

812  
Platinum

To the  
Reichsbankfiliale  
Frankfurt/Main

MC

14th February 1946

Rei. Law No. 53 / Precious metals.

Pursuant to the conversation with Mr. PHILIP of the Military Government, Census Section, we beg to hand you herewith a further application (inner sheet to form EDAY 1 C and D) of precious metals according to Law No. 53. This concerns our outside stocks in precious metals which were confiscated by the Occupation Troops.

In our discussion we pointed out that also our branch offices and shops in the various occupation zones owned precious metals which for the major part were also shipped by the Occupation Forces. The respective reports will be given to the local Military Government by our branch offices and outposts.

Besides the precious metals listed in the annex, further stocks of precious metals which do not concern Law No. 53 have been dispatched by the Occupation Troops. These are the following items:

- 2 -

1	BOX
FILE	42149
ENTRY	11/10/46
RG	260

BY 52 NARA Date 92149  
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30287

2. Reichsbankhauptstelle, Frankfurt a.M.

14<sup>th</sup> February, 194

Description, Name and address of present holder:	Name and location of Reichsbank	Total weight of each type of bullion:
gold foils Bayrische Hypothekar- und Wechselbank, Elberfeld	Reichsbank Nürnberg Kg	1,369.41
	September 1945	
silver dto. " "	dto. " "	702.577
gold foils dto. Roth & Co., Nürnberg	Reichsbank Schwabach	1,071.90
	Juni 1945	
gold foils dto. Weissenburg	Reichsbank Schwabach	1,526.50
	11. Juli 1945	
silver dto. " "	" "	11,702
gold foils Bayrische Verein- bank, Schwabach	Reichsbank Schwabach	6,550.20
silver dto. " "	dto. " "	5,259
silver seized by American troops on May 30th, 1945 with Farbenfabrik Wolfen/Kreis.	" "	10,820.204 (A)
semi-precious resources	Bitterfeld as per requisition receipt	
silver nitrate	No. 1000000 of 30.5.45, 9th U.S. Army, Commander W.H. Domaradzki, Serial No. 12595	(B)
refinable material	0184578L (Reingehalt) 9.074,520 (Zinc)	kg 5,610,460 (C)
silver fox	seized by American troops with	15,070.508
silver Memeldecker Kupferschmiederei nitrate A.G., Wiesbaden reported as	15.6.45	
	per report of Col. Horney of June 15th 1945.	

Yours respectfully,

D. E. C. U. S. S. - 1  
1. V. 1. A. (initials)

RG	FILE	BOX
100	42195	82 NARA 0313
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1.	2.	3.	4.
Number of coins	Description	Name and address of present holders	Name and location of original owner or place of origin Liberation date of such document
900/eco	Silver coins 900/eco	Deutsche Reichsbank Schweiz Central	Reichsbank Commissioned 17.7.1943

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60	UNCLASSIFIED
Entry / 100 AMT II	Authorised by NND/ASCOO
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21	
Address	

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**STATE LIBRARY** **1944**  
**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**D. Gold**, silver or platinum, palladium or alloy thereof.  
**Gold**, palladium, gold, platinum, silver, germanium, tin, antimony.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	6.
Descriptor ion	Name and address of present holder	by whom held	how and when	where	Name and location of bank to which delivery was made and date of such delivery	Total weight of each type of bullion
Fine silver bullion	Ronald Reichardt Aldertshoorn 2 Dutchmore Bank Scheibb, Austria	by himself	by him himself	Reichsbank Schwabach	Apr 16, 1945	kg 16,356,198
silver bullion 999/1000						
Fine silver bullion	Seized by American troops on... with PARAFOL (GHH) Welden near Bitterfeld as per requisition April 30 th 1945, of the Control Officer 6th Army Group G.H.Q. 9 P.M. on ONE 100 KG DRUMS		Apr 30 <sup>th</sup> , 1945	Reichsbank Schwabach	kg 5,022	
				17.5.1945		
Fine silver bullion	Seized by American troops on... with PARAFOL (GHH) Welden near Bitterfeld as per requisition receipt No. F.H.D.4 of 30.5.45. 9th U.S. Army, Commander W.H. Dommermuth, serial No. 01845761		May 30 <sup>th</sup> , 1945	Reichsbank Schwabach	kg 20,577,507	
				14.6.1945		
Fine silver bullion	Seized by Soviet troops without receipt... with Staatliche Münze Berlin and Rheinmarken, Prussia/G.D.R.		May 1945	Reichsbank Schwabach	kg 6,351,283	
Fine gold bullion						
Platinum bullion						
Palladium bullion						

Box 21  
File # 1000021  
Entry # 260  
RG

SY 52 NARA Date 9/21/95  
Authority NMN/MSOON  
Declassified

**DEUTSCHE GOLD- UND SILBER-SCHEIDEANSTALT**  
**VORMALS ROESSLER**

**FRANKFURT (MAIN) 1  
POSTFACH 107**

## Metall-Abteilung

, Nov. 12, 1947

P/B3/R1

TO: Chief Finance Division  
OMCUS, Berlin

THRU: Foreign Exchange Depository  
Finance Section, Frankfurt

To: Chief Economics Division  
OMCUS, Berlin

THRU: Military Government  
Intelligence Section, Wiesbaden

Re.: Release of ca. 152.000 kgs of silver,  
blocked according Military Government Law No. 53

We beg for the release of the following quantities of silver, blocked according to Military Government Law No. 53 and stored at Frankfurt/Main, because these metals

- a) were property of our company,
  - b) were produced in Germany as may be proved,
  - c) are urgently needed for the maintenance of our refinery and for the revival of the German industry.

## I. State of matter

1) 15 038,305 kgs fine silver from Wansfeld:

On June 15th, 1945, American troops under the command of Col. Horney confiscated the following quantities of precious metals at the firm Mansfeldscher Kupferschieferbergbau AG., Eiselen. These precious metals were sent by truck car to Frankfurt:

- |    |                       |    |         |     |
|----|-----------------------|----|---------|-----|
| a) | 59 boxes Silver       | 15 | 451,655 | kgs |
|    | 480 sacks Silver      |    |         |     |
| b) | 3 bottles Silver      |    | 2,200   | kgs |
| c) | 14 chests pure Silver | 1  | 402,360 | kgs |
| d) | 3 bottles Platinum    |    | 9,469   | kgs |
| e) | 4 leaves pure Gold    |    | 34,2    | gs. |

15,056,306 kgs of the quantity sub a) were property of the Deutsches.

encl. 1

As piece of evidence we enclose a photocopy of the declaration in lieu of an oath of the firm Nansfeldscher Kupferschmiedebau AG., Eisleben. Inspection of our books and correspondence will reveal further proof of our property with respect to this material.

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As it will be seen from the copy of attached declaration this fine silver originated from German ores. Mansfeld is recovering this silver out of its own copper ores containing silver. This production of silver has been taken over every month against payment exclusively and regularly by our firm since a lot of years until the end of the war.

2) 20.077,367 kgs fine silver confiscated at Welden near Augsburg.

This silver has been confiscated by American troops on April 30th, 1945, at the Paraxol-Werk G.m.b.H., at Welden near Augsburg (receipt of Capt. D. D. O'Bryan 108 AA Gn. Mbi. dated April 30th, 1945) and forwarded to Frankfurt/Main. This silver is also property of Degussa and results from German production.

The monthly production of silver of Staatl. Sächs. Hütten- und Blaufarbenwerke, Freiberg/Sachsen, has also been taken over regularly by our firm. On account of the many interruptions of the traffic caused by air raids we were not able to call away in time our assets in silver in Freiberg during the last period of the war. Therefore a stock of nearly 50.000 kgs of silver belonging to us accumulated at the end of the war in Freiberg. In March 1945 we decided to fetch this silver by truck. As it will be seen from the enclosed fotocopy of the declaration in lieu of an oath of Staatl. Sächs. Hütten- und Blaufarbenwerke, Freiberg, a total amount of

40.964,104 kgs fine silver

is in question here consisting in the following items:

a) 328 ingots	=	10 926,686 kgs fine silver
296 "	=	9 960,051 " "
624 ingots	=	20 886,737 kgs fine silver
b) 297 large ingots	=	9 962,213 kgs fine silver
645 small ingots	=	10 115,149 " "
942 ingots	=	20 077,367 kgs fine silver

The quantity of 20 886,737 kgs fine silver sub-a) has been brought to our fine silver stock at LG.-Farbenindustrie, Volfan/Krs. Bitterfeld. (see sub 4b)

The quantity mentioned sub b) amounting to 20 077,367 kgs fine silver was intended to be forwarded to our plant at Frankfurt/Main by truck. On account of the advancing of American troops this plan could not be carried out and the trucks were ordered to Paraxol-Werk G.m.b.H., Welden near Augsburg, well known to us. Shortly before the end of the war the silver was stored there and after the occupation confiscated by the US-Forces and forwarded to the Reichsbank at Frankfurt/Main.

The attached fotocopy of the declaration of Staatl. Sächs. Hütten- und Blaufarbenwerke, Freiberg, confirms that also this quantity of

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29 077,267 kgs fine silver

were property of Degussa and that the silver was recovered from the German production of Freiberg. Inspection of our books and correspondence will reveal further proof of our property also with respect to this material.

3) 23 885,366 kgs Fine silver, stored at the Degussa, Frankfurt/Main, for the Reichsbank Frankfurt/Main.

Pursuant to form MGAX (2), Number F of 14th July, 1945, we reported the quantity of 24 657,963 kgs fine silver which were present in our refinery at Frankfurt/Main at the end of the war. This quantity has been stored separately for the Reichsbank Frankfurt/Main.

In 1945 the Military Government has released an amount of 772,597 kgs fine silver for industrial purposes, so that

23 885,366 fine silver

are still remaining. This fine silver represents one part of our circulation stock of decades and originated from the current separation of scraps, of dorf silver and the like. The proof of the Degussa property is given by the height of our own stocks mentioned since decades in our balance sheet as well as by the kind of our refinery.

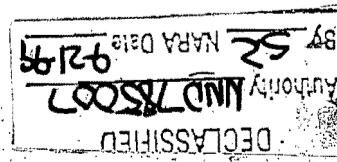
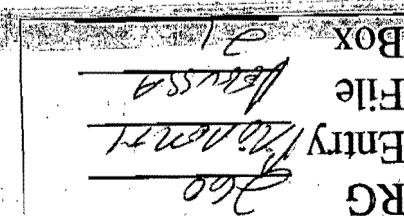
For good order's sake we would mention that the fine silver sub 2) and the quantity mentioned sub 3) of a total amount of 21 500 kgs fine silver has been transmitted to us by way of a loan in order to carry out the silver export business. This transfer by way of a loan is not contrary to a final release because the fine silver for the exports now running will be repurchased out of the occurring proceeds in foreign currency.

4) 73 386,790 kgs Fine silver, stored with IG.-Farbenindustrie AG., Wolfen/Krs. Bitterfeld.

The beforementioned lot of silver was shipped by US troops in May 30, 1945, before their departure from the area of Wolfen (Requisition Receipt No. WHD 4 of 30.5.1945, ordered by Capt. W.H. Domarchius, Serial No. 0184576 of the 9th US Army). According to this receipt there were seized in Wolfen, besides various chemicals:

69 212,623 kgs of silver  
and 14 163,200 kgs of silver-nitrate  
(9007,795 fine silver contents).

From this total amount the following quantities were property of Degussa: (see letter from IG.-Farbenindustrie Wolfen of 3.10.45 and our letter to IG.-Farbenindustrie Berlin of 1.3.46)



- 4 -

) our fine silver depository	20 024,6,5 kgs silver
62 fine silver bars from Freiberg	20 886,737 "
13 refinable bars from Reinickendorf gross weight 5 618,400 kgs with	4 565,436 "
in 70,171.2 kg Au	
0,216.4 kg Pt	
0,127.2 kg Pd	
) semi-finished silver material from Reinickendorf for our plant at Hanau	10 642,294 "
) silver nitrate transformation account:	
in form of silver metal 4 072,646 kg Ag	
in form of silver ni- trate 12,695 kg	8 074,020 " 12 146,666 "
	68 266,026 kgs silver
plus accounting difference on silver nitrate transformation account	5 120,764 "
	73 386,790 kgs silver

1. a):

The silver was coming partly from our refining plant in Frankfurt, partly from Norddeutsche Affinerie, Hamburg, partly from Lensfield, all German production.

1. b):

This lot of silver was shipped by truck in March 1945 from our stock in Freiberg/Saxenia to Wolfen. The silver was coming from German production. (see sub 1, 2a)

1. c):

10 refinable bars from our plant Reinickendorf (plant for production of semi-finished material) were intended to be transported to our plant of Frankfurt for refining, by the intermediary of IG.-Farbenindustrie Wolfen. On account of then existing events this transport could not be accomplished.

1. d):

This semi-finished silver material was on way from our plant Reinickendorf to our plant at Hanau/Main. The transport was stopped, however, in Wolfen and was seized by US-Troops. The silver for the production of semi-finished material in Reinickendorf was furnished by our refining plant of Frankfurt. Also this silver was coming from German production.

1. e):

Silver nitrate transformation account.  
I.-Farbenindustrie Wolfen produced silver nitrate for our

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File 4295  
Henry W. Adams  
RG 260

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Author NY 52 MAR 28 1945  
DEC 1945  
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account on way of a loan. The needed silver was sent from our plant at Frankfurt to Wolfen. Also this silver originated from German production.

Further we beg to observe that the seizure of 14 000 kgs of silver nitrate in Wolfen was wrong, since silver nitrate as a chemical compound is not subjected to Law No. 53. On our application addressed to Office of Military Government, Metals Section, Wiesbaden, of 7.5.46 this lot of silver nitrate was released by teleletter from Director Joseph M. Dodge, Finance Division OMGUS Berlin of 11.5.46. Since, however, this silver nitrate could not be picked up in the Reichsbank Frankfurt, we made an application to Finance Division of OMGUS to release an equivalent amount of silver blocked under Law No. 53, in order to replace the above mentioned 14 000 kgs silver nitrate. Contrary to expectation this application was declined by Finance Division of OMGUS from reasons which are not clear to us.

From IG.-Farbenindustrie Wolfen a declaration in lieu of an oath that the beforementioned lot of silver was property of Degussa will follow.

### III. Arguments for the release:

Sub. I we have brought evidence that the 4 lots of fine silver are property of Degussa and German material. This silver is now urgently needed for the maintenance of our refinery, which is of vital importance for the whole industry of precious metals.

The industry is mostly employed in transformation work. Furthermore this silver is likewise urgently needed for the alimentation of the most important industries (i.e. medicinal-pharmaceutical section, electrotechnical-chemical industry, X-ray film industry, machinery, motor cars, measuring instruments). Besides the increase of our necessary circulation material it is also a question of the common supply for the whole professional industry. This is emphasized by the recommendation of our application by

- a) Hessisches Wirtschaftsministerium, Wiesbaden,
- b) Verwaltungsaamt für Wirtschaft, Minden.

### III. General:

In this connection we should like to draw your attention to the following item:

The British Military Government has recognized the necessity of the supply of silver for important industries of the British Zone since a long time and has decided about a year ago to release some fine silver out of the stocks confiscated according to Law No. 53. The current deliveries

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are carried out by the Reichsbank, Hamburg, by order of Military Government, Dept. Metallurgy, ECON 15, Hamburg. By this the British Military Government has recognized the principle that silver may be put at the disposal out of the confiscated stocks for the maintenance of German industry.

We hope our justified request will find consideration and beg to observe that in case of release the silver will be surveyed by US Military Government and German authorities charged with the regulation of precious metals. Silver will be allocated by these authorities only for the current supply of industry. Should it not be possible to release the total amount of silver at once, also consignments in part would be a good assistance to us as well as to the concerned industry.

Yours very truly

B E G U S S A

*Hans Tröbi*

RG	Entry No 100	File No 100	Box No 100
REDACTED	Authorised BY NND 18/007	Approved BY 52 NPA Date 9/2/49	REF ID: A6478007
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Authority IND 785007  
By 52 NARA Date 9-21-99

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Entry Milfont  
File Degussa  
Box 21

## INTERNAL ROUTE SLIP

(Classification)

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER

FILE NO: Documentary Evidence submitted by Degussa

SUBJECT: in Support of Claim to Silver

DATE 15 March 1948

(Number each memo or minute consecutively. Fill in each column, signed legibly  
draw a line across the sheet. Use entire width of sheet for long memoranda.)

No.	From	To	Date	HAS THIS PAPER BEEN COORDINATED WITH ALL CONCERNED ?	
1.	F.E.D. APO 757	Mr. Jack Bennett Finance Adviser CMGUS, APO 742	15 March 1948	1. In chronological order under Tabs A, B, C, D are communications received by this office from Degussa regarding their petition for the release of 132,387.829 kgs of silver blocked by Military Government under Law 53	
				2. This silver is now held as follows:	
				<u>kg</u>	<u>Held by</u>
				15,038.306	F.E.D. (Shipment 34D)
				20,077.367	DEGUSSA (Formerly held by FED but released to Degussa on 15 Oct 46)
				23,885.366	Reichsbank, Frankfurt/Main
				61,240.124	F.E.D (Shipment 56)
				12,146.666	Unknown - silver nitrate
				<u>132,387.829</u>	
				3. Degussa alleges that this silver was its legal property, that it resulted from German ores, and that it is urgently required for the German economy; (see application letter under Tab D to import ten tons thereof). The documents as submitted appear to support the allegations. Additional corroboration is furnished by documents originating from I G Farben via the Decartilization Control Office which are found under Tab E.	
				4. This file is forwarded for consideration leading to decision as to disposition of that portion of silver held in F.E.D.	
					WILLIAM G. BREY, Colonel, GSC,
					Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository
				Tel.: Frankfurt 21191	
				Enclos.:	
				1 folder Degussa petition	

(Classification)

S11

**DEGUSSA**  
DEUTSCHE GOLD UND SILBER-SCHMIDENSTALT VORMALS ROESSLER  
Metall-Abteilung

Briefanschrift: DEGUSSA, Frankfurt (Main) 1, Postfach

Chief Finance Division  
OMGUS, Berlin

Thru: Foreign Exchange Depository  
Finance Section  
Frankfurt am Main

Drahtwort:  
degussa frankfurtmain

Fernsprecher:  
Ortsruf 40311 u. 40481  
Fernruf 7.0481

Fernschreiber:  
Degussa, Flm. 06536  
Girokonto 4/255 Landes-  
zentralbank Hessen  
Hauptstelle Flm.

Postscheckkonto:  
1501 Frankfurt (Main)  
Alle gebräuchlichen Codes

© Frankfurt (Main) 1  
Weißfrauenstraße 9

August 18, 1948

Ihre Zeichen

Ihre Nachricht vom

Unsere Zeichen

Bz/Hl.

Subject: Release of abt. 132.000 kgs of silver,  
blocked according Military Government Law No. 53

We refer to our application of November 12, 1947 and supplement of February 20, 1948. In comply with your request we enclose photostates of the following declarations:

- A) form MGAX(2) of July 14, 1945 (004/20040)
- B) form MGAX(2) of August 10, 1945 (004/20039)
- C) declaration by letter to Reichsbankhauptstelle Frankfurt/M. of February 14, 1946

namely:

1)	regarding 15.038,306 kgs fine silver	(Mansfeld)
2)	" 20.077,367 "	" (Welden b.Augsburg)
3)	" 23.885,366 "	" (Degussa Frankfurt)
4)a	" 20.024,893 "	" (I.G.Farbenindustrie)
b	" 20.886,737 "	" A.G., Wolfen
c	" 4.565,436 "	" "
d	" 10.642,294 "	" "
e	" 4.072,646 "	" "
	<u>18.074,020</u>	" "
	<u>127.267,065 kgs fine silver</u>	=====

We beg to observe the following:

Annex D) We attach photostate of our letter of March 9, 1948 to Chief Finance Division Omgus Berlin from which you will note the details relating to 23.885,366 kgs of fine silver

delivered from our refining plant at Frankfurt. You will find this lot in the enclosed form MGAX (2) as follows:

- 2 -

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2. Bldg. Chief Finance Division OMGUS, Berlin,

18.8.1948

3) a	18.019,706 kg
3) b	<u>6.154,659 kg</u>
	24.154,365 kg
less releases	<u>268,999 "</u>
as above.	<u>23.885,366 kg</u>

We reported the further lots of silver, having been our outside stocks, by letter to Reichsbankhauptstelle Frankfurt on February 14 1946. This report contains all silver in accordance to Military Government Law No. 53 and further such lots which, according to our opinion, were not subject to Law No. 53. Primarily we supposed that only such silver lots should be reported on form MGAX (2), which we had delivered from our refining plant at Frankfurt/M. In a conversation with Mr. Philipp of Military Government Census Section we have been asked, however, also to report our outside stocks of precious metals.

We have complied with this request by our letter of February 14, 1946.

As to the lot under 4 d)

10.642,294 kgs of fine silver

we beg to observe that our rolling mill at Reinickendorf indicated the weight of this lot with 10.820,294 kgs. Therefore, this weight was set in our declaration. But I.G. Farbenindustrie Wolfen only stated a weight of 10.642,294 kgs of silver, which were delivered to US-Army. Consequently we considered the latter weight in the above statement.

In the attached sheets we have marked each silver lot with a red number, being the same number as mentioned in our application of November 12, 1947.

Yours very truly

D E G U S S A

*Hilmer* *Oppen*

10	Box
11/1948	File
Entry 11/1948	Authority NWD 78500
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DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NND 785007  
 By S2 NARA Date 9-21-99

RG 260  
 Entry Moment  
 File Degussa  
 Box 21

S.1v



DEGUSSA

DEUTSCHE GOLD- UND SILBERSCHEIDEANSTALT VORMALS ROESSLER  
Metall-Abteilung

Briefanschrift: DEGUSSA, Frankfurt (Main) 1, Postfach

Drahtwort: degussa frankfurtmain

Fernsprecher: Ortsruf 40311 u. 40481

Fernruf 70481

Fernschreiber: Degussa, Ffm. 041105

Girokonto 4/255 Landeszentralbank  
Hessen, Hauptstelle Ffm.

Postscheckkonto 1501 Frankfurt (M.)

Alle gebräuchlichen Codes

O M G U S  
 Office of the Finance Adviser  
 attention: Mr. Stern

B e r l i n  
 APO 742

Ihre Zeichen

Ihre Nachricht vom

Unsere Zeichen

F/Bz/Ri.

(16) FRANKFURT (MAIN) 1

Weißfrauenstraße 8

September 22, 1949

Subject: Fine silver from stocks blocked according to Military Government Law No. 53

We beg to ask you to release for us by way of a loan an amount of  
abt. 20 ts of fine silver

from stocks blocked according to Military Government Law No. 53  
 and stored with Bank deutscher Länder, Frankfurt am Main, Proof  
 of property has already been produced.

The recommandation of Verwaltung für Wirtschaft is attached to  
 this letter.

