

The battle about these points, actually continued until the end of the action. We insisted that the 1684000 Dollars, had already been handed over for a long time. Becher denied it, but he proposed a compromise." he would not be satisfied only with money, the original German demand was for materials, and namely for materials for the War Effort. He would be satisfied with harmless materials, but to honor the principle of the agreement, it had to be in merchandise.

After that, he would be ready to consider the Bergen-Belsen group as paid.

We now made every effort, to fulfill Becher's wish. To start with, we used a Swiss bluff. We showed Becher documents, in which Switzerland had given us a letter of credit, equivalent in value for 30 tractors. In our accounting, we entered these tractors as "already delivered." Symbolically they are to replace the trucks discussed in Istanbul. (they never left Switzerland.)

Business friends of von Freudiger, offered two railroad cars of sheepskins from Bratislava. They also figured in our statement (when an agent from Berlin, came to Bratislava several months later, to receive this merchandise, it was discovered, that the assignment was never filled.

Facts are, that we delivered 15000 Kilo of coffee to Becher. It was important. it had a symbolic meaning. The coffee figured in the wish-list originally sent to Istanbul. The coffee had been at Budapest's free port for several months. it was a little stale. Becher had it washed in Vienna, 20% of the price was deducted from our account. (The money to buy the coffee, had been given to us by the Joint.).

Now the 1684 Human Beings could finally be considered bought by us. The order for their departure was not issued yet. Eichmann too, had hesitations. He saw in the group a valuable pawn. He thought, that it concerned Jews, who were of special interest abroad, and with whom more pressure could be applied, on the Jewish Organizations. Besides that, he was very worried about the life of the 1684 persons. Originally, they were supposed to travel through occupied France to Spain. But by this time, the Allies were getting closer to Paris. The German railroad lines behind the front, were bombed continuously. Eichmann now asked us:

"What will happen, if the train is hit by an English or

American bomb, or if it gets stuck on the way? Or do you think, Germany has nothing better to do right now, than to protect the Jews?"

I told him, to let the group go, and that we would take the responsibility for any risk involved. I asked myself, if Eichmann is not playing with the idea, to blow the train up, and then put the blame on an Allied Air Attack. Anyway, I threw out an idea, that the group should perhaps take the safer route to Switzerland. Eichmann was going to think about it.

An episode, which sounds like a detective story, temporarily interrupted the struggle, of when the departure from Bergen-Belsen should occur. It will be briefly reported here.

as a nation.

Convinced Nazis had no doubt whatever that in exchange for the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews, 'International Jewry' would be prepared to make sacrifices amounting to far more than the sums paid by merely forty members of the Weiss family. Becher himself counted on the determination of foreign Jewish communities to come to the aid of their coreligionists still in Hungary. However, as Dr. Billitz had repeatedly told us, Becher was not deaf to human arguments. Kastner had noticed this at the first long interview he had had with him and I myself realized this when I got to know him better.

Immediately after his discussion with Kastner, Becher went to Berlin to see Himmler and came back with instructions to take the place of Eichmann in the negotiations. As soon as he returned there was a decisive meeting between Becher and his aide-de-camp *Hauptsturmführer* of the SS Gruson on the one side and Kastner, Dr. Billitz and myself on the other. For the first time we were able to discuss facts about the despatch of the test-convoy that had already been formed. Becher said he was ready to suggest to the SS *Reichsführer* that the convoy should be sent abroad as soon as a certain sum, representing a minimum guarantee, had been handed over in Hungary. The payment of the remainder of the whole sum agreed upon was to be made in 'free' currency when the train reached its destination in a neutral country. In this way the sum put up as a guarantee could be re-employed for the following train and so on. This provisional agreement was reached after discussions during which we had explained to Becher that our friends abroad would certainly never accept paying an advance in a free country for a first train before its arrival abroad, while, on his side, Becher maintained that Himmler would never consent to let a whole convoy of Jews depart without the

exchange sum having been paid previously. We had proposed a tariff of 100 dollars a person, but we were obliged to pay \$1000. Becher moreover did not hide from us that the *Reichsführer* was counting on doubling this figure.

With regard to the question as to how the payment of the guarantee should be effected, Becher declared that not only at his first interview with Kastner on June 20 but also at the second quite recently he had certainly heard mentioned a sum of several million dollars which had already been paid over. But neither he nor his staff had seen this money. Kastner was a Bohemian at heart - he paid little attention to financial matters and did not realize the value of money. He simply told Becher that a committee set up by Otto Komoly and Szulem Offenbach must have already handed over a considerable part of the sums to be paid by the passengers of the special train about a week before; but he did not know to whom.

When Kastner referred to the 6,500,000 pengoes the Waada Jewish Council had collected which, at the beginning of the German occupation, he had handed over to Eichmann's office in Brand's presence, Becher answered that payments made to the Bureau of Jewish Affairs, did not concern him and therefore could not be taken into account. With this statement the interview came to an end.

There was no question of our quickly gathering the objects of value which had been supposedly paid to the Germans on June 20. Quite by chance I managed to discover where these objects were - during an interview with Clages on the subject I learned to my great astonishment that they had been deposited with him. He had even put an office at the disposal of the Waada's treasurer, Szulem Offenbach, and the precious boxes were still locked up in the drawers of the office desk.

When my friends were arrested by the Hungarian police at the end of May, large sums in dollars and securities had been taken from them and deposited, in accordance with the decrees in force by that time, in the Hungarian National Bank; we could not obtain their restitution. Luckily Offenbach had taken his time before paying Eichmann's Bureau of Jewish Affairs the cash and jewellery collected afterwards for the

test-convoy operation. He suspected that the promises would not be kept. To be certain that all this money would remain at the disposal of the Waada, Offenbach had applied to Clages's orderly officer, *Hauptsturmführer* Neugeboren (although Eichmann was still at that time entrusted with the negotiations). Neugeboren had taken part in the liberation of my friends who had been arrested by the Hungarians, and this was how Offenbach made his acquaintance and obtained his permission to place the boxes in Clages's offices. In the confusion of events, Offenbach had not had the opportunity to inform Kastner and me of these arrangements.

Now we had to officially hand over to the SS equipment service the valuables collected as an advance and as a guarantee for the first test-train. At a later conversation Becher told us that he could take delivery of nothing without an exact inventory and estimation of the worth of these valuables, since in addition to cash in various currencies there were jewels, gold coins and ingots. Such an estimation would demand a considerable amount of work, so to gain as much time as possible it was decided that the *Hauptsturmführer* and I should agree on the value of each object and base our appreciation on detailed lists drawn up by a committee of four expert valuers.

Each day the four men removed a certain quantity of gold, diamonds, foreign currency and jewellery from the boxes and the same evening gave us a complete list of the objects with the weight of the gold, the number of carats of the precious stones etc. Gruson and I had then to agree on the value in dollars of each object. After I had perceived that my partner was not to be counted among the more dangerous fanatics of the SS, I tried to convince him gradually that it was doubly advantageous to us to be liberal in our estimates. On the one hand each \$1000 represented a human life saved, and on the other hand the test-convoy with about 1300 people could not leave Budapest until the sum of \$1,300,000 had been obtained; the negotiations now going on - to which the *Reichsführer* attached great importance - depended to a great extent on the early arrival of this train abroad. Gruson let himself be convinced and showed himself very liberal in his

estimations. When, after that, I spoke to him of gas chambers in the camps, he first of all refused to believe me. But while he was on leave he heard my stories confirmed by one of his friends who worked at the *Reichssicherheitshauptamt* and was so overcome that he promised all the help he could give. He also rendered us other precious services and exposed himself personally to a good deal of danger (see p. 136).

While the negotiations with Becher went on I persisted in asking Clages to see that Eichmann got orders from Berlin to send off the special train from Budapest, for although Becher had taken his place in the negotiations, Eichmann and his staff remained the only people with authority to get the convoy going.

After all the patience and obstinacy required by our task, the object of our efforts was attained suddenly and in a most surprising way. On June 30 the test-convoy left Budapest for Lisbon - or at least that was what we thought.

The day after our return to Budapest, Gruson's driver turned up unexpectedly at our house in the early morning and informed me that 'they had come to fetch' his chief, to take him to the Gestapo HQ in Berlin. Gruson had been able to say a few words to his chauffeur and ask him to tell me at once what had happened. He asked me if I were questioned about him not to say anything about circumstances where he had too obviously favoured us. Brunner, after his interview with Gruson at Bratislava had immediately telephoned a report to the main office of the Reich Central Security. Hence Gruson's arrest only a few hours after we got back from Bratislava.

I then thought my own arrest was only hours away and began to wonder if the time had not come for me to go into hiding. However, together with Kastner I had by words and deeds so thoroughly entered into my role as official delegate of the great Jewish Power that my disappearance would cause the collapse of all the credit we had with the SS services opposed to Eichmann and therefore with Himmler himself.

During the afternoon I had a telephone call from the SS equipment section. Would I please go at once to see Becher? He received me alone. He was visibly ill at ease and more anxious than usual. But he did not say a word about our clandestine excursion to Bratislava. He just told me that Gruson had suddenly been appointed to another post; then he added he could not accept the programme he had before him - that which Gruson and I had drawn up together a few days previously. It contained an absolutely grotesque balance or estimation of the sum in valuables put at our disposal by the Waada to guarantee the departure of the 1700 members of

the test-convoy. These valuables came very largely from the 300 persons of the test-train who had been able voluntarily to pay sums, in certain cases quite considerable, to which were added my own more modest deliveries of goods. Gruson and I, it will be remembered, had estimated the value of this account with a generosity that would have appeared suspect to the least unwary.

Certainly Becher had no intention of accepting these figures, but I managed, without too much difficulty, to overcome the loss of Gruson and maintain my 'diplomatic immunity' as delegate of 'world Jewry'.

Gruson's tasks were assigned to *Obersturmführer* Grabau who looked after the coffers of the SS equipment section and was to take official charge of our account. Grabau evidently did not have the same attitude towards us as Gruson, especially as he knew the real reason for the disappearance of his predecessor, and was aware of his sympathies for our activities. It was impossible to find out what had happened to Gruson, though we had every reason to suppose, at the time, that the Gestapo had liquidated him 'in the greatest secrecy' which would hardly encourage his successor to follow his example.

If we had proceeded to make a new estimate - taking into account this time the real values - the total would not have amounted to more than 400,000 to 500,000 dollars in all, and would probably even have come to less than that. At best the sum would hardly have sufficed to secure the liberation of 500 persons. What I wanted to do most of all was to collect an amount sufficient to secure that the rest of test-convoy, still at Bergen-Belsen, should be sent abroad. We did not know then the great importance Himmler attached to payments in kind and we were not sure that political and personal motives alone dictated his conduct.

To get the Bergen-Belsen train abroad complete we had to produce a sum of \$1,700,000 - on condition that Grabau accepted. I managed, however, not without some difficulty, to induce him to admit this assessment and then to get him to sign another protocol. The estimates Gruson and I had made

gave at first a total sum of \$3,500,000 which would have been enough to ransom 3500 persons. As Grabau had no initiative and did not seem inclined to take personal responsibility, I did not think I was mistaken in supposing that Becher had at least encouraged him to be conciliatory. It was important for him also that the train should reach its destination, since he hoped that there would thereby be a radical change in and a softening of the attitude of our foreign friends.

After these events we thought that our efforts to save the Slovakian Jews and to prevent a new wave of deportations from Slovakia had become almost hopeless. Kastner, however, continued to press Becher to intervene in favour of Gizi Fleischmann and her companions in distress though without any success for Becher was still not disposed to get mixed up in an affair which seemed to him very obscure indeed, and even to transcend Himmler's sphere of influence.

Clages also refused to do anything at all and added that if a definite reply was not received soon from Saly Mayer, the stoppage of the Hungarian deportations might be reconsidered.

We know that on September 1, 1944, Kastner and Gruson had decided in agreement with Wyler and Saly Mayer that the latter would telegraph his 'yes' as soon as he obtained the authorization of his principals. This telegram reached us on September 26, 1944. Kastner showed it the same day to Becher and I to Clages. It was a 'yes' on certain conditions that were not absolutely clear. It was, however, astonishing to see with what relief, with what joy, even, Clages and Becher welcomed this telegram. They promised to communicate its contents to Himmler immediately. Thereupon it was decided there should be a third meeting on the Swiss frontier. Forty-eight hours later Kastner left Budapest in company with Kettlitz, a member of the SS equipment section. Although Kettlitz belonged to the moderate group of the economists, we could hardly expect him to take risks for us or be ready to bluff with us. But the mere fact that this journey had been decided on so rapidly induced Kettlitz to take his mission seriously.

On September 26, 1944, Clages had confidentially proposed

to me that I should go to the Swiss frontier in the place of Kastner. He was aware of the open disagreement between Kastner and Mayer, and that made him uneasy. According to Clages the reason for this mutual antipathy was that Kastner had not inspired enough confidence in Saly Mayer, who had not known how to handle him properly. It was clear that Clages was saddling Mayer with his own doubts. Naturally I refused the suggestion. It is easy to understand that I could say nothing about the real cause of the divergencies between Kastner and Mayer. However, I assured Clages that Kastner, the vice-chairman of the Hungarian Zionist Union, was a personality internationally known, and that for this reason, even if he behaved tactlessly with Saly Mayer, he would have more weight than myself - a Zionist of recent date. If I were to go to Switzerland instead of Kastner, and maybe against his will, Jewish communities would be prepared to think I was a docile tool of Himmler. Kastner, an elected representative, ran no risk of such suspicions. Clages accepted my arguments and Becher knew nothing of the proposal made to me. And I refrained from informing Kastner, since he was very jealous of the good relations I maintained with Clages, our most important link with Himmler.

The third meeting on the Swiss frontier revealed first of

Owner - Name **KURT DECHER, SS Standartenführer**

Nationality **German**

Address

Date control taken **30 May 1945** APO 436, U.S. ARMY Serial No. **3-5008**

Record here under appropriate numbered heading

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Description of property and address including details of bank accounts. | 6. Details of occupancy or use. |
| 2. Reason for control | 7. Particulars of claimants to property other than registered owner. |
| 3. Condition of property | 8. Insurance cover |
| 4. Value and basis of valuation | 9. Details of known liabilities |
| 5. Particulars of managers custodians etc appointed and removed. | 10. Any other information. |

No.

where

**HEADQUARTERS
XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT 215**

A considerable amount of gold and jewelry, apparently belonging to one **KURT DECHER, SS Standartenführer** of Budapest, was found by Sub-section B, 215th CIC Detachment, at Weissenbach (V3428) on 24 May 1945.

Bar and plate gold reported to weigh approximately **8538 grams**

Platinum plates marked **950, 160, and 198**

Platinum plates of unknown weight - **2**

Platinum (?) wrist watch band - **1**

Platinum (?) diamond ring mountings - **2**

Platinum (?) diamond ring - **1**

Platinum (?) band and chain - **1 each**

Platinum (?) assorted pieces in a case - **56**

Gold Coin - English - **41 pieces**

Gold Coin - SWISS 20 Franc pieces - **336**

Gold Coin - French 20 Franc pieces - **341...10 Franc pieces - 2**

Gold Coin - Belgian 20 Franc pieces - **298**

Gold Coin - Dutch guilders - **55**

Gold Coin - Italian 20 Lira pieces - **106 ...**

Gold Coin - Czech 10 K pieces - **350**

Gold Coin - German Mark - **18 Mark - 3 ... 20 Mark - 1**

Gold Coin - 100 Lei - **1**

Gold Coin - Assorted - **4**

Paper Money - English - **5 notes - 60**

Gold fillings from teeth - **1 bag**

Assorted cigarette cases and compacts, gold - **51**

Golden chain with order - **1**

Necklaces, gold - **5 (twisted strands)**

Bands, wrist watch, gold - **6**

Bracelets, Gold - **53**

Bracelets, Gold - **31**

Bracelets, Gold - **5**

Watches, stem winding, pocket - **16**

Watch, wrist, gold - **2**

Breeches, gold - **5**

Band, wrist watch - **1**

Necklaces, gold - **2**

Necklace, white gold, set with diamonds - **1**

Diamonds, total weight marked **1.10 K - 4**

117497

PROPERTY REGISTEROwner - Name **KURT BECHER, SS Standartenführer**Nationality **Category**

Address

Date control taken **AFO 436, U.S. Army 30 May 1945** Serial No. **8 3.3002**

Record here under appropriate numbered heading

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Description of property and address including details of bank accounts. | 6. Details of occupancy or use. |
| 2. Reason for control | 7. Particulars of claims to property other than registered owner. |
| 3. Condition of property | 8. Insurance cover |
| 4. Value and basis of valuation | 9. Details of known liabilities |
| 5. Particulars of managers custodians etc appointed and removed. | 10. Any other information. |

No.

(continued from page 1)

Ear ring pieces - 4
 Locket, gold - 3
 Locket, gold, white gold - 7
 Brooches, assorted, gold - 51
 Chain, watch - 110
 Bags, mesh - 5
 Watches, gold - 2
 Necklaces, gold, assorted - 53
 Rings, gold - 175
 Miscellaneous pieces of gold - 1 bag, green
 Assorted jewelry - 1 envelope
~~Number nothing follows~~

THEODORE H. FOSSIECK
 Major, M.I.
 CO, JIC Detachment 215

117499

From Kurt Emmenegr
 Reichsführers
 gehorstanster
 "Becher", SIE UND
 ER Jan 10 1963

MG/AF02

MILITARY GOVERNMENT - AUSTRIA

4

PROPERTY REGISTER

JAN 10

Owner - Name **KURT BECHER, SS Standartenführer**
 of Budapest
 Address

Nationality
 Catey C

Date control taken APO 436 U.S. Army 25 June 1945. Serial No. S 5,3003 Ba

Record here under appropriate numbered heading

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Description of property and address including details of bank accounts. | 6. Details of occupancy of use. |
| 2. Reason for control. | 7. Particulars of claimants to property other than registered owner. |
| 3. Condition of property. | 8. Insurance cover. |
| 4. Value and basis of valuation. | 9. Details of known liabilities. |
| 5. Particulars of managers custodians etc appointed and removed. | 10. Any other information. |

die Schweiger von
 seines Lebensunter-

beste Fund:
 gillungen

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 apiergeld! Der interes-
 t eine Kassette voll von
 iger Zähne!

h besser: Vier Wochen
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HEADQUARTERS
 XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
 COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT 215

Placed in Safe deposit box
 Bank für Oberdonau and Salzburg

APO 436 U.S. Army
 25 June 1945

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Subject: Coins and Paper Money from Becher Treasure.

The gold coins and paper money was taken from five persons (JULIUS FOKER, GEORG KRAMER, ALEXANDER MANDEL, NICOLAUS WRIBS, and Lillian BRAUN) of Bad Ischl to be turned over to Military Government Property Control Officer in Salzburg when it was learned that 1) the items in question had belonged to SS Standartenführer KURT BECHER of Budapest whose other property was found in Weissenbach in May 1945, and 2) the items in question were about to be appropriated by unknown French officers allegedly with the Third United States Army.

The money in question has been found to contain the following items:

- 132 - Swiss 20 Franc coins, gold
- 105 - French 20 " " "
- 54 - Italian 20 Lire " " "
- 28 - Belgian 20 Franc " " "
- 24 - Hungarian 10 K " " "
- 4 - 20 Korona " " "
- 2 - 20 Korona Hung " " "
- 2 - 20 Franc Tunis " " "
- 2 - 20 Lira " " "
- 1 - Dollars 5 U.S. " " "
- 3 - Assorted " " "
- 14 - Portugal 50 centavo coins, metal unknown
- 8 - Portugal 2 Dollars 50 " " "
- 17 - Spanish 10 0 " " "
- 5 - Spanish 5 0 " " "
- 44 - British 5 notes
- 2 - Spanish, 1000 Peseta Notes
- 1 - " 50 " " "
- 5 - " 5 " " "
- 1 - Portugal, 1000 Peseta Note

117500

NOTE: words in square brackets [...] are inferred or reconstructed on the basis of the context; words in braces {...} are remarks of the translator.

Russel Slater 8511/74 / 851931

Geneva, 21 October 1945

[You] will certainly excuse us if this letter is written, not in Hebrew, but in "Swiss".

[You] will still remember the history of the operation of the Budapest [...]adat Hasala. When the Allies on the London radio announced the [???] of the German proposal forwarded by Joel Brand, an interim{?} agreement between us and Aichmann was concluded in Budapest. Pursuant to that:

200 persons designated by us were to be transported after a short period in Germany to Palestine via Spain.

900 persons were brought to Budapest from various ghettos in the province (with the help of the German side) in order to be organized into this transport.

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15,000 Hungarian Jews were gathered together by means of our instructions, circumventing Auschwitz, and brought to Austria, where they were relatively well treated and for the most part saved.

An additional 15,000 Jews selected by us were supposed to be brought from Budapest to Austria. The refusal of Horthy to allow the deportation of the Budapest Jews made the execution of this provision illusory.

In return, we committed ourselves on our part to pay a certain head tax for each Jew sent to a foreign country or brought to Austria. On the German side, 1,000 Schilling per person were demanded for transport to a foreign country, and \$100 in connection with the transports to Austria.

Instead of 1200, there were 1685 who reached Switzerland via Bergen-Belsen. Among these there were about 120 for whom we arranged the trip in return for higher amounts and for valuables, gold cigarette boxes, watches, jewels, as well as Napoleons {coins}, gold, and platinum. These valuables and money in *pengö* {Hungarian monetary unit} constituted the financial basis of our interim agreement. We supplemented the sums accumulated in this way with the dollars and gold coins which were sent to us by the Waad in Istanbul.

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The total amount demanded by the Germans was never paid in full. We estimated the valuables collected at 8 million 700 thousand Swiss francs; the Germans claimed that they were worth only 3.8 million. This controversy was never settled.

The valuables were accepted by the Flag Leader of the Armed SS, Kurt Becher, manager of the Economics Staff of the Armed SS.

You are aware that this was the only language which one could use at the time with the Germans. You are also aware that, with the help of this same Kurt Becher, the Budapest ghetto was saved, two additional transports were guided into Switzerland, and that the concentration camps of Bergen-Belsen, Mauthausen, Neuengamme, and Theresienstadt were handed over to the Allies without a struggle. The surrender of the Jews who were in Austria took place the same way.

It is the cause of great joy and satisfaction to us to be able to tell you that the valuables handed over from the Budapest Waada were never used by the Germans, i.e., they were never used to support the German war effort.

Mosche Schweiger will give you a report in what follows about the later developments.

From 14 July 1944 on, I was in the Mauthausen concentration camp. On 20 April of this year, the above-mentioned Flag Leader Kurt

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Becher appeared in Mauthausen and moved me first into the sick bay (something like a sanatorium for prominent persons in the camp), and then into a separate room with SS food. On 4 May, i.e., 2 days before the surrender of the camp to the Americans, he had me brought from the camp to the headquarters of General Winkelmann, and from there we drove in his car as far as Weissenbach in the vicinity of Bad Ischl. On the same day, the Americans, too, arrived there. Since I was physically completely run down (despite the better food in the immediate past), he had reserved a room in a hunting lodge in which he also lived. We were there together for several days, even after the armistice, up to his arrest by the Austrian Freedom Movement. He was arrested on 23 May of this year and on the same {page 2} day handed over to the Americans in Bad Ischl. One day before his arrest, when it was already clear that he would be arrested in several hours or days, he invited me and another Jew whom he had brought to the hunting lodge in order to help me into his room, and addressed me somewhat as follows: I have a large number of various valuables, and I ask you to hand these over to Dr. Kasztner and Saly Meyer for the Jewish Agency and Joint. To my question why he had not handed these over to the headquarters of the Reich leader, he answered that he had already indicated to Kasztner that he would like to preserve this wealth for the Jewish people, and would like to carry this out now. He had opened some boxes, emptied them, and then hidden them, but handed over the content to me again packed. He promised, too, to give me a copy of the inventory. He was not able to do this, since he was

arrested. Incidentally, he also gave his personal valuables to me, and asked me to keep them for him. I have been hoping that someone would come to Austria from the Jewish world outside, and that I could discuss the matter with him, or give him the valuables. Since this was not the case, and since, too, in the little village where I was there were constant house searches by the Austrians, and since the occupation authorities imposed the death penalty for not reporting property formerly owned by the National Socialist Party, or SS officers from the rank of Flag Leader on, I found myself in a rather uncomfortable position, both for the cause and for myself. Throughout the Salzkammergut, there was talk that a Flag Leader had brought a lot of gold there, and that it had to be there somewhere. In this situation, I was forced to turn to the American authorities. In Bad Ischl, there was a team of the CIC (Counter-Intelligence Corps), to whom I reported the entire matter. Working in this team, there was a Jew (Chawer from Poale Zion from Poland), and the gentlemen of this team of the CIC took these objects from me summarily (again without inventory, from lack of understanding of what they were, and because of the large number). A list was compiled by the aforementioned Chawer of Poale Zion, that the objects were being taken for safe keeping for the institutions or persons mentioned. Again, incidentally, I added the things from Becher to the others, since I really could not explain how and why I had a fortune in my possession which belonged to a Flag Leader. This was not included in the deposition. Later the objects were inventoried by the American themselves, and a {copy of the}

117505

inventory is part of the documents of the investigation in the Causa [...]her. Only several weeks later could I get a message to Italy, that I would like to discuss a highly important matter with a responsible person, but since I was not able to travel to Italy, I asked that someone come to visit me. The Chawer informed me later that he passed my communication on, but no one came to see me. Approximately in the middle of July, I finally had the opportunity in Salzburg to tell the story to the captain of the brigade, Choter Jischaj. However, since shortly thereafter the brigade was transferred to Holland, I don't know if Mr. Choter Jischaj was able to accomplish anything in the matter. In August, the director of the Joint, Resznik Reuben, arrived in Salzburg. Of course, I told him the story, too, and asked him to take the necessary further steps. By chance, I succeeded in bringing him together with the commandant of the camp in which Becher was being held and who was leading the investigation of the Becher matter, and on this occasion Captain Kittstein showed Director Resznik the inventory and told him where the objects now were. Director Resznik told me nothing more about it, since he probably did not trust me. The address of Mr. Resznik is: Reuben Resznik, Director of the American Joint Distribution Committee, Salzburg, Kapitelplatz 2, and the address of Captain Kittstein is: Intelligence Center of the US Third Army, Germany. The latter was also in Switzerland with Mr. Sally Meyer in order to check on Becher's statement about the transports of the Jews. Captain Kittstein wanted to speak to Dr. Kasztner, too, but Mr. Meyer strongly rejected this. After his visit with Mr. Meyer, the

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captain came to me again and said that Mr. Mayer had confirmed the statement by Becher, and he remarked by the way that Mr. Meyer's greatest concern is how he could get out of the entire matter. Since the captain was on the point of going to New York on vacation to [...] {last line(s) on page 2 missing; page 3} [...] discuss. I have not had any further opportunity to speak to the captain, since he has gone in the meantime to New York on vacation. Despite all the efforts of the Chawerim in Switzerland, it could not be arranged for me to be able to come sooner, and hence I am only now in a position to transmit this report to you.

