriate field in the Excel spreadsheet.
- This list is located in Volume #**4126** in folder 1000-1, vol 2. The title is "Royal Commission on War Criminals Subject File Classification System Part II: Operational Files." There is also a duplicate of this list in Volume #**4194**.

#### **Case Files Master List**

- This document is a typed list of the over 700 suspected war criminals whose names were collected in the course of Commission activities. It is ordered alphabetically by last name of suspect.
- The fields on this list seem to duplicate exactly the same information as that in the Case Files index and includes person’s name, an indication as to whether they are deceased, what their alias is, and what “list” they are on. It also includes the corresponding file number where the case file can be found in the 2055-2 block.
- The list is located in Volume #4155 in folder 2055-1. The title is “Case Files Master List.” There are no known duplicates but, again, the information on the list seems to be the same as the information in the Case Files index in Volume 4255.