Arguments:

Owing to the sales of silver during the past months within the regulations for precious metals we have been limited in our own circulation stock in such a way that we are no more able to a rational working up of old material coming from the industry using precious metals. We, therefore, are in urgent need of an augmentation of our circulation stock, in order to save unnecessary costs for working and to be able to satisfy the industry using precious metals in due time. Especially the season business for Christmas starting now requires an augmentation of our silver stock. This silver will exclusively circulate in our own mills and will not be sold. Evidence can be produced everytime by inspection of our books.

We should be very much obliged to you in granting our request and instructing the Bank deutscher Länder to deliver up to us the above mentioned amount of silver by way of a loan, out of our blocked stocks which are stored with that bank.

Yours very truly

D E G U S S A

309300

Encl.

DECLASSIFIED  
Autodesk NND175059  
B7 NARA Date 10/11/9

R6260  
FED records  
B. 396

S. Wren

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

AG CABLE CONTROL

OUTGOING MESSAGE

File Nr. 910.11

C O N F I D E N T I A L

R O U T I N E

TO : AGWAR TO WDSCA  
FROM : OMGUS SIGEND CLAY  
REF NO : CC-3100                           TOO: 051101B SEPT 46/wea

In order to revive German silverware industry for export, it is proposed to borrow approx 18.5. metric tons of silver from stocks held in Foreign Exchange Depository, Frankfurt, which is not identified as Nazi property or as non-monetary gold under the Inter-Allied-Reparations Agency agreement (UC POLAD cable 804 from Secty of State). Silver would be used on a revolving fund basis and stocks originally withdrawn from Foreign Exchange Depository could be replenished if and when necessary through purchase of silver in world market from proceeds of exports of finished silver goods. Request your concurrence for use of silver in Foreign Exchange Depository as indicated above.

ORIGINATOR : FIN

AUTH: CHARLES E. SANDS

INFORMATION: O/SS  
ECON  
CONT OFF  
POL AFF  
IA&C  
AG REC

CC-3100

5 Sept 46

1105B

JDL/wea

C O N F I D E N T I A L

309301

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NWD 765072 R b 260  
 By SM NARA Date 6/8/99 FED records  
 B 397

S1/2A

PSB/DIS/JMC/ 1 V7326

**HQ EUROPEAN COMMAND**
 STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL  
 OUTGOING   MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTINE

TO : US CONSTABULARY  
 FOR INFO : OMGUS BERLIN: FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPOSITORY:  
              OMGUS REAR  
 FROM : HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN COMMAND SIGNED HUEBNER  
 REF NO : SC-10513      CITE: ECGPA      TOO: 031918B

Re your Constabulary SIB 108 item 8 on the confiscation of approximately 1,000 lbs of silver bullion, it is desired that this silver be transported by armed guard from its current location under 2nd Constabulary Regiment to the Foreign Exchange Depository, OMGUS (R), FRANKFURT GERMANY and turned over to custody of Col William J BREY.

ORIGINATOR : Dir Pers & Adm      AUTHENTICATION: J.A. MC COMSEY  
 INFORMATION : AG RECORDS      COL      GSC  
               AG  
               PM  
               OMGUS (R)

04 JULY 47 1430B SM/dbb REF NO: SC-10513 TOO: 031918B

UNCLASSIFIED

COPY NO

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE HANDLED AS CORRESPONDENCE OF LIKE CLASSIFICATION WITHOUT  
 PARAPHRASE 5 per par 511 and 60a (4) AR 380-5

309302

RG 260  
Entry PROPERTY  
File Silver & Gold Inventory  
Box 21

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 785007  
By SC NARA Date 9-21-99

Bo/Ka

DETACHMENT H2D2  
2nd ECA REGT  
HANAU GERMANY

23 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Release of Silver

TO: Degussa

1. This will permit Mr. Klein to purchase 500 kilos of silver. No other silver will be released without approval of this Headquarters.

Thomas Turner Jr.  
THOMAS TURNER JR.  
Major AUS  
Military Govt.O.  
Commanding

S A R

Betr.: Freigabe von Silber

An: Degussa

1. Hierdurch wird Herrn Klein die Genehmigung zum Einkauf von 500 kg Silber erteilt. Ohne die Genehmigung der Militärregierung sind weitere Silbermengen nicht abzugeben.

309303

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775087

By SDA NARA Date 8/27/94

RG 260

Entry External Assets

File Gold &amp; Other Metals

Box 649

e. Gold Coin

There are approximately 3,700 bags of gold coin.  
 Detailed inventory count is not available.

f. Silver Coin

There are approximately 800 bags of silver coin.  
 Detailed inventory count is not available.

g. Currency

There are approximately 1,700 bags of currency,  
 comprising practically all important issues.  
 As an example there are about 200 bags of French  
 currency totaling over two and one-half billion  
 French Francs. The inventory of currency has  
 been started.

h. Securities

There are about 500 bags of assorted securities.  
 The largest class of securities in volume seems to  
 be Columbia and Concordia shares.

i. Jewelry

This classification includes SS loot and items from  
 other shipments, such as jewelry, watches, tableware,  
 etc. It is contained in about 500 assorted containers,  
 such as suitcases, sacks, and boxes. This item has not  
 been inventoried.

j. Other Assets

This classification consists of other items such as:  
 150,000 carats of industrial diamonds, engraving  
 plates, some cultural objects, some rare coins.

2. The following is an estimate of time required to inventory  
 the above items:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>No. of Weeks</u>
a. Gold Bullion	None
b. Silver Bullion	4 weeks
c. Commercial Silver	4 weeks
d. Other precious metal	1 week

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775087  
 By SOM NARA Date 8/27/99

RG 260  
 Entry External Assets  
 File Gold & Other Metals  
 Box 649

Classification

- e. Gold Coin
- f. Silver Coin
- g. Currency
- h. Securities
- i. Jewelry
- j. Other Assets

No. of Weeks

- 4 weeks
- 1 week
- 6 weeks
- 6 weeks
- 8 weeks
- 4 weeks

3. Paragraph 2 indicates a total required inventory time of 9 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  months, assuming that the necessary personnel is present and that the items are inventoried consecutively. However, if inventory teams are established, it is believed that the inventory operation could be completed in 6 months.

WILLIAM G. BEEY  
 Colonel GSC  
 Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

309305

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NDTTSO59  
By AI NARA Date 10/1991

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver Exports Prohibited  
Box # 346

S.1

SILVER

E. BE

## OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

AG CABLES



## INCOMING MESSAGE

REC'D 11 B JUL 1947  
91/03/00UNCLASSIFIEDROUTINE

FROM : EUCOM SIGNED HUEBNER

TO : US CONSTAB

INFO : OMGUS  
FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPOSITORY  
OMGUS REAR

REF ID : SG-10513

CITE: ECGPA

Re your Constabulary SIB 108 Item 8 on the confiscation of approx 1,000 pounds of silver bullion, it is desired that this silver be transported by armed guard from its current location under 2nd Constabulary Regt to the Foreign Exchange Depository, OMGUS Rear, Frankfurt, Germany, and turned over to custody.

Cc : Prey.

ORIGINATOR : IN  
INTTEL  
BER-COMD

AGC LN: 63094

4 July 47 EM/ed

REF NO: SG-10513

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NWD775059  
By AT NARA Date 01/949

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File S.iron Export Provinces  
Box F 346

821

27 August 1946

TWX

TO : Office of Military Government for Greater Hessen,  
Wiesbaden, Germany, APO 633,  
Att: Finance Division, Major Baldwin.

Subject is release of silver.

Confirming telephone conversation this date, you are requested to instruct Reichsbank, Frankfurt, to release from silver held under their control on premises of Deutsche Gold- und Silberscheideanstalt, Frankfurt, 21,500 kilograms (twenty one thousand five hundred kilograms) of silver into custody of Lt. Col. Frank W. Fruitman, Economics Division your Headquarters against receipt. Request copy of receipt be forwarded to OMGUS, Finance Division.

*APB*  
JACK BENNETT  
Director

30 AUG 1946

0-81-36

Telephone: BERLIN 76-5211  
Ext: 42462

309307

Su

~~RESTRICTED~~

CONFIDENTIAL

**CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP AUSTRIA (US)**  
**APO 541 U.S. ARMY, Salzburg**  
**TELEPHONE STATION.**

S10  
**RECEIVED RD&R**  
 Time \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date NOV 6 1946  
 No. 18  
 5866

Date of Comment 2 November 1946

Number S/T

From: DANK, Mrs.,  
 Nationalbank  
 Paris Lodron Strasse 3a,  
 Salzburg,  
# 41 02

To: ALBRECHT, Mrs.,  
 Salzburg.

Date of Communication	Observation started	Total time	Station Allocation	CCG Allocation			
22 Oct 1946	1520	5 Minutes	OCMGO	R.D&R.VSFIAV			
Language		Disposition	Property Control				
German	Passed P						
Comment by	Refused						
Reviewed by	Previous Record	Caller S/T/41 82 Callee					
MR 23.10. DAC 24.10. 1330	AC 23.10. 1400 E	Allocator 24.10. 0915 EMR	Translation 25.10. MEH	ADO 26.10. 1040 29.10.RK.	File Section 0900 Su 31.10.	Typing Section	Mail Section

**100 KILOS OF SILVER NOT REGISTERED**

Callee: In a silver depot belonging to the BERNDORFER Co, there are approximately 100 kilos of silver. I remembered that it should have been registered. Mr. SLAMA took it over to Rudolf Sattlergasse in 1945. What is to be done about it?

Caller: Find out why it hasn't been registered according to decree No. 4. It is probably high grade silver which should have been registered. If it is German capital the Property Control Section would confiscate it. The point is who had the majority of shares in 1938.

Original German:

ALBRECHT: Ich soll ein Silberdepot notieren, was der BERNDORFER gehoert, ungefaehr 100 Kilogramm Silber. Da ist mir eingefallen, dass die Ablieferungspflichtig gewesen waere. Im 45-er Jahr hat es Herr SLAMA in der Rudolf-Sattler-Gasse uebernommen. Was soll man da machen?

DENK: Fragen Sie, warum das nach Erlass 4 nicht angemeldet wurde. Es duerfte Feinsilber sein und das haette er anmelden muessen. Wenn das Reichsdeutsches Kapital ist, wuerde die Property ihre Hand darauf legen, es handelt sich darum, wer im Jahre 1938 die Aktienmehrheit hatte.

NOTICE: This information was taken from private communications and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. This Comment Sheet must NOT be turned over as such to any Austrian or German civilian authorities. If action by such an authority becomes necessary the pertinent information should be copied from the Comment Sheet, without indicating the source from which it was derived.

~~RESTRICTED~~

R. KIEGEL 820140

RG 260  
 USACA Records  
 Reparations &  
 Restitution  
 Branch  
 Box: 160

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NND78501D  
 By SR NARA Date 9-11-99

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

309308

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NWD 77 1059  
By AT NARA Date 10/19/99

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File S. Iron & Non-ferrous  
Box # 346

S1V

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)  
Finance Division  
APO 742

23 August 1946

SUBJECT : Release of Silver

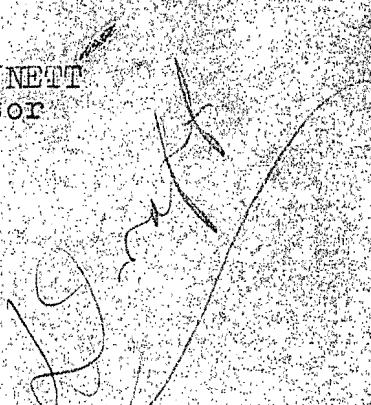
TO : Director, Reichsbank Branch, Frankfurt/Main.

You are requested to release from silver held under your control on the premises of DEGUSSA, Frankfurt, into the custody of

Lt. Col. FRANK W. FRUITMAN  
Chief, Metal Section, Industry Branch,  
Economics Division, Office of Military  
Government for Greater Hessen  
21.500 kilograms of silver

against receipt, copy of which is to be forwarded to this Office.

JACK BENNETT  
Director



Telephone: BERLIN 76-5211  
Ext: 42462

309309

DECLASSIFIED

Category NAD775059  
By WBD NARA Date 10/20/01RG 260Entry FinanceFile SH11MAY4717Box 428

ST

SHPMENT No. 17

EXTRACT COPY

bja

S E C R E TREPORT ON RECONNAISSANCE TO DISCOVER FURTHER GERMAN GOLD, FOREIGN EXCHANGE, AND LOOT.MAGDEBURG

Arrived in Magdeburg at 1100 hours 28 April and contacted MG Detachment 12D3, Capt. James R. Williams commanding. Lt. W. B. LeMar, MGCO, accompanied Cmdr. Fisher's party to the Reichsbank. It appeared that the 30th Division which had captured Magdeburg had learned of the presence of the silver in the vaults of the bank and had already stationed two guards.

The following officials of the bank were promptly assembled for interrogation and for use in examining further the contents of the vault, 1st Director Walter Luebcke (who had been at the bank for only two weeks, replacing Rudolf Settler who had departed to Oslo Norway), 2nd Reichsbank Director Bernhard Nicolai and Reichsbankrat Ernst Karsch.

Cmdr. Fisher proceeded to the vault with the bank officials and located the following valuables:

1. In vault No. 20 - 3441 silver bars and 261 cases which presumably contain silver bars.

2. In vault No. 23 - 2633 silver bars and 235 cases which presumably contain silver bars.

A letter was also produced by the bank officials relating to the deposit of silver in the Magdeburg bank. Upon interrogation, it was learned that the silver had been brought to the bank on 29 Jan. 1945 in nine wagons. The transport was headed by the Hungarian Finance Minister who was accompanied by five other officials. The approximate weight of the silver was estimated by the Magdeburg officials to be 90,000 kilos.

*Trunc Jones  
blocks  
Sector, these  
records  
indicate  
they were  
given to Mr.* There were located in separate vaults 94 bags of records from the Bond Office in Berlin, 12 bags of records which Thoms identified as the records of the Precious Metals Department of the Reichsbank, and ten packages and one crate containing printing plates; all of which records and packages had been removed from the mine at Merkers several days before U. S. occupation. Also discovered were a small amount of foreign notes, foreign coin and German silver coins which the bank had on hand.

*A.J. Kamarek* The bank had a considerable number of private depots, some of which on 19 May 45 were in the name of leading Nazi officials. Examination of the depot from the German Customs Office in Magdeburg revealed foreign securities of Holland, Spain, Switzerland and other countries.

Cmdr. Fisher proceeded to 30th Division Headquarters where he spoke with Lt. Col. Frankle, the Chief of Staff, and the Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Leland Hobbs. After Cmdr. Fisher explained the importance of the treasure General Hobbs called Col. Johnson, commanding officer of the 117th Infantry Regiment and ordered that necessary additional security

S E C R E T

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND775059  
By WDL NARA Date 10/20/09RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File SHIPMENT #17  
Box 408**S E C R E T**

(Cont'd)

precautions be taken. He also approved Cmdr. Fisher's idea that Fisher send a wire to SHAEF advising SHAEF of the silver and advising further that the 30th Division had already contacted 9th Army about removal of the silver.

**S E C R E T**

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 775119  
By JW NARA Date 9-10

RG 260  
Entry *Ausvis Comint*  
File CCS 845 Series  
Box 806

*Silver*

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

COPY NO. 91

C.C.S. 845/1

16 May 1945

COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFFDISPOSITION OF BULLION AND OTHER PROPERTYDISCOVERED BY THIRD ARMY

Reference: C.C.S. 845

Report by the Combined Civil Affairs CommitteeTHE PROBLEM

1. To consider C.C.S. 845 and make recommendations to the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. In a letter dated 20 April 1945 (C.C.S. 845) the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force (SCAEF), forwarded a preliminary inventory of gold bullion, currency and miscellaneous property discovered by the Third Army near Merkers and now in vaults in Frankfurt. He asks the Treasury Department to send two expert weighers of gold bars and an expert to study assay certificates and other records to identify the gold bars. They would be needed for only a few weeks and should bring sufficient canvas bags, seals and tags to retag the bars and coins.

3. Included in the inventory is a large quantity of material evidently belonging to the SS or Gestapo. Some of it appears to be loot taken from individuals who have been murdered. This loot includes thousands of gold and silver dental crowns, bridges and plates and some personal articles. The supreme commander considers these items may constitute evidence and requests that agencies engaged in the determination of evidence for prosecution of war criminals should be informed and at the proper time should be permitted to inspect and investigate these items.

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 Authority NND 775119  
 By JW NARA Date 9-10

RG 260  
 Entry AISUAR Group  
 File CCS 845 Series  
 Box 806

TOP SECRET

4. The U.S. Treasury Department has informally advised the U.S. Members of the Combined Civil Affairs Committee that the three experts and the requested equipment are available.

5. The British Joint Staff Mission has informally advised the committee that His Majesty's Government would appreciate the inclusion in the party of two bullion experts who can be made available by the Bank of England.

CONCLUSIONS

6. U.S. and U.K. experts should participate in examination of the treasure.

7. The supreme commander's proposal to notify appropriate agencies of the United Nations charged with the investigation of war crimes should be approved and implemented.

RECOMMENDATION

8. That the Combined Chiefs of Staff dispatch the message in Appendix "A" and agree to the dispatch of the letters at Appendices "B" and "C" and the message in Appendix "D".

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Authority <u>NWD 725119</u>
By <u>JW</u> NARA Date <u>9-10</u>

RG 260  
 Entry AGUSA Comd  
 File CCS 845 Series  
 Box 806

~~TOP SECRET~~APPENDIX "A"D R A F T

MESSAGE TO THE SUPREME COMMANDER  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

U.S. Treasury can make available three experts requested in your letter of 20 April regarding Merkers treasure. The Combined Chiefs of Staff consider two bullion experts offered by Bank of England should also participate. Advise if satisfactory to send all five. U.S. Treasury making bags, seals, and tags available. War Crimes Commission being asked to advise United Nations investigatory agencies that some of this treasure may be usable as evidence of war crimes, and that you will permit inspection thereof at proper time. War Crimes Branch under Judge Advocate for U.S. Army Forces, European Theater of Operations also notified.

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Authority <u>NWD 775119</u>
By <u>JW</u> NARA Date <u>9-10</u>

RG 260  
Entry AJIVIAI (cont)  
File CCS 845 Series  
Box 806

~~TOP SECRET~~

APPENDIX "B"

D R A F T

LETTER FROM THE UNITED STATES CHIEFS OF STAFF  
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Combined Chiefs of Staff have considered a recent letter from the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, concerning a stock of gold bullion currency and miscellaneous property recently discovered by the United States Third Army near Merkers, Germany, and now in the vaults of the Reichsbank at Frankfurt.

The supreme commander has requested that the United States Treasury Department send two expert weighers of gold bars and an expert who could study the assay certificates and other records with a view to identification of the gold bars. The services of these experts would be needed for only a few weeks and it would be helpful if they bring sufficient canvas bags, seals and tags to retag bars and coins. The Combined Chiefs of Staff have approved the dispatch of the requested experts and the United States Treasury Department has indicated that experts and equipment will be made available. The Combined Chiefs of Staff have also approved participation by two bullion experts from the Bank of England.

Included in a preliminary inventory of the treasure is a large quantity of material evidently belonging to the SS or Gestapo. A portion of this part of the treasure represents loot taken from individuals who have been murdered, as it includes thousands of gold and silver dental crowns, bridges and plates and some personal articles. It may, therefore, constitute items of evidence. The Combined Chiefs of Staff have approved the supreme commander's proposal that agencies engaged in the determination of evidence for the prosecution of war criminals should be informed and at the proper time should be permitted to

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>NWD 72519</u>
By <u>JW</u> NARA Date <u>9-10</u>

RG 260  
Entry AASIS, General  
File CCS 845 Series  
Box 806

TOP SECRET

inspect and investigate this part of the property. Will you kindly advise the United States representative on the United Nations War Crimes Commission to enable the Commission to notify appropriate national agencies of the United Nations in this regard.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NWD 77519  
By JW NARA Date 9-10

RG 260  
Entry *Austria (contd)*  
File CCS 845 Series  
Box 806

~~TOP SECRET~~

## APPENDIX "C"

## D R A F T

LETTER FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH  
CHIEFS OF STAFF TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE

The Combined Chiefs of Staff have considered a recent letter from the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, concerning a stock of gold bullion currency and miscellaneous property recently discovered by the United States Third Army near Merkers, Germany, and now in the vaults of the Reichsbank at Frankfurt.

The Combined Chiefs of Staff have approved a request by the supreme commander for the assistance of three United States Treasury Department experts and two bullion experts from the Bank of England to assist in identifying the gold bars found among the treasure.

Included in a preliminary inventory is a large quantity of material evidently belonging to the SS or Gestapo. A portion of this part of the treasure represents loot taken from individuals who have been murdered, as it includes thousands of gold and silver dental crowns, bridges and plates and some personal articles. It may, therefore, constitute items of evidence. The Combined Chiefs of Staff have approved the supreme commander's proposal that agencies engaged in the determination of evidence for the prosecution of war criminals should be informed and at the proper time should be permitted to inspect and investigate this part of the property. Will you kindly advise the United Kingdom representative on the United Nations War Crimes Commission to enable the Commission to notify appropriate national agencies of the United Nations in this respect.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority AIA 77519  
By JW NARA Date 9-10

RG 260  
Entry Adjutant General  
File CCS 845 Series  
Box 806

~~TOP SECRET~~APPENDIX "D"D R A F T

MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES CHIEFS OF STAFF TO THE  
COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY FORCES,  
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

Letter of 20 April 1945 from SCAEF concerns treasure uncovered by Third Army near Merkers and now in vaults at Frankfurt. Included in inventory is a large quantity of apparent loot taken from murdered individuals such as thousands of gold and silver dental crowns, bridges and plates and some personal articles. These may constitute items of evidence of war crimes. Suggest advising War Crimes Branch in office of your Judge Advocate as SCAEF indicates he will permit inspection of such property at proper time.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND775059

By WBD NARA Date 10/20/09

RG 260

Entry Finance

File SHIARMENT #17

Box 428

SF

C  
O  
P  
Y

30 April 1945

MEMO TO : Mr. Hynning

Tell Cragon I have been trying to reach him for 2 days by telephone and for him to call me immediately at SHAEF Main, Extension 2265.

Tell Cragon there has been found in a town near 9th Army CP the following:

SHIP 17 }  
 6,000 bars of silver | Weight of about  
 536 closed boxes presumably containing silver | 80 Tons  
 12 bags records  
 1 chest of printing plates  
 a small amount of foreign exchange and foreign coin.

I have asked 12th Army Group to arrange to move these to Frankfurt.

Cragon is to arrange to move the art treasures out of the air raid shelter so as to make room in the air raid shelter for the silver bullion and French francs. Cragon should consider with the art people as well as Bill Dunn properly locating the art treasure, using space on the ground floor on the side where the patent records are. General McSherry has approved the recommendations of the art group that met last week to the effect that all of the space on both sides of the ground floor be used for the art treasures except that needed for the patent records.

Cattier is arranging to ship from his area about 21 tons of silver to be delivered by Lt. Col. Peterson and a very small amount of gold to be delivered by French Officers. The silver clearly should be handled on behalf of CG ETO. It may be much more difficult to do this in connection with the gold. If this is not possible Cragon should try to handle item as a suspense matter giving merely a receipt in Cragon's name.