Since we do not have the inventory, it is not possible for us to determine whether, besides those handed over by the Waada, there were other valuables in these boxes which also came from Jews. In any case, we believe that we must raise the following questions in this connection:

- 1) Since the valuables were not treated as war booty, but as a deposit, the Agency believes that it would be possible and necessary to get possession of them by appropriate intervention and to take possession of them. (A Jewish lawyer from Zürich has offered to approach the American authorities involved in this vein, and believes that he, if given the necessary authorization, could carry this out. On this assumption, would you be ready to grant such a power of attorney to one of your Schlichim? On the basis of the

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transfer of the list, the agency with Dr. Kasztner already has over half of the valuables which were deposited.)

2) Do you think it is necessary to involve the Joint?

3) Would a simple procedure not lead to the goal, or would political intervention on a higher level be unavoidable? Is there not the danger that the deposited valuables could be transformed into German war booty, and as such be lost to the Jewish community?

4) The problem of the use of these valuables should also be considered by you.

5) It would be absolutely necessary to send out a Schalich of the Agency (with the appropriate authorization), and to arrange a trip for him to the responsible American authority.

6) We do not believe it necessary to stress the absolute urgency of the matter. Choter Jischaj may also have given a report to you in this vein.

Dr. Jisrael Kasztner

Dr. Mosche Schweiger

117508

A TRUE COPY

I, the undersigned, a duly authorized representative of the JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE, do hereby acknowledge having received from the UNITED STATES FORCES IN AUSTRIA, the looted property, as per the itemized inventory attached, known as the "KURT BECHER DEPOSIT".

In the name of the JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE, I herewith acknowledge full responsibility for the administration and ultimate disposition of the KURT BECHER DEPOSIT referred to above, as trustee for the ultimate beneficiaries, and accept full responsibility for any and all claims arising in respect thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereinafter affixed my signature, this 10th day of March, A.D. 1947.

/S/ DR DAGOBERT ARIAN

/T/ Dr. Dagobert Arian
Jewish Agency for Palestine

Witnessed by:

/S/ HARRY FREUD

/T/ Harry Freud, USWD Civilian

/S/ R R MCFARLAND

/T/ Robert R McFarland, 1st Lt Inf., Property Control &

/S/ HOWARD A MACKENZIE

Restitution Section

/T/ Howard A Mackenzie, Captain, Spec Res
Property Control Officer,
EG Det 7753

A certified true copy



117509

Translation from German original

From: D Arian (Geneva, March 13th, 1947)

To: Mr E Kaplan

Concerning: Return of the Becher deposit from the military government in Austria.

1. On 4 January of this year, you assigned me the task, by giving me the telegram from Oskar Gass of Washington, a copy of which is attached, of taking all necessary steps to recover the so-called Becher deposit from the military administration of the army of occupation in Austria, to decide, on the basis of the contents of the deposit, where it should be taken to, and store it in a manner consistent with this decision. In a conversation on the following day, 5 January 1947, you raised the possibility that the steps described above were to be taken together with Mr D Bahral or Mr Benzion Meiry, or by one of the two of them.

You emphasized that the steps described above should be taken in the closest consultation with the Joint.

An inventory or other documents related to the Becher deposit were not available at that time.

2. In the above conversation, I emphasized that I was in Europe as a representative of the Keren Kayemeth, and you took the responsibility of securing the agreement of Dr Granowsky to the action above.

3. On 6 January, I arrived in Paris, and immediately initiated the necessary steps through the office of the Jewish Agency (Mr Goldberg) in order to obtain the authorization of the military government in Austria for the trip to Austria. To this end, I handed over a copy of the telegram from Gass. In our application document, we asked for authorization for Mr Bahral, Meiry, and Arian. After about 14 days, a decision came from Vienna that they were, in the first stage, ready to give authorization to enter the country to only one man. It was decided among the Mr Bahral, Mr Meiry and me that I should be the first one to go there. Final approval was granted only on 8 February. On the same evening, I went to Salzburg.

4. After I had gathered all the facts known to us about the Becher deposit from Mr Jehuda Golan and Mr Arthur Pier, I arrived on Thursday, 14 February, in Vienna. I first presented myself to Mr James Barr, the Deputy Chief of the Reparation, Delivery, and Restitution Division. Mr Barr introduced me {page 2} to Captain

117510

Walter M Treese, Manager of the sub-department of the Property Control Branch. We scheduled on a conversation of the three of us on the next day to clarify the actual matter in question.

5. In connection with the visit mentioned in the previous paragraphs, Mr Barr showed himself to be extremely interested in questions about Palestine, and involved me into a rather long conversation. After an hour, we agreed to have lunch together on the following Sunday, and Mr Barr asked if he might invite a number of upper-level officials of the military government, with the intention of discussing questions about Palestine in their presence. This lunch together and the discussion took place on the coming Sunday, and lasted from 1:45 to 4:30 (?). One group of the men showed itself to be very well oriented. Among the others, there was a strong attitude against England.

In the main discussion on 15 February, I presented the following points for discussion:

I) my credentials; I succeeded in convincing Mr Barr and Mr Treese that an oral authorization by the Jewish Agency in the American consulate in Jerusalem and a corresponding state telegram of the American consul in Jerusalem to the military administration would suffice. The text of the authorization was worked out between ourselves; I had it confirmed for me by means of a separate memorandum in order to avoid any discussions later. By so doing, we were able to save ourselves weeks of waiting. I regard this unbureaucratic manner on the part of Mr Barr and Mr Treese with high appreciation.

II) I carefully established that, for the above-named authorities, only the Jewish Agency for Palestine existed as a negotiating partner, and that they did not wish to negotiate with the Joint in this matter, but rather considered it important to deal only with the J. A. (On the previous day, I had called Mr S S Silver, Joint Director for Austria, on the telephone, and received confirmation of his arrival, and intentionally arranged a meeting with him for the evening only after my conversation in USFHQ.)

III) It was made known to me that the items themselves were in Salzburg under guard by the Property Control Branch there, that up to now no official inventory exists, and likewise no appraisal.

IV) The Americans explained that, according to instructions from the deputy commanding general, the Becher deposit had to be appraised after being inventoried and before being handed over to us, and they wanted for this purpose to appoint an upper-level official of the Austrian pawning institution, the "Dorotheum." I resisted the {page 3} inclusion of an Austrian official in this

matter of restitution with all my strength. Apart from the undesirable political effect, this would also have cost a considerable sum of money. I succeeded in getting Mr Meiry acknowledged as an expert.

V) For the future restitution, I explained that I was not ready to transport the Becher deposit, the value of which was still unknown at that time, into an occupied and insecure country. It was agreed in principle that the Americans would hand over the deposit to me after completion of the formalities on the border of the area under control by the occupation army.

6. following the conversation above, I sent

I) the telegram to you, a copy of which is enclosed, and

II) ?????? the United States Forces Headquarters in Vienna instructed the Military Permit Office in Paris to grant Mr Meiry the authorization to travel to Austria immediately. Nevertheless, the issuing of this authorization to enter the country only took place on 24. February.

7. On the afternoon of the same day, I had a very friendly conversation with Mr S S Silver, the director of the Joint for Austria, in which I informed him of all the steps which had been taken and was given a completely free hand by him, with only the two following requests from him: a) to allow his representative to take part in the inventory in Salzburg and to then give him a copy of it, b) to get in touch with him before the final decision about where I was to take the Becher deposit. I agreed to both. I took Arthur Pier along to this conversation.

8. On 18 February, I had a further discussion with Capt. Treese about the technical procedure on the inventory, the appraisal, etc., as well as about the determination of Mr Meiry's and my status during our stay in Austria. As to the last point, I was very firm, and aimed at having the same status as the official delegates of the International Government Committee. This included food and lodging in the American officers' quarters, use of the military trains, etc. I enclose a copy of the relevant "accrediting order" and emphasize that what was decisive for me was not being awarded personal privileges or generating savings for the Jewish Agency, but rather to take care that the representatives of the Jewish Agency had the status virtually of a government.

{page 4}

9. After the considerations above, it was now my task to await Mr Meiry's arrival. I used the intervening time in order to make

contact with the manager of the Military Property Control Branch in Salzburg, Capt McKenzie (?), and with the representative of the Joint in Salzburg, Mr Friedmann; I made both visits after consultation with Mr Golan.

10. As explained above, Mr Meiry arrived in Salzburg only on 25 February. Immediately after his arrival, we examined the Becher deposit. The deposit consisted of two parts:

I. Nos 1 - 15 of the inventory which we made later was in the security deposit facility of the Österreichische Nationalbank {Austrian National Bank}. These items consisted of gold bars and gold coins.

II. The parts 16 - 25 (?) of the inventory which we later made were in a safe of the Bank für Oberösterreich und Salzburg {Bank for Upper Austria and Salzburg}, the keys for which were still in the hands of the military government. Mr Meiry estimated the entire Becher deposit at \$55,000.00, to which another \$10,000.00 was later added. (Our first telegram in this matter, which states \$55,000.00, is to be corrected appropriately.)

As stated above, no official American inventory existed. We had in our hands only a kind of list which had been made at an unknown point in time, but apparently relatively shortly after the transfer of the deposit by Becher had been made, specifically, apparently by Dr Mosche Schweiger in the presence of the American officer Mason, who is now in Berlin. Mr Meiry fixed the sum of \$65,000 low at my request. It can rise with favorable valuation, but not very considerably.

A comparison with the above-mentioned list, as well as conversations which I had in Austria and later in Geneva with all the persons who were involved -- Joel Nussbacher, Dr Mosche Schweiger, Dr R Kastner, and others -- provide no basis for the assertion that Becher had handed over more objects to the American military authorities than were present in the deposit at the time of our inventory, i.e., that there were objects that had disappeared after the Americans had taken possession of the deposit. It is clear that Becher had handed over to Mr Mosche Schweiger only an extraordinarily small part of those valuables, which had been handed over in Hungary by Jews in order to be allowed to emigrate.

When, in conversations among us there was talk of much larger sums (several million dollars), this sum was not a result of an examination of the Becher deposit, but rather a calculated value which was achieved by multiplying the number of Jews who took part in the selection program (?) with the amount of the ransom money demanded.

11. On 28 February, again in Vienna, I informed Mr Silver a) about {page 5} our appraisal, b) about our decision to bring the Becher deposit to Geneva.

12. On 1 March, Mr Treese informed us that my authorization had arrived from Jerusalem. On the same day, we asked

a) the Palestine Office, Geneva, to undertake the necessary steps with the Swiss authorities for bringing the deposit into that country;

b) Linton or Lichtiger, London, to insure the transport to Geneva;

c) we informed you about the arrival of the authorization.

13. In a final meeting with Mr Barr and Mr Treese, we worked out the entire procedure of the USFHG for Salzburg, as well as the text of the receipt.

At the same time, we asked for a letter from the USFHG which would confirm the fact of the transfer of the Becher deposit to the Jewish Agency, and above and beyond this, which was to characterize the position of the Jewish Agency in this connection. I received the enclosed letter, the wording of which in my opinion goes very far. On the assumption that it is a matter of an important declaration of principle, I enclose three additional photographs.

14. On the same day, Mr Meiry and I paid a courtesy call on Mr James A Garrison, Chief of the Reparation, delivery, and Restitution Division, who had returned only that day from the London negotiations about the Austrian peace treaty and who himself had had no part in the Becher affair.

15. On the same day, we paid a farewell visit to Mr Silver, who expressed his extraordinary satisfaction at the degree of cooperation, but on the other had given us a completely free hand.

16. From 6 to 10 March we were again in Salzburg. During these days, we made a) the inventory, a copy of which is enclosed as part of the confirmed receipt, b) we packed the objects for export, c) we telephoned repeatedly with Geneva about the mode of transport into Switzerland, d) we received the transport insurance through our London office, e) we obtained the necessary military exit documents, f) we arranged with the military government for a guard to be supplied, consisting of a first lieutenant and a private.

During the inventory process, Mr Friedmann of the Joint in Salzburg was present for a few minutes, then, however, excused himself immediately after I had promised to give him a copy of the inventory.

(page 6)

17. On 11 March, we traveled with the above-mentioned object to Switzerland, which we entered in Buchs. There Miss Bertha Erlanger of the Palestine Office in Geneva was waiting for us. According to the arrangements which had been made by Dr Posner and Dr Schops, we placed SFR 5000.00 as a deposit in Zell, and had the two suitcases sealed, in which we had the Becher deposit. On 12 March, after a conversation with Dr Posner and Mr Meiry, and after those above had already left Geneva, as well as after a telephone conversation with Mr Saly Mayer, Joint representative for Switzerland, I brought the two suitcases, after another sealing by us, to the bonded customs warehouse in Geneva in return for the release of the above-mentioned SFR 5000.00 customs guarantee. The two suitcases will remain stored in the customs office until I) a complete release from customs is obtained from the government, II) permission is obtained to again export articles for which a general export prohibition exists. In view of the necessity for me to return to my EEL (?) work, and in view of the fact that Dr Posner and Mr Meiry had left Geneva, I took care of the permission for release from the bonded customs warehouse in the following way: the release can take place through two of the following three men: D Arian, Saly Mayer, Samuel Schops. A copy of the receipt for the security deposit is enclosed. I have left the original receipt as well as the keys to the two suitcases with Miss Bertha Erlanger for Dr Posner.

Furthermore, I left the enclosed copy of a memorandum for Dr Posner.

18. In accordance with the request of Dr Posner, I will go tomorrow to St Gallen in order to discuss there with Mr Saly Mayer the points which are still to be undertaken. I enclose a copy of my letter of yesterday to Mr Mayer.

19. I would not like to close this report without thanking you, my respected Mr Kaplan, for the confidence which you showed me in connection with the transfer of this task, at a time when the scope of this task seemed considerably greater than it later turned out to be.

On the other hand, I regret, of course, the smallness of the final outcome; if the overall dimensions of the Becher

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deposit had been much greater, it would not have required that much more time and effort, either.

20. I ask, too, for permission to thank Mr Meiry for his friendly cooperation, as well as Mr J Golan and Mr Arthur Pier for their help. As already emphasized above, the American authorities manifested into the last details the wish to be of help. For many of the men, it was only the possibility of {page 7} of giving expression to their sympathy for the cause of Zionism. I am convinced that the atmosphere which has arisen in conjunction with the Becher deposit can be used for other restitution projects. If, nevertheless, the resolution of the matter lasted for only 5 short weeks, that lay in the unavoidable formalities of a military machine.

GOLD & GOLD COINS

Kurt Becher - SS -Man

Ser. Nos. 8 3.3001 SA and 8 3.3002 SA

deposited in Nationalbank Salzburg

Bag No. 1 ✓

4 gold plates	✓	974	gr	1,000	fine
gold sarap	✓	377	gr	500	•
	✓	268	gr	500	•

Bag No. 2 ✓

1 bar	1	Kg 2 gr	1000	•
1 bar	1	kg	996.1	•
1 bar	1	kg	1000	•
1 bar	1	kg	999	•
1 bar	1	kg	1000	•
2 bars	2	kg 565+ gr	500	approx. fine
1 bar	1	kg	999	•

Bag No. 3 ✓

41 pieces Gold sovereigns £ 7

Bag No. 4 ✓

1 piece 10 Kronen/Damaged/ 3.1.gr

Bag No. 5 ✓

1 piece 1/2 Krone Vereinamuenze 5.6. gr

Bag No. 6 ✓

1 piece ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Louisdor

Bag No. 7 ✓

1 piece Gold Coin from Genoa

Bag No. 8 ✓

1 Parma gold coin

Bag No. 9 ✓

3 pieces	10	Mk
1 piece	20	Mk

Bag No. 10 ✓

1 piece 100 Lei

Bag No. 11 ✓

1 piece 5 \$

L 17/170

Kurt Becher Property, continued

Bag No. 12 ✓

55 pieces 10 hfl /Dutch guilders/

Bag No. 13 ✓

349	pieces	10 Kronen
24	"	10 Kronen
8	"	20 Kronen
<u>381</u>		

3490
200
760
<u>3890</u>

Bags Nos. 14-15 ✓

541	pieces	20 frs
2	"	10 frs
298	"	20 frs /Belgian
106	"	20 Lire
336	"	20 frs /Swiss
1	"	20 Lire
323	"	20 frs

1000 pieces de la sau (a
de Fr. 20. .

605 = Fr. 20. - (b
2 a Fr 20. -

JEWELRY AND GOLD

Kurt Becher Property, deposited in Oberbank Salzburg, Alter Markt
Serial Nos. S 3,3001 Sa & S 3,3002 Sa

- Box 16 ✓ 64 gold bracelets *by 2,480 with the box*
- Box 17 ✓
 - ✓ 613 gr gold chains
 - ✓ 470 gr gold scrap
 - ✓ 7 necklaces *by 7,950 with the box*
 - ✓ 14 watch chains *" 9,270 without the box*
 - 1 Royal necklace
- Box 18 ✓
- Box 19 ✓ 5 gold evening bags
- Box 20 ✓ 1 brooch
- Box 21 ✓
 - ✓ 114 gold rings, plain without diamonds
 - ✓ 61 gold rings without stones
 - ✓ 29 gold rings with diamonds
 - ✓ 38 plain rings, gold
 - ✓ 9 brooches, gold
 - ✓ 1 medaillon
 - ✓ 1 ear ring
 - ✓ 1 silver bag
 - ✓ 1 coral necklace
 - ✓ 1 opal necklace
- Box 22 ✓
 - ✓ 19 gold watches X *22A*
 - ✓ 1 silver watch
 - ✓ 1 nickel watch
 - ✓ 3 diamond watches L 21 *original watch*
 - ✓ 22 silver and nickel watches X *22A*
- Box 23 ✓
 - ✓ 20 compacts /14 art/
 - ✓ 1 " /18 art/

Kurt Becher, Property, continued

Box 23 ✓ 8 cigarette cases /14 crt/
✓ 2 cigarette cases /18 crt/

Box 24 ✓ 2 kg 750 gr, chains and gold scrap

Box 25 ✓ 2 kg 325 gr bracelets

pg 2, 44 with box

Box 26 ✓ 15 cigarette cases /14 crt/
✓ 10 cigarette cases /18 crt/

Box 27 ✓ 11 diamonds
✓ 8 plus 2 diamond brooches
✓ 25 plus 5 diamond rings
✓ 5 golden rings
✓ 39 single earrings with diamonds
✓ 1 diamond bracelet
✓ 7 stick pins
✓ 12 various items
✓ 1 diamond necklace with platinum
✓ 1 platinum box
✓ 4 platinum plates
✓ 94 gr platinum

*175g
72g*

Box 28 520 Lat /104.5 Lat bills/
3075 Spanish Pesetas
1000 Portuguese XXXX Escudos
1000 Danish Kronar
1 bag with coins

{document 1}

Geneva, 13 March 1947

To Dr. Ch. Pozner

From Dr. D. Arian

1. Consistent with our conversation yesterday, I brought the two suitcases which contained the Becher deposit to the duty-free customs office of Cornavin. Today I sealed the two suitcases once again, using the Erlanger family seal, so that they are now under double seal:

I. the lead seal which was applied in Buchs

II. the seal.

In the customs office, I was confronted by the necessity of having to arrange the authorization to take possession of the suitcases. Since the formalities lasted for a very long time, you had already left, and we determined the right of repossession as follows: 2 of the following 3 gentlemen, Dr. D. Arian, Saly Mayer, Dr. Scheps. The deciding factor for me in this arrangement was what you told me about the need to show regard for Saly Mayer. In this was, it can be represented to him that the authorization to take this step lay jointly with the Palestine Office and the Joint, apart from myself, as I received the objects, as you know, on my own authority from the Americans.

2. I transmit to you herewith through Miss Berta Erlanger the storage receipt as well as a bill for SFR 170, with the stipulation that, in connection with the second copy of the storage receipt, Saly Mayer would have to provide an additional copy of his signature. I will get this from him and then send it to you with the request that you submit it in the Free Port of Geneva. I will then provide you with an additional copy for your files.

3. Also at this time I am passing on to you through Miss Erlanger 2 keys to each of the two suitcases; there are no other keys available.

4. Also at this time I leaving to you for your eventual use a photocopy of the document of the United States Forces in Austria (Headquarters) referring to the Becher deposit.

5. As you can see from the certificate of receipt, the deposit incurs storage charges of SFR 50 a month and SFR 100 a month for fire insurance. A further reason to remove the suitcases as quickly as possible from the duty-free customs storage facility.

6. The suitcases are, as you see, insured against fire, and are there under the responsibility of the duty-free customs storage facility. Nevertheless, I would consider it correct to insure them additionally against all forms of theft; however, I would like to leave that decision to you.

117520

7. As far as I can see, the two following steps must now be undertaken:

a) complete exemption from import duties, so that the contents of the two suitcases can be withdrawn from the duty-free storage facility without payment of duties;

b) certainty that, if you should so decide, all parts of the deposit can be taken outside of Switzerland, even if, e.g., there is a Swiss export prohibition for the category of merchandise in question.

8. Since I do not know exactly whether you removed a copy of the inventory yesterday, to be on the safe side I enclose another one. In addition, the Military Property Control Branch promised me that they would issue 4 certified copies of the inventory. I hope to get them in the next few days. If you absolutely need one, I will send it to you, but I would ask you to request a certified copy only if you absolutely need it.

9. May I remind you that, according to the arrangement made with Mr. Meiry, a suitcase (which contains the packets 1-15 and which is equipped with toilet articles) belongs to me. I would be very grateful to you if you would do your best to see that it is returned to me as quickly as possible.

{document 2}

Dr. D. Arian Zürich, 14 March 1947
Palestine Office
Geneva

Dear Dr. Posner:

This morning I called Mr. Saly Mayer from Zürich, and agreed that I would send him the storage declaration for the "Becher deposit" for the purpose of obtaining a signature by mail, and that after giving his signature he would send the declaration to you immediately (see the enclosed copy of the letter).

In other respects, a certain disagreement seems to have arisen between Mr. Saly Mayer and the Joint office in Paris about the handling of the "Becher deposit," and I have the impression that Mr. Mayer will stand aside somewhat from the later evaluation; he told me that the matter now lies in Paris in the hands of Mr. Katzkes, whom I once briefly met and whom I will now look up at the request of Mr. Mayer.

Mr. Mayer, however, is ready to be of assistance in connection with the release from customs and the export authorization, and asks that you or Dr. Scheps get in touch with him as soon as possible in this regard.

Sincere greetings, to your wife and sister-in-law as well,

illegible

Yours truly,

D Arian

Enclosure:

1 copy of letter

117522

{document 3}

Dr. D. Arian Zürich, 14 March 1947
Palestine Office
Geneva

Mr. Saly Mayer
St. Gallen

Dear Mr. Mayer:

Following up on our telephone conversation today, I take the liberty of sending to you herewith the storage declaration for the "Becher deposit" in the duty-free customs storage facility in Geneva, with the request that you sign it in the space provided, and then return the declaration to the Palestine Office in Geneva as soon as possible.

Yours respectfully
and with a Zionist greeting

Yours truly,

Dr. Arian

Enclosure:

1 storage declaration

117523

C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS
MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAND SALZBRUG AUSTRIA
DETACHMENT 7753
APO 541

RJC/bes
19 March 1947

SUBJECT: Receipt for Kurt Becher and Willy Antetmann
Property, Serial Nos. S 3.3001 Sa, S 3.3002 Sa,
S 3.8002 Sa.

TO: Jewish Agency for Palestine, Getreidegasse 24,
Salzburg.
ATTN: Mr. Gaulan.

Five /5/ true copies of the receipt for the
above subject property are forwarded herewith as
requested.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Howard A Mackenzie
Captain - Spec Bes
Property Control Officer

Incls:
5 copies, Becher-Antetmann Receipt.

117524

COPY/8

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES IN AUSTRIA
USACA SECTION

Reparations, Deliveries and Restitution Division
APO 777, U.S. Army

March 22, 1947.

Dear Arian:

Thanks for your very nice note of the 12th of March, Am glad to know you reached Geneva all right. You should have no difficulty from there as I imagine. I deeply regret that your stay here was not made more pleasant and enjoyable but I am sure you understand the military attitude in these matters. I don't believe the Army is equipped to handle this type of an operation successfully but as long as they have been given the responsibility there is little we can do about it but make the best of it.

There is a chapter of the story regarding the transfer of this loot with which you are not yet familiar. It is now on its way to your agency in an official letter. Suffice for the present to tell you that you were given more than was intended but that you are going to be permitted to keep it and use it for the same purposes as it is in the same category. It has its amusing aspects. Everyone here was very much upset and they tried to have you stopped at the border but fortunately for your agency they could not locate you. It amused me no end and I at once recommended that we forget the whole matter and let you keep it, which recommendation was finally followed for the simple reason there was nothing else to do as they could not reach you in time.

Needless to say I enjoyed your visit here very much except that I was continually embarrassed because we could not make it more comfortable. I learned more about Palestine than in all my previous life and it was very interesting and illuminating. All power to the Palestine movement. I have always been for it but am now more so than ever before thanks to your explanation of the whole project.

Am enclosing two copies of the pictures we took. These two came out the best. Thanking for your good wishes and assuring you of my warm regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Sgd. James Barr

117525

C O P Y

518/34/67069

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES IN AUSTRIA
APO 777, U. S. ARMY

24 March 1947

Mr. Eliezer Kaplan, Treasurer
Jewish Agency for Palestine
P.O.B. 92
Jerusalem, Palestine

Dear Sir:

As you are aware Dr. Dagobert Arian and Dr. Meir Benzion Meiry, representing your agency, recently left Salzburg, Austria, after receiving the looted property known as the Kurt Becher deposit. This transfer was made to your agency in accordance with directives from the War Department.

