

TOP SECRET

Ref No SAIC/X/4
21 May 45

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SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER:.....
APO 758 US ARMY

Copy No 2

If the information contained in this report is required for further distribution, it should be so paraphrased that no mention is made of the prisoners' names or of the methods by which the information has been obtained.

The following are the names and secret numbers of the prisoners mentioned in this report:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank, Position</u>	<u>Secret No</u>
GOERING, Hermann	REICHSMARSCHALL	45/1409
OHNESORGE, Dr Wilhelm	REICH Minister and Postmaster General	45/1489
FUNK, Dr Walter	Minister of Finance, President of REICHSBANK	45/1507
VON BRAUCHITSCH, Bernd Walter	Cool, GAF, GOERING's Adjutant	45/1410

This report should be read in conjunction with Report Ref No SAIC/X/3, 19 May 45.

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I. GOLD BULLION HIDDEN IN ALPS

Note: The following is a literal translation of a conversation between GOERING, FUNK, and interrogating officers.

FUNK: I am convinced that they have hidden the gold in a cave.

I.O.: Was it bullion?

F: Only gold bullion. . . Then there was also foreign currency. I do not believe that PFEIFER knows anything (about the location).

I.O.: What is the name of the other one?

F: Fritz SCHWEDLER. He must know for sure. He left for France. . . He was a French. . . but also from BERLIN . . . (full text unintelligible). I would stake my right hand on it that the gold was not stolen. They have dug it in so well - I do not know where. They told me that it was in a lime pit, and all you have to do is take it out. At first there was no intention of digging it in; they were only to guard it.

I.O.: How much gold was there - ten millions?

F: There were ten tons. . . To store 100 tons of gold (referring to gold found elsewhere) is an undertaking which cannot remain secret. That would be a whole trainload.

GOERING: There were all sorts of things. The indexes of documents and all that other stuff.

I.O.: How heavy is such an ingot?

F: Usually 20 kg, but there are also smaller ones - 10 kg. But that this bank manager handed these things over to the WEHRMACHT!

G: That is not surprising in times like these. He had the order to hand these things over to them for safekeeping. But I cannot understand one thing - they must have talked to Director WALLERSTEIN, a BANKRAT (member of the board), or something like that. He must have told them where it was taken to. This is a ticklish subject.

I.O.: Is it in the vicinity of MITTENWALD?

F: It must be down there.

I.O.: In a cave?

G: Yes. SCHWEDLER must know about it.

F: But he will say, "I am unable to give any information without permission from my superior."

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II. DOENITZ' APPOINTMENT

G: KEITEL raised holy hell when he (BORMANN) dethroned me. He said, "Such a thing is out of the question. He cannot put in anyone else, if only because of the German people. He just cannot do it."

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III. ART TREASURES

GOERING, v. BRAUCHITSCH, interrogating officers.

G: I had all the art treasures of France, which came into the REICH, photographed and registered, before they were taken away. . . None of the property of French museums could have disappeared.

I.O.: But how about the art treasures of the cathedral in METZ which were taken away?

G: Church treasures, that is something else. I imagine that happened in the following manner: Either the GAULEITER decided himself - "The enemy is approaching, therefore I'll pack up and take them away" - or else they were taken away beforehand, because of air attacks. Or he may have asked the Party chancellory what was to be done. Then BORMANN would have asked the FUEHRER and the GAULEITER would have received some kind of an answer. No one ever heard about that sort of thing except by accident. For instance, when TRIER was bombed and the Allies approached the town, the art treasures of the Cathedral of TRIER were brought to safety in a city nearer the center of Germany. When there was a let-up in the attack, the archbishop had them brought back again. The American troops approached once more, and then one of the gentlemen there asked me what to do. I told him that if the enemy came to a certain point, they would have to see to it that the treasures were taken back again (to the rear). After all, we have every right to bring the art treasures of German churches and museums to safety. That is how it was done. He (BORMANN) was not at all concerned about it.

I.O.: It is difficult to locate the art treasures taken from foreign countries and to find out who ordered the removal. These things were not supervised by anybody in particular, as you said yourself.