Cragon should also be told an order is being issued from ECAD relieving Moore with Cragon replacing him. Order should be put into effect immediately by Cragon. (Change effective afternoon 2 May 45 immediately upon receipt of orders.) Hdc

/s/ B. Bernstein  
 /t/ B. BERNSTEIN  
 Colonel, GSC

309319

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND775059  
S. WBD

By W.D. NARA Date 10/20/04

RG

## Entry

File SHIPMENT #17

Box 6138

Box 788

Hungarian Silver

## HISTORY

28-11  
Found in MAGDEBURG Reichsbank. officials stated silver brought to bank 29 Jan. 1945 in 9 wagons. Transport headed by Augs. Fin. Minister <sup>Dr. MESSERSCHMID</sup>, who was accompanied by 5 other officials. Approx. weight of silver - 90,000 kilo est. 198,000 lbs. est.  
From Vienna to Reichsbank Director

A telegram from Vienna to Reichsbank director 198,000 lbs.  
from ~~Reichsbank~~ main Reichsbank Berlin says Hungarian Finance  
Minister would like to deposit in Reichsb. Magdeburg  
80 tons of silver bars of National Bank and also  
30 tons of, for the most part, silver coins.

At time transport was unloaded, contents were said by Hungarians to be 6074 silver bars and 536 cases with contents. Lists were not verified by Reichsbank.

RECEIVED AT F.E.D.

6076 silver bars { 769 large  
5273 small  
34 mix. small  
6076

536 boxes (7 of which broken)

I don't see where they  
got the 2 extra  
bars

$$1 \text{ filog} = 198,000 \text{ lb}$$

198 000  
396 000  
198 000  
2376 000 + long division

1 kilog = 32.1507 troff ounces

~~32.1507) 2376.000000~~

$$14 \overline{)32.1507} \quad \begin{matrix} 2.3 \\ -28 \\ \hline 47 \end{matrix}$$

309320

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NAD775059  
By WBD NARA Date 10/20/09

RG

Entry

File

Box

260

Finance

SHARON #17

428

AG CABLES  
INCOMING MESSAGE

FILE NO. 940.4017

CONFIDENTIAL

DATED 062306Z

P R I O R I T Y

RECD 070609Z MAR 47

691/07/nra

FROM : AGWAR FROM WDSCA ES FROM NOCE  
 TO : OMGSU FOR CLAY PERSONAL  
 INFO : USFET  
 REF NO : WX-93433

Recurads Mar WX-99226 and Jan WX-88846.

1. Hungarian govt has represented to State Dept serious situation resulting from non restitution Hungarian property in Germany, stating that although approx 500 claims submitted by Hungarian Restitution Mission Frankfurt since 1 Aug 46, only (A) Hungarian Natl Bank gold, (B) Art objects museum fine arts Budapest, (C) Fire apparatus, Budapest, (D) Hungarian River barges and (E) 300 horses have been restituted to date. We have no info indicating restitution other things.

2. In view US commitments to Hungarian govt and pub statements made by Byrnes in refutation Soviet charges that US was contributing serious Hungarian econ situation by failing restitute from Germany, present pos embarrassing this govt. If paper has been introduced in ACC, request status soonest. Further request that you press for immediate agreement in ACC. If paper has not been reintroduced in ACC, State suggests announcement ur intention unilateral restitution from US zone to ex-enemies.

3. Early delivery to Hungary of 127 tons silver bars and coins said to belong Hungarian Ministry Finance and Mint, and 27 cases said to belong to Hungarian Orphans Court, both believed to be Foreign Exchange Depository Frankfurt, would be particularly helpful in present difficult political and econ situation in Hungary.

4. Restitution to Austria and other ex-enemy countries is almost equally pressing. US govt has made commitments in these govts along lines those made Hungarian govt.

REF NO. WX-93433

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION : ECON  
 INFORMATION :  
 O/SS  
 Pol Aff  
 Fin  
 Legal  
 US SEC ACA

309321

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	NND 765072
By	SR
NARA Date 11-5-99	

SIN JMW

RG	260
Entry	<del>SEARCHED</del>
File	<del>INDEXED</del>
Box	421

REF ID: A65000  
RESTITUTION  
- Current

## OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY U. S.

A.G. Cables  
Outgoing Message

CONFIDENTIAL  
ROUTINE

REF ID: 291427C May 1947

TO : AGWAR FOR WDSCA ES  
 FROM : OMCUS SIGNED KEATING  
 REP. NO : CC-9351

29 May 47Currency

Reurads WK-96748 dated 24 April 1947 and WK-97388 dated 4 May 1947.

1. Foreign Exchange Depository holds following remaining property claimed by Hungarian Govt;

Item A. 27 boxes Orphans Court deposits.

Item B. 29 boxes other safekeeping deposits,

Item C. 2 boxes currency.

Item D. 162 boxes silver coin Yugoslavian dinars.

Item E. 176 boxes silver coin Roumanian lei.

Item F. Six boxes plaques, medallions.

Item G. 8 boxes silverware, ore specimens, plaques.

2. Item A contains 612 numbered packages, which were checked off against list produced by Hungarians. Majority packages sealed but those open contain jewelry, coins, etc. Hungarians state all packages are individual inheritances. The 27 boxes always under padlock while in US custody and Hungarians always retained keys. Undesirable to make partial restitution out of each package. Each package identifiable to an individual named owner per Hungarian list.

Item B refers to items which Hungarian National Bank held in safekeeping for its depositors. For example 5 boxes Hungarian State Attorney, 2 boxes Hungarian Royal Mint, 1 box Hungarian Postal Savings Bank, 4 boxes Hungarian Nagybanya Mine, 1 box Budapest City, etc. All containers within boxes bear identification markings, names or numbers and have been checked against Hungarian listings. Conclusive evidence exists indicating Hungarian source and ownership of all box contents. Nature of contents is gold, currency, jewelry, coins, securities, and other valuables normally deposited for safekeeping with a bank all in small identifiable lots.

Item C is property of Hungarian National Bank claimed to be bank's own assets and contains 18 different paper currencies such as US and Canadian dollars; Swiss, French francs; English, Turkish, Egyptian pounds, and dinars, lei, kronen, milreis, guilders; all currencies identified against list submitted with Hungarian claim.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 765072

By SR

NARA Date 1/5/99

RG 260

Entry NND 765 072

File Records of US Occupation

Headquarters WWII

Box 421

Item D and E, 338 boxes silver coin. All boxes uniform size, steel banded, bearing wax seal Hungarian National Bank. Only 4 boxes opened, contained bags of coin, the lead seal and tag on each bag printed Hungarian National Bank and all tags dated early 1941. Receipt dated 21 January 1945 indicates that upon instructions of Hungarian Finance Minister, 7 Hungarian finance officials delivered silver bars and subject coins to Reichsbank Magdeburg for account of Hungarian National Bank. Reichsbank retained custody until uncovered by US Army in April 1945 when silver transferred to Foreign Exchange Depository on 10 May 45. Do not know how dinars acquired but Chief, Hungarian Restitution Mission states that Roumania lei purchased with pengos and retired in 1940, from individuals in north Transylvania during period of its occupation by Hungarians, and not result of action by German troops.

Item F contained in 6 boxes identical in size, banding, appearance to 338 boxes in D and E. One box opened contained metal and plaster model casts and inventory list of contents of this box dated 1944 at Budapest.

Item G consists of 3 boxes containing silverware, bearing Hungarian tags, 2 boxes containing plaques and medallions, 1 box low grade silver, 2 boxes ore specimens.

3. Items A, B, C taken into custody by US Army at Spital Am Pyhrn, Austria about 14 May 1945 at request of representatives Hungarian National Bank for protection and removed to Frankfurt, Germany into Foreign Exchange Depository vaults. Items D, E, F, G uncovered by US Army at Reichsbank Magdeburg, Germany, on 9 May 1945 and also removed to Frankfurt.

4. 33 tons gold bullion received as part of shipment with Items A, B, C already restituted to Hungary 1946 and 96 tons silver received as part of shipment with Items D, E, F, and G recently restituted.

5. As to Items A, B, C acquired by US Army in Austria, WX-90078 covering disposition of foreign currencies "found in Germany" would not apply to any currencies contained therein. Gold bullion accompanying same cache has already been returned. Property originally received from Hungarian Bank representatives is now identified as that which they desire returned. No evidence that property was looted by claimant. Urada WX-93937 and WX-94503 desire early restitution. Believe that no bar to restitution of complete property Items A, B, C to Hungary exists.

6. As to Items F and G, this property is apparently Hungarian as evidenced by packings, markings, tags. Property also identified by Hungarians. Believe that no bar to its restitition to Hungary exists.

7. Items D and E uncovered in Germany and would appear to fall under WX-90078 with result that Yugoslavian dinar would go to Yugoslavia and Roumanian lei to USSR regardless of claim from Hungary. In Para 2 C ourad CC-7904 we asked whether WX-90078 was to apply without exception or whether restitition based on provable claims should be considered first with only the residue of unrestituted currencies being delivered under WX-90078. Your reply in Para 2 C of WX-96654 indicated WX-90078 should apply without exception. This was regarded here as most satisfactory solution to difficult problem. WX-90078 itself might not be perfect, and certain modifications might be considered desirable. However we urge the adoption of arbitrary "ground rules" along the general lines of WX-90078 as most practicable basis for disposal. In great majority of cases determination of country from which removed would be impossible. We know of no workable rule which would cover return of Items D and E to Hungary, satellite state, without committing us in

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 765072

By SR ENRRA Date 11599

RG

260

Entry NND 765072

File Records of US Occupation  
Headquarters WWII

Box 121

similar cases to examine conflicting claims by other countries, including United Nations. The line cannot be so carefully drawn as to avoid frequent misunderstanding and controversy. In our opinion the fact should be faced that in disposing of foreign currencies it will be impossible to please everybody. We feel that universal application of rules along lines those laid down in WX-90078 would offer clear-cut and even-handed solution with third-party rights protected by requiring recipient governments to undertake to relinquish whatever is subsequently found to belong rightfully to others, as suggested para 1 your WX-97388.

8. We are in receipt of SWNCC authorization to implement WX-90078, but in accordance with Para 5 your WX-96748 will defer action pending further clarification. Feel you may wish to reconsider decision to implement at this time Para 2 C of WX-90078, under which Roumanian lei claimed by Hungarians would go to USSR. As reported our CC-7239 December, our efforts to obtain Soviet approval of currency disposal plan were unsuccessful and it was agreed to notify governments of divergent views. We have not been informed of further progress in the matter.

9. Recommend return to Hungary of Items A, B, C, F, G, disposal Item D in accordance WX-90078. No recommendation Item E, concerning which your further views would be appreciated.

WX-90078 is AGC IN 47048

WX-96654 is AGC IN 55912

WX-93937 is AGC IN 52059

WX-96748 is AGC IN 56049

WX-97388 is AGC IN 57131

ORIGINATOR : FIN

AUTH: B. H. BROWN

INFO : C/S  
 FIN AD EUCOM  
 POL APP  
 US SEC ACA  
 LEGAL  
 CONT OFF  
 ECON  
 ECON AD EUCOM  
 IAAC  
 TRANS  
 INTELL

CC-9351

29 MAY 1947

HB/ees

CONFIDENTIAL

309324

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 78007  
By SZ NARA Date 9-21-99RG 260  
Entry Masonry  
File DEGUSSA  
Box 21

S.V



**D E G U S S A**  
DEUTSCHE GOLD UND SILBER-SCHMIDENSTALT VORMALS ROESSLER  
Metall-Abteilung

Briefanschrift: Degussa, Frankfurt (Main) 1, Postfach 107

Office of  
Military Government for Germany (U.S.)  
Finance Division  
Foreign Exchange Depository  
Frankfurt am Main

Ihre Zeichen:

Ihre Nachricht vom:

Unsere Zeichen:  
Bz/Ri.

Drahtwort:  
degussa frankfurmain  
Fernsprecher: 53511  
58670  
Fernschreiber: Ffm 022  
Degussa Ffm 9  
Banken:  
Reichsbankgirokonto 4-255  
Postcheck:  
1501 Frankfurt am Main  
Codes:  
alle gebräuchlichen Codes

Frankfurt (Main) 1  
Weißfrauenstrasse 9  
June 9, 1947

Referring to the conversation with Mr. Roberts we beg to hand you a memorandum containing the desired details regarding ownership and origin of Degussa silver stocks, confiscated by US-troops in May 1945 in Welden and Wolfen.

If you see any possibility to take measures for the release of the blocked Degussa silver stocks, we kindly ask you to do so. Thanking you in advance for your endeavours in this respect, we are

yours very truly,  
D E G U S S A

9  
Barlow  
Mr. [unclear]  
Pending file  
9

309325

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NWD 785007  
By 52 NARA Date 9-21-99RG 260  
Entry Mönch  
File Degussa  
Box 21

S. 1-

~~D E G U S S A~~  
~~Metall-Abteilung~~Frankfurt am Main, 4. Juni 1947  
Bz/Ri.Memorandum

Proof of ownership and origin of Degussa silver stocks, confiscated by American troops in May 1945 in Welden and Wolfen.

In peace times and still at the end of the war Germany had an own silver production (production from German ores) amounting to about 200.000 kgs p. a. The most important places of production are those of Harz, Stolberg, Mansfeld and Freiberg (Saxonia). Degussa purchased regularly these productions and this silver was resold to the German industry according to the ordinances of the Reichsstelle für Edelmetalle. Already in normal times, but particularly during the war, there had been formed certain stocks out of the German silver production, in order to avoid stillstand of production due to interruption of traffic or other unforeseen events.

1) 20.077,149 kg Fine Silver bars stored at Welden near Augsburg.

This lot results from a stock out of German production (Freiberg, Saxonia) belonging to Degussa. It was disposed off from Freiberg to Frankfurt in March 1945. However, due to the events of war in March 1945, the transport of this quantity was a very difficult one and we were not able to get the silver to Frankfurt. We therefore were forced to send this transport being on the way to Frankfurt on to Welden. After the occupation this silver was confiscated by US-troops. The reception was signed by Cpt. D. D. O'Bryan 108 A Gn. Bn. Mbl.

*Pls. file in the office of the Commandant of the American Forces in Germany*  
*in Degussa*

This amount of silver was property of Degussa and was coming from German production.

2) ca. 69.000 kgs Fine Silver, stored at IG.-Farbenfabrik Wolfen/Kreis Bitterfeld.

In accordance with the Reichsstelle für Edelmetalle there was made special provision for securing the production of silver nitrate of IG.-Farbenfabrik Wolfen by storage of larger quantities of silver, amounting to about 69.000 kgs of Fine silver at the end of the war. These are also silver stocks belonging to Degussa, which are coming as mentioned above from the German production. This lot was confiscated on May 30, 1945 by US-troops, and Requisition Receipt Nr. WHD-4, signed by Cpt. W. H. Domarchius, Serial Nr. 01845761, was handed over to IG.-Farbenindustrie Wolfen.

3) ca. 14.000 kgs Silver Nitrate, stored at IG.-Farbenfabrik Wolfen/Kreis Bitterfeld.

Further we had stored a quantity of about 14.000 kgs Silver Nitrate at IG.-Farbenfabrik Wolfen, which was also carried away by US Military forces and registered in the beforementioned Requisition Receipt Nr. WHD-4.

Also this lot of Silver Nitrate was property of Degussa and was

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Authority IND 785007  
By SZ NARA Date 9-21-99RG 260Entry MONTYFile DEKUSSABox 21

coming from German production.

On occasion of a visit of Cpt. Stern from Finance Division of OMGUS, Berlin, we learned that these lots of Fine silver and Silver Nitrate had been brought to the former Reichsbank in Frankfurt o. M., being under supervision of the Foreign Exchange Depository, Frankfurt o. M. Since silver nitrate as a chemical compound is not subject to Law No. 53, we made an application for release of the above mentioned 14.000 kgs of silver nitrate to Office of Military Government for Greater Hesse, Metals Section (Lt. Col. Fruittman). The director of Finance Division of OMGUS, Berlin, Mr. Joseph M. Dodge, authorized with a teleletter of May 11, 1946 the Military Government Wiesbaden to release the amount of 14.000 kgs silver nitrate to us. However, this instruction could not be effectuated, because this silver nitrate could not be ascertained at the Reichsbank Frankfurt, but had probably been shipped to Belgium. In these circumstances we filed an application to Finance Division of OMGUS, Berlin, through the intermediary of Landerrat Stuttgart, asking to release an amount of 8.900 kgs Fine silver out of the blocked stock of precious metals, according to Law No. 53, in order to enable the production of the above mentioned 14.000 kgs of silver nitrate. Unfortunately our request was declined referring to the fact that no decision had been taken yet regarding the use of the blocked silver stocks according to Law No. 53.

Regarding the lot of silver nitrate we beg to observe: we would appreciate it very much if you would take measures once more in order to make possible the release of 8.900 kgs of Fine silver asked for to replace the shipped amount of about 14.000 kgs of silver nitrate.

Silver nitrate is an important raw material for the production of x-ray films, medical and pharmaceutical preparations, which are used primarily for public health purposes of high priority.

We further hope that certain quantities of silver will be released for industrial purposes of high priority out of the blocked stocks as mentioned under para 1) and 2), which are our own property and are coming from the German production.

D E G U S S A  
Metall-Abteilung

309327

S. I.

REFUGGED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 785007  
By SZ NARA Date 9-21-99

RG

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Entry Mosonti

File DEGUSSA

Box 2/1000

0

18 December 1947

Deutsche Gold-und Silber-Scheideanstalt  
Vormalige Rossauer  
Frankfurt/Main 1  
Postfach 107

SUBJECT: Request for Release of Silver  
Your letter 12 Nov 1947, Reference P/Bm/R1

Quoted below is the reply received by this office from the Finance Division, CMUS, Berlin in regard to subject application.

"10 December 1947

1. It is felt that more substantial documentary proof will have to be submitted by DEGUSSA before their request for the release of certain lots of silver can be studied.
2. It will be necessary for DEGUSSA to submit original documents or photostats thereof regarding each lot of silver whose release has been requested identifying:
  - a) place and date of production of the raw silver,
  - b) date and place of refining and assaying if this took place,
  - c) circumstances of the acquisition of the silver by DEGUSSA (bills of sale),
  - d) data concerning the transport of the silver from place of origin to present location (shipping tickets).
3. We would also like to have a documented explanation of how the DEGUSSA credit of 5 120.764 kg silver accrued on the silver nitrate transformation account with the I.G. Farbenindustrie A.G. Wolfen/Krs. Bitterfeld and proof that this silver originated from German mines.

THEODORE H. BALL  
Director

WGB  
Tel.: Frankfurt 24583

WILLIAM G. BREY,  
Colonel, GSC,  
Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

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SILV

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NWD 785007

By SC NARA Date 9-21-99

RG

Entry

File

Box

260

Monty

DEGUSSA

JL

## INTERNAL ROUTE SLIP

(Classification)

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER

FILE NO:

SUBJECT: MGAX Forms re DEGUSSA Silver Claim. DATE: 19 Aug 1948

(Number each memo or minute consecutively. Fill in each column, signed legibly  
draw a line across the sheet. Use entire width of sheet for long memoranda.)

No.	From	To	Date	HAS THIS PAPER BEEN COORDINATED WITH ALL CONCERNED?																				
1	FED OMGUS APO 757	OFA OMGUS APO 742 Attn: Mr R. Stern	19 Aug 48	<p>1. Attached is letter dated 18 Aug 1948 together with the following documents delivered by Degussa for forwarding, pursuant to your phone request of recent date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Photostat of MGAX form dated 14 Jul 45</li> <li>B. " " " " " 10 Aug 45</li> <li>C. " of letter dated 14 Feb 46 re additional silver stocks and supplementing previous MGAX forms</li> <li>D. Photostat of letter dated 9 Mar 1948 explaining silver holding of 23,885.366 kg</li> </ul> <p>2. For convenience we also prepared and forward herewith a photostat of Degussa letter dated 12 Nov 1947 used as a reference in this matter.</p> <p>3. It will be noted that the Degussa claim is for a total of 132,387.829 kg whereas they account for only 127,267.065 kg for MGAX purposes. The difference is 5,120.764 kg and is described on page 4 of letter 12 Nov 1947 as an accounting adjustment. In another communication Degussa stated they were leaving this adjustment out of consideration pending clarification with I.G. Farben, Wolfen.</p> <p>4. The silver described in the Degussa claim is held as follows:</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Amount</th> <th>Held by:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>x 15,038.306 kg</td> <td>FED (Shipment 34 D)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20,077.367 kg</td> <td>Degussa (Formerly FED Shipment 11; released to Degussa 15 Oct 1946) <sup>on loan</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23,885.366 kg</td> <td>Degussa (for Law 53 account Reichsbank Frankfurt/M)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(20,024.893 kg)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(20,886.737 kg)</td> <td>FED (Shipment 56)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(4,565.436 kg)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(10,642.294 kg)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12,146.666 kg</td> <td>Unknown (Silver Nitrate)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>127,267.065 kg</td> <td>Total</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>x) These Degussa weights do not correspond exactly with FED weights.</p> <p>Incl: <i>for</i> FRANK C. GABELL a/s Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository</p>	Amount	Held by:	x 15,038.306 kg	FED (Shipment 34 D)	20,077.367 kg	Degussa (Formerly FED Shipment 11; released to Degussa 15 Oct 1946) <sup>on loan</sup>	23,885.366 kg	Degussa (for Law 53 account Reichsbank Frankfurt/M)	(20,024.893 kg)		(20,886.737 kg)	FED (Shipment 56)	(4,565.436 kg)		(10,642.294 kg)		12,146.666 kg	Unknown (Silver Nitrate)	127,267.065 kg	Total
Amount	Held by:																							
x 15,038.306 kg	FED (Shipment 34 D)																							
20,077.367 kg	Degussa (Formerly FED Shipment 11; released to Degussa 15 Oct 1946) <sup>on loan</sup>																							
23,885.366 kg	Degussa (for Law 53 account Reichsbank Frankfurt/M)																							
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(20,886.737 kg)	FED (Shipment 56)																							
(4,565.436 kg)																								
(10,642.294 kg)																								
12,146.666 kg	Unknown (Silver Nitrate)																							
127,267.065 kg	Total																							

(Classification)

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NND 785007  
 By SC NARA Date 9-21-99

RG 260  
 Entry Piononti  
 File Aussa  
 Box 21

FOREIGN EXCHANGE POLICY GROUP  
 TABULATION SECTION

28 August 1948

SUBJECT: Deliveries of Silver-Bars with Form MGAX (2)  
 to Land Central Bank Frankfurt/M. by Degussa

TO : Mr. Richard H. Stern

The following deliveries and releases have taken place:

MGAX (2) - Form		Delivery	Release	Rest
Date	No.	kg	kg	kg
a) Silver (fine)				
14 July 1945	004/20040	18.019,706		
25 July 1945	<del>004/20040</del>		156,354	
30 Aug 1945	<del>004/20040</del>		17.863,352	
		Total: 18.019,706		--,--
10 Aug 1945	004/20039	6.134,659		
11 Sept 1945	<del>004/20039</del>		52,500	
18 Jan 1946	<del>004/20039</del>		60,145	
20 Sept 1946	<del>004/20039</del>		3.636,648	
		Total: 3.749,293		2.385,366
		24.154,365	21.768,999	2.385,366
b) Silver (900/000)				
14 July 1945	004/20040	41,685	4,400	37,285

Further deliveries or releases are unknown here.