In turning this so-called Kurt Becher loot over to these representatives there was included additional looted material, also originally taken from Hungary and subsequently confiscated from one Willely Antetmann, an alleged German Party leader. The receipts signed by your representatives covered all this property and as the so-called Antetmann loot is in the same category as the Kurt Becher loot, it is of course assumed that you will use the proceeds for relief and rehabilitation purposes in accordance with your basic directives.

Very truly yours,

(signed)
D J Wickland
Captain AGD
Asst Adj General

117526

{document 4}

Dr. RESZŐ KASZTNER Geneva, 11 April 1947

Mr. Chaim Posner
Director of the Palestine Office
Geneva

Dear Chaim:

Pursuant to our last conversation in regard to resolving those positions (Vaadath Ezra-Hazalah Budapest; Haavaroht), which appear most urgent, I have reviewed the final report presented to our chawer Eliezer Kaplan and take the liberty of directing your attention to the following positions:

- 1) The Weiner matter: (see final report, enclosure 2). Our chawer Offenbach was sentenced in arbitration to a payment of 2300 dollars, his apartment furniture was sequestered, etc.

A copy of the sentence in the Hungarian language is available. The payment of this debt is to be regarded as absolutely urgent.

- 2) The case of Julie Deák: According to her letter of 30 May 1946, Ms. Deák has received only SFR 6,100.-- from the SFR 21,100.-- originally transferred. A further SFR 2,000.-- were supposed to have been paid to her by you. If that is correct, there would be SFR 13,000.-- still due to Ms. Deák. Since it is a question of a Haavara which has been confirmed by all responsible parties, this amount, except for the SFR 2,000.-- in dispute, should be paid to Ms. Deák.
- 3) Five haavara positions with a total value of SFR 2,000.-- which were originally advanced by Eng. Biss and which are now owed to the vaada.

The original receipts are available.

- 4) The haavaroht of the Bergen-Belsen people who are now in Switzerland.

I would prefer not to make any suggestions or recommendations, but leave it to you which of these, if any, should be regarded as urgent.

With sincere Shalom,

Yours,

Rezső

117527

{document 5}

DA/B-n *Stockholm, 23 April 1947*

PALESTINE OFFICE
8 Rue Petitot
GENEVA

RE: The Becher deposit

Dear Dr. Posner:

The Becher deposit has still not left me in peace, since I have, as you know, no documentary proof that the American military government has handed over everything that they previously took from Becher. For this reason, I have gotten in touch with Mr. Mason in Berlin, who at a very early stage had seen the Becher deposit. Mr. Mason told me that shortly after taking possession of the deposit, on his own and Dr. Kastner's initiative, a Jewish jeweler (a Viennese?) had viewed the deposit and had made a list and an appraisal. Can you, with Dr. Kastner's help, find out who that was, and in that case get a copy of this list and appraisal? If so, I would be very grateful to you if you could send me these. In addition, I would like to observe that even Mr. Mason was of the opinion that the Becher deposit amounted to 100,000 dollars at the most, and it was incomprehensible to him what the other much higher sums named were based on.

I think that I will be in Paris in the middle of May, and will telephone you as soon as possible, if I do not meet you there.

Any mail that you send to me in Paris I will look for at Mr. L??tvack's or Miss Schiff's.

On the Seder evening, I thought about you a great deal, and very much regretted not being able to spend the evening with you, your wife, and your circle of friends. I hope that these lines will reach you in the best of health, and remain, with many greetings to you all and Miss Bertel,

Yours very truly,

{illegible notation}

117528

{document 6}

28 April 1947

P/S

Dr. R. Kastner,
1, rue Marignac
Geneva

Dear Rezsö:

I am sending to you herewith the copy of a letter of chawer Arian of the 23rd {?} of this month, which has just arrived, with the request for a response soon.

With a cordial Shalom,

Dr. Ch. Pozner

117529

{document 7}

Dr. REZSÖ KASZTNER
Geneva

1, rue Marignac Geneva, 30 April 1947

Mr Chaim Posner
Director of the Palestine Office
Geneva

Dear Chaim:

For the sake of form, I confirm receipt of your valuable letter of the 28th of this month, and the copy of the letter from Dr. Arian which was directed to you.

In this connection, I take the liberty of making the following observations:

- 1) At that time, in the presence of Dr. M. Schweiger, I suggested to Mr. Mason that he should have the deposit examined by Mr. Offenbach and the Budapest jeweler who had originally made out the appraisal. Only in this way would a realistic comparison between what was formerly handed over and the present deposit be possible.
- 2) The general disappointment about the value of the deposit seems a bit puzzling to me. It seems to me that none of our chawerim had taken the trouble to ask whether the deposit handed over by Becher was identical to the valuables handed over to him in Budapest by our vaada? In other words: Becher was under no obligation at all to return even a part of those objects. What he handed over to us was pure profit. What happened to the rest could be the subject of an investigation -- for history.

With a cordial Shalom,

Yours,

Rezsö

{illegible notations at bottom right}

117530

AIR MAIL

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

Treasury Department

Telegrams : "JEVAGENCY" JERUSALEM
Telephone : 4671 (6 LINES)
Codes : BENTLEY'S

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
P. O. Box 92,
Jerusalem

November 23rd, 1947.

Ref. No.

Dr. Walter Butler,
Legal Department,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
Head Quarters Zone Command,
Austria.

Re.: Becher Deposit.
Your letter dated 23.7.47.

Dear Sir,

I very much regret the delay in answering your above mentioned letter, which, however, was brought to my attention only after my return from abroad.

2. While in Austria and Switzerland, Dr. Arian devoted his greatest attention to the discrepancy existing between the value of articles actually handed over to him as the "Becher-deposit" and previous indications made by various Jewish parties. I am enclosing a copy of the relative paragraph from Dr. Arian's report on his mission.

I would further add that Dr. Arian has worked in full accord with Mr. S.S. Silver, at that time Joint Director for Austria and your office at Salzburg, and that at the actual taking of the inventory between the 7th and 10th March, 1947, Mr. Friedman from your Salzburg office was present.

3. I am very glad to learn that your Legal Department now intends to revert to this matter, and that there are facts indicating that the value of the originally seized treasure probably exceeded the amount of \$800,000, and I shall be pleased to put at your disposal any data or other material needed in this connection.

4. Since I do not know what is the source of your inventory of the valuables taken over by Dr. Arian and Mr. Meiry, which you mentioned in your letter, I am enclosing a copy of the inventory which Dr. Arian submitted to the Property Control Branch as part of the receipt given by him. I am, however, not in a position to indicate from this end the exact weight of the various gold items and the fine content of the gold, as well as the carat size of the diamonds. I am, therefore, sending a copy of your above mentioned letter and of this letter to Dr. Ch. Posner, representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine at Geneva, requesting him to put at your disposal the required details, as far as he is in a position

to do so. Furthermore, I am attaching copies of two pages copied by Dr. Arian from the files of the Property Control Branch in Vienna and Salzburg respectively. Dr. Arian tried without success to find out to whom refer the words "by me" in the final paragraph of list "B. Becher Deposit". When he showed it to Dr. Schweiger in Geneva, this gentleman thought they might refer to him, but he was not certain on this point.

Dr. Arian was already on the occasion of his first visit told by Mr. James Barr, Deputy Chief Reparation Delivery and Retribution Division, and Cpt. Walter M. Treece, Property Control Branch in U.S.A. Forces Austria H.Q., that they estimated the Becher-Deposit at a value of approximately \$60,000 - \$80,000 and they did not understand the higher expectations.

5. I should like to have your opinion whether you think it advisable to contact Kurt Becher and to inquire as to his evaluation.

6. I shall be very glad to hear about the outcome of your investigations. Needless to say, I am at your disposal in connection with any further queries you may have.

Very sincerely yours,

E. Kaplan

4 encls.

c/c Dr. Ch. Posner, Jewish Agency for Palestine, Geneva.
Mr. B. Jaffe, Jewish Agency for Palestine, Salzburg.



{document 8}

4 March 1948

To the
General Customs Authority of Switzerland
Bundesgasse 3
Bern

RE: Duty-free import of a shipment of gold coins and broken gold
(objects)

Dear Sirs:

We refer to our visit at your office on 25 February and to our
discussion with your Mr. Müller.

On the occasion of this discussion, we explained to you that the
Headquarters, United States Forces in Austria, Usaca Section,
Reparations, Deliveries and Restitution Division APO 777, U.S.
Army had at the beginning of March 1947 released a number of gold
coins and gold objects which were no longer usable to the Jewish
Agency for Palestine. These had been taken by the National
Socialist regime in Germany from the Hungarian Jews, and were to
be used for refugee relief. In the same month, the shipment was
brought to Switzerland, and since that time has been in the Port-
Franc de Cornavin in Geneva under dossier no. 8445.

The transfer to Switzerland took place because the Jewish Agency
for Palestine had decided to use the proceeds from the sale of
these valuables for financing the departure to Palestine of
emigrants, who were in Switzerland.

We enclose now for your information a copy of the communication
of Headquarters, United States Forces in Austria, Usaca Section,
Reparations, Deliveries and Restitution Division APO 777, U.S.
Army, as well as a copy of the list of the valuables which are
involved, and most humbly request that, in view of their origin
as well as of the benevolent purpose to which they are to be
used, you grant permission for their export free of duties.

Anticipating your positive decision with great interest, we thank
you in advance for your consideration, and remain,

With great respect,

Dr. Ch. Posner

Dr. S. Scheps

Enclosures: 1 copy of a letter
 " " of a list

117539

Head of the Operations Division

/illegible/

N3 enclosures

{document 10}

Dr. Ch. Posner 13 March 1948

Geneva

Dear Dr. Posner:

I am especially happy to be in a position to assume that, with our discussion yesterday, the matter of the "haavarot" of our vaada has, after an unfortunate delay of almost three years, come to an end.

In consultation with chawer Offenbach, we state herewith that we regard the list compiled yesterday with you as final, and that as far as we know there is no further claim which, on our part, would be regarded as justified, and for which we would be ready to assume any responsibility. (To the demand "Sipos" and "Szanto" made recently, we have responded in separate letters.)

While asking you to pay these debts as quickly as possible, we also thank you for your chawer-ish efforts.

With cordial Zionist greetings,

Dr. Kasztner
S. Offenbach

117536

March 24th. 48

P/N

Mr. Bahral,
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
P.O.B. 92
Jerusalem

Your ref.,: 289/4/6

Concerne: Becher-deposit.

Dear Mr. Bahral,

With reference to your letter of March 3rd., please find enclosed the desired photo-copy of the Becher - deposit document.

It is perfectly true that vis-à-vis the customs and other authorities here, we are the sole disposers of the two gold coins and gold objects trunks in question. Some time ago, I examined the deposit and must tell you, that in my opinion the gold objects are prevailingly in such a condition that their sale will not bring in much. Furthermore, I intend to have estimated the whole deposit by competent specialists shortly.

As you certainly know, it has been decided at the beginning of January to hand the deposit to the I.R.O Office here. This in order that they might forward it from the transit depot at our end to U.S.A. and sell it there. The sale should be effected together with the other great quantities of gold and objects of value the liquidation of which they have been charged of. Mr. A. Schwarz, head of the I.R.O. Office of Geneva, who at the beginning agreed in principle to the said arrangement, refused later on to carry it out, as the matter seemed him to be too insignificant. Thereupon I applied once more to the Swiss competent customs authorities asking them for the duty-free importation of the gold coins and gold objects in question. My reasoning was that if we were granted the duty-free importation, it would be then the most simple to realise the deposit in Switzerland. Formerly, as you certainly know, Mr. Sally Meier was very much against the realisation of the said objects in our country. As soon as the head-customs-house in Berne will let me have their answer to my application, I will inform you thereof.

Dr. Joseph Schwarz, indeed, declared himself willing to pay \$30.000.-. But this only on condition if we confirm to the Joint that after this remittance no Vad Hazala claims will be put to him. As I do not want to give such a confirmation on our behalf, I handed a similar declaration to the Joint in Paris signed by Dr. A. Kastner and Mr. Sz. Offenbach in the name of the Vad Hazala in Budapest. Dr. Joseph Schwarz, who is returning these

p.t.o.

117537

days to Paris, should decide whether the said confirmation will do for him. In any case, the Joint did not yet meet my request by letter to transfer the \$30,000.- in question. In the meantime I am endeavouring here to reduce the remaining claims against the Vad Hazala (about \$65,000.-), by way of negotiation, so that we may liquidate the whole affair by means of the said Joint amount. We have already done our share in clearing the debts of Vad Hazala. From the beginning of 1944 hitherto I spent about more than \$40,000.- for this purpose.

I do hope to send you shortly a statement of the amounts payable to Vad Hazala creditors residing in Palestine.

I bring this to your notice and remain

yours very truly,

Dr. Ch. Pozner

{document 11}
23 April 1948

To the
Swiss National Bank
in Bern

Gentlemen:

We transmit to you by enclosure the copy of our letter of 3 March of this year to the Federal General Customs authority, as well as that of their reply of 3 April 1948 concerning the duty- and tax-free admission of gold coins and bars according to the enclosed inventory. In view of the fact that it is a question of valuables which were released by the headquarters of the American army in Austria to the Jewish Agency for Palestine for the purpose of helping Jewish refugees, we take the liberty of most humbly requesting the granting of permission for the duty- and tax-free import of these valuables.

In thanking you cordially in advance for your consideration, we remain,

With deep respect,

Dr. Ch. Pozner D. S. Scheps

Enclosures:

1. Letter to the General Customs Authority of 4 March 1948
2. Reply of the General Customs Authority of 3 April 1948
3. List of the gold coins and bars
4. Communication of the headquarters of the American Army in Austria, stating that the valuables were released to the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

117539

{document 12}

WEIDEN-Upper Palatinate
Bavaria US Occupation Zone
Bismarckstrasse 9

Dr. C. H. Posner
Director of the Palestine Office
Geneva
Rue Petitot
currently Hamburg, 30 May 1948

Dear Dr. Posner:

Dr. Kasztner had a telegram sent to me, saying that he would already be flying on to Palestine on 8 May, and that I should get in touch with you immediately, since you would be handling everything in the future.

I presume that Dr. Kasztner has informed you in detail about our discussions, and that you are also in possession of the statements and notes.

On the occasion of my current stay in Hamburg, I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Kettlitz, my former colleague, and discovered that he had deposited the amount not, as I had erroneously written to you, with the German Embassy in Bern, but rather with the German Consulate or German Consulate General in Zürich. I have asked Mr. Kettlitz to make a memorandum about it in the form of a sworn statement, which I hope I will be able to send to you in the near future.

As to the further development of matter 163, I cannot make any report to you until I have spoken with the gentlemen in Nürnberg -- this will be at the end of June -- since I was not able to travel further for that purpose because of my present trip.

As regards the machines, I am at the moment involved in serious negotiations and hope that I can soon give you precise documents about them. The matter is in itself very difficult, because there are no new ones, and with used machines the question of obtaining spare parts and the possibility of repair must be clarified in detail. If your position should be affected by this, I ask you to let me know. Regarding possible questions about the transaction, I will speak with Mr. Levy of the Jewish Agency at the beginning of July in Munich.

Following up on the suggestion of Dr. Kasztner, I would consider it helpful if we could all discuss this personally in the not too distant future. Would it be convenient for you or one of your gentlemen if we could arrange a meeting for August of this year? For me, the most suitable meeting place would probably be Lörrach in the vicinity of Basel.

117540

Please give me this information, so that I know that a connection has been established for future communications.

If you write to Dr. Kasztner, please give him my best regards and greetings. It goes without saying that it would interest me very much to know how he is and how the matter there is going and I would be happy to receive any message from you regarding this.

For today, I remain, with best regards,

Yours very truly,

Kurt A. Becher

117541

{document 13}

Herbert Kettlitz
Hamburg
Loogeplatz 6

Sworn Statement

I, Herbert Kettlitz, born 18 February 1908 in Lehe an der Weser, merchant by occupation, was in September of 1944 assigned by the Armed Forces to the "Waffen-SS" {military arm of the police organization of the National-Socialist Party}, specifically, to the "SS-Ausrüstungsstab" {SS supply staff} of the FHA {"Führungshauptamt" = Central Administrative Office} in order to perform a purely commercial function.

In November 1944, I received a special assignment from Mr. Kurt A. Becher, the director of the above-named staff, which took me for a short time to Switzerland. It involved negotiations which were going on between Mr. Becher, on the one hand, and the representatives of the Jewish Agency and the Joint D.C., Sally Meyer of St. Gallen and Dr. Rudolf Kasztner of Budapest, on the other.

After my authorization to remain in Switzerland was unexpectedly not extended, on 29 November 1944 I deposited the sum of SFR 16,000.-- (in writing, sixteen thousand) with the German Consulate or General Consulate in Zürich with instructions that this sum was to be handed over to a person who presented one-half of a signature executed by me.

At the beginning of December 1944, I gave the torn half of a piece of paper which would authorize receipt of the sum to Mr. Paul Holzach of Zürich and Mr. Curt Trümpi of Glarus, with the request to take possession of the amount without delay and to hold it in safe-keeping for Mr. Becher.

I make this sworn statement in the knowledge that the making of a false sworn statement is punishable at law.

Hamburg, 3 June 1948

Herbert Kettlitz

{document 14}

P/N {illegible}, 24 June 1948

Mr. Kurt A. Becher
Bismarckstr. 9
WEIDEN-Oberpfalz
Bavaria US Occupation Zone

Dear Mr. Becher:

Your letter of 30 May reached me only after a long delay, so that I could only get to it today.

Mr. Kastner, who already returned to Palestine on 11 May, informed me about these discussions with you. It goes without saying that I am ready within the limits of my ability to support the efforts to effect return of the valuables in question. I must say, however, that I do not have enough material at my disposal in order to be able for form a clear picture of the possibilities and ways of realizing them. Perhaps you could send me these documents.

As to the question of a meeting in the month of August, I regret that I cannot give you a definitive answer at this time. I will get back to you regarding your suggestion.

In the hope of hearing in detail from you very soon, I greet you,

Yours very truly,

117543

{document 15}

Kurt A. Becher

WEIDEN-Oberpfalz
Bavaria US Occupation Zone
Bismarckstr. 9

Dr. Ch. Pozner

Geneva
8, Rue Petitot
Weiden, 5 July 1948

Dear Dr. Pozner:

I have received your lines of the 24th of June of this year. Dr. Kasztner had had the intention of thoroughly explaining the existing documents about the 4 objects to you before continuing on his journey. For that reason, it would have been in any case worthwhile for me to learn from you whether Mr. Kasztner conveyed to you the following written documents:

No. 1 my statement of 16 April 1948 regarding 16,000.--

No. 2 the interrogation transcript of 16 April 1948 and my statement of 12 April 1948 regarding 163,000.--

No. 3 the letter from Mr. Kettlitz of 11 January 1947 and his statement of 8 April 1948, as well as my statement of 16 April 1948 regarding 100,000.--

No. 4 my note of 3 May 1948 regarding tractors.

As I advised in my letter of 30 May, I obtained another statement from Mr. Kettlitz pertaining to No. 1.

Immediately upon receipt of your communication, I will report to you in detail, as far as my information permits, about all points. I suggest that we in future make reference to the specific number given above.

At the same time, I ask you to inform me whether the typesetting machine project being worked on is still active, after the currency reform has been carried out here in the meantime. Certainly the suppliers will be prepared to enter into negotiations on the new basis.

Expecting your interim report soon, I am, with best regards,

Yours very truly,

Kurt A. Becher

117544

{document 16}

Copy

Sworn Statement

I, Hans Wilhelm Eggen, born 5 June 1912, now residing at Harnischstrasse 7, Hannover, swear, state, and declare, after being informed of the interrogation of Hans Jüttner on 16 April 1948:

I remember having received the amount of SFR 163,000.-- during the period referred to -- although I no longer recall exactly the specific amount as such -- with instructions to take this to Switzerland and to deposit it there. In light of the well-known situation at that time, that it was no longer possible for a German to deposit money in Swiss banks, I deposited the amount, for which I received a receipt, in the German Embassy in Bern with Minister KOECHEL. As I recall, this amount was, in view of the Anglo-American blockade restrictions applicable to Switzerland, intended and provided free of clearing for the purchase of equipment which Germany needed. Part of the amount -- I can no longer remember the exact sum, it was a question either of the amount of SFR 83,000 or SFR 128,000 -- was, after prior negotiations on this matter which had been conducted by Staff Engineer von WRANGEL, at that time with the Air Transport Ministry, placed at the disposal of the Air Attache in Bern at that time, the former Colonel KRIPP. The Reichsmark settlement between the responsible sections was carried out and the amount in Reichsmark was transferred or made available.

Nürnberg, Germany, 17 August 1948

(signed) Hans Wilhelm Eggen
Hans Wilhelm Eggen

Before me, Benno H. Selcke, U.S. civilian AGO identification no. 4-433012, Deputy Director, Evidence Division, Office of Chief of Counsel for War Crimes, appeared Hans Wilhelm Eggen, to me known, who in my presence signed the foregoing statement -- Eidesstattliche Erklärung -- consisting of one page in the German language, and swore that the same was true, on the 17th day of August 1948 in Nürnberg, Germany.

(signed) Benno H. Selcke
Benno H. Selcke

117545

Tele: 34 66 07

Investigations Branch
Finance Division
63 HQ CCG -BE-
B.A.O.R. 3

20th Aug 1948

FIN/ZON/HAL/"/O:/LO

To:- Herrn Kurt A. Becker,
Weiden/Cbpf.
Bismarckstr. 9

Subject:- Interkommerz A.-G., Zurich.

Herr Herbert Kettlitz has referred me to you for certain information, stating that you were his former superior officer in the Waffen-SS - SS-Ausrüstungstab of the F.H.A.- in connection with his commercial functions in Switzerland in November 1944.

The Swiss Compensation Office reported that Interkommerz A.-G., held Sfrs. 100,000 in trust for Herr Kettlitz in a blocked account. Much divergent information has been supplied about the origin and use of this money, Kettlitz putting forward a theory that it had some connection with an order for 40 tractors. We cannot, however, enlighten us on the subject of who really owned the Sfrs. 100,000, nor who had originally made it available to Interkommerz A.-G.

You are accordingly requested to forward me a statement under oath, notarially attested, giving all details which you know regarding this Sfrs. 100,000. You should, if possible, explain a/ where the money came from, b/ what connection Kettlitz had with the sum in the first place, and c/ why this sum is shown in the Interkommerz A.-G. books in the name of Kettlitz.

I should also be glad if you will advise me of all particulars in your possession regarding the connection between Interkommerz A.-G. and Warenvertriebs G.m.b.H., H.W. Eggen, Berlin.

Please treat this matter as urgent.

gez. Unterschrift
W. Halstead/ Key
Senior Control Officer

WHK/Sch.

Copy to:-
Inv. Branch Düsseldorf
E.W.D., London

117546

{document 17}

Dr. Ch. Posner

Geneva / Switzerland
8 Rue Petitot

Nürnberg, 27 August 1948

Dear Dr. Posner:

I do not know whether Dr. Kasztner has informed you of my activity and existence. I worked on various problems with Dr. Kasztner during his stay in Nürnberg, and Dr. Kasztner has authorized me, among other things, to continue the inquiry into the location of the SFR 163,000 which were previously deposited from the Becher trove in Switzerland. I have now interrogated the various former Nazi functionaries who could be involved concerning this topic, and in the coming week will speak with Mr. Eggen again. Dr. Kasztner told me that after the conclusion of the investigation I should contact you in order to inform you as to the result. Since I am to conclude my activity here in Nürnberg on 3 September and am going in an unofficial capacity to Vienna, I would like to hand over to you the sworn statements collected by me and the results of the investigation. At the end of September, I will be in Nürnberg again for a short time and could, if you wish, visit you at the end of September in Switzerland. I would not want to forward the various statements to you by mail, but hand the things over to you personally.

I would be happy to hear from you very soon, and remain in the meantime,

Yours truly,

Curt Ponger

Curt P o n g e r

{return address on envelope flap} CURT L. PONGER / OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES / APO 696 A NUEMBERG / c/o US
ARMY

117547

{document 18}

Kurt A. Becher

WEIDEN-Oberpfalz
Bavaria US Occupation Zone
Bismarckstr. 9

4 September 1948

To the Investigation Branch
Finance Division
63 HQ CGG / BE / B.A.C.I. 3
FRANKFURT / Main

RE: Your communication of 20 August 1948 FIN/ZON/HAM/22609/10
Interkommerz AG, Zürich

I have received your communication of 28 August 1948, and it goes without saying that I am ready to provide information about the above matter.

To begin with, I declare that I am giving the following information to the best of my information and belief, and that I am prepared at any time to state them under oath, knowing that the making of a false sworn statement could incur punishment at law.

In March of 1944, I assumed the leadership of a staff of the former "SS-Führungshauptamt" {Central Administrative Office of the SS} which had its seat in Budapest, Hungary, which was at first involved with horses and the equipping of horses.

Shortly after I arrived in Budapest, I began, at the request of Jewish circles, negotiations with Himmler, the former Reichsführer of the SS, on the one hand, and with Dr. R. Kasztner, who was the director of the Zionist Organization of Hungary and at the same time the representative of the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee, on the other. These negotiations led to the saving of life of ten thousands of Jews and victims of political persecution; beginning in the autumn of 1944, several larger and smaller transports, among others, went to Switzerland.

At the suggestion of the Jewish group represented by Dr. Kasztner, these negotiations were conducted on the sole basis which offered any hope of a response from Himmler, that of economic performance. However, it was agreed between Dr. Kasztner and me -- soon after the beginning of these negotiations -- that I would retain the payments made by the Jewish side, if possible, until after the end of the war, in order to convey them as soon as possible in mutual consultation to the above mentioned organizations for humanitarian purposes. This agreement, by the way, coincided to a very great extent with the efforts of the representative of the Joint in Switzerland, who always made an effort to guide the negotiations onto the track of humanitarian reciprocity, a notion which found no consideration at all on the

117548

part of Himmler, apart from certain concessions which I obtained only very late. I acted on the basis of a special authorization which granted me practically unlimited and exclusive right of disposal. In addition to the personal arrangement on my part above, however, I managed to obtain -- as mentioned, at a later point in time -- the cover which gave me the proper handle.

