



Factsheet International Blue Shield

Rescue mission Cologne

Date: Monday 27th April till 1st May (which is a holiday).

Organization: The Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield (ANCBS), The National Archive and BRAIN, the Branch organization of Archive Institutes in The Netherlands.

Since 2008 the ANCBS has a Coordination Center in The Hague.

Composition of the Blue Shield team: 63 heritage professionals from the Netherlands (16 Gemeentearchief The Hague, 10 Gemeentearchief Rotterdam, 9 Stadsarchief Amsterdam, 4 Regionaal Archief Leiden) 16 from Blue Shield France, and participants from Bosnia Herzegovina, Switzerland, Sweden and the United States.

Tasks: Sorting material (rubble/collection), select dry and wet materials, clean, register, dry partly wet material and prepare other material for freeze-drying on other locations.

Transport to Cologne: A touring car will depart from Amsterdam and The Hague on the morning of Monday 27th and will return on 1stMay. Participants from other countries make their own travel arrangements.

Accommodation: The city of Cologne offers all Blue Shield volunteers free sleeping places, and free food and beverages

Insurance: The city of Cologne provided the Archive with insurance for all volunteers.

International solidarity:

On Wednesday 29th April David Leitch, Secretary General of ICA, the International Council of Archives in Paris, and Robert Kretzschmar, President of the German Archivists Association will visit the damaged City Archive and the Blue Shield rescue team.

Blue Shield:

The Blue Shield is the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross or Doctors without Borders, with a network of experts working voluntarily for the protection of the world's cultural heritage (museums, monuments and sites, libraries and archives). This body of expertise wants to make its knowledge available to advise and assist in responding to damage to cultural heritage caused by armed conflict or natural disasters.