*Hollcroft*  
 P. HALLETT  
 (Supervisor)

309330

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NDTTSOJQ  
By AT NARA Date 10/19/49

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver Export Program  
Box # 346

S. 1

CARRIER SHEET - MUST REMAIN WITH ATTACHED PAPERS - USE ENTIRE WIDTH OF SHEET - NUMBER ITEMS CONSECUTIVELY - DRAW LINE UNDERNEATH EACH ITEM

6344

1076

## OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

APO 742

FILE NO.: ED 410.2 (Ind/T&amp;CG)

SUBJECT: Release of Silver for the Manufacture of Export Silverware.

NO.	TO	FROM	DATE	(Has this been coordinated with all concerned?)
1	FD	ED	8 Aug	'Attn: Chief, Foreign Exchange & Blocking Control Branch

46. 1. Reference is had to memorandum to your office dated 29 July 1946, subject: "Release of Silver for Export", file ED 410.2. The Regional Government Coordinating Office has advised today that the Ministerpräsidenten have approved the production program on silverware for export and have agreed on the firm Degussa, Frankfurt, as their legal agent and custodian for all silver required for this program.

2. Informal discussions with representatives of your office on 29 July 1946 determined the availability of 40 tons of silver for the above program. It was agreed that this silver would be a loan to the Laenderrat to be used as a revolving fund to be replaced when necessary from the proceeds of the export sale of the silverware produced. It is requested that your office take the necessary action at the earliest practicable date to effect physical delivery of the 40 tons of silver agreed upon to the firm Degussa, Frankfurt. The Reparations, Deliveries & Restitutions Directorate have agreed to the release of this silver as a revolving fund.

3. For your information the production program has been worked out on a three months basis for the total 40 tons and if the above silver is released soon, this production may start in September. The Degussa firm and other affiliated companies will effect the necessary refining to sterling grade and supply the manufacturers of the silverware with the necessary silver sheets and wire.

FOR THE DIVISION DIRECTOR:



Tel: 42530  
Rm 1091 Econ Bldg

*L. Wilkinson*  
L. WILKINSON  
Colonel, Ord. Dept.,  
Chief, Industry Branch

RG 260  
 Entry PROPERTY  
 File Silvengold Inventory  
 Box 21

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND785007  
 By SC NARA Date 9-21-98

Frankfort, 16 April 1946

TranslationDEGUSSA, Deutsche Gold- und Silber-Scheideanstalt, Frankfurt/M.List No. ISilver quantities transferred by American Troops.

Paraxol-Gesellschaft m.b.H. Werk Walden near Augsburg	Finesilver-bars	20 077,367 kg
--	-----------------	---------------

(Receipt signed by Capt.  
D.D. O'Bryan 108 AAA Gn.Bn.Mbl.v.30.4.45)

Farbenfabrik Wolfen, District Bitterfeld

Finesilver-bars	Depot from Freiberg for silver-nitrat reworking	20 024,893 kg 20 886,737 " 9 193,410 "
Semi-finished silver from Reinickendorf	10 820,294 "	
Refined bars from Reinickendorf brutto 5 618,400 kg -	4 565,436 "	65 490,770
		8 074,020

(According to Requisition Receipt  
No. WHD-4 v.30.5.45 9th US-Army,  
Commander W.H. Domarchius,  
Serial No. 01845761)

Mansfelder copperslate-mining A.G. Eisleben resp. Hettstedt	Finesilver	15 038,306
(According to Letter Mansfeld from 15.6.45 obtained by Col. Horney		108 680,463

Besides silver-quantities transferred by Russian and French Troops:

	<u>by French Troops</u>	<u>by Russian Troops</u>
Degussa Pforzheim	about 4 000 kg	
" Konstanz	" 800 "	
" Berlin-Reinickendorf		about 63 000
" Wildau		1 700

RG 260  
 Entry PROPERTY  
 File Silber & Gold Inventory  
 Box 21

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 785007  
 By SL NARA Date 9-21-96

By Russian Troops

Mimosa AG. Grubschuetz  
 Staatl. Saechsische Huetten- und  
 Blaufarbenwerke Freiberg/Sa.

about 63 000

" 8 760

For the silver-quantities transferred by Russian Troops no deposit can be given, since all documents are destroyed and because no receipts were given by the Russian Troops.

List No. II

According to law No. 53 the following silver-quantities have been delivered to the American Zone:

	<u>kg Silver</u>	<u>furnished to</u>
Degussa Frankfurt	24 898,807	Reichsbank Frankfurt
" Hanau	115,231	" Hanau
" Muenchen	13,500	" Muenchen
Bayr. Hypotheken- und Wechselbank Nuernberg	708,577	" Nuernberg
Bayr. Hypotheken- und Wechselbank Weissenburg	0,702	" Schwabach
Bayr. Vereinsbank Schwabach	0,759	" Schwabach
Deutsche Bank Schwaebisch-Gmuend	45,870	" Schwaebisch Gmuend
	<hr/> 25 783,446	

./. Sales according to the attached copies:

	<u>kg</u>
Otto Klein, Hanau	503,598
Rol. Risse, Floersheim	156,354
Requisitionsschein	
Nr. 73 o85 40 kg Sil- vernitrat	25,500
Uhren-Christ Frankf.	
50 kg Cyansilvercali- um	27,000
Bamag Meguin, Butzbach	3,960
Glyco-Metallwerke,	
Wiesbaden-Schierstein	60,145
	<hr/> 776,557
	25 006,889 kg

309333

RG 260  
 Entry PROPERTY  
 File Silver & Gold Inventory  
 Box 21

DECLASSIFIED

Authority IND 785007  
 By SZ NARA Date 9-21-99

Besides according to law No. 53 the following Silverquantities ..  
 are delivered:

	<u>English Zone</u>	<u>furnished to</u>
Norddeutsche Affinerie Hamburg	10 315,292 kg	Reichsbank Hamburg
" w/Bln.	252,367 "	"
Degussa Hamburg	63,431 "	Militærreg. "
" Duesseldorf	139,441 "	" Duesseld.
Fr.Krupp A.G. Essen	14,787 "	Reichsbank Essen
	----- 10 785,318	

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NWD775059  
By AI NARA Date 10/1947

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver  
Box #346

S71V

CopyDEGUSSA, Frankfurt/Main

Office of Military Government  
Industry Branch, Metals Section,  
c/o Lt. Col. F.W. Fruitman

(16) Wiesbaden

N/T.

February 5, 1947

Re: Imports of precious metals during the war time.

Recently you asked us to give you a summary about the quantities of precious metals which have been imported by us into Germany during the war time.

Before going into details we should like to point out that all those imports have been carried out by order of the former Reichstelle fuer Edelmetalle or the former Reichs Finance Ministry respectively.

With respect to the utilization of these materials we declare that the imported quantities of precious metals, due to the peculiar nature of the process of refinery, were mixed with materials of German origin or coming from German mines and afterwards worked up. The fine metals resulting from these refining processes have been distributed by us to the German customers on account of special certificates. The customers have been hundreds varying according to their demands and therefore it is quite impossible for us now to trace the whereabouts of these quantities, especially also in view of the fact that the foreign precious metals had been mixed up with metals of German origin.

Only quantities coming from Belgium and Poland have been handled otherwise as you will see from the foot notes.

Imports fromYugoslavia

The National Bank des Koenigreichs Jugoslavien i.L., Belgrad, has sent us

on May 4, 1942

80,106,401 kgs of silver coins with 497/00 fineness

on July 27, 1944

26,599,711 kgs of silver coins with 747/000 fineness  
154,508 " " " " 497/000 fineness

309335

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NDTTSOJ9  
By AT NARA Date 01/94

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver  
Box #346

2. Office of Military Government, Industry Branch  
Metals Section, c/o Lt. Col. Fruitman, Wiesbaden

February 5, 1947

Out of these deliveries we have extracted

39,812,876 kgs of fine silver  
19,869,984 " " " " and  
76,790 " " " "

(totally) 59,759,650 " " "

which have been distributed as mentioned above. The deliveries have been paid by us in Reichsmark currency to the deliverer.

Greece:

The Bank von Griechenland, Athen, sent us

on January 23, 1943

25,011,600 kgs of silver coins with 498/ooo fineness

on June 5, 1943

1,813,160 kgs of silver coins with 498/ooo fineness

on September 11, 1944

166,466 kgs of silver coins with 498/ooo fineness  
393,210 " " " " 498/ooo "  
71,970 " " " " 498/ooo "

From the last mentioned quantity

42,404<sup>5</sup> kgs of silver coins

have been destroyed by airraids whilst the remaining

29,565<sup>5</sup> kgs of silver coins

have been notified by Krupp-Essen according to Law No. 53 (MGAX 1)  
and duly delivered (MGAX 2) to Reichsbank Essen.

From the aforementioned four lots of silver coins

12,470,716 kgs of fine silver  
902,953 " " " "  
83,028 " " " "  
195,818 " " " "

(a total amount of) 13,652,515 kgs of fine silver

has been recovered and distributed to the German customers. Payment to the deliverer has been effected in Reichsmark currency.

309336

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NDTTSOJY  
By AT NARA Date 10/19/99

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver  
Box #346

3. Office of Military Government, Industry Branch,  
Metals Section, c/o Lt. Col. Fruittman, Wiesbaden

February 5, 1947

Lithuania:

The Litauische Staatsbank in Kauen-Litauen has forwarded to us  
on July 12, 1943

20.286,050 kgs of silver coins with 497/000 fineness  
6.706,219 " " " " 748/000 fineness

From these deliveries

15.098,417 kgs of fine silver

have been extracted and distributed to the German customers. The materials have been paid to the deliverer in Reichsmark currency.

Polands:

The Emissionsbank in Krakau has sent us

on January 16, 1944

9.030,297 kgs of silver coins with 747/000 fineness

on March 8, 1944

13.505,438 kgs of silver coins with 747/000 fineness

on May 7, 1944

14.035,215 kgf of silver coins with 747/000 fineness

From these deliveries we have recovered

6.745,631 kgs of fine silver  
10.088,562 " " " "  
10.484,305 " " " "

a total amount of 27.318,498

Out of this quantity

(10.484,305 kgs of fine silver)

have been distributed to the German customers. The remaining quantity of

16.834,193 kgs of fine silver

has been placed at the disposal of our branch office in Vienna. These lots have been paid in Reichsmark currency to the deliverer either by us or by our branch Office in Vienna.

France:

Through intermediary of the former Preussische Staatsmuenze Berlin we

309337

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority WDFT 10/59  
By AT NARA Date 10/1949

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver  
Box #346

b. Office of Military Government, Industry Branch,  
Metals Section, c/o Lt. Col. Fruitman, Wiesbaden

February 5, 1947

received from the French Miné Administration

on February 10, 1941

1857 bars of silver with a gross weight of  
61,091,502 kgs.

Out of this delivery we recovered

(61,019,000 kgs of fine silver)

which was given to the German customers. This lot was paid by us in Reichsmark currency to the ROGES, Rohstoffhandels-Gesellschaft, Berlin-Mariendorf.

Belgium

From fall 1940 until spring 1941 the Emissionsbank at Brüssel has sent us a quantity of total

(1,632,599<sup>7</sup> kgs of fine gold)

in various lots which have been forwarded by us to the Reichsbank-Direktorium Berlin. The deliveries have been paid by us in Reichsmark currency to the deliverer.

In the last quarter of the year 1940 and during the course of the year 1941 the firms

Société Générale Métallurgique de Hoboken S.A., Hoboken, resp.  
the sellers of his products  
Société Générale des Minéraux S.A., Brüssel,  
and  
Cie. Métallurgique de la Campine S.A., Brüssel,  
and  
Société des Mines et Fonderies de Zinc de la Vieille Montagne  
S.A., Chêneée,

have sent us amounting to a total quantity of

(57,556,213 kgs of dore silver)

in various lots from which we have recovered:

55,624,742 kgs of fine silver
2,012,742 <sup>7</sup> " " fine gold
17,375 <sup>1</sup> " " platinum
27,526 <sup>1</sup> " " palladium
1,382 <sup>2</sup> " " rhodium.

According to an agreement

309338

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority WDTT TO SJ  
By AT NARA Date 10/19/99

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver  
Box # 346

5. Office of Military Government, Industry Branch  
Metals Section, c/o Lt. Col. Fruittman, Wiesbaden

February 5, 1947

28,000,000 kgs of fine silver
5,000 " " fine gold
1,800 " " platinum
1,600 " " palladium

have been re-delivered to Hoboken / Belgium.

From the remaining:

27,024,742 kgs of fine silver
15,575 " " platinum
25,926 " " palladium
1,3832 " " rhodium
2,007,7427 " " fine gold

The first four items have been given to the German customers whilst the last item of 2,007,742.7 kgs of fine gold has been delivered by us to the Reichsbank-Direktorium Berlin.

#### Czechoslovakia:

From the Protaktorats-Metall- und Huettenwerke, Prag, we have received

during December 1943 (1943) 15,752,000 kgs of fine silver  
" June 1944 3,900,000 kgs " "

totally 19,652,000 kgs of fine silver

and distributed to the German customers. These materials have been paid to the deliverer in Reichsmark currency.

The Nationalbank fuer Boehmen und Mähren, Prag, forwarded to us

during December 1941 1,187,000 kgs of dore silver.

From this delivery we have recovered totally

912,000 kgs of fine silver

which has given to the German customers. These lots have been paid by us in Reichsmark currency to the deliverer.

#### Netherlands:

From Messrs. Lippmann, Rosenthal & Co., Amsterdam, we received

from January 1943  
until August 1944 3,116,000 kgs of fine silver

which were given to the German customers. These lots were paid by us in Reichsmark currency to the deliverer.

We should like to emphasize that the major part of our files has been destroyed when our administration buildings burnt down in 1944. Therefore

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NDTTSOJ9  
By AT NARA Date 10/1949

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver  
Box # 346

6. Office of Military Government, Industry Branch  
Metals Section, c/o Lt. Col. Fruitman, Wiesbaden

we are not able to give you a complete summarization of the single items in all cases. As formerly agreed with you we did not mention the deliveries of German mines and dealer firms which are based on imports of ores and other scrap-material. All business with respect to working up only has also not been taken into consideration.

Once more we point out that all precious metals which have been imported by us during the war have been distributed to our customers. In consequence thereof no stocks out of these imports are at our disposal at the time being.

Yours truly,

D E G U S S A

i.V.

i.A.

(Furter)

(Weis)

309340

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNDT77J059  
By AT NARA Date 10/19/49RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver  
Box #346

S. 11

DEGUSSA, Frankfurt/M.

Office of Military Government  
Industry Branch, Metals Section  
c/o Lt. Col. F.W. Fruitman

(16) Wiesbaden

Bz/Th.

February 11, 1947

Re: Imports of precious metals during the war time.

In reply to the question put before us on occasion of our last visit we declare once more that there are no stocks at our disposal resulting from imported precious metals as specified in our letter of the 5th inst. No better evidence could be desired to support our argument than the fact that our working stock in silver diminished from about 126 000 kgs at beginning of the war to about 56 000 kgs at end of the war. This is a striking proof that not only the imported lots of silver were absorbed but also an essential part of our own working stock.

We have pointed out already in our letter of 5th inst. that the imported quantities of precious metals were mixed with material of German origin and distributed to the German industry according to the instructions of the former Reichsstelle fuer Edelmetalle. Although it is difficult to say, in which months the distribution took place, we have tried to find a way based to the monthly statements which we furnished to the Reichsstelle fuer Edelmetalle regularly. According to these figures it can be supposed that the imported precious metals were distributed as follows:

<u>Yugoslavia:</u>	39.812,876 kgs of fine silver distributed July 1942
	19.869,984 " " " " November 1944
	<u>76,790</u>
totally:	59.759,650 kgs of fine silver
<u>Greece:</u>	12.470,716 kgs of fine silver distributed April 1943
	902,953 " " " " August 1943
	83,028 " " " " December 1944
	<u>195,818</u> " " " " December 1944
totally:	13.652,515 kgs of fine silver
<u>Lithuania:</u>	15.098,417 kgs of fine silver distributed October 1943
<u>Poland:</u>	10.484,305 kgs of fine silver distributed July

Sheet. 2  
309341

**DECLASSIFIED**

Authority WND775059  
By AI NARA Date 10/19/99

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver  
Box # 346

2. Office of Military Government, Industry Branch  
Metals Section, c/o Lt. Col. Fruitman, Wiesbaden

February 11, 1947

France      61,019,000 kgs of fine silver distributed July-Oct. 1941  
Belgium    27,024,742 kgs of fine silver distributed January 1941  
              until October 1941

As to the items of platinum metals mentioned in our letter of 5th inst., namely:

15,575<sup>1</sup> kgs of platinum  
25,926<sup>1</sup> " of palladium  
1,382<sup>2</sup> " of rhodium

We inform you that these platinum metals were also distributed according to the instructions of the former Reichsstelle fuer Edelmetalle through our Hanau Branch. Since the files of our Hanau Branch were destroyed by airraids we cannot ascertain exactly, in which months the distribution took place, but it is probable that these imports of platinum metals were liquidated until end of 1941.

Czechoslovakia: 942,000 kgs of fine silver distributed February 1942  
 15.752,000 " " " " " February 1944  
3.900,000 " " " " " August 1944

totally: 20,594,000 kgs of fine silver

Netherlands      3,116,000 kgs of fine silver distributed March 1943 until November 1944

You will see from our statement that all lots of precious metals imported during the war were disposed off by the former Reichsstelle fuer Edelmetalle for the requirements of the German industry. In consequence thereof no stocks out of these imports were available at the end of the war.

Yours very truly,

D E G U S S A

V.

148

(Furlex)

(Benz)

309342

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	NND 775119
By	TJ NARA Date 9/13/99

RG 260  
 Entry 1000tons & Resin  
 File Commercial Color  
 Box 20

Simplified  
MGAX (2)

Report No. 004/07896  
Date (Datum) 16. th January 1950

Name of Declarant Degussa, Deutsche Gold- und Silber-Scheideanstalt  
 (Name und Anschrift des Anmelders) vorm. Roessler  
 Frankfurt am Main, Weißfrauenstr. 9

Name of Owner of the Property (Name des Eigentümers)

Degussa, Deutsche Gold- und Silber-Scheideanstalt, Frankfurt/M., Weißfrau-  
 (Fam.-Name) (Vorname) (Hausnummer) (Strasse) (Ort)enstr. 9

Category B P

Anzahl	Beschreibung	Währung	Gesamtbetrag in solcher Währung	<u>gross wieght kgs</u>
10	340	Rough bars	Silver	6.057,348
11	13	bars	"	233,276
12	119	cases silver material	"	5.977,169
13	212	sheets and discs	"	3.565,1499
14	133	tubes	" )	869,200
15	10	rods	" )	
16	65	rolls wire (fine)	" )	
17	29	rolls wire (heavy)	" )	
				<u>18.795,0429</u>

D E G U S S A

*Frankfurt 11/1950*

Wir haben am . . . . .  
 von Herrn  
 die oben verzeichneten Vermögenswerte erhalten.

Landeszentralbank von Hessen  
 Hauptstelle Frankfurt a. Main

Bankoberinspektor, Bankoberinspektor.

309343

DECLASSIFIED  
NND 775119  
Authority 775119  
By TJ NARA Date 9/13/89

RG 760  
Entry 1040000 & RESERVING  
File COMMUNAL GOLDA  
Box 70

AFFIDAVIT OF PERSON MAKING REPORT  
(Eidesstattliche Erklärung des Anmelders)

{ I/we \_\_\_\_\_ am/mare \_\_\_\_\_ (Ich/Wir \_\_\_\_\_ sind \_\_\_\_\_) affirm under oath that  
{ erkläre(n) hiermit an Eidesstatt

I/we am/mare the \_\_\_\_\_ und erkläre(n) hiermit  
dass ich/wir der/die

of the \_\_\_\_\_ am/mare \_\_\_\_\_ und erkläre(n) hiermit wahr, dass ich/wir der/die \_\_\_\_\_

making this report and all supplementary documents submitted therewith  
and made a part hereof, that I/we am/mare authorized to make this affidavit  
and that to the best of my/our knowledge and belief the statements set  
forth in said report forms are true and accurate and all material facts  
in connection with said reports have been set forth therein, and that  
I/we am/mare cognizant of the fact that the statements and affidavit made  
by me/us will be used as proof before public authorities such as the  
Military Government, the Military Government Courts, and the German Courts  
and that I/we am/mare also aware of the fact that any untrue or incomplete  
statement which I/we might make in these reports will be punishable under  
the law of the Military Government and/or under German law.

bin/sind, und dass ich/wir diesen Bericht einschließlich aller zusätz-  
lichen Schriftstücke, die dazu gehören und als wesentliche Bestandteile  
davon gelten, einreiche(n), dass ich/wir zur Abgabe dieser eidesstat-  
tlichen Erklärung berechtigt bin/sind, und dass die in diesem Bericht ge-  
machten Angaben nach meinem/unserem besten Wissen und Gewissen wahrheits-  
gemäß und richtig sind, dass alle für diesen Bericht wesentlichen Tat-  
sachen angegeben sind, und dass ich/wir weiß/wissen, dass die vom mir/uns  
gemachten Angaben und eidesstattliche Erklärung von öffentlichen Behörden,  
z.B. der Militärregierung, den Gerichten der Militärregierung und deutschen  
Gerichten als Beweismittel benutzt werden können, und dass ich/wir mit/uns  
ferner bewusst bin/sind, dass irgendeine falsche oder unvollständige Er-  
klärung in diesem Bericht nach den Gesetzen der Militärregierung und/oder  
deutschem Gesetzen strafbar ist.

B E G U S S A

   
Unterschrift der die eidesstattliche Er-  
klärung abgebenden Person

Kontingenat Zahl - und Zeichen - und Unterschrift  
Adresse: 

Die Richtigkeit obiger Unterschrift beglaubigt:

Datum . . . . .

Ort . . . . .

Dienstsiegel  
und Unterschrift

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NDT 1059  
By AT NARA Date 10/19/49RG 260  
Entry First Part  
File Silver Export Program  
Box # 346

S. 1v

CARRIER SHEET - MUST REMAIN WITH ATTACHED PAPERS - USE ENTIRE WIDTH OF SHEET - NUMBER ITEMS CONSECUTIVELY - DRAW LINE UNDER EACH ITEM

6363

100

## OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

APO 742

FILE NO: ED 410.2 (IND/T&amp;CG)

SUBJECT: Release of Silver for the Manufacture of Export Silverware.

NO. TO FROM DATE (Has this been coordinated with all concerned?)