In the course of this rescue operation, Dr. Kasztner asked me in the fall of 1944 to take on an especially difficult individual case. The Hungarian industrial magnate, Leopold Aschner, was being held as a prisoner in the concentration camp of Mauthausen. Contrary to all existing regulations, I obtained from Himmler his release and free passage to Switzerland, after I presented Kasztner's offer to him, according to which the amount of SFR 100,000.-- would be made available. It was agreed at that time by Dr. Kasztner and me that the amount would be deposited in Switzerland in trust with Mr. Paul Holzach, owner of the company Intercommerz AG, Zürich.

After I was held prisoner until the end of 1947 by the Americans, and only in February of 1948 was brought before a court for the first time, specifically a German tribunal, I was not able up to this point in time to take any steps regarding the agreement made at that time. I did not want to, either, until I was again in full and free possession of my rights of disposal and determination, a status which I gained through my being classified as one of the group of those exonerated.

On 16 April 1948, I made a sworn statement before an official of the Office of Chief of Counsel for War Crimes in Nürnberg, that I release the above-mentioned SFR 100,000.-- pursuant to the agreement made for humanitarian purposes. Since the amount on the basis of its origin in my view and pursuant to the agreement made between the representative of the Jewish Agency and the A.J.D.C. was to be used for humanitarian Jewish purposes, I was in agreement that, on the basis of the suggestion of Dr. Kasztner as representative of the Jewish Agency and the J.D.C., it was to be taken over by the Director of the Palestine Office in Geneva. It is consistent with the agreement that the ultimate humanitarian purpose of use would be agreed upon between the Jewish organizations and myself.

Mr. Herbert Kettlitz of Hamburg was a member of my staff and was occasionally assigned to the execution of economic assignments in Switzerland. In the course of this activity, he received the assignment from me of receiving the above-mentioned sum of SFR 100,000.-- and of handing it over in trust to Mr. Paul Holzach. I cannot imagine what you mention in your letter, that the amount was posted on the books of the company of Intercommerz AG of Zürich in the name of Mr. Kettlitz. I expressly state, however, the sum was never the property of Mr. Kettlitz, and also that no instruction about the purpose of use was given by me, except that the sum should be placed in trust.

The military developments at that time and the freedom of movement of me and my colleagues which was associated with them made it impossible to arrange any further disposition.

The financing of the tractors which was mentioned was, in accordance with the agreement made with him, a matter of the representative of the A.J.D.C. in Switzerland.

The connection between me and my colleagues, and Mr. Paul Holzach was on a purely business basis. As to the firm ?arenvertriebsgesellschaft GLBG in Berlin, aside from the fact that I knew Mr. Eggen as an SS-leader personally, I had no military or business connections of any kind with it.

With the foregoing remarks, I hope to have contributed to the clarification and appropriate recovery of the amount. It goes without saying that I am at your disposal for any further information which you may need.

Kurt A. Becher

{document 19}

Kurt A. Becher

WEIDEN-Oberpfalz
Bavaria US Occupation Zone
Bismarckstrasse 9

Dr. Ch. Posner

Geneva

8 Rue Petitot

Weiden, 5 September 1948

Dear Dr. Pozner:

Following up on my letter of 5 July of this year, I would like to tell you today what has happened here in the meantime in connection with the 4 points in question. In so doing, I presume that you have received through Dr. Kasztner the documents mentioned in that communication.

No. 1: As I have already informed you with my letter of 5 July, I obtained in this regard another statement from Mr. Herbert Kettlitz, which I enclose. In my opinion, there should now be an inquiry in that area, specifically in connection with Mr. Paul Holzach, Zürich, whether he or Mr. Trümpi received the amount. Otherwise, those gentlemen would have to return the piece of paper which would authorize acceptance, which was mentioned in Mr. Kettlitz's statement to you, so that you can then submit a claim at the Swiss Compensation Office from the amounts impounded from the German Consulate or General Consulate in Zürich.

No. 2: On the basis of the statements made by Mr. Jüttner -- interrogation transcript of 16 April 1948 -- Mr. Eggen was questioned and finally, on 17 August 1948, he made a sworn statement before the Office of Chief of Counsel for War Crimes in Nürnberg. A copy of this statement is enclosed; I will have the original sent to you. Since this statement regarding the use of the money corresponds neither with Mr. Jüttner's interrogation transcript of 16 April 1948 nor with the oral and written communications which I have received, namely, that Mr. Eggen knew precisely and was instructed that the amount had to go back to me, I asked the Office of Chief of Counsel for War Crimes a short time ago to question Mr. Eggen once again about it. Thereupon Mr. Curt L. Ponger, and official of the OCCWC wrote to me under the date of 1 September 1948:

Mr. Eggen reported to me in detail what had happened with the money and will send me further sworn statements from other people, in part from the Reich Aviation Ministry, in part from the German Embassy in Switzerland, who know the whole story. According to Mr. Eggen's account, at least part of the money must be in Switzerland in the confiscated assets of the German Embassy, likewise a receipt for the

117551

remaining amount, which was used for the Reich Aviation Ministry.

Mr. Ponger was at that time initiated by Dr. Kasztner into this part -- i.e., into No. 2 -- and he intends on the occasion of a trip to Switzerland, probably at the end of September, to bring to you the statements of other persons expected from Mr. Eggen.

Insofar as Mr. Eggen produces these statements, according to which a part of the money was paid to the German air attache in Bern, it should be carefully studied whether:

- 1/ it is in fact about money from this amount, and
- 2/ by whom he was authorized to dispose of it in this way.

In any case, to be on the safe side, the entire amount of about SFR 163,000.-- ought to be reported by you to the Swiss Compensation Office as coming from the confiscated assets of the German Embassy in Bern.

No. 3: For this reason, as is well known, Mr. Kettlitz has been questioned several times by the Investigation Branch, Finance Division, Hamburg. He made his last statement on 8 April 1948; a copy is in your hands. Under date of 20 August 1948, the Investigations Branch wrote to me as indicated in the enclosed copy, and I thereupon explained the case to them in detail in a letter of 4 September 1948, as indicated in the enclosed copy. It might therefore be appropriate now to assert a claim for this amount at the Swiss Compensation Office.

Mo. 4: On this, I have nothing new to report, and I am of the opinion that the investigation has to be set in motion there, since there are probably no more starting points here.

Insofar as one can evaluate it from here, I have the impression that, if one wants to rescue these amounts for their intended humanitarian purpose, one has to act decisively, i.e., assert a claim for them at the responsible authorities. This certainly involve a great deal of effort, and I doubt that you, purely because of your work, will have the possibility to do it.

I will also get in touch with Mr. Kasztner in writing, after it becomes possible to do so again. By the way, have you heard anything from him recently?

As before, I consider it indispensable that, if one wants to bring the matter to a favorable conclusion, the whole complex of questions be personally discussed orally, because there are, of course, nuances which cannot be dealt with in writing. Mr. Kasztner was, by the way, absolutely of this opinion! It could be that I will have a discussion with a friend from New York in Kreuzlingen bei Konstanz yet this fall. Let me know as quickly as possible whether you or a representative of your could, in that case, come there, so that I would then only have to telegraph to you the time I would be in Kreuzlingen.

In the hope of hearing very soon now, and in detail, I greet you,

Very sincerely,

Kurt A. Becher

117559

מסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

AGENCE JUIVE POUR LA PALESTINE

BUREAU DE PARIS

63, AVENUE DE LA GRANDE ARMÉE

PARIS (XVI^e)

TÉL. PASSY 62-51
ADR. TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE:
JEVAGENCY-PARIS

PARIS, LE 2. 2. 1949

To: Dr. Chaim Pozner and
Mr. Pino Ginsburg

After having received your report about the realization and liquidation of the gold objects which are at present at the customs office in Switzerland and which are known under the name of "Becher deposit", I herewith give you the authorization to sell this "Becher deposit" in the name of the Jewish Agency, in Switzerland under the most advantageous conditions. Should you deem it valuable in the course of your endeavours to realize a good price for these items, that 2 suitcases of coins + other golden jewellery should be sent to U.S.A. you can also act according to your good judgment.

I also leave it for you to decide whether some parts of this deposit should be dispatched to Israel directly.

Israel Goldstein
Treasurer

117554

Paris 2.2.1949.

To: Dr. Chaim Pozner and
Mr. Pino Ginsburg

a/a

After having received your report about the realization and liquidation of the gold objects, which are at present at the custom office in Switzerland and which are known under the name of Becherdeposit, I herewith give you the authorization to sell this "Becherdeposit" in the name of the Jewish Agency in Switzerland under the most advantageous conditions. Should you deem it valuable in the course of your endeavours to realize a good prize for these items, that 2 suitcases of coins and other golden jewellery should be sent to USA, you can also act accordingly to your good judgement.

I also leave it for you to decide whether some parts of this deposit should be despatched to Israel directly.

signed: Israel Goldstein

117555

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NNVD 863507
 By JW NAPA Date 3-30

HEADQUARTERS
 7753 MILITARY GOVERNMENT DETACHMENT
 APO 541, U.S. ARMY

RECEIVED ED&R
 NOV 12 1947
 49

JJL/bes
 8 Nov 47

SUBJECT: Eleven Boxes of Silver and other Items
~~S 9.8004 Sa~~

S 9.8005 Sa

THRU: Property Control and Restitution Section
 Headquarters Zone Command Austria

RECEIVED
 13 NOV 1947
 Property Control

TO: Property Control Branch
 Reparations, Deliveries and Restitution
 Division, USACA Section
 US Forces Austria, APO 777, US Army

1. This is to inform you that Baroness Weiss in the presence of Miss Tucker has inspected the silver, but was not able to identify definitely a single item.

2. Miss Tucker confirmed this fact verbally and permission is herewith requested to work this silver in with the rest of the Werfen Train property.

John F. de V. Patrick
 JOHN F. de V. PATRICK
 Lt Colonel FA
 Commanding

Telephone:
 SALZBURG 4570

Distribution:
 2 - PC Br., USACA
 1 - CO, 7753 MG Det
 1 - File Werfen Train
 1 - File No S 9.8004 Sa

117556

RG 260
 Entry 113
 Recd. of Prop. Claims
 Released - Salzburg
 Box 30 - File S 9.8005 Sa

all

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 863507By JW NAPA Date 3-30RG
Entry
File
Box100
113 - USACA Prop.
claims Released
Satzburg
S3.3002 Sa - Kurt
Becher
14

S3.3002 Sa

WMT/an

3 March 1947

SUBJECT: Release of Looted Property to
Jewish Agency for Palestine**TO :** Commanding Officer,
Military Government Detachment 7753
APO 541, U. S. Army
ATTN: Capt. Mackenzie, Property Control Officer

In accordance with authority contained in War Department cable, reference W-88337, and upon execution of the receipt form attached hereto, you are authorized to release to the duly authenticated agent of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Dr. Dagobert Arian, the items of looted property known as the "Kurt Becher Deposit", held under files S3.3001 Sa and S3.3002 Sa.

FOR THE DIVISION CHIEF:

1 Incl: As above

Tele: VIENNA, B-48420

WALKER M. TREECE
Chief, Property Control Branch

117557

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 863507
By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG 200
Entry 113 - claims - Released
File 13 3002 Jo - Kurt
Box 14 Becher

DRAFT

DRAFT

I, the undersigned, a duly authorized representative of the JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE, do hereby acknowledge having received from the UNITED STATES FORCES IN AUSTRIA, the looted property, as per the itemized inventory attached, known as the "KURT BECHER DEPOSIT".

In the name of the JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE, I herewith acknowledge full responsibility for the administration and ultimate disposition of the KURT BECHER DEPOSIT referred to above, as trustee for the ultimate beneficiaries, and accept full responsibility for any and all claims arising in respect thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereinafter affixed my signature, this _____ day of _____, A. D. 1947.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNJ863507
By JW NAPA Date 3-30RG 200
Entry 113 - claims - Released
File S3 3002.10 - Kurt
Box 14 Becher

WMT/em

3 March 1947

File: S 3.3001 Sa
S 3.3002 SA ✓SUBJECT: Release of Looted Property to
Jewish Agency for PalestineTO : Commanding Officer
Military Government Detachment 7753
APO 541, U. S. Army.
ATTENTION: Capt. MacKenzie, Property Control Officer

1. War Department cable No. W-88337 provides the authority for release of the looted property known as the "Kurt Becher Deposit" and under our file Nos. S3.3001 Sa and S3.3002 Sa.

2. The following named men:

Dr. Dagobert Arian
Palestinian Citizen
Passport #94018

Dr. Meir Benzion Meiry
Palestinian Citizen
Passport #213302

have been designated as authorized representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, to whom the Kurt Becher Deposit is to be released.

3. Immediately upon the arrival of the above named gentlemen at your office, it is requested that a joint itemized inventory of the property in question be made by representatives of your section and the above named representatives of JAPP, and that said inventory be duly recorded and authenticated by both groups.

4. Official authority for the release of the property in question will be contained in a separate letter.

5. Formal release of this property to the above named representatives does not relieve Military Government from the responsibility of assisting the Jewish Agency for Palestine in accomplishing safe transport of the property within the U. S. Occupied Zones of Austria and Germany.

6. It is therefore requested that after working out details with the above named representatives you arrange, at Zone Command level, for necessary transport and safeguarding of the property in question within the U. S. Occupied Zones of Austria and Germany.

117559

DECLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY NN D 863507
By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG 2107
Entry 113 - USACA Prop. claims - Released
File DB 3002.10 - Kurt
Box 14 Becher

Ltr USFA, USACA SECTION, RD&R DIV., PROP. CONT. BR., subj: "Release of Looted Property to Jewish Agency for Palestine, dtd 3 Mar 47

7. Keep this office informed by telephone of arrangements being made in this regard.

FOR THE DIVISION CHIEF:

WALKER M. TREBCE
Chief, Property Control Branch

Tele: VIENNA, B-48420

117560

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NN 1863501
By JW NARA Date 3-30RG
Entry
File
Box200
113-^{USAID Prop} claims - Released
3002-10-^{Salisbury} Kurt
Becker

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES IN AUSTRIA
REPARATION, DELIVERIES AND RESTITUTION DIVISION
Property Control Branch
APO 777, U. S. Army

APH/hh

1 November 1945

SUBJECT: SS STANDARTENFUHRER KURT BECKER, BUDAPEST,
PROPERTY REGISTER, SERIAL No. S 3.3003 Sa

TO : American Joint Distribution Committee
Headquarters-United States Forces Austria
Displaced Persons Division
APO 777 Postmaster New York City
ATTENTION: REUBEN B RESNIK

The following information is given not only as a reply to your letter of 27 October but also as a confirmation of the information given you at the recent conference with Lieutenant Hague.

- A. A considerable amount of gold, jewelry and money is under direct control of Property Control Officer Land Salzburg, Property Register Serial Numbers S 3.3002 Sa and S 3.3003 Sa.
- B. The property will be held pending final determination as to disposition. At present, no probable decisions can be offered.
- C. This division deals only with Governments or their official representatives; therefore requests must ultimately be settled through governmental channels.

THEODORE S. PAUL
Colonel, FA
Chief, R. D. & R. Div.

117561

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND86350
 By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG 200
 Entry 113 - USACA Prop. - Released
 File 33002 Jo - Kurt
 Box 14 Becher

OCT 31 1945

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
 HEADQUARTERS - UNITED STATES FORCES AUSTRIA
 DISPLACED PERSONS DIVISION
 APO 777 POSTMASTER NEW YORK CITY

October 27, 1945.

TO: COLONEL T. S. PAUL, RESTITUTION, DELIVERIES AND REPARATION SECTION, USFA APO 777
 FROM: REUBEN B. RESNIK
 SUBJECT: SS STANDARTENFUHRER KURT BECKER, BUDAPEST, PROPERTY REGISTER,
 SERIAL No. S 3:3003 Sa

Pursuant to our recent conference concerning above named I am writing to inform you that AJDC requests that it be informed of the decisions that are being contemplated in connection with the determination and disposition of the above named property.

Reuben B. Resnik
 REUBEN B. RESNIK
 AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION
 COMMITTEE

COPY TO MAJOR G. T. KONTZ

RBR/HDP

117562

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NN D863501
By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG 200
Entry 113 - USAAC Prop. claims - Released
File G-3002 Sa - Kurt Becher
Box 14

Vienna

I, the undersigned, a duly authorized representative of the JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE, do hereby acknowledge having received from the UNITED STATES FORCES IN AUSTRIA, the looted property, as per the itemized inventory attached, known as the "KURT BECHER DEPOSIT".

In the name of the JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE, I herewith acknowledge full responsibility for the administration and ultimate disposition of the KURT BECHER DEPOSIT referred to above, as trustee for the ultimate beneficiaries, and accept full responsibility for any and all claims arising in respect thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereinafter affixed my signature, this 10th day of March, A. D. 1947.

Dr. Robert Arian

Dr. Robert Arian
Jewish Agency for
Palestine.

Witnessed by:

Harry Freud
Harry Freud, USPD Civilian

Robert R. McFarland
Lt Robert R. McFarland, Property Control & Registration Sect.

Howard A. Mackenzie
Howard A. Mackenzie, Capt-Spec Res
Property Control Officer,
PO Det 7753

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NNVD863507
 By JW NAPA D: 3-30

RG
 Entry 113 - USACA Prop
 File 13.3002 Sa - Salzburg
 Box 14 - Kurt Becher

S 3003
53.3002 Sa

HEADQUARTERS
 XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
 Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment 215

APO 436, U.S. Army
 26 June 1945

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Subject: Coins and Paper Money from Becher Treasure

The gold coins and paper money enumerated below was taken from five persons (JULIUS ECKER, GEORG KRAMER, ALEXANDER MANDEL, NICOLAUS WEISS, and Lillian BRAUN) of Bad Ischl to be turned over to the Military Government Property Control Officer in Salzburg when it was learned that 1) the items in question had belonged to SS Standartenfuhrer KURT BECHER of Budapest whose other property was found in Weissenbach in May 1945, and 2) the items in question were about to be appropriated by unknown French officers allegedly with the Third United States Army.

The money in question has been found to contain the following items:

- 132 - Swiss 20 Franc coins, gold
- 105 - French 20 " "
- 54 - Italian 20 Lire " "
- 28 - Belgian 20 Franc " "
- 24 - Hungarian 10 K " "
- 4 - 20 Korona " "
- 2 - 20 Korona Hung " "
- 2 - 20 Franc, Tunis " "
- 2 - 20 Lira " "
- 1 - \$5 U.S. " "
- 3 - Assorted " "
- 14 - Portugal 50 centavo coins, metal unknown
- 8 - Portugal 2 \$ 50 " "
- 13 - Spanish 10 C " "
- 5 - Spanish 5 C " "
- 44 - British, £ 5 notes
- 2 - Spanish, 1000 Peseta Notes
- 1 - " 50 " "
- 5 - " 5 " "
- 1 - Portugal, 1000 Peseta Note
- 1 - " 500 Escudos " "
- 4 - " 100 " "
- 1 - " 50 " "
- 3 - " 20 " "

237
 82
 38
 35

102

certified a true copy
Homer K. Heller

HOMER K. HELLER
 LT. COL., I.F.
 PROPERTY CONTROL OFFICER
 MILITARY GOVERNMENT, SALZBURG

*****Nothing follows*****

The above mentioned sum has been delivered to Military Government Property Control.

THEODORE H. FOSSIECK
 Major, M.I., CO, CIC Det 215

Received the above mentioned sum.

 Rank, Organization

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 863507
By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG 113
Entry 113-claims - Released
File 3.3002 Sa - Kurt
Box 14
Becher

W. Dean

MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY CONTROL
PROPERTY CONTROL BRANCH
R. D. & R. BRANCH
- 6 SEP 1946

MILITARY GOVERNMENT DETACHMENT E1B
Hq and Hq Co, CA/A
APO 541 - US ARMY

RECEIVED RD & R
Time
Date **SEP 5 1946**
No. *18*

Ref.Nos. S 3.3001 Sa and
S 3.3002 Sa

File
JW

RJC/bes
30 August 1946

SUBJECT: Property of Kurt Becher.

TO: Headquarters United States Forces in Austria,
USACA Section, Reparations, Deliveries and
Restitution Division, Property Control Branch,
APO 777, U.S. Army.
ATTN: Chief, Property Control Branch.

1. Reference is made to telephone conversation with your office on 29 August 1946.
2. The articles listed on the enclosed inventory are in the custody of the Oberbank, Salzburg.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Howard A Mackenzie
Howard A Mackenzie
Captain - Spec Res
Property Control Officer

1 Incl.: Inventory of Property
Kurt Becher.

DECLASSIFIED

 Authority NNV 863507
 By JW/NAPA Date 3-30

 RG
 Entry
 File
 Box

2100
113 - claims - Released
Salzburg
B3.3002.5a - Kurt
Becher
14

INVENTORY OF PRECIOUS OBJECTS

deposited by Property Control Office, Military Government Land Salzburg, Austria, /Lt Wiehaus and Lt Jansson/ in safe deposit, Box No.306, the keys of which are in open deposit of the bank in sealed envelope.

30	golden bracelets	/Armbänder/
21	compacts	/Puderdosen/
31	cigarette cases	/Zigaretten Dosen/
152	watch chains	/Uhrketten/
51	bracelets	/Armbänder/
59	bracelets	/Armbänder/
23	watches	/Uhren/
5	evening bags	/Abendtäschchen/
11	diamonds	/Diamanten/
1	bag of assorted gold pieces	
8	gold bars	/Goldbarren/
4	gold plates	/Goldplatten/
3	silver plates	/Silberplatten/
206	rings	/Ringe/
2	assorted gold scrap	/versch. Goldstücke/
8	bags of gold coins	/8 Säckchen Goldmünzen/
60	5-pound English notes	
3	tie pins	/Kravattennadeln/
1	pendant	/Halskettenanhänger/
1	Royal necklace	/Ordenskette/
15	watch chains	/Uhrketten/
9	necklaces	/Ketten/
6	bracelets	/Armbänder/
1	brooch	/Broche/
27	watches	/Uhren/
1	bag of assorted jewelry	/Säckchen mit versch. Juwelen/
1	golden cross	/goldenes Kreuz/
1	box of silver coins - denominations	/Schachtel Silbermünzen/
8	watch chains	/Uhrketten/
53	rings	/Ringe/
1	box containing 2 necklaces, set of earrings	/Schachtel mit 2 Ketten, Ohrringenteile/
4	bracelets	/Armbänder/
26	pieces of diamond jewelry in 1 iron box	
44	5 lb. notes	
1025	Portug. Peso	
3060	Span. Pes.	
1	package of Hungarian money	/Päckchen ung. Geld/
20	rolls of coins	/Rollen Münzen/
1	envelope containing 14 gold coins	/Umschlag mit 14 Goldmünzen/

117566

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NN 486350
 By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG 2100
 Entry 113 - USACA Prop. claims - Released
 File B3 3002 Ja - Kurt Becher
 Box 14

Vienna

HEADQUARTERS
 MILITARY GOVERNMENT
 LAND SALZBURG AUSTRIA
 DETACHMENT 7753
 APO 541

HAM/bes
 14 March 1947

SUBJECT: Release of Looted Property to Jewish Agency
 for Palestine.

TO: Property Control Branch, Reparations, Deliveries
 and Restitution Division, USACA Section,
 US Forces Austria, APO 777, US Army.

1. In accordance with your letter of 3 March 1947, above subject, the looted property known as the Kurt Becher deposit, Serial Nos. S 3.3001 Sa and S 3.3002 Sa, were released to Dr. Dagobert Arian and Dr. Meir Benzion Meiry of the Jewish Agency for Palestine on 10 March 1947. By error the looted property, known as the Willy Antetmann property, Ser. No. S 3.8002 Sa, was released at the same time.

2. The Antetmann property was in the same safety deposit vault at the Bank for Upper Austria and Salzburg along with the miscellaneous portion of the Becher property, since they belonged to the same category. The Becher gold was stored in the Austrian National Bank, Salzburg.

3. As Mr Cloud, USWD Civilian, Chief of the Movable Property Sub-Section, was confined to his bed with influenza, the joint itemized inventory of the Becher property was made by Mr Freud, USWD Civilian, Chief of the Real Estate Sub-Section of this office, assisted by Mr Cloud's secretary, Miss Spohn, indigenous civilian, in conjunction with the above-named representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Lt McFarland of the Property Control and Restitution Section, Zone Command, was present at the inventory, but his responsibilities extended only to the security for the property en route to the Swiss border in accordance with paragraph 6 of your letter of 3 March. The inventory was made, duly recorded, and authenticated by both groups at the bank vault. The property was removed to the safe at Zone Command Headquarters, and the procedures, inventories, receipts and other documents were then checked by Captain Mackenzie, Property Control Officer.

contd.....

Rep. C. R. J.

117567

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>NNJ 863507</u>
By <u>SW</u> NAPA Date <u>3-30</u>

RG	<u>2102</u>
Entry	<u>113 - USAAC Prop</u>
File	<u>claims - Released</u>
Box	<u>14</u>
	<u>Seizure - Kurt Becher</u>

- 2 -

4. All of this took place without anyone noticing that the Antetmann property had been included along with the Becher property. This was due entirely to the fact that Mr. Broad had no previous acquaintance with the property and the pertinent files in question, that Miss Spohn was under the impression that the Antetmann property had been removed to another place of deposit and that the safety deposit vault in question contained nothing but the Becher property, and that the possibility of an error of this nature did not occur to Captain Mackenzie at the time he checked the papers and procedures. Due to the fact that a more precise inventory in a different form was made at this time, that had been the case at the time the properties were deposited in the vault on 27 February 1946, the fact that the inventory was larger than the one already in our files was not detected. Dr. Arian receipted for the entire inventory which, unknown to him, included the Antetmann property as well as the Becher property.

5. The transport departed for Switzerland on the morning of the 11th and the mistake was not discovered until the afternoon of the 11th, when Miss Spohn accidentally discovered that the Antetmann property had been still on deposit in the same vault with the Becher property. She communicated with Mr. Cloud who was still on sick-leave and he and Captain Mackenzie made efforts to stop the transport before it reached the Swiss border. However, communication with the transport was impossible.

6. Lt. McFarland arrived with the transport at Buchs on the Swiss border about 1700 hours, 11 March 1947. Dr. Arian and Dr. Meiry then assumed full responsibility for the property and proceeded into Switzerland.