G: Well, I know quite a bit about these treasures and want to point out again, that if I had not been after them so much, they would be torn completely apart today and you would not find anything. Only due to the fact that I insisted that the items must be presented to an official, registered, and photographed, will you be able to locate them today. Otherwise they would have removed them from their cases and taken them away.

B: But the French professors who made the appraisal must have the lists, etc...

G: No, they only made the appraisal. This is the way it happened. The DEVISENSCHUTZKOMMANDO (Foreign Currency Control Commission) was always very much opposed to all that. The head was governed by the Four-Year-Plan and he would report, after the inspection of a bank, on what was found in the way of Jewish property, shares, bonds, etc. These he reported to the REICHSBANK. As far as works of art were concerned, they had to be brought to a collection point, numbered, registered, etc. That is where the FUEHRER

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came in. He had all the photographs and descriptions of the objects put before him and decided what should be confiscated and where it should be sent.....

The most valuable objects were auctioned off. There were three experts who agreed after three appraisals had been made. -- It was a mere accident if ROSENBERG found that somebody had "misplaced" (looted) some articles. The famous "SCHLOSS" collection, which the FUEHRER acquired in such an elegant manner, was about to suffer the same fate had I not called up about it and told them that it could not be done. I told them that I had nothing to do with it but I wanted to send them a guard while the collection was being moved. That is why it arrived near Paris where it was sent by the French Government. The French Government, of course, was unable to furnish sufficient protection. The collection was then sold to the FUEHRER for many, many, millions. Whether it was sent to Germany or not, I do not know.....

The things (GOERING'S collection) were in six freight cars. I believe that was all. I did not get down there anymore. I arrived in the afternoon and on the following day I rested up after the strenuous trip. Then the trouble started and I was put under arrest....

Dr. BUNDES is the man who could give a wealth of information. He moved about a great deal in art-loving circles in France.

I.O.: Whatever happened to the art treasures of Poland?

G: All the works of art of Poland were supposed to be removed to KOENIGSBERG. However, they did not go there. Instead they went to KRAKOW and later on down here. They consist mainly of Polish state property and two, three, large collections of the Polish nobility.

I.O.: One more question, HERR REICHSMARSCHALL. Who is this Dr. BUCHNER? He is said to be acquainted with the FUEHRER'S property.

G: Dr. BUCHNER is general manager of the FINAKOTHEK (Museum in MUNICH). He does not know so much about these things. BUCHNER was a co-advisor.... I do not believe that BUCHNER has stored a single piece in his place, because he had trouble enough finding space for his own things.

IV. MISCELLANY

I.O.: What did the FUEHRER give you for your 50th birthday?

G: Hitler gave me a case commemorating my appointment as REICHSMARSCHALL. A case containing the white parchment document, and the two German state insignia with 36 diamonds. They are extremely valuable. On such occasions he used to make presents out of state funds to his ministers and others in the form of large checks. I did not want any money, and therefore got the art treasures. And then I received the memorial case for the Grand Cross, which was made of brown leather with small diamonds and those two (?) were taken out. I also know who took them out, but I do not want to reveal his name. How he managed to do this is something I shall find out later on.

I.O.: Who was it? I suppose it was HIMMLER.

G: No. Please spare me the answer to that question.

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I.O.: Was it taken by a German?

G: Yes, but I do not want to blame them altogether. The reason was most likely to safeguard the stones for the REICHSMARSCHALL (GOERING). But whether they did save them for me or for themselves is another question.

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G: It is perfectly clear that the whole motive for my actions here is that we cannot allow the German people to fall into the hands of Communism. That is the decisive factor. If they cannot protect themselves through their own efforts, they will have to be helped. After having made a decision, one will have to go on the side of the Western powers, clearly and without reservation.

O: That applies probably to a Germany West of the ELBE River only.... the other part will not be governed by us anyhow.

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G: I wanted to build up a parachute army. It was to have 12 divisions later, and was to have been committed in the most difficult sectors. After all, they were really fine men. The parachutists were the best men of the WEHRMACHT.

21 May 1945

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER

Paul Kubala
PAUL KUBALA, Maj, MI
Commanding.

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