1 FD ED 12 Aug Attn: Chief, Foreign Exchange & Blocking Control Branch  
1946

1. Confirming informal discussion with representative of your office Mr. Conrad, the following additional information has been obtained from Lt. Col. Fruitman, Industry Officer for Metals, OMG Gross Hesse.

a. Silver is available for purchase in both Mexico and London. Col. Fruitman is making a second trip to London on 17 August and on his return about 19 August will supply the name sources of supply, the quantity and prices of silver in England.

b. The only data available on inventories of silver is with respect to the blocked account under law # 53 and Col. Fruitman has reported the following information:

(1) In the following Reichsbanks approximate inventories are:

Frankfurt	24.900 M/T
Hanau	0.115 "
Munich	0.135 "
Nuernberg	0.708 "
Schwaeb.Gmund	0.045 "
Hamburg	0.063 "
Duesseldorf	0.139 "
Essen	0.014 "
TOTAL	26,119 M/T

(2) The U.S. Army removed under law # 53 approximately 108 tons of silver from Degussa and placed it in U.S. depository Reichsbank Frankfurt.

c. The dollar credit obtained from the export of silverware sold in the U.S. or other countries will be available for the purchase of silver for replacement of the 40 tons and subsequent silver required for the continuation of the program.

2. It is requested that at the earliest practicable date your office take the necessary action to effect consignment of 40 tons of silver to Degussa, Frankfurt, for the inauguration of the export silverware program.

FOR THE DIVISION DIRECTOR:



Telephone: 42530  
Room 1091  
Econ Bldg

*L. Wilkinson*  
L. WILKINSON  
Colonel, Ord Dept  
Chief, Industry Branch

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NDT7J059  
By AT NARA Date 10/1949

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver Exports Programs  
Box # 346

S.1

6314  
1001

6 August 1946

SUBJECT: Release of Silver for Export (ED 410.2)

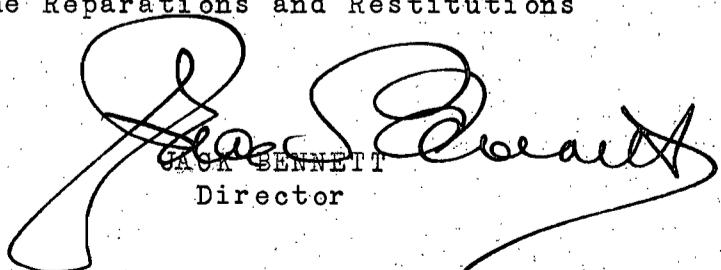
TO : Mr. Freeman

1. This carrier sheet from Economics Division would indicate that they have gone far toward planning to use silver now in the Depository, based on presumed clearance from the Finance Division. I am concerned, however, that the conditions as outlined in my memorandum of 9 July 1946, two copies of which were sent to the Economics Division, have not been entirely met. There would appear to be these problems:

- a) The SS loot silver belongs to IARA as "non-monetary gold" and permission must be obtained from IARA or it must be clear that the Reparations Branch of the Economics Division assumes responsibility to IARA for this property which is "subject to reparations".
- b) An agreement to replace silver taken from the Depository for this purpose would be subject to the limitations of importing within "essential requirements". We should be satisfied, therefore, that there would be no problem about utilizing proceeds of exports for this purpose, and also that commercial silver would be readily available in Europe for purchase.

2. My present disposition is not to release silver from the Depository unless we have a clear release from Washington which will have taken into account the prior claims of IARA.

3. My previous understanding with the Economics Division was that in their program they would utilize silver not within the Depository and then only on the basis of its release by the Reparations and Restitutions Branch.



JACK BENNETT  
Director

309346

R659  
COF 51945-49  
Box 6351

S. 147

D/R

# The Chase National Bank

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PINE STREET CORNER OF NASSAU  
NEW YORK 18, N.Y.

CABLE ADDRESS CHASEBANK

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT  
ALFRED W. BARTH  
VICE PRESIDENT

New York

August 12, 1946

file  
w/forward

*b. Francis*

State Department  
Washington  
D. C.

Gentlemen:

Attention of - Mr. Outerbridge Horsey,  
Spanish Section

Re: Silver Coins from the Instituto Espanol  
de Moneda Extranjera, Madrid, Spain.

I wish to refer to our recent telephone conversation in respect to the cable which we had received from Mr. Victor M. Oswald, Madrid, Spain, according to which the Instituto Espanol de Moneda Extranjera, Madrid, Spain, presumably in order to bridge its temporary shortage of dollars, inquired on what basis it could ship silver coins for refining and later sale of .999 pure bar silver in the American market.

In order to keep you fully informed, I should like to advise you that we cabled the Instituto Espanol de Moneda Extranjera through the intermediary of Mr. Oswald that we should be glad to have the Instituto consign silver coins to us and that we would have these coins refined and later sold on their behalf. It was suggested that the shipment be accompanied by an ownership certificate approved by the American Embassy in Madrid. In other words, we told the Instituto that the transaction would have to be approved by our Embassy in Spain. As soon as we hear anything further on the subject, I shall be pleased to keep you informed.

While on the subject of Madrid, I have just received a cable according to which the Council of Ministers has just passed a Decree under which a special exchange rate will hereafter prevail for tourist pesetas and family support payments. I understand that the rates in the future for these pesetas will be 16.42½ pesetas per dollar as compared to 10.95 for the regular pesetas.

Sincerely yours,

*Alfred Barth*  
Vice President

352.515/8-1246

309347

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	NN 0 7750 42
By <u>JR</u>	NARA Date 8/24/97
RG	260
Entry	Memorandum
Box	288

JW

Incl No. 4

ASSETS RELEASED

1. Assets released : Silver bullion (297 large bars and 645 small bars of gross weight 20,077.149 kilograms.)
2. Date of Release : 15 October 1946.
3. Released to : Economics Division,  
Office of Military Government for Greater Hesse.
4. For purpose of : Use in German silverware fabrication industry.
5. Authority : Letter dated 20 September 1946 to Foreign Exchange  
Depository, signed Jack Bennett, Director, Finance  
Division, CMGUS.

C E R T I F I C A T E

The above information is correct and is based upon our personal knowledge of the transaction or records on file.

WILLIAM G. BREY  
 WILLIAM G. BREY  
 Colonel, GSC  
 Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

JACK BENNETT  
 Director, Finance Division

9

309348

RG

Entry

File

Box

260

PROPERTY

Silvano Gold Inv. No.

21

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NWD 785007

By SZ NARA Date 9-21-99

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
FOR GREATER HESSE

FWF/is

(Ind)

SUBJECT: Release of Materials.

TO : DEGUSSA, Frankfurt, Weisfrauenstrasse 9.

1. Approved for release of the following quantities to the following firms from Degussa, Frankfurt:

## Army Exchange Order

No. 455	303 103	Christian Bauer Walzheim	363 000 grams 90 150	from Degussa, Hanau
No. 458	1503 000	Hanns Knaebel Esslingen	1 800 000 grams 450 110	from Degussa, Frkf.
No. 136	40 920	Spahr & Co. Schw. Gmuend	40 920 grams 11 230	from Degussa, Hanau
No. 139	9 644	Ludwig Hugo Boehm, Schw. Gmuend	11 550 grams 1 838 85	from Degussa, Hanau
No. 140 and No. 141	192 387	Emil Hermann, Waldstetten b. Schw. Gmuend	231 792 grams 57 94	from Degussa, Frkf.
No. 142	2 739	Eugen Heyd, Schw. Gmuend	3 300 grams 125	from Degussa, Frkf.
No. 143 & 144	7 697	Heinrich Klein, Schw. Gmuend	9 274 grams 1 319	from Degussa, Frkf.
No. 146	68 640	Otto Walter, Schw. Gmuend	85 800 grams 11 430	from Degussa, Frkf.
No. 147	29 594	Gustav Hauber, Schw. Gmuend	35 442 grams 8 115	from Degussa, Frkf.
No. 145	471 190	Jo. Grimminger, Schw. Gmuend	591 300 grams 141 04	from Degussa, Hanau
No. 148	4 827	Schoch & Frank, Schw. Gmuend	5 816, 2 grams 1 454	from Degussa, Hanau
No. 149	247 995	P. Bruckmann & Soehne, Heilbronn	297 000 grams 835 110	from Degussa, Frkf.
No. 150	16 633	Oscar Haegele, Schw. Gmuend	19 800 grams 4 950	from Degussa, Frkf.
No. 152	59 794	Josef Schmid, Schw. Gmuend	71 610 grams 17 904	from Degussa, Frkf.

316 883

3274 948  
873 947

309349

RG

Entry PROPERTY  
 File Silicon Gold Inventory  
 Box 21

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 785007  
 By SL NARA Date 9-21-99

No. 459 P. Bruckmann & Soehne, 379 500 grams from Degussa, Fkft.  
Heilbronn 8357 94 875

Total: 3 936 104,2 grams

2. Terms of purchase and shipment to be arranged between buyer and  
 seller.

3 919 104,2

919 104,2

*Fruitman*  
 FRANK W. FRUITMAN  
 Lt Col Ord  
 Chief, Metals Section

## 16 Incls:

Incl No 1 - List of Purchase Orders  
 Incl No 2 - 15 Purchase Orders

Telephone - Wiesbaden 7151 Ext. 324

309350

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority MDT 10/59  
By AT NARA Date 10/1949

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver Export Program  
Box F 346

526

CARRIER SHEET - MUST REMAIN WITH ATTACHED PAPERS - USE ENTIRE WIDTH OF SHEET - NUMBER ITEMS CONSECUTIVELY - DRAW LINE UNDER EACH ITEM

## OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

APO 742

FILE NO: ED 410.2

SUBJECT: Release of Silver for Export

NO.	TO	FROM	DATE	(Has this been coordinated with all concerned?)
1	Fin Div Econ Div	29	July 1946	Attention: Mr. Bennett

1. At a conference held 0930 27 July with representatives of your Section, Mr. H. C. Conrad and Mr. L. W. Loop; Trade & Commerce, Export/Import Section, Mr. Robichaud; Industry Branch, Textiles & Consumers Goods, Lt. Col Cunningham, Control & Inspection, Lt. Col Smith, and Lt. Col. Leslie, the procedures as outlined herein were agreed upon in order to implement the program of manufacturing silver items for the export trade. Copies of the TWX that was received by this Headquarters from the Regional Government Coordinating Office, Stuttgart, and the reply of this Headquarters are attached hereto for your information.

2. During the discussion it developed that the representatives of Finance desired the concurrence of the Restitution Branch on the utilization of silver stock now in the Depository. Col. Allen, Chief of Restitution Branch, was contacted by telephone and stated that he agreed to the use of silver for this purpose outlined above, provided that when sufficient credit was established, silver be repurchased to make up the depleted stock on a revolving fund basis. Col. Allen also stated that Mr. Cronan, Restitution Branch, was to be contacted regarding further details.

3. In order that coordinated action may be taken by this Headquarters the representatives agreed to the following lines of action:

a. Text. & Cons. Goods Sect., Ind Br (Lt. Col. Cunningham, # 42530) effect the necessary arrangements with the Laenderrat in selection of plants for manufacturing the items for export.

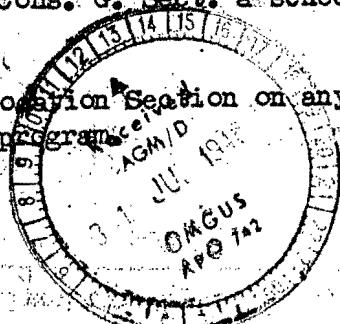
b. The Fin. Div. arrange with Text. & Cons. Gds. Sect. for the release of silver in the quantity and at the time desired.

c. The Fin Div set up the necessary procedure for delivery of the silver to the plants designated by the Text. & Cons. Gds. Sect. in the quantities desired. Coordinate with Export/Import Section (Lt. Comdr. Haskell, # 43943).

d. Trade & Commerce, Exp./Imp. Sect., develop a program of the items desired for export and coordinate this with Text. & Cons. G. Sect.

e. In connection with Laenderrat representative the Exp./Imp. Sect. (Mr. Robichaud, # 43001) finalize the items desired for export and submit to Text. & Cons. G. Sect. a schedule of production desired.

f. Text. & Cons G. Sect. will coordinate with Requirements & Allocation Section on any special material requirements(exclusive of silver) to carry out this program.



DECLASSIFIED  
Authority MDTTSOJ9  
By AT NARA Date 10/19/99

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver Export Powers  
Box FF 346

FILE NO.: ED 410.2

SUBJECT: Release of Silver for Export

NO. TO FROM DATE

1 Fin Div. Econ 29  
Div. July  
1946

g. Text. & Cons. Gds. Sect., upon completion of initial plan will initiate program through Laenderrat.

with Laenderrat on movements of items. Coordinate with Text. & Cons. Gds. Sect.

program by any Section of this Headquarters, without first consulting the other Sections involved.

j. The Laenderrat to assume the responsibility for the security and maintenance of the necessary records for control of the raw materials and the output.

FOR THE DIVISION DIRECTOR:

STEPHEN A. PARK  
Colonel, GSC  
Executive

## 2 Incls:

Copy of cable from RGCO  
Copy of cable from OMGUS

BERLIN 43-584  
Rm 1118, Econ Bldg.



S1

MHT/1

ORMoJ

7 March 1969

Mr. G. Pierson  
Administrator General for Netherlands  
International Rehabilitation  
Administration  
140-771 Rehabilitation

Paris 19th January.

In your letter of 22 February 1969 you suggest that a number of silver articles in the Dutch General Collecting Fund, originating from either France, Belgium or Holland be returned to the three countries. Firstly. You propose that the three countries should otherwise determine whether they can keep themselves of the individual items.

Since this proposal is not in accordance with normal procedures for restitution of looted property to the countries of origin, it is not favourably considered. As the properties are identified at the collecting point, we will make return directly to the nation concerned.

(Signed),

COLIN R. WILDEMAN  
Chair - Operations and  
Restitution Committee

38/4

FILE NUMBER	FILE NUMBER	FILE NUMBER
ENTRY NUMBER	FILE NUMBER	FILE NUMBER
RG	RG	RG
Box 469	Box 129	Box 129
FILE CLASSIFIED	FILE CLASSIFIED	FILE CLASSIFIED
REF ID: A129	REF ID: A129	REF ID: A129
REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES	REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES	REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

309353

copy/rf

COMMISSIONER GENERAL VOOR DE NEDERLANDSE ECONOMISCHE BELANGEN IN DUITSLAND

Onze Ref.: D/JK 42351/I

AMSTERDAM-C., 22 Februari 1949  
KETTERLACHT 569-571  
TELEFON 90900 (4 lijnen)  
POSTBUS 652

Re: Restitution of silver articles from  
Central Collecting Point, Munich.

In the Munich Central Collecting Point are a number of silver articles, originating from either France, Belgium or Holland. As it will be very difficult to prove from which country the articles were actually removed to Germany, negotiations were opened some time ago with MWAA at Karlsruhe whether it would be possible to release the articles to the three countries together, in order to be able to clear the American files. The three countries would afterwards restitute the articles to the country which had a right to them.

I should very much appreciate if you would let us know whether in your opinion it will be possible to execute such an agreement. As far as I know it is certain that the articles are not German, so that perhaps this is the only way to deal with such cases.

for The COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR NETHERLANDS  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

H. Dienstko

/s/ Dienstko  
Chief Ist. Dept.

To: Reparation & Restitution Section,  
Berlin

444

File	Box
Entry Control Office	464
RG	260
DECLASSIFIED	309354
Authorised	1129
NARA Date	JU 12
Entry Control Office	AND 75057

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775D58  
By T NARA Date 04/99RG 260  
Box 164  
FED

SIV

## INTERNAL ROUTE SLIP

(Classification)

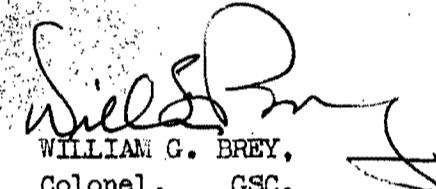
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER

FILE NO:

SUBJECT: Cable WX-96336 re Silver

DATE: 28 April 1947

(Number each memo or minute consecutively. Fill in each column, signed legibly  
draw a line across the sheet. Use entire width of sheet for long memoranda.)

No.	From	To	Date	Has This Paper Been Coordinated With All Concerned?
1.	F.E.D. OMGUS Rear APO 757	Director Finance Division <u>Attn.:</u> Mr. B.Brown, APO 742	28 April 1947	<p>1. Attached for approval and transmission are suggested drafts of cables as follows:</p> <p>a. To AGWAR for WDSCA ES as reply to WX-96336 b. To USFA requesting investigation ownership of silver bullion.</p>  <p>WILLIAM G. BREY, Colonel, GSC, Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository</p>

309355

(Classification)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775D58  
By D NARA Date 04/99

RG 260  
Box 764  
FED

Cable WX-96336 re Silver

28 April 1947

1. P.E.D. Director 28 April      1. Attached for approval and transmission are suggested  
OMGUS Finance 1947      drafts of cables as follows:

Rear Division

APO Attn.:  
757 Mr.  
B.Brown,  
APO 742

- a. To AGWAR for WDSCA ES as reply to WX-96336  
b. To USFA requesting investigation ownership  
of silver bullion.

WILLIAM G. BREY,  
Colonel, GSC.  
Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

309356

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775058  
By D NARA Date 6/4/99RG 260  
Box 164  
FED

## C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM : OMGUS  
TO : USFA  
INFO : EUCOM

A. Your assistance requested in connection with investigation of ownership and source of 26,601.7 ounces silver bullion held by Foreign Exchange Depository Frankfurt. Records here indicate this silver deposited in Reichsbank Vienna on 31 October 1944 by Stabsintendant Leisegang, a German army official. Subsequently transferred to Precious Metals Department of Reichsbank Berlin on 5 February 1945 and credited to account of Chefintendant of German Army in S.E. Europe. Silver was in 44 bags containing 172 bars each stamped "BOR" and numbered.

B. Will appreciate fullest information you can develop on history this <sup>of coming removed from and</sup> silver towards determination of rightful owner, including circumstances underlying receipt and release at Vienna, meaning of "BOR" stamp, lists of bar numbers if available, transcript of Leisegang's precious metal account, explanation of Leisegang's connection with transaction, source of silver, clues to ownership.

It is hoped that your findings will provide a basis for disposition of this silver. Letter reply requested attention Finance Division, OMGUS.

Dated 7-5

C O N F I D E N T I A L

309357

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775058  
By TJ NARA Date 6/1/99

RG 260

Box 64

FED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~FROM : OMCUS  
TO : AGWAR FOR WDSCA ES  
INFO : EUCOMDECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12036, Sec. 3-402  
NND 775058  
By J Miller NARS, Date 11-7-79

Reured WX-96336 dated 18 April 1947 and oured March CC-8221. Further information re silver in Frankfurt Depository follows:

A. (1) 26,601.7 ounces silver bullion. Records here indicate this silver deposited Reichsbank Vienna on 31 October 1944 by Stabsintendant Leisegang, a German army official. Silver transferred to Precious Metals Department, Reichsbank Berlin on 5 FEBRUARY 1945 and credited to account of Chefintendant (chief financial officer) of German Army in Southeast Europe. Transferred to Markers Mine about 28 February 1945 and thence to Foreign Exchange Depository on 15 April 1945.

(2) When deposited Berlin silver was in 44 bags said to contain 172 bars. Bags not opened nor contents examined in Berlin due to pending transfer to Markers. Foreign Exchange Depository now holds 172 bars, each numbered and stamped "KOR" which stamp is believed trade mark of Kupferberg Werke und Rautten A.G. Belgrade, a mining company. Such stamping not conclusive evidence of last ownership but rather origin.

(3) Information on hand does not permit positive identification and item is only receiving routine attention here. Do you desire it receive priority treatment? We will cable USFA and attempt develope additional facts regarding which you will be advised. No claim for restitution has been received by Restitution Control Branch OMCUS for this item.

309358

Authority NND 775D58  
By ID NARA Date 6/4/99RG 260  
Box 64  
FED

- 2 -

B. (1) 5,950.8 ounces silver content alloy bars. Represents 141 bars of approximately 15 % silver and 85 % gold content. Further investigation indicates silver content weighs about 6,363 ounces instead of 5,950.8 ounces as reported.

(2) Report here indicate that these 141 bars constituted part of a shipment of 175 barrels bars and 238 bags gold coin removed under German supervision from Banca d'Italia in Milan to Fortress of Fortezza in December 1943, thence to Reichsbank Berlin in March and October of 1944, thence to Merkers Mine, thence to Foreign Exchange Depository.

(3) This metal movement understood to be in compliance German - Italian agreement dated 5 February 1944 for purpose of Italy's contribution to war on eastern front. German Foreign Office arranged and supervised transfer. Reichsbank Berlin was to, or possibly did, pay in Reichsmarks for metal acquired under this agreement.

(4) Copy of comprehensive report of External Assets Branch dated 14 December 1945 covering this matter available if desired. Italy has filed no claim for restitution. Since bars are alloyed gold and silver, and gold content presumably intended for "Gold POT" disposal, restitution of silver content impossible without remelting.

C. 14,002.8 ounces silver coin.

(1) Records indicate 10,184 ounces miscellaneous non-legal tender coins believed mostly German accumulated by Reichsbanks in over-counter purchase and destined for later sale to DEGUSSA (German Precious Metal Refinery) for industrial purposes.

309359

Authority NND 775058  
By I NARA Date 04/99

RG 260  
Box 64  
FED

- 3 -

(2) 5,080 Maria Theresia Thalers (Austrian) weighing 9,808 ounces received on 5 December 1944 from Reichsbank Plauen by Reichsbank Berlin for account of Reichssicherheitshauptamt, thence to Merkers, thence to F.E.D.

(3) These items not yet inventoried so numismatic value or exact composition unknown.

D. 2,993.465.5 ounces silver bullion consisting of 6,789 bars and 98 boxes scrap restituted to Hungary 21 April 1947.

E. Number 26 B from Regensburg. Representatives Czechoslovak. Restitution Mission recently visited F.E.D. with lists of identification markings and numbers. Comparison such lists against silver held will be undertaken shortly.

F. Re silver presumed German. Investigation in progress on silver acquired Reichsmint Munich Shipment No. 21 K. Will initiate investigation Shipment No. 56. No immediate investigations contemplated on Law 53 silver other than in routine manner.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

309360

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775058  
By DJ NARA Date 6/14/99

RG 260  
Box 164  
FED

WHILE YOU WERE OUT:

Called.

- He will call again
- Call him at
- He left the following Message

Dear Brother -

This summarization  
covers all points  
brought up by

Cable MX 92532 -

I just returned from  
my Annual Physical w/  
All OK. now B

309361

Authority NND 775058  
By D NARA Date 6/14/99

RG 260  
Box 764  
FED

## CONFIDENTIAL

FROM : OMGUS  
TO : USFA  
INFO : EUCOM

A. Your assistance requested in connection with investigation of ownership and source of 26,601.7 ounces silver bullion held by Foreign Exchange Depository Frankfurt. Records here indicate this silver deposited in Reichsbank Vienna on 31 October 1944 by Stabsintendant Leisegang, a German army official. Subsequently transferred to Precious Metals Department of Reichsbank Berlin on 5 February 1945 and credited to account of Chefintendant of German Army in S.E. Europe. Silver was in 44 bags containing 172 bars each stamped "BOP" and numbered.