7. It is estimated that the Antetmann property constituted approximately twenty percent of the value of the entire shipment, the Becher deposit making up the remaining eighty per cent.

8. Recommend that the Reparations, Deliveries and Restitution Division of USACA Section USFA direct the restitution of the Antetmann property to the Jewish Agency for Palestine, since that property definitely should be at the disposal of a relief organization, and that

contd.....

117568

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>NN/D863507</u>
By <u>JW</u> NAPA Date <u>3-30</u>

RG LDU
Entry 113 - USACA Prop
File 03-3002-1a - Becher
Box 14

- 3 -

the Jewish Agency for Palestine be notified that they already have the property in their possession and have already receipted for it although under an erroneous name.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Howard A. Mackenzie
Captain - Spec Res.
Property Control Officer.

117569

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNV 863507
By JW NAPA Date 3-30RG
Entry
File
Box113 - USACA Prop
claims - Released
Salzburg
S3.3002 Ja - Kurt
Becher
14HEADQUARTERS
MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAND SALZBURG - AUSTRIA
DETACHMENT 7753
APO 541RJC/bc
14 March 1947SUBJECT: Receipts for Becher and Antetmann Property.
Serial Numbers - S3.3001 Sa, S3.3002 Sa,
S3.8002 Sa.TO : Property Control Branch, Reparations, Deliveries
and Restitution Division, USACA Section, United
States Forces in Austria, APO 777, United States
Army.1. Receipts for the above subject property from
representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine are
forwarded herewith as requested.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Howard A Mackenzie
Capt Spec Res
Property Control Officer

Incl:

3 - Receipts, Becher and Antetmann Property.

117570

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NN D 86350By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG

Entry

File

Box

2100
 113 - USACA Prop.
 claims - Released
 Salzburg
 13.3002 Sa - Kurt
 Becher
 14

S 3.3002 Sa

Release of Looted Property to Jewish Agency for Palestine

1. HD&R Exec. 3 Mar
 Div Officer 1947
 USACA USACA

a. The attached letter to be handed to the duly authenticated representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, has been prepared at their request, in order to define the

character of the property which they are to receive from this headquarters, in accordance with War Department cable No. W-88337. It is to be used by these representatives in arranging with the Swiss Government for temporary duty free deposit of the property in Switzerland.

b. Request the attached letter be transmitted to A. G. for signature and return to this division.

JAMES A. BASH
 Deputy Chief, HD&R Division.

1 Incl: As above
 Tele: VIENNA, 8-48420
 WAT/em

117571

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNV863507
By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG 2100
Entry 113 - USACA Prop
File 13.3002.10 - Salzburg
Box 14 - Rurt
Becher

WMT/jm

4 March 1947

SUBJECT: Release of Looted Jewish Property to Jewish Agency for Palestine

TO: Whomever It May Concern

1. As a step toward accomplishing its share in an avowed policy of the United Nations striving toward maximum relief and rehabilitation for the world's refugees, it is herewith certified that the United States Government, through the Commanding General of the United States Forces in Austria, has released to the Jewish Agency for Palestine, certain looted Jewish property.

2. The Jewish Agency for Palestine, acting as trustee for the ultimate beneficiaries, whoever and wherever they may be, has assumed the responsibility for administration, liquidation, and ultimate distribution, of these Jewish looted properties.

JAMES A. GARRISON
Chief, RD&R Division

Telephone: VIENNA B-48132

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NN/D862507
 By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG
 Entry 113 - claims - Released
 File B3-3002-10 - Kurt
 Box 14 Becher

G O L D & G O L D C O I N S

Kurt Becher - SS-man

Ser. Nos. S 3.3001 Sa and
 S 3.3002 SA

Bag No. 1 deposited in Nationalbank Salzburg.

4 gold plates 974 gr 1000 fine
 gold scrap 377 gr 500 "
 " " 268 Gr 500 "

Bag No. 2 - 1 bar 1 kg 996.1 "
 1 " 1 kg 2 gr 1000 "
 1 " 1/2 kg 1000 "
 1 " 1 kg 999 "
 1 " 1/2 kg 1000 "
 2 bars 2 kg 565 1/2 gr 500 approx. fine
 1 bar 1 kg 999 "

Bag No. 3

41 pieces Gold sovereigns

Bag No. 4

1 piece 10 Kronen /Damaged/ 3.1.gr

Bag No. 5

1 piece 1/2 Krone Vereinsmünze 5.6 gr

Bag No. 6

1 piece Louisdor

Bag No. 7

1 piece Gold Coin from Genoa

Bag No. 8

1 Parma gold coin

Bag No. 9

3 pieces 10 Mk
 1 piece 20 Mk

Bag No. 10

1 piece 100 Lei

Bag No. 11

1 piece 5 S

3

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NN/D863507
By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG 210
Entry 113 - claims - Released
File 33002 Jo Kurt
Box 14 Becher

Kurt Becher Property, continued

Bag No. 12

55 pieces 10 hfl /Dutch guilders/

Bag No. 13

349 pieces 10 Kronen
24 " 10 Kronen
8 " 20 Kronen

Bags Nos 14-15

541 pieces 20 frs
2 pieces 10 frs
298 " 20 frs /Belgian/
106 " 20 Lire
336 " 20 frs /Swiss/
1 piece 20 Lire
323 pieces 20 frs

*W. Macdonald
W. Macdonald sent*

4

[Handwritten mark]

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority: NN 863507
 By: JW NAPA Date: 3-30

RG
 Entry
 File
 Box

2100
113 - claims - Released
Salzburg
3.3002 Sa - Kurt
Becher
14

JEWELRY AND GOLD

Hurt Becher Property, deposited
 in Oberbank Salzburg, Alter Markt

Serial Nos. S 3.3001 Sa & S 3.3002 Sa

<u>Box 16</u>	64 gold bracelets
<u>Box 17</u>	613 gr gold chains 470 gr gold scrap 7 necklaces 14 watch chains
<u>Box 18</u>	1 Royal necklace
<u>Box 19</u>	5 gold evening bags
<u>Box 20</u>	1 brooch
<u>Box 21</u>	114 gold rings, plain, without diamonds, 61 gold rings without stones 29 gold rings with diamonds 38 plain rings, gold 8 brooches, gold 1 medallion 1 ear ring 1 silver bag 1 coral necklace 1 opal necklace
<u>Box 22</u>	19 gold watches 1 silver watch 1 nickel watch 3 diamond watches 22 silver and nickel watches
<u>Box 23</u>	20 compacts / 14 crt/ 1 " / 18 crt/ 2 cigarette cases / 14 crt/ 2 cigarette cases / 18 crt/
<u>Box 24</u>	2 kg 750 gr, chains and gold scrap
<u>Box 25</u>	2 kg 325 gr bracelets
<u>Box 26</u>	15 cigarette cases / 14 crt/ 6 cigarette cases / 18 crt/

[Handwritten signatures]

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND863501By JW NAPA Date 3-30

KG

Entry

File

Box

LNU
113 - USACA Prop.
claims - Released
Salzburg
33-3002-1a - Kurt
Becher
14

Furt Becher property, continued:

Box 27

11 diamonds
 8 plus 2 diamond brooches
 25 plus 5 diamond rings
 5 gold rings
 59 single earrings with diamonds
 1 diamond bracelet
 7 stick pins
 12 various items
 1 diamond necklace with platinum
 1 platinum box
 4 platinum plates
 94 gr platinum

Box 28

820 1st / 104.5 1st bills/
 3075 Spanish Pesetas
 1010 Portuguese Escudos
 1000 Danish Kroner
 1 bag with coins.

2

117576

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 86350
By JW NAPA Date 3-30

KG
Entry 113 - UACM Prop.
File 13.3002 - Kurt
Box 14 Becher

SEP 10 1945

MG/APC2.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT - AUSTRIA

PROPERTY REGISTER

Owner - Name Kurt BECHER Nationality GERMANY

Address Budapest, HUNGARY

Date control taken 30 May 1945 Serial No. S. 3.3002
Sa

Record here under appropriate numbered heading

- 1. Description of property and address including details of bank accounts.
- 2. Reason for control.
- 3. Condition of property.
- 4. Value and basis of valuation.
- 5. Particulars of managers custodians etc appointed and removed.
- 6. Details of occupancy or use.
- 7. Particulars of claimants to property other than registered owner.
- 8. Insurance cover.
- 9. Details of know liabilities.
- 10. Any other information.

No.	Description
1	Gold coins and jewelry as per attached "Summary of Information" dated 30 May 1945 from Hq XV Corps . Stored in MG Warehouse, Siesenheimerstrasse, Salzburg .
2	3 - Party and Party Leaders
3	Good
4	Unknown
5	Direct control PCO Land Salzburg
6	In storage
7	Unknown
8	Unknown
9	Unknown
10	a. This jewelry was presented by Jews in Hungary in return for safe passage to Switzerland and America . These Jews are reported to be in these two countries . b. Kurt Becher was SS Standartenführer of Budapest, Hungary .

Homer K. Heller
.....
HOMER K. HELLER
Lt. Col. Infantry
Property Control Officer

*2 of Sept
#6 changed to 10
Attached statements returned for signature*

[Signature]
117577

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NNVD863507
By: SW/NAPA Date: 3-30

KG
Entry 113 - USACA Prop. claims - Released
File SB-3002.10 - Kurt
Box 14. Becher

Dr. D. Arian,
Emile Zola-Street 26,
T e l - A v i v

File
Kurt Becher file
Geneva, March 12th, 1947.

Mr. Walter M. Treece,
United States Head Quarter,
Property Control Branch,
Alliance Building,
V i e n n a.

Dear Mr. Treece,

Having reached Geneva with the Becher-deposit,
I like very much to thank you for the kind help you have given
me in fulfilling my task and for the comprehensive understanding
you have shown for all the questions involved.

Yours sincerely



Dr. D. Arian

Arian is Representative of Jewish Agency for Palestine to whom Kurt Becher deposit was released as per war Dept. Cable Ref. No.

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority: NNND863507
 By: JW NAPA Date: 3-30

RG 2106
 Entry 113 - USACA Prop. claims - Released
 File 13.3002.30 - Kurt Becher
 Box 14

708

AG-4

Informal Routing Slip

HEADQUARTERS
 UNITED STATES FORCES IN AUSTRIA
 Military Orders for Dagobert Arian, Representative
 SUEJECT: of Jewish Agency for Palestine.

Number each message consecutively. Fill in all columns, authenticate message, draw a line across the page just below authentication. Use entire width of page. Use only for inter-office communication.

NO.	FROM	TO	DATE	MESSAGE
-----	------	----	------	---------

1. RD&R
 Div
 USACA

AG
 Thru:
 Exec
 Officer
 USACA

20 Feb
 1947

a. In accordance with JCS State Department cable, reference No. W-88337, this headquarters cleared into Vienna, Dr. Dagobert Arian, Palestinian citizen, as representative for the Jewish Agency for Palestine, to receive from the United States Forces in Austria, a deposit of gold

coins, bullion and assorted jewelry held under property control as the Kurt Becher deposit. The Jewish Agency for Palestine is to take custody of this "loot" as trustee for the ultimate beneficiaries as a part of the U. S. program to release loot found in Austria of unrestitutable character, to the International Governmental Committee on Refugees and the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

b. In order to accomplish the operational details, i.e. inventory valuation, incident to the release of the Kurt Becher deposit to the JAFP representative, it will be necessary for Dr. Arian to proceed to Salzburg where the "deposit" is held in custody by Property Control Officers. In preparing details of the release, this division was advised that the only means available to Dr. Arian for travel to Salzburg were Austrian indigenous rail facilities.

c. It is the recommendation of this division that the importance of the release of these looted goods, the world status of the agency which is to receive them, and the fact that the operation is based upon a JCS State Department directive, and the representative of the JAFP ostensibly invited here by our government, warrants the granting to Dr. Arian of travel orders by this headquarters, affording him military rail, billeting and messing privileges for the accomplishment of his mission.

James A. Barr
 JAMES A. BARR
 Deputy Chief, RD&R Division.

Tele: VIENNA, B-48420

WMT/em

117579

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NN 4863507
By JW NAPA Date 3-30RG 200
Entry 113 - claims - Released
File 13-3002-1a - Rnt
Box 14 Becher

INVENTORY OF PRECIOUS OBJECTS

deposited by Property Control Office, Military Government Land Salzburg, Austria, /Lt Niehaus and Lt Jansson/ in safe deposit, Box No.306, the keys of which are in open deposit of the bank in sealed envelope.

30	golden bracelets	/Armbänder/
21	compacts	/Puderdosen/
31	cigarette cases	/Zigaretten Dosen/
152	watch chains	/Uhrketten/
51	bracelets	/Armbänder/
59	bracelets	/Armbänder/
23	watches	/Uhren/
5	evening bags	/Abendtaschen/
11	diamonds	/Diamanten/
1	bag of assorted gold pieces	
8	gold bars	/Goldbarren/
4	gold plates	/Goldplatten/
3	silver plates	/Silberplatten/
206	rings	/Ringe/
2	assorted gold scrap	/versch. Goldstücke/
8	bags of gold coins	/8 Säckchen Goldmünzen/
60	5-pound English notes	
3	tie pins	/Krawattennadeln/
1	pendant	/Halskettenanhänger/
1	Royal necklace	/Ordenskette/
15	watch chains	/Uhrketten/
9	necklaces	/Ketten/
6	bracelets	/Armbänder/
1	brooch	/Broche/
27	watches	/Uhren/
1	bag of assorted jewelry	/Säckchen mit versch. Juwelen/
1	golden cross	/goldenes Kreuz/
1	box of silver coins - denominations	/Schachtel Silbermünzen/
8	watch chains	/Uhrketten/
53	rings	/Ringe/
1	box containing 2 necklaces, set of earrings	/Schachtel mit 2 Ketten, Ohrringenteile/
4	bracelets	/Armbänder/
26	pieces of diamond jewelry in 1 iron box	
44	5 lb. notes	
1025	Portug. Peso	
3060	Span. Pes.	
1	package of Hungarian money	/Packchen ung. Geld/
20	rolls of coins	/Rollen Münzen/
1	envelope containing 14 gold coins	/Umschlag mit 14 Goldmünzen/

117580

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND86350By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG

Entry

File

Box

200
 113 - USRA Prop
 claims - Released
 3.3002-10
 Kurt
 Becher
 14

S. 3.3002
Sa

HEADQUARTERS
 XV CORPS UNITED STATES ARMY
 Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment No 215

APO 463, U.S. Army
 30 May 1945

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

SUBJECT: Gold and Jewelry Found in Weissenbach.

A considerable amount of gold and jewelry, apparently belonging to one KURT BECHER, SS-Standartenführer of Budapest, was found by Subsection B, 215th CIC Detachment, at Weissenbach (V3428) on 24 May 1945. BECHER is reported to have been arrested along with several of his associates on 12 May 1945 by the 80th Division CIC Detachment under the provisions of the SHAEF directive for automatic arrests. Left behind were two associates (Kurt Helfer and Irene Wiesner) of Becher and a Nicholas Schweiger, who alleges that he was liberated from a concentration camp by Becher.

Becher is alleged to be connected in some way with an organization called "The Joint Committee" in Berne, Switzerland, whose purpose is to buy the freedom of Jews in the concentration camps by means of money, gold, diamonds, and jewelry contributed by Jews throughout the world. Further information on the committee is alleged to be in the possession of one Mr. Mac Clelland, supposed to be deputy in the American Consulate at Berne.

Included in the gold and jewelry, which were found hidden under a bed in the house occupied by Becher in Weissenbach, were the following items:

4 plates

8 Bars

Bar and plate gold reported to weigh approximately 8538 grams

Platinum plates marked 960, 160 and 198

Platinum plates of unknown weight - 2

Platinum (?) wrist watch band - 1

Platinum (?) diamond ring mountings - 2

Platinum (?) diamond less ring - 1

Platinum (?) band and chain - 1 each

Platinum (?) assorted pieces in a case - 36

117581

over

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNL863507

By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG

Entry

File

Box

200
113 - USAID Prop.
claims - Released
3.3002 Sa - Rnt
SECRET

S 3.3002
 Sa

- Gold Coin - English - 41 pieces and coin locket
- Gold Coin - Swiss 20 Franc pieces - 336
- Gold Coin - French 20 Franc pieces - 541 plus 2 .. 10 Franc pieces²
- Gold Coin - Belgian 20 Franc pieces - 298
- Gold Coin - Dutch guilders - 55
- Gold Coin - Italian 20 Lire pieces - 106
- Gold Coin - Czech 10 K pieces - 350
- Gold Coin - German Marks - 10 Mark - 3 ... 20 Mark - 1
- Gold Coin - 100 Lei - 1
- Gold Coin - Assorted - 4
- Paper Money - English - 5 notes - 60
- Gold fillings from teeth - 1 bag
- Assorted cigarette cases and compacts, gold - 51
- Golden chain with order - 1
- Necklaces, gold - 5 (twisted strands)
- Bands, wrist watch, gold - 6
- Bracelets, gold - 53 in wooden box
- Bracelets, gold - 31 in napkin
- Bracelets, gold - 5
- Watches, stem winding, pocket - 16
- Watch, wrist, gold - 2
- Brooches, gold - 5
- Band, wrist watch - 1
- Necklaces, gold - 2
- Necklace, white gold, set with diamonds - 1
- Diamonds, total weight marked 1.10 K - 4
- Diamonds, total weight marked 5.77 K - 7
- Diamond ring, man's marked 0.60 K - 1
- Diamond ring, woman's marked _____ - 1 yellow gold, 1 diamond
- " " " 1.10 - 1
- " " " _____ - 1 - yellow gold, 1 diamond
- " " " _____ - 1 - dinner ring
- " " " _____ - 1 - white gold, marked
- " " " 1.40 - 1 - 25/1000
- " " " _____ - 1 - dinner ring
- " " " _____ - 1 - dinner ring, diamonds
- " " " 1.50 - 1 - in one end
- " " " 0,40 - 1
- " " " 1.30 - 1
- " " " 0,30 - 1
- " " " 0,50 - 1
- " " " 0,60 - 1 dinner ring, small stones
- " " " 2,45 - 1
- " " " 0,70 - 1
- " " " 0,70 - 1 blue center stone, sur-
- " " " rounded diamonds

over

117582

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NN/D863507
 By JW NAPA Date 3-30

KG
 Entry 113 - USAIA Prop
 File 3002 - claims - Released
 Box 14 Seibing
Kurt
Seher

S 3.3002
 Sa

- Diamond ring, woman's marked 0.60 - 1
- " " " 0.40 - 1
- " " " 0.55 - 1
- " " " 1.50 - 1 - 2 diamonds about equal size
- " " " 3.80 - 1
- " " " 0.50 - 1
- " " " 0.50 - 1 diamond set wedding ring
- " " " 0.50 - 1
- " " " 1.10 - 1 dinner ring
- " " " 1.00 - 1 dinner ring
- " " " 0.70 - 1
- " " " 1.50 - 1 dinner ring
- " " " _____ - 1 green stone, diamond on each side
- " " " 0.20 - 1 mounting, set with 6 small diamonds
- " " " _____ - 1 mounting set with 5 small diamonds
- Ring for diamond - 1
- Bracelet, gold - 1 - above-mentioned women's rings are on the bracelet
- Watch, wrist, diamond set, marked 1.50 K - 1
- Watch wrist, diamond set, marked 0.70 K - 1
- Watch, wrist, diamond set, marked 1.00 K - 1
- Necklace, diamond, marked 4.50 K - 1
- Brooch, diamond set; marked 9.00 K - 1
- " " " 3.00 K - 1
- " " " 0.90 K - 1
- " " " _____ - 1 yellow gold 2 diamonds, 3 pearls
- " " " 0.15 K - 1
- " " " _____ - 1 flowerlike arrangement
- " " " 5.60 K - 1 green stone surrounded by diamonds
- Bracelet, " " 1.60 K - 1 containing following items
- Ear rings " " _____ - 1 yellow gold, pearl, small diamond
- " " " 0.40 K - 1 broken
- " " " 3.20 K - 1
- " " " 1.60 K - 1
- " " " 2.40 K - 1
- " " " 2.00 K - 1
- " " " 2.60 K - 1
- " " " 2.00 K - 1
- " " " _____ - 1 four diamonds suspended in line

over

117583

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNJ863507
By JW NAPA Date 3-30

RG 2100
Entry 113 - claims - Released
File 83.3002 Ja - Kurt
Box 14 Becher

S 3.3002
Sa

- Ear rings, diamond set, marked 3.50 K - 1
- " " " " - 1 marked 130/7000
- " " " " 1.70 K - 1
- " " " " - 1 marked 390/1200
- Ear ring pieces - 4
- Locket, gold - 9 3 stick pins
- Locket, gold, parts of - 7
- Bracelets, assorted, gold - 51
- Chains, watch - 110
- Bags, mesh - 5
- Watches, gold - 2
- Necklaces, gold, assorted - 53
- Rings, gold - 175
- Miscellaneous pieces of gold - 1 bag, green
- Assorted jewelry - 1 envelope
- nothing follows ---

The Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (CI) Headquarters, Seventh Army, stated that the two persons picked up at the same time as this material have no CI interest and should be disposed of through PW channels in the case of the man and DP channels in the case of the woman. The above listed material was to be turned over to either Financier the Property Control Officer of Military Government as abandoned property.

THEODORE H. FOSSIECK
Major, M.I.
CO, CIC Detachment 215

RECEIPT

This is to certify that I have received the above-listed items.

Date _____

certified a true copy
Homer K. Heller

HOMER K. HELLER
LT. COL, USAF
PROPERTY CONTROL OFFICER
MILITARY GOVERNMENT, LAND SALZBURG

Bank _____
Org. _____

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND863507
 By SW NAPA Date 3-30

RG
 Entry
 File
 Box

200
 113 - USAFA Prop. claims - Released
 53.3002 Sa - Kurt Becher
 14

GF

Serial No: ~~S3.3003 Sa~~
 S3.3002 Sa

Name: BECHER, KURT
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

AFC 2	✓	MG/AFC 5			
AFC/D 3		Nov.	Feb.	May	Aug.
AFC 4		Dec.	Merch	June	Sept.
Ltr. to Bank					
Ltr. to Admin.		Jan.	April	July	Oct.

Comments:

- ① Letter 24 Sept
- ② Signed statement re to organization of Prof. Becher
- ③ Letter to American Joint Dislocation Committee

Transmitted, see ltr 14 March 47 from Silberberg J

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND863507
 By JW NAPA Date 3-30

KG
 Entry 113 - USACA Prop
 File 53-3002-1a - Kurt
 Box 14 Becher

SEP 10 1945

MG/APC2.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT - AUSTRIA

PROPERTY REGISTER

Owner - Name Kurt BECHER Nationality GERMANY
 Address Budapest, HUNGARY
 Date control taken 25 June 1945 Serial No. 53.3002
3.3003
Sa

Record here under appropriate numbered heading.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Description of property and address including details of bank accounts. | 6. Details of occupancy or use. |
| 2. Reason for control. | 7. Particulars of claimants to property other than registered owner. |
| 3. Condition of property. | 8. Insurance cover. |
| 4. Value and basis of valuation. | 9. Details of known liabilities. |
| 5. Particulars of managers custodians etc appointed and removed. | 10. Any other information. |

No.	Description
1	Gold coins and paper money as per attached Summary of Information dated 25 June 1945 from Hq XV Corps Stored in Safe Deposit Box, Bank für Ober-Osterreich und Salzburg.
2	3 - Party and Party Leaders
3	Good
4	Unknown
5	Direct control PC Officer, Land Salzburg
6	In deposit
7	Unknown
8	Unknown
9	Unknown
10	a. This property was taken from five persons, viz Julius Ecker, Georg Kramer, Alexander Mandel, Nicolaus Weiss and Lillian Braun, all of Bad Ischl. See attached "Summary of Information" dated 25 June 1945. b. Kurt Becher was SS Standartenführer of Budapest, Hungary.

*3 Sept
 this changed to "in deposit"
 so June 25 1945 may be possible
 returned for signature or certification
 AW*

Homer K. Heller

 HOMER K. HELLER
 Lt. Col. Infantry
 Property Control Officer

J. Heller

0500

TAB A

MEMORANDUM

28 April 1949

SUBJECT: Summary of a Report on Activities of Dr. Werner Peiser

TO : Mr. Fred E. Hartzsch, Chief, Property Control and External Assets Branch

1. On or about the 26th of March 1948 Military Government issued an order for the removal of Dr. Werner Peiser from the U.S. Zone of Occupation because of unfair business practices.

2. Dr. Werner Peiser was an employee of A.J.D.C., assigned to the U.S. Zone of Occupation for the purpose of establishing a preparatory office of the Restitution Successor Organization in Germany (in Peiser's correspondence often referred to as P.O.R.S.O.).

3. A review of Dr. Peiser's correspondence files which were seized by this office reveals that in general Peiser's unauthorized operations fall into the following three categories :

a. the obtaining, without Military Government authorization, of information concerning internal restitution matters, in particular Jewish heirless and community properties;

b. attempts to exercise influence over the hiring of personnel for Restitution Agencies and the appointment of judges for Restitution Courts;

c. the hiring and payment with black market items, such as cigarettes, food, etc. of agents and other personnel for the purpose of accomplishing his mission outlined in a. and b. above.

4. In support of the aforementioned, attached hereto, are translations of some of the excerpts which were made from Dr. Peiser's correspondence. In order to facilitate their examination, these excerpts are arranged according to the subjects mentioned in 3.a., b. and c. above as exhibits 1, 2 and 3.

3 Incl: a/s

Ext: 429

WERNER M. LOEWENTHAL
Chief, Field Operations

11758
785711

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 775057
By: TI NARA Date: 9/2/99

RG 260
Entry [Signature]
File [Signature]
Box 699

RG 260
Entry PROPERTY
File INSPECTION - REPORT
Box 699

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NO 775057
By TJ NARA Date 9/2/99

117589

Organization. Owing to our cooperation in the past, I am sure that you are willing to help us.

Very truly yours,
Special Agent in Charge

10 January 1947

of them, details are being furnished to the Bureau. I am sure that you will find this information of interest.

Very truly yours,
Special Agent in Charge

10 January 1947

will be highly appreciated by this office.