B. Will appreciate fullest information you can develop on history this silver towards determination of rightful owner, including circumstances underlying receipt and release at Vienna, meaning of "BOP" stamp, lists of bar numbers if available, transcript of Leisegangs precious metal account, explanation of Leisegangs connection with transaction, source of silver, clues to ownership.

It is hoped that your findings will provide a basis for disposition of this silver. Letter reply requested attention Finance Division, OMGUS.

CONFIDENTIAL

309362

RG 260  
 Entry PROPERTY  
 File Macung / FED 119  
lost. case  
 Box 22

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NNDT15119  
 By TJ NARA Date 62499

SFW

Reparations & Restitution Branch  
 Property Division, CEA, Mr. F.G. Draper  
 Foreign Exchange Depository  
 Finance Division, CEA, Mr. F.J. Roberts  
 Case of Hanna Feigl

13 January 1950

As requested in your CM 30 Dec 49 the Depository investigated its records in reference to personal property of subject claimant and reports as follows:

On 9 June 1945 a US Military Government Detachment delivered to the Depository various containers of securities, jewelry, crude silver bars and other assets stated to have been found in the Reichsbankstelle Regensburg. Subsequent detailed examination and inventory of this shipment (# 26 B) disclosed the apparent owners of most of the material all of whom were residents of Czechoslovakia. Pursuant to cable WK-85011, July 1948 relating to assets of another shipment with a similar historical background restitution of the shipment 26 B assets to Czechoslovakia (claim # 139-C) was authorized by the Finance Adviser, with the concurrence of the Restitution Branch. Release to Czechoslovakia was effected on 21 Oct 1948 per FED Shipping Ticket # 169.

An examination of the assets listed on S.T. # 169 discloses the name Hanna (or Hana) Feigl in connection with FED inventories 13771 and 14418. Enclosed is a listing in duplicate of the pertinent section of our S.T. In our opinion practically all of the jewelry items on the listing of claimant Hanna Feigl are thus accounted for.

Claimant's listing, however, also reflects many items of silver table ware. S.T. # 169 reflects no silver table ware whatsoever. Czech authorities have stated that all silver ware pursuant to German order was converted by a Prague jeweller named Hans Gruenfeld into crude silver bars marked with the initials H.G. Forty-three of such bars are included in S.T. # 169 and may include claimant's silver assets.

## Enclosures:

FED listing in duplicate  
 original correspondence and listings  
 of Hanna Feigl, as received

Telephone: FRANKFURT 7396 & 7304

309363

MOB

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 775058  
By JW NARA Date 9-22

RG 260  
Entry Finance Division  
File Hung. Restitution Property  
Box 50

Hungarian Property

6 May 1947

1. F.E.D. Director 6 May  
OMGUS Finance 1947  
Rear Division  
APO OMGUS  
757 APO 742

1. The attached report covers all Hungarian property, remaining in the Foreign Exchange Depository, which was originally received from Spital am Pyhrn, Austria.
2. It does not cover 398 boxes silver coin (Yugoslavian dinar and Roumanian lei) and 6 boxes plaques originally received from Reichsbank Magdeburg, Germany.
3. The property covered in attached report is ready to restitute when directives permit. It is the opinion of this Branch that this property is restitutable to Hungary.
4. A proposed reply to AGWAR Cable WX-96748 dated 24 April 1947 is being prepared and will be based upon the attached report.
5. You may desire to furnish a copy of this report to Economics Division, Restitution Branch and AGWAR, Civil Affairs Division.

WILLIAM G. BREY,  
Colonel, GSC,  
Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

Incl.:

1 - Report on Hungarian Property

309364

Report on Hungarian PropertyI Property HeldA. Orphanage Deposits - 27 Cases

These were left with the National Bank of Hungary by the Trust Company for Orphans of Budapest and consisted of 27 large packing cases, steel banded and padlocked. These cases were opened for the first time at the Foreign Exchange Depository in connection with recent restitution operation for which purpose keys were provided by Hungarian representatives. The inventory by the Hungarians, in presence of Foreign Exchange Depository representatives, revealed 612 pre-numbered cardboard containers, which were verified as to number only against Hungarian listings reflecting names of individuals, as well as numbers, but no indications as to nature of contents. Some containers found in opened condition revealed jewelry, silverware and other valuables. The Hungarians expressed the opinion that all these valuables were in the nature of inheritances.

B. Safekeeping Deposits - 29 Containers

No. of Cases or Pkgs.	Markings	Contents	Identification and Remarks
4 Boxes	E II, E III, E IV, E V	Gold bars and coins	Hung. State Attorney re Norbert Dvorak, a gold dealer
1 Box	E No. 1	Gold bars and coins	Hung. State Attorney re Scheidt Lajos es Tersai
5 Boxes	E III, E IV, E V, E VI, E VII	Currency, gold coin, jewelry, precious metals etc.	282 envelopes bearing identification names or numbers - probably contents Safe Deposit boxes
2 Boxes	E VIII, E IX	Gold, platinum, coins of numismatic value	Royal Hungarian Mint
1 Box	E X	29 kgs gold (approx.)	Hungarian Postal Savings Bank
4 Boxes	E XI, E XII, E XIII, E XIV	144 Kgs (approx) gold and silver alloy bars not entirely processed	Deposited by the mine of Nagybanya

- 2 -

No. of Cases or Pkgs.	Markings	Contents	Identification and Remarks
1 Box	E XV	Misc. gold and silver coins and jewelry	Received from the Cashier of the Mint on behalf 13 various accounts in separate envelopes
1 Box	No. 4	Currency, small amounts gold and silver bullion	15 envelopes bearing identification names or numbers - probably Safe Deposit boxes
1 Box	No. 8	Small amounts Reichmarks, Roum. Lei and Czech. Krona	3 envelopes and some loose currency
3 Boxes	No. I-3048 II-3048 III-3049	15 Kg(approx) platinum mesh	Deposited by Nitrogen Works of Pet.
1 PKg	O-24	102 pieces jewelry and small amounts gold coin and currency	Deposited by the Supreme Command as the property of the Military Police C.I.C.
1 Case	---	Jewelry, art treasures and other valuables	Deposited by museum and other City of Budapest institutions
1 Bag	O - 5	1 sealed Pkg.	Jewish valuables said to belong to Manfred Weiss and others
		1 Pkg containing 120 pieces tableware, 2 bank books and personal papers	Property of Minister-President Ferenc Szalasi
		1 sealed metal box	Deposited by Commercial Bank of Budapest said to contain gold
2 Pkgs	1. 3	Various securities, coupons & collection items	Appear to be sendings by various domestic and foreign banks and others
1 Box	2	\$ 300 and 42 pieces jewelry	One silver cigar case, no identification markings

- 3 -

C. Property of National Bank of Hungary.

1. One case containing records of the National Bank of Hungary. These records apparently have no connection with the valuables in other containers.
2. Two cases contained the following paper currencies:

United States Dollars	159,606.91
Swiss Francs	284,687.53
Canadian Dollars	7,298.45
Netherlands Guilders	167.00
Czechoslovakian Kronen	346.00
Swedish Kronen	1,039.00
Slovenska Kronen	2,500.00
Danish Kronen	285.00
Norwegian Kronen	5,310.00
Brazilian Milreis	10.00
Turkish Pounds	1.00
Egyptian Pounds	2.00
Palestine Pounds	4.00
French Francs	2,000.00
English Pounds	326-17-9
German Marks	4,738.00
Yugoslavian Dinars	2,489,800.00
Roumanian Lei	13,482,182.00

II Acquisition

1. The following circumstances surround the acquisition of all property listed in Part I, and also approximately 33 tons of gold bullion which was restituted to Hungary in 1946.
2. 6 May 1945: Representatives of Hungarian National Bank handed Lt. Col. Ball, AC of S, G-5, 80th Div., at Kirchdorf Austria a letter, dated 2 May (Exhibit 1) requesting protection for bank's valuables then in Spital am Pyhrn.
3. 8 May 1945: CIC Agent De Huszar contacted the executive board of the Hungarian National Bank and verified the existence of the hidden valuables.
4. 9 May 1945: Lt. Col. Ball was handed a proposed cable (Exhibit 2) and Lt. Col. Jeffries, Fin.O. 80th Div., was handed 3 proposed cables (Exhibit 3,4,5) by representatives National Bank of Hungary with request that they be dispatched. These letters requested intervention for permission to remain under U.S. custody.

309367

- 4 -

5. 12 May 1945: TWX from 12th Army Group, General Bradley (Exhibit 6).
6. 12 May 1945: Letter of instruction from HQ, 3rd US Army (Exhibit 7).
7. 14 May 1945: Letter from Mil. Govt. Austria to Officials of Hungarian National Bank directing assets be delivered to representative Mil. Govt. Austria under Article III Decree No. 4 (Exhibit 8).
8. 14 May 1945: Receipt by Major Perera (Exhibit 9).
9. 17 May 1945: Receipt by Colonel Cragon at Foreign Exchange Depository (Exhibit 10).
10. Unfated note from National Bank of Hungary subject "Translocation of the National Bank of Hungary to Germany" (Exhibit 11).
11. 23 May 1945: Final report by Major Perera (Exhibit 12).
12. 19 June 1945: Cable WX-18899 from AGWAR (Exhibit 13) and reply 25 July 1945 (Exhibit 14).
13. Summary
  - a. The property listed in Part I was uncovered in Spital am Pyhrn, Kreis Kirehdorf Austria, by US Forces, as a result of request from Hungarians that it be taken into custody for protection.
  - b. Taken into custody by US Forces either as a unilateral action in compliance with request (Exhibit 1) or under authority of Article III Decree No. 4 Austrian Mil. Govt. (Exhibit 7).
  - c. Transported to Foreign Exchange Depository, received 16 May 1945 and retained since.

#### III Disposition

- a. It is the opinion of this Branch that the property listed in Part I should be restituted to Hungary for the following reasons:
  1. The gold bullion, which was uncovered in the same cache (Spital am Pyhrn), has already been restituted.
  2. The property was received from Hungarian Bank representatives and is identified as that which they are now claiming.
  3. The currency portion of the property does not fall within WX-90078 since it was uncovered in Austria and not "found in Germany". The restititution of the remaining portion of property is authorized in WX-96748.

309368

- 5 -

4. Commanding US General AGC Hungary supports Hungarian desire that property be returned. (Exhibit 15).

5. There is no evidence here indicating that the property was looted by the claimant.

6. In AGWAR cables WX-93937 and WX-94503 prompt and early restitution of Hungarian property was desired.

309369

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NND775058  
 By JW NARA Date 9-22

Silv.  
 RG 260  
 Entry Economics Division  
 File Hung. RESTITUTION Property  
 Box 50

Hungarian Property

6 May 1947

1. F.E.D. Director 6 May  
 OMGUS Finance 1947  
 Rear Division  
 APO OMCUS  
 757 APO 742

1. The attached report covers all Hungarian property, remaining in the Foreign Exchange Depository, which was originally received from Spital am Pyhrn, Austria.
2. It does not cover 338 boxes silver coin (Yugoslavian dinar and Roumanian lei) and 6 boxes plaques originally received from Reichsbank Magdeburg, Germany.
3. The property covered in attached report is ready to restitute when directives permit. It is the opinion of this Branch that this property is restitutable to Hungary.
4. A proposed reply to AGWAR Cable WX-96748 dated 24 April 1947 is being prepared and will be based upon the attached report.
5. You may desire to furnish a copy of this report to Economics Division, Restitution Branch and AGWAR, Civil Affairs Division.

WILLIAM G. BREY,  
 Colonel, GSC  
 Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

Incl.:  
 1 - Report on Hungarian Property

309370

Report on Hungarian PropertyI Property HeldA. Orphanage Deposits - 27 Cases

These were left with the National Bank of Hungary by the Trust Company for Orphans of Budapest and consisted of 27 large packing cases, steel banded and padlocked. These cases were opened for the first time at the Foreign Exchange Depository in connection with recent restitution operation for which purpose keys were provided by Hungarian representatives. The inventory by the Hungarians, in presence of Foreign Exchange Depository representatives, revealed 612 pre-numbered cardboard containers, which were verified as to number only against Hungarian listings reflecting names of individuals, as well as numbers, but no indications as to nature of contents. Some containers found in opened condition revealed jewelry, silverware and other valuables. The Hungarians expressed the opinion that all these valuables were in the nature of inheritances.

B. Safekeeping Deposits - 29 Containers

No. of Cases or Pkgs.	Markings	Contents	Identification and Remarks
4 Boxes	E. III, E. IV, E. V	Gold bars and coins	Hung. State Attorney re Norbert Dvorak, a gold dealer
1 Box	No. 1	Gold bars and coins	Hung. State Attorney re Scheidt Lajos es Torsai
5 Boxes	E. III, E. IV, E. V, E. VI E. VII	Currency, gold coin, jewelry, precious metals etc.	282 envelopes bearing identification names or numbers - probably contents Safe Deposit boxes
2 Boxes	E. VIII, E. IX	Gold, platinum, coins of numismatic value	Royal Hungarian Mint
1 Box	E. X	29 kgs gold (approx.)	Hungarian Postal Savings Bank
4 Boxes	E. XI, E. XII, E. XIII, E. XIV.	144 Kgs(approx) gold and silver alloy bars not entirely processed	Deposited by the mine of Nagybanya

- 2 -

No. of Cases or Pkgs.	Markings	Contents	Identification and Remarks
1 Box	B XV	Misc. gold and silver coins and jewelry	Received from the Cashier of the Mint on behalf of various accounts in separate envelopes
1 Box	No. 4	Currency, small amounts gold and silver bullion	15 envelopes bearing identification names or numbers - probably Safe Deposit boxes
1 Box	No. 8	Small amounts Reichsmarks, Roum. Lei and Czech. Krona	3 envelopes and some loose currency
3 Boxes	No. I-3048 II-3048 III-3049	15 Kg (approx) platinum mesh	Deposited by Nitrogen Works of Pet.
1 Pkg	0-24	102 pieces jewelry and small amounts gold coin and currency	Deposited by the Supreme Command as the property of the Military Police C.I.C.
1 Case	---	Jewelry, art treasures and other valuables	Deposited by museum and other City of Budapest institutions
1 Bag	9 - 5	1 sealed Pkg.	Jewish valuables said to belong to Manfred Weiss and others
2 Pkgs	1. 3	1 Pkg containing 120 pieces Ferenc Szalasi tableware, 2 bank books and personal papers	Property of Minister-President Ferenc Szalasi
		1 sealed metal box	Deposited by Commercial Bank of Budapest said to contain gold
		Various securities, coupons & domestic and foreign banks and collection items	Appear to be sendings by various others
1 Box	2	\$ 300 and 42 pieces jewelry	One silver cigar case, no identification markings

309372

- 3 -

C. Property of National Bank of Hungary.

1. One case containing records of the National Bank of Hungary. These records apparently have no connection with the valuables in other containers.

2. Two cases contained the following paper currencies:

United States Dollars	159,606.91
Swiss Francs	284,687.53
Canadian Dollars	7,298.45
Netherlands Guilders	167.---
Czechoslovakian Kronen	346.---
Swedish Kronen	1,039.---
Slovenske Kronen	2,500.---
Danish Kronen	285.---
Norwegian Kronen	5,310.---
Brazilian Milreis	10.---
Turkish Pounds	1.---
Egyptian Pounds	2.---
Palestine Pounds	4.---
French Francs	2,000.---
English Pounds	326.17.9
German Marks	4,738.---
Yugoslavian Dinars	2,489,800.---
Roumanian Lei	13,482,182.---

II Acquisition

1. The following circumstances surround the acquisition of all property listed in Part I, and also approximately 33 tons of gold bullion which was restituted to Hungary in 1946.

2. 6 May 1945: Representatives of Hungarian National Bank handed Lt. Col. Ball, AC of S. G-5, 80th Div., at Kirchdorf Austria a letter, dated 2 May (Exhibit 1) requesting protection for bank's valuables then in Spital am Pyhrn.

3. 8 May 1945: CIC Agent De Ruszar contacted the executive board of the Hungarian National Bank and verified the existence of the hidden valuables.

4. 9 May 1945: Lt. Col. Ball was handed a proposed cable (Exhibit 2) and Lt. Col. Jeffries, Fin.O. 80th Div., was handed 3 proposed cables (Exhibit 3, 4, 5) by representatives National Bank of Hungary with request that they be dispatched. These letters requested intervention for permission to remain under U.S. custody.

309373

- 4 -

5. 12 May 1945: TWX from 12th Army Group, General Bradley (Exhibit 6).
6. 12 May 1945: Letter of instruction from Hq. 3rd US Army (Exhibit 7).
7. 14 May 1945: Letter from Mil. Govt. Austria to Officials of Hungarian National Bank directing assets be delivered to representative Mil. Govt. Austria under Article III Decree No. 4 (Exhibit 8).
8. 14 May 1945: Receipt by Major Perera (Exhibit 9).
9. 17 May 1945: Receipt by Colonel Cragan at Foreign Exchange Depository (Exhibit 10).
10. Undated note from National Bank of Hungary subject "Translocation of the National Bank of Hungary to Germany" (Exhibit 11).
11. 23 May 1945: Final report by Major Perera (Exhibit 12).
12. 19 June 1945: Cable WX-18899 from AGWAR (Exhibit 13) and reply 25 July 1945 (Exhibit 14).
13. Summary
  - a. The property listed in Part I was uncovered in Spital am Pyhrn, Kreis Kirehdorf Austria, by US Forces, as a result of request from Hungarians that it be taken into custody for protection.
  - b. Taken into custody by US Forces either as a unilateral action in compliance with request (Exhibit 1) or under authority of Article III Decree No. 4 Austrian Mil. Govt. (Exhibit 7).
  - c. Transported to Foreign Exchange Depository, received 16 May 1945 and retained since.

### III Disposition

- a. It is the opinion of this Branch that the property listed in Part I should be restituted to Hungary for the following reasons:
  1. The gold bullion, which was uncovered in the same cache (Spital am Pyhrn), has already been restituted.
  2. The property was received from Hungarian Bank representatives and is identified as that which they are now claiming.
  3. The currency portion of the property does not fall within WX-90078 since it was uncovered in Austria and not "found in Germany". The restitution of the remaining portion of property is authorized in WX-96748.

309374

- 5 -

4. Commanding US General AGO Hungary supports Hungarian desire that property be returned (Exhibit 15).

5. There is no evidence here indicating that the property was looted by the claimant.

6. In AGWAR cables WX-93937 and WX-94503 prompt and early restitution of Hungarian property was desired.

309375

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED  
MND 775119  
Authority BY TJ NARA Date 9/13/99

RG 260  
Entry ~~1870-1880~~ & ~~1880-1890~~  
File <sup>Goldey</sup> Commercial Silver  
Box 30

39

Tel. WAFFNERHEIDE 226.

Ref. : F5/5/9.

**Office of the Financial Adviser  
Control Commission for Germany  
British Element  
WAHNERHEIDE  
BAOR 19**

5th October, 1950.

To R. H. Stern Esq.,  
Finance Division,  
Office of Economic Affairs,  
Office of the U.S. High Commissioner,  
Frankfurt,  
A.P.O. 757.

Dear [unclear]

As promised in the Property Sub-Committee on 3rd October, I am now sending you lists of precious metals deposited with the Land Central Banks of the British Zone as at 30th June 1950. You will notice that these show separately deposits under Law 53, and metals confiscated by Courts, Customs, and Frontier Control.

I should be grateful to receive in return lists of precious metals held in the U.S. and French Zone, and have written in the above sense to Monsieur Suchard.

Yours ever

1) Levin

DCC/MAN.  
ENC: 1

(D. C. CALDECOURT)

309376

DECLASSIFIED  
NND 775119  
Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
By T3 NARA Date 9/13/1999

RG 260  
Entry 16MAY1945 & READING  
File Commercial Gold  
Box 20

**Lakeview and Northern** within the Lakeview Subdivision and Northern Extension **consolidate** to **Lakeview**, #1-6.

X. <u>Monetary Gold</u> <small>(Platinum included)</small>	<u>Long-term Monetary Gold Holdings - Inventory, Gold, Platinum, Plumbum</u>	<u>Long-term Monetary Gold Holdings - Inventory, Gold, Platinum, Plumbum</u>
<p>(a) imports</p> <p>(b) exports</p> <p>From public property</p> <p>(c) gains</p> <p>From private property</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL</b></p>	<p>In Gold</p> <p>In Silver</p> <p>In Copper</p> <p>In Zinc</p> <p>In Gold</p>	<p>None</p> <p>22,417,300</p> <p>21,977,200</p> <p>44,915,571</p> <p>17,447,300</p>
		<b>76,672,071</b>
<p>(d) gold</p> <p>(e) gold as form other than imports and exports <small>(Platinum included)</small></p> <p>(f) gold</p> <p><small>(Platinum not known)</small></p> <p>Imports</p> <p>Exports</p> <p>In forms other than imports and exports</p> <p>(g) gold coins belonging to gold coin collectors <small>(Platinum not known)</small></p> <p>(h) gold coins</p>	<p>In Gold</p> <p>In rough</p> <p>In rough</p> <p>In rough</p> <p>platinum</p> <p>(in rough)</p> <p>(in fine)</p>	<p>0,070</p> <p>0,070</p> <p>0,070</p> <p>0,070</p> <p>None</p> <p>0,101</p> <p>0,000</p>
		<b>12,316,7</b>
<p>(i) silver</p> <p>(j) silver</p> <p><small>(Platinum known)</small></p> <p>Imports</p> <p>Exports</p> <p>Silver coins or current coins</p> <p>In forms other than imports and exports</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL</b></p>	<p>In Gold</p> <p>In Silver</p> <p>In Silver</p> <p>In Silver</p> <p>In Gold</p>	<p>177,155,000</p> <p>105,907,56</p> <p>2772,55,007</p> <p>10000</p> <p>10000,30,500</p>
		<b>18,255,56</b>
<p>(k) silver</p> <p><small>(Platinum not known)</small></p> <p>Imports</p> <p>Exports</p> <p>In forms other than imports and exports</p> <p>Silver coins not current</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL</b></p>	<p>In Gold</p> <p>In rough</p> <p>In rough</p> <p>In rough</p> <p>In rough</p>	<p>None</p> <p>1,0000000</p> <p>1,0000000</p> <p>1,0000000</p> <p>1,0000000</p>
		<b>2,000,000</b>
<p>(l) silver</p> <p><small>(Platinum not known)</small></p> <p>Imports</p> <p>Exports</p> <p>In forms other than imports and exports</p> <p>Silver coins not current</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL</b></p>	<p>In Gold</p> <p>In rough</p> <p>In rough</p> <p>In rough</p> <p>In rough</p>	<p>None</p> <p>0,370</p> <p>0,370</p> <p>0,370</p> <p>0,370</p>
		<b>0,740</b>

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list of persons whose deposit with  
the Federal Savings & Loan Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin,  
amounted to less than \$1 at the end of June 1950

Account number or account name, however	Last known balance vs. Reserve	Last known amount vs. Minimum required and Reserve	Total balance at the end of June 1950
17,4600	\$79,0107	none	by Class \$79,22050
54,017	1753,7459	none	1032,67019
74,6379	520,4292	(Minimum) (Reserve) 7,140 16,21557	626,67091
74,6379	202,4187	15,43857	by Class 2050,50164
74,6379	1,0000	100,0000	100,20000
1000 0,073	0000 0,1436	1000 0,0000	by Group 0,1436
1000	0,073	1000	by Group 0,1436
3 0,107	0000	(Minimum) (Reserve) 0,7077 0,100	by Group 0,8077
1000 10,225000	0000 6997,2761	(Minimum) 20,562,12500 10757,2200	{ 20,562,12500 177,13590 20,562,12500
1000	0000	(Minimum) (Reserve) 10,777 10,777	20,562,12500
01,001000	** 1545,000	10,777,000	20,562,12500
10,007005	0000,0000	1000,0000	by Class 75019,56093
0,573 0,0000	0000 0000		0,573 7,00073
00,073 0,0000	0000 0000	Minimum Reserve) 0,900 3,677	20,073 3,677
27,19169	0000	4,607	by Group 47,37472

RG 260

Box	File	Entry	Comments
20	CO 10000000151000	775119	913/59

NRA D215 913/59

by	75	Autocopy
75	775119	DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED  
NND 775119  
Authority TJ  
By NARA Date 9/13/99

RG 260  
Entry Commons & Restoring  
File Commons Gold & Silver  
Box 30

**List of precious metals deposit  
in connection with the German Gold and Silver case,  
especially according to Law No. 21 at the end of c  
(continued)**

Weight Places	Landeszentralbank von Sachsen-Anhalt, Halle, Lippische, Bitterfeld		Landeszentralbank v. Sachsen-Anhalt Hannover
(a) Silver coins belonging to silver coin collections			
weight not ascertained	pieces	1000	617
weight ascertained	kg gross	1000	1000
3. Platinum			
(a) Platinum (Platinum bars) Ingot(s)	kg fine	1000	
In form other than ingot(s)	kg fine	1000	14.602
(b) Platinum (Platinum not known) Ingot(s)	kg gross	1000	
In form other than ingot(s)	kg gross	0.0103	0.002
	kg rough	0.0103	0.002
4. Other			
Gold platinum bars and other articles for laboratory or platinum assay of platinum (Platinum unknown)	kg gross		With Landeszentralbank Coburg/Han
	pieces		0.6199
5. Silver (standard known) In form other than bars and coins	kg fine		8.600 29.500

Prepared by Director of Audit in August 1920.