Government No. 100-100000-100000

is being furnished to the Bureau in order to

employed by the Laboratory, Chicago, Illinois.

This is to certify that

signed by Special Agent (ASAC)

has been furnished to the Bureau in order to

of property control, I explained the case of

I hope I shall get further information in due course.

control.

Very truly yours,
Special Agent in Charge

10 January 1947

RECEIVED

10 JAN 1947

MAP A - Exhibit 1 (cont'd)

d. (cont'd)

somebody in your office already a long time ago, if I had not the difficulties in obtaining personnel. I hope that I shall get over these difficulties and somebody can start working soon. ...

e. FROM: Mr. Werner Peiser

11 February 1942

TO : Dr. H. G. Van Bus
Legal Advisor J.R.C., 101 Jewish Relief Unit
Hamburg, Sophienterrasse 14

... Our preparatories for the Successor Organization are very well in operation in the American Zone. There are 6 men working for restitution in the three Länder Hessen, Bayern and Württemberg, and one card system which later should give a view about public and helpless property, is increasing to a Big Peiser-Memorial. ...

- 2 -

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 775057
By TS NARA Date 9/2/99

RG 260
Entry Proven
File Investigative Reports
Box 699

117590

Tab A - Exhibit 8 (cont'd)

e. FROM: Mr. Werner Peiser

10 January 1948

TO : Mr. M. Grynblat,
JAPP, Munich

... P.S.: To my agreement with Hesse about my cooperation with the appointment of restitution judges I received an official congratulation from Paris. This matter will be forwarded to New York. I wonder what people are going to say in Bavaria, which is much more difficult. The Joint will still criticize me!

f. FROM: Mr. Grynblat, JAPP Munich

07 January 1948

TO : Mr. Werner Peiser

... I am really glad that your endeavours relating to the personnel question concerning restitution judges found the right acknowledgement. ...

g. FROM: Mr. Werner Peiser

17 February 1948

TO : Dr. Dolf Sternberger

... You will understand that my entire position to German judicial authorities is somewhat dubious. ...

h. FROM: Mr. Werner Peiser

(Monthly Report 9 - 20 May 1948)

TO : Mr. Theodor D. Pader, Munich

... Although the restitution law will be the result of cooperation between the four Allied powers the carrying out of the law will be turned over to the German boards (Wiedergutmachungskammern), the presidents of these courts will be appointed by the various ministers for reconstruction, respectively Prime Ministers of the German States.

I, therefore, considered it my primary task to contact these personalities who will play a decisive role in the restitution. I was thinking in terms of those personalities who will act as presidents of the restitution boards, or of those who will execute the orders from higher levels. Thus I thought it advisable to contact the top people first ...

... It seems superfluous to enumerate the personalities whom I have interviewed during the last two weeks. It may be sufficient to say that I had rather extensive talks with the Prime Minister of Hesse, Christian Stock, with the Regierungspräsident of Nassau, Dr. Koch, and with several members of the Central Government in Wiesbaden who are working on restitution. ...

(cont'd)

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AD 6 - Exhibit 2 (cont'd)

h. (cont'd)

... I hope that I shall have contacted most of the influential people before the restitution cases will be brought to the courts. I probably will be present during the trials in order to supervise them and to secure a just and fair procedure.

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TAB A

Exhibit B

a. FROM: Mr. Werner Feiser

26 November 1947

TO : Mr. H. Wachtel
US Lend Supply Officer
AFSC, Munich

... as I say it is impossible to put these people on the payroll. However - as human nature is - I cannot expect them to work always only for God's sake and very frequently I give them little packages which I buy with my own means from the Commissary or from the P.M. However, the amount of little gifts is increasing with the growing number of workers and it becomes rather difficult for me to meet all the requests which seem to me justified.

Furthermore in my dealings with certain German authoritaries found it indispensable and most useful for our purpose to back my requests with little friendly gifts. To make an official in the Ministry of Justice cooperative is worth one box of sardines and, giving away some corned-beef may have far reaching effects on the activities of a restitution board. ...

I, therefore, would appreciate it very much if you would grant me three "Ausstellungen" monthly which I would distribute amongst all those individuals who cooperate directly or indirectly with me for the restitution. Just to give you one example: during the next months I will ask many people to work at the public land-registers (Grundbuchamt) to make extracts which will be used by the successor organization by presenting their claims of heirless property. ...

b. FROM: Mr. Werner Feiser

5 January 1948

TO : Miss Hanne Arous
Personnel Officer, AFSC

You may know that on the basis of negotiations, between Mr. Haber and Mr. Cohen I received five cartons of cigarettes each month.

I made a gentlemen agreement with Mrs. Berlin according to which I put Mrs. Feiser who is working for me, on my payroll, paying 14 pfg. monthly for her.

What I do with the rest and with my own supply I am glad to tell you orally. It does not seem appropriate to entrust it to the paper. However, there is some connection between the cigarettes and my authorization to participate in the election of the judges at the Restitution Courts.

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Werner Feiser

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TAB 2 - Exhibit 3 (cont'd)

b. FROM: Mr. Werner Peiser

12 January 1948

TO : Miss Daphne Arcus
Personnel Officer, NSRO

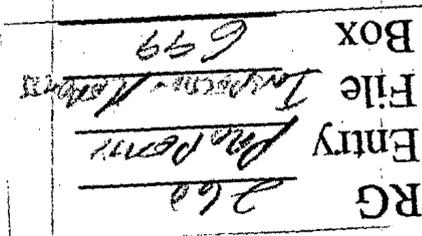
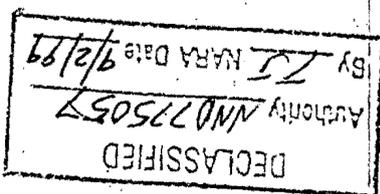
... Generally I pay the bill for Law Magazines a.s.o., both for Paris and for my office, in a very unorthodox way. ...

c. FROM: Mr. Werner Peiser

TO : Dr. Hans Muenszer
Attorney at Law and Notary Public
Berlin-Charlottenburg
Preysenstr. 10 a

... You write that you did not receive the package with coffee and this sentence frightens me. ...

- 2 -



117595

AJOC

781/12

25 April 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, FBI

TO : Property Division, OAM
450 7th St. S. W.
FROM : Mr. Casper

1. Attached hereto are the following reports:

- a. Summary of a report on activities of Dr. Casper, et al. (See also with exhibits 1, 2 and 3);
- b. Report on activities of Dr. Casper, et al. which are in accordance with instructions of this office. (See also with exhibits 1, 2, 3 and 4);
- c. Summary report on the activities of Dr. Casper, et al. (See also with exhibits 1 and 2);
- d. Report on the activities of Dr. Casper, et al. (See also with exhibits 1 and 2).

2. Review of the report on Dr. Casper, et al. shows that this case is of considerable importance and that the information contained therein is of a nature which is of a highly confidential character. It is recommended that the report be classified as confidential and that the information contained therein be disseminated only to those persons who have a need to know thereof.

3. Since the facts in this case are of a highly confidential nature, it is recommended that the report be classified as confidential and that the information contained therein be disseminated only to those persons who have a need to know thereof.

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Analysis of Investigation Reports in connection with
Case No. 57 and International Affairs, (142 25 Apr 1949)

6. The report on Dr. Sebastian Serran was compiled by a former
employee of the Bureau of Investigation and contains information
of a confidential source. In view of the fact that Serran is a
member of the Communist Party, it was agreed that this report
will be turned over to the Civil Administration Division, (142),
for their action and that a decision has been reached by the
Bureau that this report will remain in the Bureau case.

7. If the allegations contained in the report of your past
employee are true, every effort is indicated in order to
obtain further information. It is suggested that you
contact the Bureau of Investigation and request that they
conduct an investigation of the person named in the report.
If you are unable to obtain further information, please
advise the Bureau of Investigation.

8. However, if the charges against Serran are found to be
unfounded, it is suggested that you advise the Bureau of
Investigation of the results of your investigation. It is
suggested that you advise the Bureau of Investigation of the
results of your investigation of the person named in the report.
If you are unable to obtain further information, please
advise the Bureau of Investigation.

9. In conclusion of the above, it appears that Military Government
is the supervisor of the activities of the Bureau of Investigation
and that the Bureau of Investigation is authorized to conduct
investigations of persons or groups of persons who are
suspected of being members of the Communist Party. It is
suggested that you advise the Bureau of Investigation of the
results of your investigation of the person named in the report.
If you are unable to obtain further information, please
advise the Bureau of Investigation.

Very truly yours,
Special Agent in Charge

Very truly yours,
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure
cc

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Authority NND 75057
By T.I. NARA Date 9/2/99

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Entry
Pro. Perry
File
Investigation
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Authority EO 10501
By RP NARA Date 2/7/00
RG 131
Entry RO100AD
File No. R133
Box 88



RB:mmw

RESTRICTED

OFFICE OF

ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

WASHINGTON 25

R-328

MEMORANDUM TO: Lloyd L. Shaulis, Secretary
FROM: John Ernest Roe, General Counsel
SUBJECT: Sale Order No. 328-B
DATE: OCT 25 1944

You have submitted for my comment Sale Order No. 328-B involving the sale of an oil painting which was the subject of a voluntary turn-over to the Custodian. It appears that Numa S. Trivas, deceased, who made the turn-over had obtained the painting from an Amsterdam broker who preferred not to disclose the name of the German owner on whose behalf the Dutch broker was acting. The said painting was the subject of Opinion of the General Counsel, R-152, September 23, 1943, page 3 et seq.

As you know, I have concluded that the Custodian is authorized to accept voluntary turn-overs of enemy property, Opinion of the General Counsel, M-79, July 29, 1943, and that such property is to be administered under the terms of the Trading with the enemy Act. Section 7(d) of the Act, which governs voluntary turn-overs, empowers any person who holds property for the benefit of the enemy to "convey, transfer, assign, or deliver" it to the Custodian. It will be observed that the burden of determining the enemy nature of the property is on the person who makes the turn-over. There is

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no requirement that the Custodian independently determine that the property sought to be turned over is in fact enemy property. Accordingly, I am of the opinion that the Custodian may accept such property in reliance upon the determination of the holder making the turn-over.

Section 12 authorizes the Custodian to sell property which has been "conveyed, transferred, assigned, delivered, or paid over to him in pursuance of the provisions of this Act." Property turned over to the Custodian under section 7(d) comes squarely within the terms of this authorization. I know of no reason to cut down the power of the Custodian to sell property "delivered" to the Custodian in accordance with the provisions of section 7(d). To be sure, there is always the possibility that the property deemed to be that of an enemy was in fact that of an American. In the case of erroneously vested property, it is clear that the Custodian confers good title if sale is made prior to the institution of a proceeding under section 9. Opinion of the General Counsel, M-62, March 20, 1943. The same result would seem to follow in the case of a sale of property voluntarily turned over to the Custodian. The availability of the section 9 remedy may be deduced from the unpublished Opinion of the Attorney General quoted in Opinion, M-79, supra, at page 9. I conclude, therefore, that the Custodian is authorized to sell the subject painting at public sale as was proposed under Sale Order No. 328-B.



John Ernest Roe
General Counsel

KRINNER

I. STOLEN AT CENTRAL COLLECTING POINT AND RECOVERED.

Chain can be traced to Krinner and Zellner.

Carl Spitzweg	:	"Landschaft"	Mu.No. 9395	Hi.No. 2403
Carl Spitzweg	:	"Der Eremit"	" " 9919	" " 601
Carl Spitzweg	:	"Landschaft bei Sonnenuntergang mit Hütte"	" " 10513	" " 2404
Carl Spitzweg	:	"Die Zellschranke"	" " 2192/1	Hoffmann
Carl Spitzweg	:	"Der Brunnengast"	" " 1298/2	Hi.No. 657
Carl Spitzweg	:	"Der Ausrufer"	" " 27831	Hoffmann 68
Carl Spitzweg	:	"Drei Gnomen in der Höhle"	" " 9505	Hi.No. 688
Carl Spitzweg	:	"Der Hagestolz"	" " 9296	" " 563
Carl Spitzweg	:	"Der Tastelwurm"	" " 1388/2	" " 719
Ch. G. Schütz der Ältere	:	"Landschaft"	" " 9490	" " 944
Van Dyck	:	"Maria Medici" belonging to Pinakothek Munich		
Van Dyck	:	"Wallenstein Portrait"	" " " "	" " "
F. Defregger	:	"Mädchen mit der Harke"	Mu.No. 9558	Hi.No. 175
F. Defregger	:	"Mädchenportrait"	" " 9283	" " 521
F. Defregger	:	"Portrait eines alten Mannes"	" " 10557	" " 3118
F. Defregger	:	"Junges Mädchen ein Buch lesend"	" " 9890	" " 2408
E. Grützner	:	"Falstaff"	" " 9519	" " 2381
Wilh. Dietz	:	"Napoleonische Sol- daten am Lagerfeuer"	" " - -	" " - -
Huguet	:	"Marktplatz" Stettiner Museum (A 89)	" " 41886	" " - -
Rougin	:	"Segelschiffe"	" " 19979/3	" " - -
Wilh. Busch	:	"Alter Mann"	" " 4493	" " 2612
Deutscher Mei- ster, 19. Jahrh.:	:	"Dame und Kind an der See"	" " 46620	" " - -

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II. STOLEN AT ORIGINAL COLLECTING POINT, RECOVERED.

Chain incomplete, likely to be stolen by Zrinne/Zellner.

Yaber du Paer	"Pferdejunge mit Pferden"	Mu.No. 2240/1	Mi.No. 337
Van Dyck	"Tilly Portrait" (Zrinne admits the theft) belonging to Pinakothek Munich	-	-
G. Spitzweg	"Serenissimi Auf-fahrt" belonging to Pinakothek Munich	-	-
Spitzweg	"Der Schlangente-schneider"	Mu.No. 2294/1	Mi.No. 51
Spitzweg	"Der Kaktusfreund"	" "	902
Spitzweg	"Der erste Teich"	" "	" "
H. Birkel	"Die ungeworfene Post-kutsche"	" " 9355	" " 142

III. STOLEN AT ORIGINAL COLLECTING POINT NOT RECOVERED,

but chain can be traced to Zeller/Zrinne.

Spitzweg	"Kaiser einh. Drachen beschreibend"	Mu. No. 1542	Mi.No. 660
Spitzweg	"Der Seifenmacher"	" " 1383/1	" " 1384
Spitzweg	"Berglandschaft mit Baum"	" " 11229	" " 2462
Spitzweg	"Soldat auf nächtl. Wache vor Stadttor"	" " 26747	" " -
J. M. Hanfel	"Mutter und Kind über Bachbrücke gehend"	" " 3660	" " 435
L. v. Krenz	"Der Laternenan-gänger"	" " 10547	" " 2493
v. Asulbach Fritz August	"Euse u. Cavalier"	" " 3829	" " 1218
A. Grützner	"Vater mit Stan-genglas"	" " 11940	" " -
Spitzweg	"Die Kutsche an der Zollschranke"	" " 2192/1	" " -

51 items
at
Region of Honor
San Fran CA

The lantern
lighter

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IV. Burnt by Krinner or Zellner according to their own admission.

F. Defregger	:"Mädchenportrait"	Mu.No. 3699	Mi.No. 728
F. Defregger	:"Familienscene vor dem Haus"	" " 9699	" " 1131

V. STOLEN AT CENTRAL COLLECTING POINT, NO TRACE but theft admitted by Krinner/Zellner.

Bürkel Heinrich	:"Bauernhaus in Gairg"	Mu.No. 1694/1	Mi. No. 345
G. Spitzweg	:"Späte Heimkehr"	" " 9544	" " 3045
G. Spitzweg	:"Der Irdehladen"	" " 9404	" " 680

VI. STOLEN AT CENTRAL COLLECTING POINT FROM ROOMS from which Krinner stole other paintings, no trace.

Dirk v. Berghem	:"Tierstück"	Mu.No. 36139	Mi.No. ---
Dirk v. Berghem	:"Idylle mit Hirten und Vieh"	" " 36180	
A. Rodunian	:"Winterlandschaft mit Bauerngefahr"	" " 8391/7	
Braith	:"Jungvieh in Landschaft"	" " 11962/14	
Buchner, 1876	:"Mädchenkopf"	" " 27613	
Carnier	:"Venedig, Canal"	" " 42628	
Defregger Franz	:"Bauernportrait"	" " 27841	
Defregger Franz	:"Bauernbursche"	" " 11962/12	
Defregger Franz	:"Bauernmädchen"	" " 9283	Mi.No. 521
F. Friedländer	:"Bauer u. Mädchen in der Küche"	" " 2247/1	" " 424
Grützner Eduard	:"Folstoff"	" " 9241	" " 583
Grützner Eduard	:"Folstoff"	" " 3822	" " 3040
Grützner Eduard	:"Lesender Mönch"	" " 9492	" " 18493
Grützner Eduard	:"Bruder Kellermeister"	" " 3614	

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Grütner Eduard:	"Mönch bei der Weinprobe"	Ma.No. 9270	Hi.No. 939
Grütner Eduard:	"Laienmönch mit Korb"	" " 38123	" " --
Heyne F.H.	: "Weg am Mühlteich"	" " 23690	Haus d. Kunst Nr. 440/309
Horemans I Jan Josef	: "Karnevalessens"	" " 11962/15	
Isabay Eugène	: "Fischerhütte am Strande"	" " 41888	
Kaulbach	: "Teilensicht eines Gartens"	" " 9571	Hi.No. 2093
Leibl Wilh.	: "Knabenkopf m. Hat"	" " ---	Hi.No. 128
Leibl Wilh.	: "Junglingskopf"	" " 9507	" " 631
Makart Hans	: "Frauenportrait m. Hat und roter Blume"	" " 9506	" " 1438
Mathieu A.	: "Brücke in Prag"	" " 9332	" " 1439
Reinholdschule	: "Kirche u. Gutshof mit Wäscherinnen"	" " 7617	" " 3345
Robert H.	: "Landschaft am Meer mit Figuren"	" " 1286	" " HAB 304
Schleich R.	: "Moorlandschaft bei Dachau"	" " 36192	" " --
Schleich R.	: "Lente mit Kuh vor der Schule"	" " 27851	Hoffmann 52
Spitzweg	: "Binniedler in einem Buch lesend"	" " 8886	Hi.No. 1147
Spitzweg	: "Die Geistererscheinung"	" " - -	- -
Spitzweg	: "Trinkender Binniedler"	" " 10928	Hi.No. 775
Spitzweg	: "Tallandschaft mit Bach und jungem Mädchen"	" " 11217	" " 46
Spitzweg	: "Der Schmetterlingsfänger"	" " 2241/1	" " 187
Spitzweg	: "Mädchen vor einem Bild- stock"	" " 10527	" " 2407
Spitzweg	: "Zwei Mädchen im Walde"	" " 2241/2	" " 603
Grütner	: "Mönch beim Vesperbrot"	" " 9442	" " 2380

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Spitzweg	"Der Angler in einer Schlacht"	Ma.No. 27824	Hi.No. -- Hoffmann 69
Spitzweg	"Kleine Stadt am Fluss"	" " 27862	Hoffmann 63
Spitzweg	"Der Portraitsmaler"	" " 27879	Hoffmann 71
Spitzweg	"Der mächtige Ständchen"	" " 26747/3	--
Spitzweg	"Betender Mönch im Walde"	" " 26747/1	--
Trübner	"Tiroler Mädchen"	" " 9527	Hi.No. 2569
Verboeck-hoeven	"Schafe im Stall"	" " 19971	--
Reber Paul	"Waldlandschaft mit Kuhherde"	" " 11195	" " 785
Windmaler	"Pflügender Bauer"	" " 27853	Hoffmann 257
Winkler	"Winterlandschaft mit Dorf u. Flösschen"	" " 13237	Hi.No. 2 66/10 1
1 Oelgemälde	"Mannertbildner"	" " 316	" " --
1 Oelgemälde	"Bauernlandschaft m. Figuren, Holland. 17. Jh."	" " 13479	" " 2956
1 Bildchen	(verpackt)	" " 1502	" " 112
6 geschnittene	Kerzenhalter	" " 15890	" " 125
5 Apostelplastiken		" " 11963	--
1 Holzarbeit	"Brustbild eines Heiligen"		
1 Buchstaben-Adress			
Canvasgewebe	(Gobelin) um 1800	" " 25823	--
Stich in	Punktiertenmaniere "Bauernportrait"	" " 1492	--

117605

KRINNER

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
ECONOMICS DIVISION

MUNICH GERMANY

APO 407

US ARMY

E/S
DP/r

AG-007/MGBER/B/

7 April 1948

SUBJECT : Thefts committed at the Central Collecting Point, Munich
TO : Kriminalpolizei, Munich
ATTN: Kriminalwachtmeister Waldhör

1. On 5 April 48 Georg ZELLNER, Lachmannstr.24, turned in to CCP at the investigation of Franz HILLMER, Frundsbergstr.9/4 and Otto MAYER, Simrockstr.6, Munich, three paintings, i.e. Spitzweg, Der Brunnengast; Ch. Hoguet, Vegetable Market; "A Lady and Child walking on a path above the Seashore", by a 19 th century German artist whose signature is "B".

2. Of the above listed paintings the Spitzweg is definitely stolen from the Collecting Point after Jan 1948. It carries the Hitler List No 657 and the Collecting Point No 1298/2. For the other two paintings the CCP No has to be established. However, Herr KRINNER, a guard employed at CCP, has already admitted that he stole all three of them.

3. HILLMER and MAYER state that all the paintings they sold were received from ZELLNER. With the exception of one they were all offered to Lawyer von Borck, Mauerkircherstr.22, who seems to have bought about seven while rejecting three.(cf.annex.)

4. HILLMER states that he received the first paintings from ZELLNER around August 1947. This point is of great importance, since KRINNER declares that he committed his first thefts around Christmas 1947. This fact seems to prove that ZELLNER received paintings stolen from CCP from sources other than KRINNER. ZELLNER was employed at CCP until July 1947 as a packer of the Firm of Wetsch.

5. At the present stage of investigation it appears that ZELLNER and Wetsch packer JORDAN who was the second receiver of KRINNER's thefts according to KRINNER, are the chief criminals in this case. Both of them knew that the paintings which they received from KRINNER were stolen from CCP. It should be investigated with special care which of the stolen objects KRINNER recognizes as having been stolen by him. He does not admit, for instance, the theft of the two Rothschild jewels. Furthermore it should be

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established whether he was stationed at any time in the basement in front of room U 11 from where the Spitzweg, Brunnengast was stolen after January 48. If not, the theft must have been committed by an accomplice. It should be noted that the painting was in U 11 in January 48 when the check list was made, but the number (657) was crossed out later without any reference on a transfer slip which is customarily made out by the guards whenever a painting is moved from one room to another.

6. It is requested that the arrested men be asked by what means the paintings were smuggled out of CCP.

For the Chief, Restitution Branch:

HERBERT S LEONARD
Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts
and Archives Section
Restitution Branch

Telephone: Munich Military 4-389
Munich Civil 32404

Übersetzung:

1. Am 5. April 48 brachte Georg ZELLNER, Lachmannstr.24, auf Veranlassung von Franz HILLMER, Frundsbergstr.9/4 und Otto MAYER, Simrockstr.6, München, drei Bilder zum CCP und zwar: Spitzweg; Der Brunnengast; Ch. Hoguet: Vegetable Market; Gemüsemarkt "A Lady and Child walking on a path above the Seashore" "Frau mit Kind auf einem Pfad an der Küste" von einem Deutschen Künstler signiert "B" aus dem 19. Jahrhundert.

2. Von den oben aufgeführten Bildern ist der Spitzweg sicher nach dem Januar 48 aus dem CCP gestohlen worden. Er trägt die Hitler Linz Nr. 657 und CCP Nr. 1298/2. Bei den zwei anderen Bildern muss die CCP Nr. noch festgestellt werden. Jedoch hat der beim CCP. angestellte Wächter KRINNER bereits zugegeben, alle drei Bilder gestohlen zu haben.

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3. HILLMER und MAYER geben an, dass alle Bilder, die sie kauften, von ZELLNER stammten. Mit Ausnahme eines einzigen wurden sie alle Rechtsanwalt von Borck, Mauerkircherstr.22 zum Kauf angeboten, der, wie es scheint, ungefähr 5 davon gekauft hat, während er 3 ablehnte. (vgl. Anlage)

4. HILLMER gibt an, dass er die ersten Bilder ungefähr im August 47 von ZELLNER erhalten hat. Dieser Punkt ist von grosser Bedeutung, da KRINNER erklärt, dass er seine ersten Diebstähle ungefähr an Weihnachten 47 begann. Dieser Umstand scheint zu beweisen, dass ZELLNER nicht nur von KRINNER aus dem CCP. gestohlene Bilder erhielt. ZELLNER war im CCP. bis Juli 1947 als Packer der Firma Wetsch angestellt.

5. Die Hauptschuldigen scheinen nach der augenblicklichen Sachlage ZELLNER und der Wetsch-Packer JORDAN zu sein, der nach KRINNER's Aussage der zweite Empfänger der gestohlenen Sachen war. Beide wussten, dass die Bilder, die sie von KRINNER erhielten, aus dem CCP. gestohlen waren. Es wäre besonders wichtig, festzustellen, welche der gestohlenen Objekte KRINNER als von ihm selbst gestohlen bezeichnet. Er gibt zum Beispiel nicht zu, die zwei Rothschild Juwelen gestohlen zu haben. Ausserdem sollte festgestellt werden, ob er zu irgendeinem Zeitpunkt im Parterre vor Raum U 11 Dienst tat, aus dem der Spitzweg Brunnengast nach Januar 1948 gestohlen wurde. Wenn nicht, muss der Diebstahl von einem Helfershelfer ausgeführt worden sein. Es wäre zu bemerken, dass das Bild im Januar 48, als die Kontroll-Liste gemacht wurde, in Raum U 11 war, aber dass die Nummer (657) später durchgestrichen wurde ohne irgendeinen Hinweis auf einen Überweisungsschein wie er gewöhnlich von den Wächtern ausgestellt wird bei Verlegung eines Bildes von einem Raum in einen anderen.

6. Es wird gebeten, die in Haft befindlichen Männer zu fragen, auf welche Weise die Bilder aus dem CCP. geschmuggelt wurden.

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~~SPITZWEG~~
Kinner

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
ECONOMICS DIVISION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407

US ARMY HSL/mw

AG-007-MGBER/B

9 April 1948

SUBJECT: Sale of Stolen Spitzweg in Switzerland

TO : Office of Military Government for Germany (US),
APO 742, U.S. Army (ATTN: Monuments, Fine Arts
and Archives Section, Restitution Branch,
Property Division)

Herewith is a photograph of a Spitzweg "Das
Lieblingsplätzchen" which was stolen from the Central
Collecting Point. It has been found that this was recent-
ly sold by Dr. Robert Nathan of St. Gallen, Switzerland,
from his shop there.

For the Chief, Restitution Branch:

HERBERT S. LEONARD
Chief, Monuments, Fine
Arts and Archives Section
Restitution Branch

1 Incl:
Photo of a Spitzweg
painting

Telephone: Munich Military 28389
Munich Civil 30054

- 1 -

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BY TS MARA. Date 9/17/89

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OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
ECONOMICS DIVISION
MUNICH GERMANY APC 407

US ARMY

EB/ea

Krinner

4-007-MGBAR/S

29 April 1948

SUBJECT: Thefts committed at the Central Collecting Point, Munich
TO : Kriminalpolizei, Munich, Stadtstr.
att. Erim. Wachtmeister Waldhör

1. Reference is made to previous reports same subjects, dated 7 April 1948 and 14 Apr. 48.

2. In addition to the stolen paintings mentioned in the above reports the following missing items can be traced back to Krinner and Zellner.

- a. Boudin, Marine, Munich no. 19979/9. Recovered from von Borck who bought it via the Mayer-Hillmer-Zellner-Krinner chain.
- b. Gritzner, Monk Drinking. Can be traced from Krinner along the usual chain to von Borck, thence to P. GILLMANN; art dealer ALBERTSTÄBLER, 146 Hohenzollernst., art dealer GEDON, Franz Josefstr.; to a Rhineland collector. Gedon promised to recall the picture. Last price ca. RM 30 000.
- c. Spitzweg, Hermit reading, Hitler no 601; Munich no. 3919. Chain KRIINNER to GILLMANN as above. Gillmann sold it for RM 100.000. Steps for the recovery have been taken.
- d. Spitzweg, The Favorite spot. Hitler no 1384; Mun. no 1388/1. Chain and price the same as item c) will presumably be recovered.
- e. Spitzweg, Landscape. Chain as c) and d). Sale's price RM 20.000. Likely to be recovered.
- f. Spitzweg, Landscape at Sunset (Hitler 240; Mun. no 10513). Recovered from Gillmann via Krinner-v. Borck chain.

For the Chief, Restitution Branch:

HERBERT S. LEONARD
Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts
and Archives Section
Restitution Branch

Telephone: Munich Military 4-389
Munich Civil 30 054

MFA m.A. files

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KRINNER

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
ECONOMICS DIVISION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407 US ARMY EB/ei

4 May 1948

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT : Recovery of Carl Spitzweg, Three Gnomes in a Cave
(Hitler 688; Mun.no 9505)
TO : Mr.R.S. Leonard, Chief, MPA & A Section

1. The picture belonged to Dr.med.Picard, Munich who committed suicide when he was about to be deported. It is claimed by his son.
2. Evidently stolen by guard Krinner in 1947.
3. Sold by Georg Zellner, 24, Lachmanst., via Franz Hilmer, 9 Brundsborgst; Frau Annemarie Schmidt, 7 Pappenheimst. Herr Lang, Bayer.Gemeindebank, Briennert.; to Georg Hoffmann, 12 Mauerkircherst.
4. Resold by Hoffmann to Dr.Sieger, 98 Olgast, Stuttgart, for ca RM 55 000 from whom it was recovered by the undersigned on 28 Apr.48.

EDGAR BREITENBACH
US Civilian
MPA & A Officer

MFA n. A. Files

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KRINNER

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY
ECONOMICS DIVISION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407

US ARMY ^{bs} LP/et

AG-307-FOGHR/B

13 May 1948

Herrn Franz Baumgartner
Grafing No. 23
bei Tegendorf

Dear Mr. Baumgartner,

This office was informed by Mr. Franz, Munich, Gabelsbergerstr. 81/3 that with your help two paintings by Spitzweg were sold to an American officer.

It is requested that you report in writing to this office at the earliest convenience:

- a) subject of the two pictures
- b) the name of the American officer, to whom the paintings were sold.
- c) name and address of the person, from whom you got these pictures
- d) whether any other paintings were sold by or through you.

Sincerely yours

HERBERT S. LEONARD
Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts
and Archives Section
Restitution Branch.

Telephone: Munich Civil 30054

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OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)
Property Division
Restitution Branch

APO 403

18 May 1948

SUBJECT: Theft and Reappearance of W. Leibl's
"Head of a Boy"

TO : Mr. E. S. Leonard
OMG/B

FROM : R.F. HOWARD

With respect to your letter of 20th of April, we
have requested a legal opinion as to the Swiss law and the
desirability of getting this information.

R. F. Howard

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By TS BARR. Date 9/17/99

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KRINNER

14 May 1948

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT : Recovery of Carl Spitzweg "Serenissimi Auffahrt",
belonging to Pinakothek

TO : Mr. R.S. Leonard, Chief, WPA & Section

1. The undersigned recently traced two Spitzwegs, "Der Altenburg" (also known as "Der Kaktusfreund") and "Der Drachenbeschaerer". Both paintings are being recovered at present and a report will be made when the case is solved.
2. The chain happened to be identical with the one which led last year to the recovery of Spitzweg "Der Arme Poet" (Pinakothek) a case which was handled by Kripo Munich on the basis of leads supplied by this office and Dr. Hanfstangl.
3. Because of the new leads the case was reopened. Herr Himsel, Westendriederstr., and Frau Munkel, Luere Prinzregentenstr., were jointly questioned by the undersigned. Himsel, president of the knitters guild of Bavaria, is the last available person through whose hands the pictures passed. He confirmed this statement made last year before the police that he received them from Herr Munkel who died shortly before the "Arme Poet" was seized.
4. Frau Munkel was rather heart-broken when she learned that her late husband had made some deals of which she had no knowledge, but that seems to be the case.
5. The interrogation took a startling turn when Herr Himsel made a confession which he had stubbornly refused to make last year. He revealed that he had anonymously returned "Serenissimi Auffahrt" to the Police. Soon after the "Arme Poet" affair, he found himself again the hapless owner of the Serenissimus which he had sold for RM 40,000 to art-dealer NUSSE in Biberach. Nusser returned the picture to him because of the wide publicity given to the case and reclaimed his money.
6. Because of the rough treatment which Kripo Bechtmeister WALINER had given him, Himsel decided to get rid of the painting a painless though risky way. He wrapped it up in paper, addressed it to the Police Presidium and sent it through the mail.

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7. Since there was no sender's name given the painting was delivered to the lost and found office. The chief of this office, August MAYER, considered it as trash (Clump) and did not even bother to enter it into his book. Instead he used it for decoration of his gloomy office by the simple method of driving a nail through the cardboard. When the room was recently whitewashed there was a discussion among the employees whether or not to throw the painting in the waste-basket. But since August Mayer's hobby is carpentry, and since there happened to be an old mirror frame at hand he took the painting home for fitting. There it was still when the undersigned found it.

8. The painting was returned to GCP.

RIGAR BREITENBACH
US Citizen
MFA A Officer

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KRINNER

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
ECONOMICS DIVISION
MUNICH GERMANY APC 407

US ARMY EB/ei

25 May 1948

SUBJECT : Recovery of H.Bürkel, The overturned Mail-Coach
(Hitler coll.142; Mun.no.9335)

TO : Mr.H.S. Leonard, Chief MPA & A Section

1. Subject painting was confiscated at the home of Karl BILLAND, Gut Schwaighof bei Nordendorf, LK.Donauwörth.

2. Billand, an industrialist and owner of a large estate, has been an art-collector for many years. During the war he bought extensively at the auctions of Eitle, Frankfurt a/M. He also bought a great deal from Martin Schneider, 6 Sendlinger-torplatz, Munich, who happened to be in Nordendorf when the undersigned called. Lately Georg Hoffmann, 13 Mauerkircherst., Munich, has been trying to push himself into Schneiders' position. Unluckily for him the three paintings which he sold to Billand, i.e. two Spitzwegs and the above mentioned Bürkel, were all stolen from CCP.

3. Hoffmann states that he bought the painting at an antique shop on the south side of Kaiserst., Frankfurt am Main.

4. Investigations in Frankfurt will be made by Mr.Weber, Frankfurt. It is very likely that the picture was stolen by Krinner.

Edgar Breitenbach

EDGAR BREITENBACH
US Civilian
MPA A Officer

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KRINNER

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
PROPERTY DIVISION
RESTITUTION BRANCH MFA&A SECTION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407-A US ARMY EB/p8

AG-007-MGBPR/B

1 September 1948

SUBJECT: Recovery of two Rothschild jewels and a painting
from the Hitler collection.

TO : Mr. H.S. Leonard, Chief, MFA&A Section.

1. One day last week an old woman limped into the office of Kripo. Wachtmeister Waldhör and declared that she was a distant relative of Frau Krinner. She had ~~learned from~~ Frau Krinner's sister that the Krinner family was hiding what was described as "a diamond necklace". She had also heard that one of the Krinner boys had sold a silver platter and that the family had received Care packages from an American allegedly for goods received.

2. On 23 August the undersigned together with Herr Waldhör questioned Frau Krinner's sister, who is at odds with Frau Krinner. The woman succeeded admirably well in confirming the story while at the same time refusing to testify against her sister. It was revealed that the above facts became known to her through indiscreet remarks on the part of Gerta Krinner, one of the older daughters.

3. The undersigned together with Herr Waldhör interrogated the Krinner couple on 25 August. It was found, that Frau Krinner, who is by far the more intelligent of the two and who has an excellent memory for pictures, had known all along about her husband's thefts. After confrontation with the new facts described above Krinner admitted the theft of the two 16th century jewels belonging to the Austrian Rothschilds. He further admitted to have stolen from the box containing Christian Weber property one silver platter (sold to a Hungarian cook, named Lola or Luka, employed at the Siemern School), China-ware (6 soup plates, 6 dinner plates, 6 bread plates, 4 cups and saucers and a sugar-bowl, all sold to an American captain at the 98th General Hospital) and 4 figurines (a rider, a fencer, two doves, sold to the same captain).

4. The interrogation produced some interesting side lights. Frau Krinner stated, that her husband while stealing the jewels had picked six, but discarded four because he did not like

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them and did not consider them to be valuable. Even after he had brought the two recovered pieces home he doubted that he could dispose of them and suggested that his smaller children might like to play with them. He never recognized the pieces as pendants but thought they were some lamp attachment. With regard to the china a remarkable explanation was given for fact that only four instead of six cups were sold. Krinner had put six cups aside, but when he wanted to take them out there were only four left.

5. On 28 August Frau Krinner returned the two Rothschild jewels together with a stolen painting: Joh. Math. Ranftl, Woman and Child Crossing a Creek (Hitler Coll. 435). A renewed investigation disclosed some important facts:

- a) Zellner while briefing Krinner about what to reveal and what not, allegedly showed a list to Krinner enumerating about twelve paintings, which Zellner had put aside.
- b) Krinner got together his ^{total of} RM 5.000.- (which was seemingly borrowed from a friend of the family, Frau Doering, Zinnienstr. Klein-Harden) by the simple device of stealing between 2 and 3 kg silver from the White Russian treasure chest. He was assisted by Wetsch packer Mitterer, who helped himself to several kilograms of silver (mostly spoons). The silver was sold by Mitterer to DP's on Zweibrückenstrasse.
- c) The packers had allegedly a secret hiding place in the room U 10 between two columns. This seems to be the two wall closets in the center of the room.
- d) Former Wetsch packer Jos. Elsenbeer, 1/0 Bolivarstr. is said to have stolen a small gobelin representing a Girl and a Boy; the frame is said to be covered with brown velvet.
- e) The jewelry was up for sale with one Takasch, a Rumanian, who lives in Belgradstr. near Kölnerplatz. His landlady's name is Frau Dietl.
- f) Krinner gave at least six paintings to Wetsch packer Jordan (thus far only two had been admitted. It seems that even more than six went that way). Jordan is said to have boasted that he once stole a piece of jewelry (or gold) right under the nose of Dr. Hanfstaengl. Jordan mentioned to Krinner, that he might get him Swiss francs. He is said to have received Defregger, sleeping Boy, which Krinner took from the racks.
- g) Zellner allegedly pointed out to Krinner the small French Barock figures belonging to Almas Dietrich.

EDGAR BREITENBACH
US CIVILIAN
MFA&A OFFICER

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KRINNER

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
APO 407
Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section
Central Collecting Point

Date 10 September 1948

SUBJECT: Works of art stolen from CCP recovered

TO : Mr. Herbert S Leonard, Chief, MFA&A Section

1. On 9 Sept. Frau Krinner asked the undersigned that he visit her at her house. There he was given two packages with silver and two paintings.

2. It was soon noticed that Frau Krinner had more on her mind than these items. After persistent prodding for more than an hour she finally presented the undersigned with seven more paintings. She further admitted a hiding place of at least three more paintings which she promised to hand over the following day. She further gave name and address of a man through whom she sold silver, i.e. Max Kellermann, 7 Geigerst. München-Laim. This man who according to Frau Krinner knew that he was dealing with stolen goods, received 6 large and 6 small spoons, forks and knives, a soup scoop, a large vegetable spoon, a fish slice, a teapot and a few other items, altogether around 48 pieces.

3. List of recovered items.

A. Paintings

- a) C. Spitzweg "Münchner Tandemarkt" Hitler Coll. 680,
Munich No 9404
- b) W. Trübner "Peasant Girl" Hitler Coll. 2569
Munich No 9527
- c) H. v. Makart "Portrait of a Lady" Hitler Coll. 1438
Munich No 9506
- d) E. v. Nieszky "In Expectation" Städt. Gal. Mch No 6607
- e) Diaz "Flower piece" Jewish property Goldschmitt,
Maximilianst. evac. by Pinakothek to
Raitenhaslach
- f) Aert van der Neer "Landscape in Moonshine"
(Alte Pinakothek No 6445 (3179))
- g) Verbackhoeven "Sheep in a Stable" Munich No 19971
(belonging to Almas-Dietrich)
- h) Karl Rottmann "The Hohe Göll" Mountain
at Sunset (ownership unknown)
(Alte Pinakothek No 10 816)
- i) G.C. Urlaub "Cavalry Attack" (Beuerberg,
Jewish prop. G. Rosenthal Munich No 36 169
Inv. No 49/22

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B. Silver

- a) three large spoons
- b) two fish slices
- c) two cake slices
- d) two tea sieves
- e) six salt cellars

All silver pieces belong to the White Russian Silver Treasure.

C. Fans

- a) two large ostrich fans
 - b) one small lace fan of Venetian make
- both items said to have been taken from a Belgian trunk.

Edgar Breitenbach

EDGAR BREITENBACH
MFA&A Officer

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Krinner

15 Sept. 1938 EB/p8

More recovered works of art stolen from CCP.
Mr. H.S. Leonard, MFASA Section

1. On 10 Sept. in the late evening the undersigned called on the Krinner in order to fetch three paintings which Frau Krinner had promised to deliver. As it is customary by now after an hour's talk he was given four instead of three paintings with two fans thrown in for good measure.

sm

2. On 12 Sept. Frau Krinner appeared in the office of the undersigned and delivered one Pinakothek painting (D.Gysels) and one fan both of which she had forgotten to deliver. This seems understandable in view of the great number of objects which had passed through her hands. In the course of the conversation which followed it became evident that Frau Krinner had more in her mind than the two objects. This something turned out to be a miniature which after much prodding she pulled out of her handbag. Her husband stole it, when it was about to be photographed or else took it from a safe in room U 10.

3. Frau Krinner further returned two small oval shaped green semi-precious stones which she says her husband received from Zellner as a pay off for letting Zellner enter room U 10 at the time when one of the safes happened to be open. The two stones were set into a piece of jewelry representing a branch. Frau Krinner declared that she misplaced the metal part which is said to have been gold plated silver.

4. List of recovered items:

A. Paintings.

1. Guardi (?) Rialto Bridge, (Mun.Nr. 42 628)
2. Willroider, Landscape with Peasant plowing; owner: Stadt. gallerie München, inv.No. 4992
3. E.H. v.d. Neer, Landscape with Tobias and the Angel; owner: Bayr. Staatsgemälde Sammlungen, Schleissheim Gallerie, inv.No. 2862
street 3192
4. D.Gysels, Dutch Village/ on a River bank; owner: Bayr. Staatsgemälde Sammlungen, Schleissheim Gallerie, inv.No 2761
5. Otto Fedder, Bavarian Mailcoach in a mountain landscape; Jewish property: Davidsohn, Mun.No 36171

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KRINNER

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
APO 407
Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section
Central Collecting Point

Date 22 Sept. 48 EB/p8

SUBJECT: Carl Spitzerg, The Favorite Spot (Hitler coll. No. 1384)
(mun. no. 1383/1)
TO : Intelligence Department Files.

1. Stolen by Krinner, sold through the chain Zellner, Hilmer, Mayer, von Borck, Gillmann.
2. Sold by Gillman to Dr. E. Decani, 28 Widenmayerstr. for RM 80.000.-, with Frau Mösbauer, 31 Hohenstaufenstr. , a black-market peddler, acting as an intermediary.
3. Sold by Decani to Dr. Renold, Swiss lawyer in Singen and Schaffhausen, who resold it for sfrcs 60 000.- to Dr. F. Nathan, St. Gallen in Febr. 48. Nathan sold it again for sfrcs 8 000.-
4. The painting was slightly restored by Eugen Zöllner, 31 Hohenzollernstr. around Christmas 1947 at the expense of Gillmann. At this time it was offered for sale by Ernst Friedrich B. Heuberg, 14 Karlstr. Gauting.
5. It has accidentally shown by Nathan to Dr. Eberhard Hanfstaengl in St. Gallen in Febr. 48.
6. Returned to Central Collecting Point by Dr. Decani in Sept. 1948.

Edgar Breitenbach

EDGAR BREITENBACH
US Civilian
MPA&A Officer

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KRINNER

22 Sept. 48 SE/p8

Recovery of silver ware stolen from CCP.

Mr. H. S. Leonard, Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section.

1. During one of the recent interrogations Frau Krinner revealed that she had sold silver ware which her husband had stolen from the white Russian silver treasure in order to get the amount needed to bail her husband out.

2. The silver was sold through one of her neighbors, one Max Killermann, trucker, 7 Geigerstr., who was well aware of the origin of the silver.

3. Killermann pretended at first that he had sold everything to unknown Jews on Köhlstr. Then he was told however, that his failure to recover the stolen property would include him in the coming trial while in case of recovery, he would be lenient, he chose the cheaper way but by buying back the whole set which was actually still in the hands of an acquaintance of his.

4. The retrieved 33 items are:

- 6 large spoons
- 6 small spoons
- 6 small forks
- 6 large knives
- 6 small knives
- 1 large service spoon
- 1 silver basket
- 1 silver tea pot.

Initials and crowns have been carefully polished off on all pieces but one. Krinner declares, however, that every object on above list has been taken from the white Russian silver treasure.

EDGAR BREITENBACH
US Civilian
MPAA Officer

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KRINNER

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
PROPERTY DIVISION
RESTITUTION BRANCH MFA&A SECTION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407-A US ARMY

EB/ap

AG-007-MGBPR/B

4 November 1948

Dr. I.F. Benwett
Harrisburg State Hospital
Harrisburg, Pa

Dear Dr. Benwett,

Last spring we discovered that a great number of paintings, porcellain, silverware and other valuables had been stolen from the Central Collecting Point Munich by one of our guards who recently received a jail sentence of several years. His name is Albert Krinner.

In the course of many interrogations it was revealed that Krinner sold to you a considerable amount of the stolen items.

Krinner states that he made you believe that he was selling the objects on behalf of a family in distress. At the same time he insists that you knew where he was employed, a fact which might have aroused your suspicion. It is our earnest desire to settle the affair privately. We must insist, however, that you return to us immediately all the objects you acquired from Krinner. They should be well packed and adequately insured.

SINCERELY YOURS

EDGAR BREITENBACH
US CIVILIAN
MFA&A OFFICER

Telephone: Munich Military 4-388
Munich Civil 32404

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Harrisburg State Hospital
Harrisburg, Penna.
November 22, 1948

Edgar Breitenbach, MFA&A Officer
Office of MG for Bavaria
Property Division, Restitution Branch, MFA&A Section
Munich, Germany; NY APO 407-A

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

My wife and I were distressed to receive your communication of November 4, 1948 stating that an Albert Krinner had been found guilty of stealing property entrusted to his care and that we, unknowingly and on good faith, might have received such stolen property.

Mr. Krinner could speak no English but from my scant German I gathered this information: He represented himself to us as a clerk in an office in Munich's City Hall. He never mentioned having been employed as a guard at Munich's Central Collecting Point; and we never considered the possibility of his having daily contact with Americans because this was not mentioned by him and because he appeared to neither understand nor speak English. He explained to us that the items were mostly from the members of his own family and were family heir-looms, inasmuch as many had a story attached to them, this seemed reasonable to us. He stated he had two brothers who at one time had been fairly well off: one a professor in Nurnberg and the other a former SS Colonel in the German Air Force. His second wife's family also was well-to do and had lived in France. This fitted in, too, as most of the items were French and not German. Mr Krinner's general appearance was that of a well-mannered German who spoke French and who had had evident good breeding and education. A few of the items he stated had been given to him by friends to be sold for them.

Because of his apparent inability to support his large family of 10-13 children adequately due to his poor financial circumstances and poor physical health, my wife and I on our return to the States, have "adopted" his family, with others, by sending them packages of old clothes and food.

We naturally are interested in returning to you all objects Krinner did not receive honestly. As you can appreciate, however, it is difficult differentiating these from property belonging to his own family or loaned him by friends for sale. As an example: we first met him December, 1946; it hardly seems reasonable to assume that he could have begun stealing at that time and not discovered before the Spring of '48 and so the items bought from him then were probably his own. Other items are of no value, such as postals of Italy and travel-books, which are no doubt also his. If you could send a list of items stolen by him, it would be a simple matter for us to identify them and thus speed their return to your office.

Will these items be sent to you collect or how? In the case of items, as figurines, moderately or markedly destroyed

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(2)

en route so as to have no monetary value--do you wish these to be returned regardless of their condition? How am I to determine the "adequate insurance" unless you send a list of objects with their assessed values? Who is to pay for such insurance? It would appear that a representative in the States to inventory and remove these items might be preferable, Is this possible?

Sincerely yours,

Ivan F. Bennett, V. D.
Ivan F Bennett, MD

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<i>AND</i>
Authority 775057
BY 73 NARA, Dec 9/17/99

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117626

Erklärung

Die von meinem Mann Albert KRINNER an Dr. Ivan F. BENNETT
verkauften Gegenstände sind ohne Ausnahme aus dem Central
Collecting Point von meinem Manne entwendet worden.

14. Dezember 1948

Statement

The objects which my husband Albert KRINNER sold to
Dr. Ivan F. BENNETT were stolen without exception by my husband
from the Central Collecting Point.

14 December 48

RG 260
Entry *OMGUS - Ardella Hall
Collection*
File *Records of the
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BY TS WRA Date 9/17/99

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117627

E r k l ä r u n g

Die von meinem Mann Albert KRINNER an Dr. Ivan F. BENNETT
verkauften Gegenstände sind ohne Ausnahme aus dem Central
Collecting Point von meinem Manne entwendet worden.

Josefa Krinner.

14. Dezember 1948

S t a t e m e n t

The objects which my husband Albert KRINNER sold to
Dr. Ivan F. BENNETT were stolen without exception by my husband
from the Central Collecting Point.

14 December 48

RG	260
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TS	9/17/77

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117628

KRINNER

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
PROPERTY DIVISION
RESTITUTION BRANCH MFA&A SECTION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407-A US ARMY EB/bk

AG-007-MGERP/B

18 December 1948

Dr. Ivan F. Bennett,
Harrisburg State Hospital,
Harrisburg, Penna.

Dear Dr. Bennett,

We appreciate your speedy response in the matter of Albert Krinner.

A statement by Frau Krinner is on file in this office according to which all objects sold to you by her husband were stolen at the Central Collecting Point. The china figurines and stoneware were all pilfered by Krinner from boxes containing the confiscated property of a big Nazi who in turn looted in France.

We have no representative in the United States and would therefore have to appeal to the Department of Justice for assistance. In as much as the objects were acquired by you in a quite unauthorized manner, such steps would hardly be in your interest. Thus in order to save your embarrassment we request that you return at once to us all objects, including the broken ones. The cost for packing and shipping has obviously to be borne by you. The insurance value should be set at \$ 1.000 (one thousand).

Sincerely yours,

STEFAN P MUNSING
Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts
and Archives Section
Restitution Branch

Telephone: Munich Military 4-398
Munich Civil 32404

MFA&A

RG 260
Entry omgus- Ardelia Hall
File Records of the
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AND 775057
73 MAR 9/1/99

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KRI... 124-118M Paid... 3rd Sheet

THIS MEMORANDUM

is an acknowledgment that a Bill of Lading has been issued and is not the Original Bill of Lading nor a copy or duplicate covering the property named herein, and is intended solely for filing or record.

Shipper's No. _____

Agent's No. _____



READING COMPANY

RECEIVED, subject to the classifications and tariffs in effect on the date of the receipt by the carrier of the property described in the Original Bill of Lading,

At COLLEGEVILLE PA JAN 3 1949 From VAN F BENNETT

the property described below, in apparent good order, except as noted (contents and condition of contents of packages unknown), marked, consigned, and destined as indicated below, which said company (the word company being understood throughout this contract as meaning any person or corporation in possession of the property under the contract) agrees to carry to its usual place of delivery at said destination, if on its own road or its own water line, otherwise to deliver to another carrier on the route to said destination. It is mutually agreed, as to each carrier of all or any of said property over all or any portion of said route to destination, and as to each party at any time interested in all or any of said property, that every service to be performed hereunder shall be subject to all the conditions not prohibited by law, whether printed or written, herein contained, including the conditions on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to by the shipper and accepted for himself and his assigns.

(Mail or street address of consignee—For purposes of notification only.)