309379

protection marks deposited with  
the following State, Intermediate, District, and Bureau  
at No. 51 at the end of the month of June 1950  
(continued)

Landcomptrolleur Mémoires Parlement	Landcomptrolleur V. Versetzung	Landcomptrolleur V. Recherches et Etudes Dossiers 167-170 and Annexes	Total Balances at the end of June 1950
617	617	617	617
1000	1000	1000	1000
{ 10.000	.. 9.000	1.000	10.000
} 0.000	1.000	0.000	1.000
0.000	1.000	0.000	1.000
With Landcomptrolleur Comptroleurs			
0.6199			0.6199
0.600			0.600
29.000			29.000
..	1.000		1.000

\*\* Deposited with the Directorate  
Général des Finances et du Crédit  
et de l'Industrie, Paris 7e/VII.

Box 260  
File 260  
Entry 260  
RG 260

75 NARA D216 9/13/1959  
Ann 775119  
Authority  
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED  
NND 775119  
Authority  
By TJ NARA Date 9/13/99

RG 260  
Entry *COMMISSION & REVENGE*  
File *Commonwealth Gold & Silver*  
Box 20

Most of previous totals shown  
are approximate to gain the Justice Schlesinger  
and his wife were unable to verify all of the figures.

	WEIGHT GROSS	WEIGHT NET	DESCRIPTION
1. <u>Miscellaneous Gold</u> <i>(Miscellaneous)</i>			<i>Commonwealth Gold Committee - Washington, D.C., London, England</i>
(a) coins	by gross	by gross	
(b) coins from public property	by gross	by gross	
(c) coins from private property	by gross	by gross	
TOTAL	by gross	by gross	
2. <u>Other precious metals</u>			<i>v. Commonwealth Banknotes</i>
1. Gold			
(a) gold in form other than ingots and coins (Weights known)	by gross	by gross	0.2276
(b) gold (Weights not known)	by gross	by gross	1.0000
In form other than ingots and coins	by gross	by gross	
(c) gold coins not belonging to gold coin collection weight not computed weight estimated	none	none	
2. Silver			
(a) silver (Weights known)	by gross	by gross	0.0000
ingots	by gross	by gross	0.0000
coins	by gross	by gross	0.0000
Silver coins of James Finch	by gross	by gross	0.0000
In form other than ingots and coins	by gross	by gross	0.0000
TOTAL	by gross	by gross	0.0000
(b) silver (Weights not known)	by gross	by gross	
ingots	by gross	by gross	50.000
coins	by gross	by gross	40.000
In form other than ingots and coins	by gross	by gross	7.500
Silver coins not sorted	by gross	by gross	20.000
TOTAL	by gross	by gross	97.500

309381

Statement of bank account held by  
Landeszentralbank Westdeutschland, Hamburg  
G.R.B.I.L. Nr. 92 Ann. 775/19 at the end of June 1950

Bank	Landeszentralbank Westdeutschland	Landeszentralbank Westdeutschland	Total Balances at the end of June 1950
none	none	none	0.10951000
G. 6377	none	none	4.91196200
0.630	5.764	11.57573	21.90415000
5.2217	5.764	11.57573	27.37572000 kg fine
0.9276 1.061	none	5.21762	4.475120 kg fine 1.061 kg rough
none	5.7244	none	5.7244 kg round
none	0.5011	5.21760	4.51670 kg round
none	none	none	none
none	0.0000 G. 0009	55.35730	123.77573
none	0.0000	none	0.0000
0.5276	0.5276	none	29.63160
0.5000	0.5000	55.35730	105.63160 kg fine
57.575 4.865	2.020 1.491	none	61.995 4.86500
7.360 23.607	5.406	0.29275	32.409720
none	0.0000	none	none
27.632	11.371	0.29275	410.21060 kg round

RG 260

Box 80
File 913/59
Entry 775/19
Ann 260

TS NARA D216 913/59

Autonomy
Ann 775/19
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED  
NND 775119  
Authority 73 NARA Date 9/13/89

RG 260  
Entry COMMUNIST & RESTORATION  
File Communist Colored  
Box 20

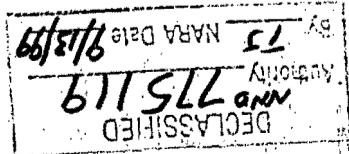
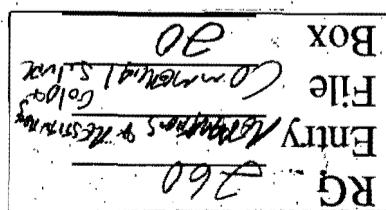
~~List of precious metals discovered in connection with the Berlin Conference and subsequent action regarding the P.D.P.L. No. 22 in Germany.~~

Category	Location	Description	Quantity
(a) Silver coins belonging to other countries collections weight not determined and not determined	Landesbank Berlin West Berlin - Pankow, Berlin, Germany	Big bags	1000
(b) Gold coins (Silver and bronze) in form of in form other than targets	Landesbank Berlin West Berlin - Pankow, Berlin, Germany	Big bags	1000
(c) Platinum (Silver and bronze) in form in form other than targets	Landesbank Berlin West Berlin - Pankow, Berlin, Germany	Big bags	1000
TOTAL		Big bags	3000

Prepared by Director of ASAC in August 1950.

309383

List of previous totals covered with  
from the former Schleswig-Holstein, Flensburg-Mürwik, Germany  
according to S.P. & L. No. 92 and P.D.L. 110 at the end of June 1950



DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>IND175043</u>
By <u>NP</u> NARA Date <u>126</u>

RG 260  
 Entry Element Acc  
 File 7047  
 Box Box 26

## RESTRICTED

25 April 1946

DECO/P(46)285  
(DFIN/P(46)63)  
(DFIN/CEFA/MEMO(46)7)

ALLIED CONTROL AUTHORITYDIRECTORATE OF FINANCECOMMITTEE FOR THE BALANCING OF FOREIGN ACCOUNTSPrecious Metal Requirements for Germany

1. The Committee reports that it finds that all non-monetary gold, and all monetary gold, found in the Western Zones of Germany by the Allied Armed Forces has been allocated for specific purposes by the Paris Conference on Reparation. As a result of this fact, no gold held within the US, UK, and French Zones is available for essential medical, industrial, or other purposes in Germany. The Committee is of the opinion that gold requirements in Germany may be met only by the following methods:

- a. that gold be purchased and imported into Germany for essential medical, industrial, or other uses, or;
- b. that goods requiring gold as an integral part of their manufacture be imported into Germany.

However, it is most undesirable from every point of view that gold should be imported into Germany for any purpose, while there are any gold ornaments and other objects in private possession in Germany.

2. The Committee suggests that the Economic Directorate should be asked:

- a. to supply information as to the minimum requirements for gold which cannot be met by any other metals;
- b. to give estimates of the extent to which these minimum requirements could be met by a further requisition of gold from the German population.

3. The Committee considers that silver and platinum held within Germany may be utilized for essential medical, industrial, or other purposes. The Committee recommends that, pending the establishment of a permanent import/export program, the use of silver and platinum stocks held within the four Zones of Germany be made available for essential medical, industrial, and other purposes as determined by each Zone Commander. The Committee recommends further, that any silver or platinum released by a Zone Commander for essential purposes be reported to the Finance Directorate, so that accurate records may be maintained for possible subsequent accounting use, should this be required upon the establishment of a permanent export/import program.

4. The Committee recommends that the Economic Directorate should be asked to supply a quadripartite agreed list of the essential purposes for which silver and platinum may appropriately be released and an estimate as to expected requirements of the various Zones.

5. Some of this metal may be subject to restitution and in this matter the advice of the Reparations, Deliveries and Restitution Directorate will be sought.

309385

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	HND175043
2AP	NAPA Data 126

RG 260  
 Entry 115 Element Acc  
 File 7047  
 Box Box 26

~~RESTRICTED~~7 March 1946DEIN/P(46)26ALLIED CONTROL AUTHORITYDIRECTORATE OF FINANCEPRECIOUS METAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GERMANY

Proposal by U.S. Member

Attention is called to the fact that at the present time the entire unblocked silver stock available in the U.S. Zone consists of approximately 24 tons held by DEGUSSA, Frankfurt and HARRIS, Hanau, all of it being in salts form, etc. and considered as essential "working" stock.

We are informed by the Metals Branch of the Economic Division that precious metals will have to be supplied to the German industries in order to make possible the resumption or continuation of production of essential products on a level deemed to be a minimum for the German economy as envisaged by the Potsdam Agreement. Failure to release precious metals from stocks presently blocked within Germany would necessitate their import into the country or the import of essential supplies for the civil economy which require the use of precious metals in their manufacture.

The Metals Branch of the Economics Division has provided us with schedules showing essential silver and other precious metal needs listed in order of their priority in relation to the importance of specific uses or production. These schedules and estimates contained therein have not been closely examined. However, it is felt that by curtailing low priority items such as the film and photo industry and civil commissions the quantities of precious metals needed to meet absolute needs may be greatly reduced.

The status of precious metals, other than those identified as loot, held within Germany under the provisions of Military Government Law No. 53 has never been clarified.

The amount of precious metals blocked in the U.S. Zones is currently being computed. This does not include stocks already identified as loot.

- 1 -

~~RESTRICTED~~

309386

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority <u>MND175043</u>	
By <u>NP</u>	NARA Date <u>126</u>

RG 260  
Entry 115 Element Acc  
File 7047  
Box Box 26

~~R E S T R I C T E D~~

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that a committee be directed to further study the precious metal needs of Germany and to make recommendations relative to the release of blocked stocks and their allocation for specific essential purposes.

- 2 -

~~R E S T R I C T E D~~

309387

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>HND175043</u>
by <u>NP</u> NARA Date <u>126</u>

RG 260  
 Entry 1158 Government Acc  
 File 7047  
 Box Box 26

R E S T R I C T E DApproximate requirements of silver

Uses:	Yearly Total		U.S. Zone	Other Zones
	kg	kg	kg	kg
1. Medical, pharmaceutical and dental purposes				
dental      )				
alloys      ) kg 16,800				
amalgams   ) kg 14,400				
pharmacy   ) kg 10,200				
X-ray films ) kg 5,400				
med.-pharm. apparatus ) kg 3,00				
customer   ) kg 6,600	56,400	19,700	36,700	
2. Electrotechnical	15,600	5,500	10,100	
3. Silversolder: (electrotechn., chemical metal- wares industry)	21,600	7,600	14,000	
4. Geodetical instruments	1,200	400	800	
5. Chemical industry (instruments for laboratories, nozzles, chemical apparatus, catalysts)	3,500	1,000	2,500	
6. Film and photo industry	120,000	36,000	84,000	
7. Civil commissions	38,400	13,500	24,900	
Total:	256,700	83,700	173,000	
	= = = = =	= = = = =	= = = = =	= = = = =

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority	HND175043
By	NP
NARA Data 126	

RG 260  
 Entry 1158ment Acc  
 File 7047  
 Box Box 26

~~RESTRICTED~~Approximate requirements of platinum

<u>Uses</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>ones</u>
	kg	kg	kg	kg	kg
1. Medical, pharmaceutical and dental purposes	20	5		15	
2. Electrotechnical	100	25		75	
3. Geodetical instruments	1		0.250		0.750
4. Chemical industry instruments for laboratory, chemical apparatus, catalysts)	400	100		300	
5. Miscellaneous	20	10		10	
Total	541	140.250		400.750	
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Authority NND 775058  
By D NARA Date 01/1999R6 260  
Box 164

FED

S.1

CONFIDENTIAL

## INTERNAL ROUTE SLIP

(Classification)

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER

FILE NO: SUBJECT: Report on Silver DATE: 26 February 1947

(Number each memo or minute consecutively. Fill in each column, signed legibly  
draw a line across the sheet. Use entire width of sheet for long memoranda.)

No.	From	Pass to	Date	HAS THIS PAPER BEEN COORDINATED WITH ALL CONCERNED?
1	For. Exch Dep OMGUS (Rear) APO 757	Director Finance Division OMGUS APO 742 (Attn.: Mr. Brown)	26 Feb 1947	<p>1. Attached is information on silver prepared at your request in response to cable WX-92532 dated 21 Feb 47.</p> <p>2. It is desired to point out that where there is no mention of a foreign origin, later investigation may in some cases reveal such origins.</p> <p><i>Frank C. Gaber</i></p> <p>WGB/D 34245</p> <p><i>WILLIAM G. BREY Colonel GSC Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository</i></p> <p><i>Frank C. Gaber</i> <i>WILLIAM G. BREY</i> <i>Colonel GSC</i> <i>Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository</i></p> <p><i>Frank C. Gaber</i> <i>WILLIAM G. BREY</i> <i>Colonel GSC</i> <i>Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository</i></p>

CONFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

309391

I. Silver on Hand in F.E.D.

<u>Shipment No.</u>	<u>Amount ounces</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Foreign origin</u>	<u>Evidence of Looting</u>	<u>Claims Outstanding</u>	<u>Claims Expected</u>
1	26,601.7	Bullion )		S.E. Europe	Yes	None	Unknown
1	5,950.8	Silver ) content of ) alloy bars)	Reichsbank Berlin	Italy	None	None	Unknown
15	14,002.8	Coin )		-	None	None	None
17	2,993,465.5	Bullion and scrap	Reichsbank Magdeburg	Hungary	None	Hungarian Govt.	(see foot- note D.)
21 K	22,799.3	Bullion, shot, and scrap	Reichsmint Munich	-	None	None	Unknown
26 B	12,119.2	Bullion	Reichsbank Regensburg	Czechoslo- vakia	Yes	None	Czechoslo- vakia
34 D	537,051.6	Silver shot	Mansfield Copper Mining Co. (Law 53)	-	None	None	None
41 D	4,432.3	Bullion	Reichsbank Sonneberg (Law 53)	-	None	None	None
53	1,237.8	Bullion	Reichsbank Muelhausen (Law 53)	-	None	None	None
56	2,263,250.2	Bullion, sheets, rolls, pipes, and wire	Agfa plant I.G. Farben at Wolfen bei Bitter- feld	-	None	None	Unknown
Total	5,880,911.2						

DECLASSIFIED  
by T2 NARA Date 04/09/99

309392

- 2 -

Footnotes

- A. There are further small lots of bars scattered through various shipments - which have not been weighed and it is impossible at the moment to furnish an estimate of the total amount.
- B. There is a considerable amount of silver coin scattered through many shipments. Inventory is proceeding but it is impossible at the moment to furnish an estimate of the total amount of silver coin.
- C. There is a considerable amount of silver articles such as tableware, ornaments, religious articles, rings etc. scattered throughout many shipments. Inventory is proceeding but it is impossible at the moment to furnish an estimate of the total amount of manufactured silver.
- D. Hungarian Government Restitution Claim No. 2250 M lists the following items:

338 boxes silver coins weighing about 20.000 kgs  
 435 boxes silver bars weighing about 10.000 kgs  
 96 boxes silver bars weighing about 4.000 kgs  
 265 articles of silver weighing about 100 kgs  
 bars of silver (unpacked) about 79.000 kgs

totaling about 113.100 kgs

II. Silver Released

<u>Shipment No.</u>	<u>Amount ounces</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Foreign origin</u>	<u>Evidence of Looting</u>	<u>Claims Outstanding</u>	<u>Claims Expected</u>
11	644,866.6	Bullion	Subsidiary Co. of DEGUSSA	-	None	None	None

This lot was released to the office of Military Government for Germany, Greater Hesse as a loan to German economy. In turn this lot was released by Greater Hesse to Degussa in Frankfurt for smelting and manufacture into silver articles. Records of bar numbers and weights are on file with the Foreign Exchange Depository.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NWD 715D58  
By T2 NARA Date 6/19/99

S. W.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED	
NND 775119	
Authority	73
By	NARA Date 9/13/99

RG 260  
 Entry REFINING & RESTORING  
 File COMMONWEALTH SILVER  
 Box 80

Frankfurt am Main, 16th January 1950

Supplement to Form MGAX (2)

Report No. 004/07896

The before mentioned silver material is identified on Foreign Exchange Depository shipping ticket No. 153 being part of silver originally held in shipment 56 released to Bank deutscher Länder for custody on 10th September 1948 as follows:

Lot Nos.	Page No.	Description	Gross weight (kilograms)
9	21, 22, 23	335 crude bars 5 do.	5 907,348 <u>150,000</u> 6 057,348
10	15	15 misc. bars	233,760
11-17	16	17 boxes silver shot	659,639
18-20		53 misc. bars	117,514
21-24		51 do.	190,693
25-26		2 boxes slag	84,064
27-29	17	37 misc. bars	176,841
30-35		6 boxes silver shot	117,553
36-38	18	3 boxes shot, strips, wire etc.	127,257
39-51		98 misc. bars	631,436
52-77	19	26 boxes bars, plac- ques etc.	1 101,446
78-99	20	22 boxes do.	1 295,207
100-119	21 (part)	20 boxes tubes, discs etc.	1 475,825 5 977,169
120-127	21	210 sheets & 2 discs	3 565,149 9
		133 tubes & 10 rods	869,200
		65 rolls wire (fine)	2 090,900
		29 do. (heavy)	<u>18 793,042</u>

309393

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority WD 77 J 059  
By AT NARA Date 10/19/99

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver  
Box # 346

S. V.

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD.

14 January 1947

Telephonic conversation with Lt Col Fruitman, Metal Section, Industry Branch, Economics Division, Military Government for Hesse, Wiesbaden, 13 January 1947.

SUBJECT: Re: WD 8, Release of Silver to Industry.

1. Lt Col Fruitman stated that accurate data are being kept on silver in inventory by fineness, weight, description, etc. and no current releases are being made on account of restitution to any country.

2. Fabricated silver released to industry.

These are not in the shape of bars but of scrap and reworkings for which adequate information is also being kept as to fineness, weight, etc.

3. Reference Adequate Records.

From the information at hand it is believed that adequate records are being maintained by Military Government which should defend any U. S. action at a later date, if required. It must be recognized that these records can only be vouched for, starting end of June 1945 or beginning of July since the records are incomplete before this time due to burning, loss, looting etc.

Telephone 42275  
Rm 1120, Econ Bldg

*inspecting*  
J. W. DARLING  
Maj ORD  
Control & Inspection Section

*Enccl: 3*

309394

DECLASSIFIED	
Authority: <u>NNDT 5059</u>	
By <u>AT</u> NARA Date <u>10/94</u>	

RG 260  
 Entry Finance  
 File S.iron Export Phonex  
 Box # 346

S.1COPY

ED 410.2 (IND)

Release of Silver for Industrial Purposes

CBS/ee

1

ED Ind Br. 17  
ED July  
1946

Attention: Brig Gen W.H. Draper

IND

1. During a meeting with Mr. Vinant and Mr. Bennet, Finance Division, the question of the release of silver for the manufacture of silver items for export, from the stocks now impounded at the Depository at Frankfurt, was discussed.

2. It has previously been determined that the only thing preventing the use of silver was the disinclination of the Finance Division to release the silver on the grounds that quadripartite decision had not been made for its final disposition. It is also possible that considerable quantities of the silver may be restitutable and, as such, care would have to be exercised in the selection of silver to be used for manufacturing purposes.

3. The proposal submitted for consideration was that the Laenderrat be permitted to secure on a loan basis from the Depository a quantity of commercial silver for use in the manufacture of silver items for the export trade. The terms of the release of the silver to be that just as soon as a credit balance was established, the equivalent amount, or more if desired, of silver would be purchased and shipped into Germany for use in the manufacture of additional silver export items or used to replace the silver used from the Depository in order to carry out any reparation or restitution decision reached by the Allied Control Authority.

4. We have made a survey of the silver situation and have come to the conclusion that this proposal does not conflict with any policies now in force. That production of silver items for export can be initiated on a limited scale, and that there is available in the Depository approximately 40 tons of silver that could be used for this purpose without getting into the question of looted or restitutable silver.

5. It was agreed by Mr. Bennet to release silver on this basis. Mr. Vinant agreed to take the silver items so manufactured for export. It is therefore suggested that the attached cable be forwarded to the Laenderrat for the initial implementation of this action.

6. Col. Allen concurs.

I Incl: cable  
Telephone 43-584  
Rm 1118, Foon Bldg.