Consigned to THE MILITARY GOVT OF BAVARIA REST. XXXX DR: PROP. DIV: MFA&A SECT

Destination NY APO 407-A US ARMY PORT OF EMERSON KATON BROOKLYN NY

Route

Delivering Carrier Car Initial Car No.

Table with columns: Wt., DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES, SPECIAL MARKS, AND EXCEPTIONS, Weight (Subject to Correction), Class or Rate, Check Col., and a large text area for conditions and charges. Includes entries for '2 BOXES PERSONAL EFFECTS' and 'VALUE DECLARED BY SHIPPER TO BE \$5.00 PER POUND'.

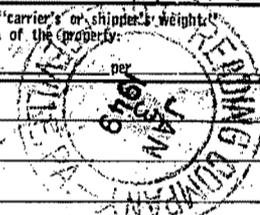
*If the shipment moves between two ports by a carrier by water, the law requires that the bill of lading shall state whether it is "carrier's or shipper's weight." NOTE—Where the rate is dependent on value, shippers are required to state specifically in writing the agreed or declared value of the property.

The agreed or declared value of the property is hereby specifically stated by the shipper to be not exceeding

Shipper: _____ Agent

Per _____ Per

Post-Office Address of Shipper _____



RG 260 Entry omgus- Argelia Hall Collection File Records of the Property Division Box 485

DECLASSIFIED AND 775057 TS MAR 9/1/79

Dr. Breitenbach

Harrisburg State Hospital
Harrisburg, Penna
January 4, 1949

Office of Military Govt Bavaria
Property Div., Restitution Br.,
MFA&A Section, NY APO 407-A, US Army

Attn: Stefan P Munsing

Dear Mr. Munsing:

The material obtained from Mr. Albert Krinner has been forwarded to your office via freight from Collegeville, Penna on the Reading Railroad. This will go to the Brooklyn, NY POE to be shipped overseas by the Army Transportation Division, I assume. The objects are well-packed in two regulation government crates (3X3X3 feet) and have been insured by me for \$500. I am enclosing the memorandum for my bill of lading relative to this transaction.

Sincerely yours,
Ivan F. Bennett, M.D.
Ivan F. Bennett, MD

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Activity
ET 73 *NSA. Date 9/17/99*

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117631

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
PROPERTY DIVISION
RESTITUTION BRANCH MFA&A SECTION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407-A US ARMY

BENNET
copy

DP/bk

AG-007-MGBPR/B

28 April 1949

SUBJECT : Property of Ivan F. Bennet, MD

TO : Reading Railroad Company, Collegeville, PA. USA.

1. Reference is made to the shipment of 2 boxes, belonging to Ivan F. Bennet, which were sent from Collegeville on 3 January 1949 to the following address: Military Government of Bavaria Restitution Branch Property Division MFA&A Section, APO 407-A US Army. Port of embarkation: Brooklyn, N.Y.

2. Inasmuch as the two boxes did not yet arrive, it is requested that an investigation be made.

FOR THE LAND DIRECTOR:

STEFAN P MUNSING
Chief, Monuments, Fine
Arts and Archives Section

Telephone: Munich Military 4-389
Munich Civil 30 058

MFB & A files

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BY TS *9/11/99*

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117632

Just Krinner

File

List of photos of original paintings used as evidence in case
MG vs KRINNER, ZELLNER, JORDAN. Said photos have been returned
to the Collecting Point.

P2	German Master	Lady and child walking along a path above seashore.
P3	Boudin	Sailing vessels in a harbor
P4	Busch	Old man sketch
P5	Defregger	Peasant girl with rake reading letter
P6	Defregger	Tyrolean girl
P7	Defregger	Tyrolean girl, head of a girl
P8	Defregger	Family scene before a farm house
P9	Defregger	Portrait of an old peasant
P10	Defregger	Young girl reading a book
P11	Dietz	Napoleonic soldier at a Camp fire
P12	Friedlaender	Peasant and young woman
P13	Gruetzner	Monk testing wine
P14	Grutzner	Falstaff
P15	Hoguet	Market
P16	Maulbach	Young boy and a girl
P17	Schuetz	Landscape
P18	Spitzweg	The town crier
P19	Spitzweg	Der Hagestolz
P20	Spitzweg	The Hermit
P21	Spitzweg	Der Brunnegast
P22	Spitzweg	Three gnomes in a cave
P23	Spitzweg	Der Tatzelwurm
P24	Spitzweg	Mountain landscape with crucifix and 2 figures
P25	Spitzweg	Landscape
P26	Spitzweg	Landscape at sunset with hut

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P27	Spitzweg	The butterfly catcher
P28	Spitzweg	Girl playing before a wayside chapel
P29	Spitzweg	Landscape with a town on a river
P30	Spitzweg	The angler
P31	Spitzweg	The portrait painter
P32	Van Dyck	Marie de Medici
P33	Van Dyck	Portrait of Wallenstein
P34	Van Dyck	Portrait of Tilly

RG 260
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 AND AUTHORITY *775057*
 BY *TJ* DATE *9/17/99*

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117634

Orell Füssli-Annoncen

Zeitungs-Beleg **OF** 26337

Zürich: Tages-Anzeiger

No. *3* vom *11/12* 1947

Wiederholung
4. - 20. Dez.

Kongresshaus Glasfeyer
vom 4. bis 11. Dezember
sind wertvolle holländische u. andere
Meistergemälde
wie Brunn, van Goyen, D. Teniers,
van der Meulen, Pieter Boeck,
van Sijck, Altarflügel usw. zum
Verkauf ausgestellt. Gleichzeitig
in den Gartensaal Blumen
Manna Maritsch
Landschaften, Blumen u. Bildnisse
Geöffnet von 9 bis 23 Uhr
Eingang: Claridenstrasse 3, Theater
OF 12523



Form. 110

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E7 73 MARA Dec 9/17/77

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117635

München, den 28. Oktober 1948 *Arbeits*

Sehr geehrter Herr Doktor Breitenbach!

KRINNER

Sie werden wohl sehr erstaunt sein von mir einen Brief zu erhalten. Ich weiss, dass Sie aus mir nicht klug werden, obwohl ich bestimmt kein komplizierter Mensch bin. Vor allem Herr Dr. bitte ich Sie, meinen Mann nicht mehr zu vernachlässigen, vor allem nicht dazu nach München kommen zu lassen. Es geht jetzt nicht um meinen Mann und mich, sondern um die Kinder. Wenn Sie noch irgend welche fragen haben, so kommen Sie bitte zu mir und ich werde Ihnen, so weit es uns betrifft, offene und wahre Antworten geben. Auf keinen fall würde ich Sie noch einmal anlügen. Tatsächlich war ich auf dem besten Wege moralisch unterzugehen und durch Sie, Herr Doktor, habe ich mein moralisches Rückgrat wieder erhalten. Bestimmt ist an dem moralischen Verhalten der Deutschen $\frac{3}{4}$ der feind schuld daran und ich verstehe die Leute gut, denn es ging mir doch ebenso. Der Hass im deutschen Volk gegen den feind ist sehr, sehr gross und bestimmt auch verständlich, d. h. wer es verstehen will! Aber ich will jetzt eigentlich nicht politisieren. Ich weiss, dass Sie mich nicht verstehen und mich ja auch verachten. Trotzdem, Herr Doktor, danke ich Ihnen für Ihr so anständiges Verhalten uns und mir gegenüber vielmals. Kaum, ich kann sagen, nie mehr, werde ich im Leben noch einmal in eine solche Lage kommen. (Jedoch, wirkliche

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117636

Schädigung oder Verspottung des Feindes ist doch erlaubt?)
Um Ihnen meinen Dank nun auch etwas zu beweisen,
will ich versuchen mich bei Ausländern in der Sim-
mern-Schule, in welcher ich zwar noch nie persönlich
war, nach dem Bergmann oder Bergmeier zu erkun-
digen. Ich werde Lula und noch andere suchen und
da versuchen etwas von dem Mann zu erfahren. Es
wird zwar sehr schwer sein, denn wenn da einer
nur merkt, dass ich für die Gegenpartei arbeite, so
habe ich die längste Zeit gelebt. Allein schon, wie
komme ich überhaupt zu den Leuten, nachdem
doch kein Fremdes hinein darf. Nun ich werde sehen!
Ich habe dem Willen Ihnen den Mann suchen zu
helfen, aber wahrscheinlich wird es mir wie immer
gehen, dass meine ganzen Bemühungen umsonst
sind. Ich würde Sie bitten mir den Bergmann zu
beschreiben. Selber möchte ich mich bei Frau Oswald
nicht sehen lassen und auch nicht darnach fra-
gen. Auch würde ich Sie bitten, mir betreffs des
Löffels von meiner Tochter Bescheid zu geben. Selber
möchte ich Sie, Herr Doktor, eigentlich nicht mehr
persönlich belästigen. Wenn Sie denken, ich kann
Ihnen irgend wie helfen, so kommen Sie bitte zu
mir und ich werde Ihnen immer gerne helfen.
Ich werde mich bemühen mir Ihre Achtung zu
verdienen. Oder ist das nach dem Vorgefallenen
bei Ihnen unmöglich? Wenn ich auf grosse
Schwierigkeiten stossen werde, so werde ich an

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117637

Sie denken. Wir werden dann wohl wieder Einbruch-
versuch haben. Aber ab Mittwoch habe ich ja einen
Zimmerherrn und ich bin nicht mehr allein. Obwohl,
Studenten kommen meistens spät heim.

Es würde mich freuen, wenn ich Ihnen nur helfen
könnte. Vielleicht haben Sie einmal bei einer Fahrt
in unsere Gegend einige Minuten für mich Zeit.
So verbleibe ich mit freundlichen Grüßen und aller

Hochachtung
Josefa Künner

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BY TS BARR Date 9/17/89

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117638

V. R. L. N. N. E. R.

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
APO 407
Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section
Central Collecting Point

Date 22 Sept. 48 EB/66

SUBJECT: Carl Spitzweg, The Dragon charmer (Hitler Coll.No. 600;
Mun. No. 9542)
TO : Intelligence Department Files.

1. According to restorer Kurt Winkler, 1 Wienerplatz the painting was offered in spring 1947 in art dealer Richard Gaensluckner's shop at 34 Frauenstr. by a man who turned out to be one Hörmann, 12 IV, Wittelsbacherstr.

2. Hörmann declared that he received it from Karl Ziegler, Kaufingerstr. who had received it from the late Künkele, Aussere Prinzregentenstr., through Himsl, 4, Westenriederstr. Künkele allegedly received RM 25.000.-, Himsl RM 10.000.

3. Ziegler resold it to art-dealer Erwin Nusser in Biberach.

4. In short order the painting was handled by Willi Fuchs, 47 Baaderstr, art dealer Waldmann, Fraunhoferstr., art dealer Miller, Sendlingerstr., and art dealers Georg Riedel and Michels.

5. Riedel finally sold it for about RM 75.000.- to one Kleiner, a Jewish D.F., 11 Pestalozzistr.

6. Kleiner together with another Jew, Morris Buchhalter, 32 Neureutherstr., shipped the picture to one Szatan, 21 Rue Pierre Sennard, Paris IX, who sold it for an alleged sum of ffrcs 70'000.- to one Rabner, a Viennese Jew, after the picture was declared a copy by an undisclosed "expert". Rabner is said to have taken the picture to Switzerland.

7. According to Uhde-Bernays the painting was owned in 1933 by Kommerzienrat Metz in Starnberg.

Edgar Breitenbach

EDGAR BREITENBACH
US CIVILIAN
MFA&A OFFICER

*This ptg part
of list of
not-recovered
items...*

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117639

June 8, 1948 - Dr. Nathan

yesterday Dr. Breitenbach was here but I did not meet with him. He did speak on the phone. I leave it so kind to give him.

RE: the thing itself I can only repeat what I already told him. It is certain the picture, that earlier belonged to Heinemann and was here until at least 1949 partly of Heinemann, partly of Schmidlin, it was also offered on the other side one time as well. It is even more certain that the picture has two old Swiss embargo stamps from the 1930s - so that no one would try to export it, that was probably illegally exported from Switzerland.

Dr. Breitenbach would like to write Director A. Widmer Schweizer Bank - and ask him from whom he got the picture. We want to do everything to help get on the trail of the thief. On the other hand the bank ~~can~~ ^{like} myself declines restitution even if it does not result in shame for me. This revolves around a principal question connected with how long the picture was in Switzerland. What concerns me is to oppose Mr. Hoyer in any way.

ARCHIVES BOX REVIEW FORM

TEAM	RESEARCHER	SITE	DATE REVIEWED
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Record Group:

Entry Number:

Entry Name:

Box Number:

Box Location:

Extent reviewed:

- Completely
- Skimmed
- Specific files only
- Specific documents only

Notes & Comments

(Including cross reference notations)

Copies made: YES or NO

KRINNER (LEIBL)

8. Juni 48.

ST. GALLEN
RORSCHACHERSTR. 25
TELEFON 22724

DE FRITZ NATHAN

Sehr verehrte, liebe Frau Dr. Hanfstaengl,

Da ich die Erfahrung mache, dass Post an Amerikaner nach München noch viel langsamer geht als die andere, so erlaube ich mir heute Ihnen zu schreiben.

Gestern war Herr Dr. Breitenbach hier, traf mich aber nicht an, da ich in Fällanden war. Wir haben uns aber telefonisch gesprochen. Bitte seien Sie so gut und geben Sie ihm die beiliegende Photo meines eibl. Zur Sache selbst kann ich nur wiederholen, was ich ihm schon sagte: Sicher ist es das Bild, das früher Heinemann gehörte und das hier bis mindestens 1944 mehrfach, teils von Heinemann, teils von Schmidlin, einmal auch von anderer Seite angeboten war. Sicher ist ferner, dass das Bild zwei alte Schweizer Einfuhrstempel aus den dreissiger Jahren hat, sodass keine Seele vermuten konnte, dass das Bild, das höchstwahrscheinlich illegal ausgeführt war, nicht mehr in der Schweiz, sondern dort war. Dr. Breitenbach möge an Herrn Direktor A. Widmer Schweizer Bank Gesellschaft Bahnhofstr. Zürich schreiben, der ihm genau mitteilen wird von wem er das Bild hatte. Wir wollen Alles tun, um dazu behilflich zu sein dem Dieb auf die Spur zu kommen. Dagegen lehnt sowohl die Bank wie auch ich persönlich eine Rückgabe ab, selbst wenn mir kein Schaden entstünde. Es handelt sich da um eine prinzipielle Frage, die damit zusammenhängt, dass das Bild so lange in



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der Schweiz war und ,was mich betrifft,
so habe ich am wenigsten Lust ausgerech-
net Herrn Hofer in irgend einer Weise ent-
gegen zu kommen.

Wollen Sie ferner bitte Herrn Dr. Breiten-
bach sagen, dass Herr Dr. Renold neuerlich
operiert werden musste, dass er aber hofft
im Laufe der nächsten Woche aus dem Spital
entlassen zu werden.

Weiterhin bitte ich Herrn Dr. Breiten-
bach zu sagen, dass ich gestern noch Schrit-
te unternommen habe, dass ihm über Mr. Leonard,
an den vermutlich das Schreiben gehen wird,
eine Einladung des Eidg. Polit. Departements
zugehen wird, dass er auf einige Tage hieher-
kommen möge.

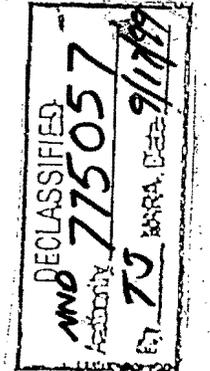
Ich hoffe, es geht Ihnen und Ihrem Herrn
Vater gut. Grüßen Sie bitte auch Ihre F u
Mutter von uns und seien Sie selbst bestens
gegrüsst und im Voraus bedankt von

Ihrem sehr ergebenen

Ign. N. A. A.

Letzte

Bauernknecht aus Herten-
shornhof mit Hütten,
nach. Links gegen Ost 18.76/77
Chem. Bes. des Gel. Klemmman
München.
Waldmann, Abb. 151.



RG 260
Entry onus: Angelia Hall
Collection
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117641

behl, Besondere in. Rütli, u.l.

Waldmann no 151. (W.A. Hofar)

1. acc to Klinghorn, Litzig 24, restored by him fall 47, received it from Toller, who got it from Billmann.
 Charleston, N 31th
 re Aug 47.
2. Billmann had. on book, recall an v. book
3. ~~of~~ book von Herrn v. Heydebrecht, Höhe Kiefen, Klein-Aschtern, Bern
4. von Heydebrecht un. v. geb. v. B. an H. beschrieben 26. 30. May.
5. v. book declares that his print. was not cut off at the margins, it was smaller + had almost square.
6. identical with the one in poss. of Dr. Nathan, St. Gallen.
 to him: D. bank - women as dealer - Swiss lawyer.
7. bought from Schmidlin - Zurich, for 3/100 54.000 in 1942
 by Hofar for Goering. Shipped by German embassy Bern.
 Bought by Hofar from Goering.
8. Dr. Widmer, Zurich, bought it from Sam Meritoch, 78
 Plettenstr. Zurich, who bought it from a Swiss lawyer.
9. ^{Edison} Probst, Schaffhausen, Zurich, Scheideggstr. 32, film production, v. Billmann
 taken to Schaffhausen, on the occ. of a meeting of film matters w. Probst.
 ~~G. v. book number~~ P. paid w. Germ. Marks in Zurich, Book's price
 was 60.000.
 (beg. of Nov. 47)

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10. Boock told Kofel ^{He had received info from} ~~also present~~ ^{Keydebrecht} was a ~~man~~ ^{man} from ~~Germany~~.
11. Dr. Segler well acquainted with late son of v. Keydebrecht. Son was in Munich when the deal was made.
12. Segler wrote letters to Meyer v. May '46 to Oct '46 ^{when Segler}
 Segler 2. Verhandlungen v. Meyer ^{Segler hat auch}
 sonst Bilder an B. v. v. ^(Paul + Nympha, Kitzschneider) z. B. v. ^{angeboten} ~~et.~~ ^{Spionage}
 was in Texas; dies Bild nicht von Meyer, sondern aus d. Occanost.
 diese M.H. von Meyer genannt, doch war er nicht selber dort.
 (Chiller, H. schlank, ^{Albin}, ca 35 Jahre).
13. Segler hat Keydebrecht nicht ^{merkmalen} ~~gesehen~~, hat aber ^{primär} ~~gesehen~~ in
 ca 1943 gesehen, kennt ihn ^{ganz genau} nicht. Trauf in ^{Frankfurt} ~~Frankfurt~~ v. Eschenbross
 (ujunger Lt.) ^{hat} ~~hat~~ ^{mit} ~~mit~~ ^{ein} ~~ein~~ ^{Gruppe} ~~Gruppe~~ ^{die sich in} ~~die sich in~~ ^{Frankfurt} ~~Frankfurt~~ ^{ohne Befehl}
 bei Namen. ^{H.} ~~H.~~ ^{hat} ~~hat~~ ^{eine} ~~eine~~ ^{Gruppe} ~~Gruppe~~ ^{die sich in} ~~die sich in~~ ^{Frankfurt} ~~Frankfurt~~ ^{ohne Befehl}
 wollten, um s. v. J. ^{Freunde} ~~Freunde~~ ^{aus} ~~aus ^{Frankfurt} ~~Frankfurt~~ ^{zu} ~~zu ^{besuchen} ~~besuchen~~.~~~~

RG 260
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 File ^{Records of the} ~~Property Division~~
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KRINNER
(LEIBL)

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
ECONOMICS DIVISION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407 US ARMY

6
LP/el

AG-007-MGBER/B

15 June 1948

Herrn Direktor A. Widmer
Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft
Bahnhofstr.
Zürich, /Switzerland

Dear Mr. Widmer,

Dr. Nathan of St. Gallen has informed us that he bought from your bank a painting by E. Leibl representing a young man with a fur cap. As you may have heard this painting was stolen in the Munich Central Collecting Point and we are of course anxious to find the thief.

It would be very much appreciated if you would give us the name and address of the person from whom you acquired this picture.

Sincerely yours,

HERBERT S. LEONARD
Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts
and Archives Section
Restitution Branch

Telephone: Munich Military 4 - 389
Munich Civil 30054

MFA in A files

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Entry omgus - Ardella Hall
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AND 715057
BY TS BARR. Date 9/17/99

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117644

M. Brüttenbael

**SCHWEIZERISCHE
BANKGESELLSCHAFT**

Union de Banques Suisses - Unione di Banche Svizzere - Union Bank of Switzerland

Aadorf, Aarau, Ascona, Baden, Basel, Bern, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Chiasso, Couvet, Flawil, Fleurier, Frauenfeld, Gené, Lausanne, Lichtensteig, Liestal, Locarno, Lugano, Luzern, Montreux, Rapperswil, Rorschach, Römerhof-Zürich 7, Rütli (Zürich), St. Gallen, Vevey, Wil, Winterthur, Wohlen, Zürich

Telegramme: Bankunion
Postcheck-Konto VIII 2
Telephon: (051) 25 37 60
(051) 25 36 60

ZÜRICH, 2. Juli 1948
Bahnhofstrasse 45

Office of Military Government
for Bavaria
Economies Division
M u n i c h Germany
APO 407, U.S. Army

Vermögensverwaltung

Ref.:

A. Widmer, Vizedirektor

Auf Ihr Schreiben vom 15. Juni 1948
AG - 007 - MGBER/B teile ich Ihnen mit, dass ich
das Gemälde von E. Leibl, das ich an Herrn
Dr. Nathan, St. Gallen, verkauft habe, im
Dezember 1947 von Frau Hanna Maritsch, Kunst-
händlerin, Plattenstrasse 78, Zürich, erworben
habe.

Hochachtungsvoll

M. Widmer

Office of Military Government
for Bavaria
3 JUL 1948
Property Control 7002

304 V

RG 260
Entry *OMGUS - Ardella Hall
Collection*
File *Records of the
Property Division*
Box 485

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BY *TJ* NARA DATE *9/11/99*

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KRINNER
(LEIBL)

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
PROPERTY DIVISION
RESTITUTION BRANCH MP&A SECTION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407 UA ARMY

6
EE/ps

AG-007-EGBPR/B

12 July 1948

Frau Hanna Maritsch
Plattenstr. 78
Zürich /Switzerland

Dear Mrs. Maritsch,

Direktor A. Widmer of Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft, Zürich has informed us that he bought from you in December 1947 a painting by E. Leibl representing a young man with a fur cap. As you may have heard this painting was stolen in the Munich Central Collecting Point and we are of course very anxious to find the thief.

It would be very much appreciated if you would give us at the earliest convenience name and address of the person from whom you acquired this picture.

Sincerely yours,

HERBERT S. LEONARD
Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts
and Archive Section
Restitution Branch

Telephone: Munich Military 4-389
Munich Civil 30054

MFA
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OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
PROPERTY DIVISION
RESTITUTION BRANCH MPAA SECTION
MUNICH GERMANY APO 407 US ARMY

6
DP/ps

23 July 1948

Dr. Segler
Welbergen b/Ochtrup
i/Westfalen.

Dear Dr. Segler,

We refer to your letter 16 May 1948 in which you ask us not to embarrass you to reveal the name of the person who gave you Spitzweg's "Customs Barrier". We did not pursue the case any further, because soon afterwards we found out ourselves that the individual was Herr Otto Mayer, 6 Simrockstr., Munich.

Today we have a similar problem. Would you tell us at the earliest convenience whether you received from Mayer a painting by E. Leibl, representing a boy with a fur cap and whether you passed this painting on to Herr von Heidebrecht, Berlin-Kleinmachnow.

Furthermore we would like to know whether you received other paintings from Otto Mayer. We trust that you will give us an answer without reservations. Both paintings as well as any others coming from this source were stolen from the Central Collecting Point. Mayer himself is not directly involved but is rather one link in a long chain and it can be assumed that he acted in good faith. But even though the thief is known, there is a sizeable number of paintings still unaccounted for. Therefore any information which might lead to the recovery of the rest is of greatest importance to us.

Sincerely yours,

HERBERT S LEONARD
Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts
and Archives Section
Restitution Branch

Telephone: München
Military 4-389
Munich Civil 30054

MPAA files

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Hanna Maritsch,
Plattenstrasse 78
Zürich 7,

Zürich 7, den 2.8.1948

KRINNER

(LEIBL)

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
RESTITUTION BRANCH MFA&A SECTION
MUNICH APO 407 U.S.ARMY EB/pö

AG-007 MGBPR/B

HERBERT S LEONARD Esq.
Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts,
and Archive Section

Sehr geehrter Herr,

Ich habe Ihr w.Schreiben vom 12.Juli a.c.
erhalten und an einen Rechtsanwalt, von dem ich den an Herrn
A.Widmer verkauften Leibl erhalten habe, weitergeschickt.

Derselbe scheint längere Zeit in die Ferien verreist zu sein,
oder auf Ferienreise, denn ich habe noch keine Antwort darauf
erhalten.

Es würde mir sehr leid tun, wenn es sich wirklich um ein gestoh-
lenes Bild handeln würde. Es ist wohl ein Bildnis eines jungen
Burschen von W.Leibl, jedoch mit einer Reitermütze und nicht,
wie Sie schreiben, a fur cap. Es war auf Holz gemalt ca 18/20 cm
hoch. Sobald Dr.N.zurück ist, will ich näheres über den Auftrag-
geber erfahren suchen.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung,

Ihre

Hanna Maritsch
Kalender + Restauratorin

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OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
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MUNICH GERMANY APO 407 US ARMY

KRIMMEL
(LEIBL)

M
DP/p8

19 August 1948

Mr. Eduard Probst
32 Scheideggstr.
Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Probst,

We have been informed that you bought from Mr. Gillmann, 28 Peinzenauerstr, Munich late in 1947 a painting by W. Leibl, representing a boy with a fur cap. As you may have heard, this painting was stolen from the Munich Central Collecting Point.

It would be very much appreciated if you would give us at the earliest convenience name and address of the lawyer, to whom you sold the painting, as well as the date of the sale and the price paid for it. The painting later passed through the hands of Mrs. Maritsch and Bir. Widmer both of Zürich and is now in possession of Dr. Nathan, St. Gallen.

Sincerely yours,

HERBERT S LEONARD
Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts
and Archives Section
Restitution Branch

Telephone: Munich Civil 30054

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