L. WILKINSON  
Colonel, Ord Dept  
Chief, Industry Branch

309395

NO-0000  
8  
NOV 10

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NWD 765072  
By SR NARA Date 11-5-99

RG 260  
Entry ~~RECEIVED FEB 5 1973~~  
File ~~RECORDED IN U.S. OFFICE OF PATENT~~  
~~SEARCHED - INDEXED - SERIALIZED - FILED~~  
Box 121

POD  
RESTAURANT,  
Commonwealth

**HQ US FORCES EUROPEAN THEATER  
STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL**

INCOMING	CLASSIFIED	MESSAGE
WARZ	CONFIDENTIAL	EUCOM 23/240
TOO 240026Z	PRIORITY	TOR 240720B
FROM	: WAR FROM CIVIL AFFAIRS DIV	
TO FOR ACTION	: OMCUS	
FOR INFO	: EUCOM	
REP NO.	: WX-96748	24 APR 67 CITE: WDSCA-R3

Required Apr CC-8656, CC-8730, CC-8781, Pob CC-7904, cured W-90078.

Re par 4 our CC-8781, fact that some of silver bars may have originated from melted silver leis and dinars not considered obstacle. In gen, question of settling irregularities, if any, in original acquisition is one for determination between countries concerned.

Request you proceed with restitution orphans court deposits (2-D urod CC-8656) except packages containing currencies which may be disclosed by detailed inventory (see five following).

Please clarify expression "Safekeeping" (par 9 urad CC-8656). Does this mean property removed from individual safekeeping deposits in HUNGARY, or was property entrusted to US Army by Hungarians in GERMANY or both? No objection in principle to restitution such of these cases not containing currencies. Latter should be retained together with other assets if in same packages. Is foreign currency these cases in clearly identifiable lots, ie, is there some fairly conclusive indication as to source and/or ownership thereof?

Reply by JCS ured Feb CG-7904 has just been apd by SWNCC states that coins other than gold or numismatic are to be treated like other currency under control. Paper also auth unilateral disposition currencies and identifiable located securities.

However re currencies request you continue to defer action even after receipt of SWNCC auth until question of possible special treatment for specific lots of "identifiable" currencies as it has arisen in Hungarian case can be clarified. Therefore, 10 tons silver leis and ten tons silver dinar (par 20 urad CC-8656) should be retained, together with any currencies in orphans court deposits and in 90 cases "safekeeping". Re silver dinar and leis, pls advise earliest circumstances in which this property came into GERMANY. Was it shipped in identifiable lot or lots? what is origin

SMG IN 8007

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

309396

3

RG 260  
Entry Serial File  
Box 510DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NNDTISI19  
By VR NARA Date 820

CARRIER SHEET - MUST REMAIN WITH ATTACHE

AREP - USE ENTIRE WIDTH OF SHEET - NUMBER ITEM

INSEPARABLY - DRAW LINE UNDERNEATH EACH ITEM

**SECRET**

## OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

APO 742

FILE NO.  
SUBJECT:

NO. TO FROM DATE (Has this been coordinated with all concerned?)

1 C/S FD 11 April Note for Record  
1947

1. Reference is made to the preparations now in progress at Foreign Exchange Depository in Frankfurt to transfer to the Hungarian government, silver and other property as required by recent AGWAR cables.

2. Inspection of certain boxes intended to be included in the shipment to Hungary reveals that among the silver coins said to belong to the Hungarian National Bank are about 10 tons of Rumanian silver lei coins and 10 tons of Yugoslavian silver dinar coins.

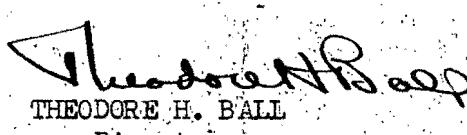
3. Rumanian restitution officials here have protested to us against the transfer to the Hungarian government of silver coins of Rumanian issue. So far as we know, Yugoslavian officials are not aware that the Yugoslavian coins in question are in Frankfurt or are intended for restitution to Hungary.

4. Further examination of the property scheduled for restitution to Hungary reveals that 429 silver bars claimed by the Hungarian government originated in melting of lei and dinar silver coins. It has also been learned that a considerable quantity of foreign currency, including about 160,000 American dollars are included in the shipment intended for Hungary.

5. It is considered necessary that AGWAR be informed of these most recent developments and asked to confirm that restitution of these doubtful items should proceed as planned. It is also considered advisable to state while the bulk of material claimed by the Hungarian government will be restituted as soon as possible, we will hold the bars, coins, and currency mentioned above pending receipt of AGWAR's confirmation.

6. Recommend that attached cable be dispatched.

Telephone 43684

  
 THEODORE H. BALL  
 Director

✓S- T A S J C I have coordinated with Mr. Clay and he approves the despatch of cable as drawn 

(Page No.)

309397

RG 260  
 Entry Serial File  
 Box 510

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NNDTIS119  
 By VR NARA Date 820

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~ Clear Copy

FROM: OMGUS  
 TO : AGWAR FOR WDSCA

1. Regarding CC-8656 and CC-8730 and urads WX-93937, WX-94503, W-90078 and W-88566. Subject is restitution to Hungary. Rumanian restitution officials here state they have learned from undisclosed source that among silver coins to be restituted to Hungary are approximately 10 tons of Rumanian silver leis. They have requested that shipment these coins to Hungary be delayed until check can be made to determine circumstances of acquisition by Hungarians. Rumanian officials had previously represented to us that Hungarians came into possession of considerable amounts of Rumanian property in Transylvania when that territory was transferred during the war to Hungary under the German-sponsored Vienna award. On the basis of this allegation, they had requested permission to inspect any claim submitted to us by the Hungarians with a view toward filing counter-claims in contested cases. We have taken no action on this Rumanian request.

2. Investigation reveals that 344 boxes coins mentioned in paragraph 2 C our CC-8656 contain approximately 10 tons Rumanian silver leis and also approximately 10 tons Yugoslavian silver dinar. So far as we know, Yugoslav officials are not aware that the latter coins are in Frankfurt or are included in proposed shipment to Hungary.

3. Further inspection "safekeeping property" mentioned paragraph 3 our CC-8656 and partially described our CC-8730 reveals that boxes also contain foreign currencies in following amounts:

United States dollars	159,606
British pounds	326
French francs	2,000
Palestine pounds	4
Slovakian kroners	2,500
Dutch guilders	167
Brazil milreis	10
Swedish kroners	1,039
Norway kroners	5,310
Egypt pounds	2
Turkish pounds	1
Czechoslovakian kroners	346
Danish kroners	285
Canadian dollars	7,438
Swiss francs	284,687
German Reichsmarks	4,739
Rumanian lei	13,482,182
Serbian dinars	2,489,800

4. With reference to 6,783 silver bars mentioned paragraph 2 A our CC-8656, it is now believed that 429 of these bars, weighing approximately 66 pounds each, originated from melting silver lei and dinar coins some time prior to January 1945. This information taken from documents which accompanied original shipment to Frankfurt and which have just been translated from the Hungarian. These bars do not bear the mark of the Hungarian mint.

*Wf 542*

309398

RG 260  
Entry Special File  
Box 510

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority KMDS119  
By VR NARA Date 820

5. Securities mentioned our CC-8730 are now known to include shares of British, French, Swiss and Czechoslovakia a relatively unimportant amount. We have denied all previous applications for restitution securities on ground quadripartite policy this matter under discussion.

6. In accordance with your instructions, we are endeavoring to complete transfer to Hungarians earliest possible date which will be on or about 15 April for silver bars, scrap and coins. Checking of Orphans Court and other safekeeping deposits might delay restitution these items by several days.

7. In view of above detailed information regarding securities, coins and currency and in view of policy directives regarding disposition securities and foreign currencies found in Germany (Ref your W-90075 and W-88566), urgently request your confirmation that restitution of all items mentioned paras 1-3 our CC-8656 is to be carried out as planned.

SECRET

#  
43

309399

S. b.



DEUTSCHE GOLD- UND SILBERSCHMIDENSTALT VORMALS ROESSLER  
Metall-Abteilung

Briefanschrift: DEGUSSA, Frankfurt (Main) 1, Postfach

Drahtwort: degussa frankfurtmain

Fernsprecher: Ortsruf 40311 u. 40481

Fernruf 70481

Fernschreiber: Degussa, Ffm. 041105

Girokonto 4/255 Landeszentralbank

Hessen, Hauptstelle Ffm.

Postscheckkonto 1501 Frankfurt (M.)

Alle gebräuchlichen Codes

Office of Economic Affairs  
Finance Division

APO 757

Frankfurt am Main/Germany

Ihre Zeichen

Ihre Nachricht vom

Unsere Zeichen

F/Bz/Ri.

⑯ FRANKFURT (MAIN) 1

Weißfrauenstraße 9

January 10, 1950

Subject: Fine silver from stocks blocked according to Military Government Law No. 53

We beg to request you to release from the stocks blocked according to Military Government Law No. 53 and stored with Bank deutscher Länder, Frankfurt am Main, an additional amount of

abt. 15 tons of fine silver.

Proof of property for this lot we have already produced. We engage ourselves to use this silver exclusively for circulation in our own refinery.

The recommendation of our application by Verwaltung für Wirtschaft respectively by Bundeswirtschaftsministerium is attached to this letter.

Arguments:

In connection with the general revival of economics of the last months there was also a remarkable rise in production of the precious metal industry. Therefore are made increased demands to us as refinery and regaining plant of all forms of scraps and by working up preliminary material from imports and from German production. In order to meet these requirements in a rational manner and in due time, an additional filling up of our circulation stock is necessary. Evidence can be produced everytime by inspection of our books, that this silver circulates exclusively in our own mills, as already mentioned above.

We should be very much obliged to you for your granting our request promptly and instructing the Bank deutscher Länder to deliver to us the above mentioned amount of silver out of our blocked stocks with that bank.

- 2 -

4794

RG 260

FILE CO 1000415112  
ENTRY A 1000415112  
RECEIVED 10 JAN 1950

Box

15 NARA DEIS 913/99  
JAN 1950  
FILE NO 775119  
DECLASSIFIED

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

309400



2. Boll on Office of Economic Affairs, Frankfurt am Main

January 10, 1946

There are concerned the following lots:

- a) abt. 10 000 kgs fine silver in form of semi finished silver material (sheets, discs, wires, strips, tubes etc.) according to our supplement report to Landeszentralbank Frankfurt am Main of 14th February 1946.
- b) abt. 5 000 kgs fine silver in form of refinable bars according to our supplement report to Landeszentralbank Frankfurt am Main of 14th February 1946.

Both lots originate from our mills at Berlin-Reinickendorf and have been shipped by US troops from the then being store place Wolfen to Frankfurt am Main.

Yours very truly  
D E G U S S A

RG 260

Box	80
FILE	Commerical Silver
ENTRY NUMBER	9164

RE 75 119

DECLASSIFIED	913/99
DATE	15 MAR 1949

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

309401

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NDTTSJ059  
By AT NARA Date 10/19/49RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver Export Phrases  
Box # 346

S. IV

CARRIER SHEET - MUST REMAIN WITH ATTACHED PAPERS - USE ENTIRE WIDTH OF SHEET - NUMBER ITEMS CONSECUTIVELY - DRAW LINE UNDER EACH ITEM.

## OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

APO 742

FILE NO:  
SUBJECT: Release of Silver for the Manufacture of Export Silver Ware.

NO.	TO	FROM	DATE	(Has this been coordinated with all concerned?)
1	ED	FD	22 Aug 46	<p>1. Reference is made to your communications of 29 July 1946, 8 August 1946 and 12 August 1946 with respect to the release of silver for the purpose of manufacturing export items, such releases to be effected from silver stocks now held under the control of Military Government by the Foreign Exchange Depository and by Reichsbanks in the US Zone of Germany, with the understanding that the stocks so used will be replenished through purchases made from the proceeds of exports of silver ware.</p> <p>2. Recent discussions of representatives of this Division with representatives of the Industry Branch (Lt. Col. Cunningham) and the Restitutions Branch (Col. Allen and Mr. Cronan) of your Division would indicate the necessity for clarification and reiteration of the position which is taken by the Finance Division in respect to the release of silver on the proposed basis.</p> <p>3. Attention is called to our memorandum of 9 July 1946, copies of which were forwarded to the Economics Division. In this memorandum it was pointed out that the Finance Division which is presently acting as a custodian for silver delivered under Military Government Law No. 53 and for all other valuables which were delivered to the Foreign Exchange Depository in Frankfurt, would be prepared to release silver stocks for the purpose stated, provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. that it can be established that such silver did not belong to the NSDAP or any of the agencies thereof enumerated in Control Council Law No. 2 and that appropriate clearance can be given insofar as reparations and restitutions claims are concerned;</li> <li>b. that an agreement be made to replace silver thus released by repurchase from the proceeds of the finished silver exports which agreement should be based on factual knowledge that silver is readily available in Europe for purchase;</li> <li>c. that in the case of silver now in the Foreign Exchange Depository the prior consent of Washington must be obtained before such silver can be released by the Finance Division for the proposed purpose.</li> </ul>

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority WDOT 10/59  
By AT NARA Date 10/1949

RG 260  
Entry Finance  
File Silver Export Powers  
Box # 346

FILE NO:  
SUBJECT: Release of Silver for the Manufacture of Export Silver Ware.

NO. TO FROM DATE

4. On the basis of the records available to the Finance Division the 40 tons of silver desired by the Economics Division for its silver export program could be made available from the following sources:

a. from stocks held under the control of the Reichsbank, Frankfurt, on the premises of the Deutsche Gold- und Silberscheideanstalt, Frankfurt, 21,500 kilograms. This silver was surrendered by DEGUSSA to the Reichsbank, Frankfurt, in accordance with Military Government Law No. 53;

b. from the Foreign Exchange Depository in Frankfurt one lot of silver consisting of 297 large bars and 645 small bars, total weight 644,866.65 ounces = 18,540.489 kilograms. According to the information available here, this silver was "found in powder factory about 10 miles South East of Dillingen near Altenmuenstein; said to be owned by Deutsche Gold- und Silberscheideanstalt, Frankfurt. The silver was deposited at the Parascoll Werke (believed to be Paraxol Werke) by Deutsche Gold- und Silberscheideanstalt because Parascoll used the product apparently for coating wire and making a form of strainer".

5. If the silver stocks listed in paragraph 4 above can be cleared from prior claims as stipulated in paragraph 3 above, which clearance in our opinion would have to be given from those branches of your Division charged with reparations and restitutions responsibilities, this Division is prepared to take the following action:

a. release of 21.5 tons of silver listed in paragraph 3a above by issuing instructions in the form of a letter to the Reichsbank, Frankfurt, as per attached draft (Incl. No. 1) and authorizing delivery to Lt. Col. Frank W. Fruitman, Office of Military Government for Greater Hessen, who, it is our understanding, is charged with the supervision of the silver program in the field;

b. request permission from the War Department to utilize 18,540.489 kilograms of silver listed in paragraph 3b above from the Foreign Exchange Depository in Frankfurt as per attached draft cable (Incl. No. 2).

2 Incis:

Incl 1 - draft of ltr. to the Reichsbank, Frankfurt

Incl 2 - draft of cable

Telephone: 424462

Room 5-FE&BC Bldg.

JACK BENNETT  
Director

(Page No.)  
THIS SPACE WILL NOT BE VISIBLE WHEN FILED

309403

DECLASSIFIED  
REF ID: NND775059  
By (S) NARA Date 10/11/9

R6260  
ED records  
B. 396

SILVER  
WHAT DO IT COME  
FAC 07  
REUSSA?  
74

# OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

AG CABLE CONTROL

## OUTGOING MESSAGE

**RESTRICTED**

TO : REGIONAL GOVT. COORDINATING OFFICE, STUTTGART  
FROM : ONGUS SIGNED CLAY  
REF NO : CC-9274

TOO: 191006B Jul 46/leh

In order to implement the manufacture of silver items for export, it is requested that you submit the following proposal to the Laenderrat:

Items manufactured from silver will find ready export market. In order to assist in building up a credit balance through export, it is suggested that an initial allocation of 40 tons of commercial silver be released from the Frankfurt Depository, to be used in the manufacture of exportable silver items. Terms of release of silver for this purpose would be: from export proceeds repurchase at least 40 tons of silver for shipment to Germany. Such procedure necessary first, to provide revolving fund of silver for use in manufacture of exports, second, to assure availability of silver to carry out any reparation or restitution decision reached by ACA. Request that the Laenderrat review this proposal and indicate their concurrence or non-concurrence at an early date. If concurrence is given, a detailed production schedule of individual plants should be submitted, and the question of designs of items to be manufactured should be immediately taken up between Trade and Commerce Branch, this Headquarters, and appropriate subcommittees of Laenderrat.

ORIGINATOR : ECON

AUTHEN: STEPHEN A PARK  
COL

INFORMATION : O/SS  
FIN  
POL AFF  
TRANSP  
CONT OFF  
IA&C  
AG REC

CC-9274

19 JULY 46

1730B

CB/hs

**RESTRICTED**

Exempt from paraphrase. Handle in compliance with AR 380-5.

Copy No 6

1800

309404

KG 260  
Box 164  
FED

SILV

*John Farren  
Foreign Exchange Depository*

19 July 1946

MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Jack Bennett

Colonel Smith, Industry Branch, telephone 43-584, phoned to say that he has been given the responsibility of working out the facilities for preparation of the 27 million identity cards required for Germans in the U.S. Zone. So far he has been unable to find necessary silver nitrate although I have suggested that he talk with I.G. Farben control.

His request is that we consider the possibility of making available from the Foreign Exchange Depository about 9 tons of commercial silver for manufacture of this silver nitrate. He sees no way by which the Foreign Exchange Depository could be returned equivalent silver at a later date, and understands also that such a use of this silver would result in a 25 percent decrease in the amount of silver which he understands Finance Division is willing to turn over to commercial use on a reimbursable basis.

He requests that you telephone.

*CS*

CHARLES E. SANDS

20 July

Col Smith phoned again - Col Wilkinson turned down idea of diverting silver from program. Industry program + cable attached is going out today. Be sure no action from you is required.

*W. E. Sands*

309405

Authority NND 775D58  
By D NARA Date 01/99

RG 260  
Box 164  
FED

S, IV

Cable Industry branch is sending  
to Regional Coordinating Office.

REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE IDENTIFICATION CARD PROGRAM. XX GREATER  
HESSE ADVISES THAT THERE IS DEVELOPING A SHORTAGE OF SILVER NITRATE  
FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE IDENTIFICATION CARD PROGRAM AND TO MEET  
THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VD PROGRAM NOW UNDER WAY. IT IS UNDESIRABLE  
AT THIS TIME TO REMOVE SILVER FROM THE DEPOSITORY. FOR THE PROCUREMENT  
OF SILVER NITRATE, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE LAEND BE ADVISED OF THIS  
ANTICIPATED SHORTAGE AND THAT THEY BE REQUESTED TO DETERMINE IF  
SUFFICIENT STOCKS OF SILVER NITRATE CAN BE FOUND TO COMPLETE THESE  
PROGRAMS. REPLY IS DESIRED.

309406

Translation

S.11

Metall-Abteilung

An die  
Verwaltung für Wirtschaft  
Referat III A 3  
z. Hd. von Herrn Rolf Afflerbach

Minden

T/Ba/Ri.

17th February 1948

Re.: Import of fine silver

I. Application

We beg to ask you to import in second quarter of 1948 within the contingency of foreign exchanges for non-ferrous metals  
10 t fine silver.

The value of this quantity of silver based on the actual current prices amounts to about £ 250,000,-. As shippers we nominate among others the firms

Sharps & Wilkins, 19, Great Winchester Street, London E.C.2,  
and Handy & Harman, 82 Fulton Street, New York.

II. Fields of employment for silver

This silver will exclusively be used in such branches of industry which are essential for the maintenance of the German economy. Thus especially

- a) in the electrical industry: as electrical contacts for railway signals, mines safety appliances, for telephone and telegraphic installations, switchboards of every description, safety wires and ribbons for electric fuses of every kind,
- b) mechanical engineering: as silver solders for transformers, electro-motors, turbines etc.,
- c) metallurgical and motor industry: as cutting alloy solders of various composition and as precious metal anodes and salts for electro-deposition,
- d) medicinal and pharmaceutical industry: as special apparatus of silver for the food stuff industry, factories for sugar from wood and pharmaceutical industry,

- 2 -

RG	Entry / 1000000	File / 42195	Box / 121
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SY 52 NPA Date 92195  
Autonomy END 78007  
DECLASSIFIED

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

309407

17.2.1948

c) Industry of measuring instruments as special alloys  
of precious metals with guaranteed exact reactions.

A specification of the silver to be imported to the various fields of employment is attached.

III. Arguments

The following points may prove evidently the necessity of an immediate import of silver:

1. The stocks of precious metals being available with refineries and plants of semi-finished material at the end of the war had been heavily reduced by war events, especially by delivery according to Mill.-Gov. Law No. 53. Degussa as the most important firm in this field owns only 20% of the former stocks. This quantity is not sufficient even for the necessary working stock in order to execute the exchange business which is nowadays of great importance. The same situation is given for other refineries and plants of semi-finished material. It is therefore not possible to refer to available stocks; in the contrary: these stocks want a soon replenishment in order to set in work again the plants of semi-finished material of precious metals.
2. Germany having a yearly requirement of 500,000 kgs of fine silver, attributed from German ores ca. 200,000 kgs a year. However the most important mines are placed in the Russian occupation zone (Mansfeldscher Kupferschieferbergbau AG. and Staatl. Sächs. Hütten- und Bleaufarbenwerke, Freiberg), while only two mines with small production (Harzer Hütten and the Stolberger Zink AG.) are situated in the Western zones. The silver output of the Harz since the end of the war was allocated exclusively in form of silver nitrate to the photo-chemical and pharmaceutical industry, while the moderate output of the Stolberg mines (formerly 700 kgs a month) is still seized according to Mill. Gov. Law No. 53. Therefore one cannot reckon on an essential share from the German mine production for the next time.
3. By working up foreign ores in German smelting works in normal times there resulted also important quantities of fine Silver for the German industry. But this possibility is not yet given to-day, since hitherto came in only unimportant quantities of foreign ores; the precious metal contents had to be returned abroad.
4. The only possibility to get silver for the German industry during the last months - as far it concerns utilization of high priority - was the way of releases by the British and American Mill. Gov. from stocks which are withdrawn from the

- 3 -

12	BOX
ES 155	FILE
T-2000/1000	ENTRY
760	RG

Sy 52 NARA Dec 19 92195  
Authority IND 75007  
DECLASSIFIED

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

309408

5. Verwaltung für Wirtschaft, Minden

17.2.1948

German industry according to Mil. Gov. Law No. 55. However, the British Mil. Gov. has released during the last 18 months small quantities of fine silver for industrial purposes of high priority. But the US Mil. Gov. could not decide in this way. Our application for the release of seized stocks, addressed to Finance Division of Ongus had no success until now. Negotiations with the competent authorities are still running.

IV. General remarks

The production of the important branches of industry sub II is threatened by the shortage of silver. Only the immediate import of a quantity of silver as proposed sub I can get over the difficulties of the next months. This import can only be looked as a make-shift hoping that the negotiations for the release of seized stocks may be successful. Otherwise it is necessary to import silver also in the coming quarters of the year.

Yours very truly,

B E A U S S A

PPB

Annex

1  
Box  
File  
Entry  
RG

Sy 52 NARA Date 92195  
Authority UND78007  
DECLASSIFIED

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

309409