

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

ACC

10000/109/878

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

10000/109/878

GOLD SHIPMENTS, JUGOSLAVIA TO ITALY
MAR. - JUNE 1945

A.C. EXEC. COM.

20

Ref extracts have been made on or file A 3013 for future reference if required.

21 *[Signature]*
2 May

W. Pidsley

W. PIDSLEY, Col. 'A'
M.M.I.A.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

3845

*Liaison Div
(Maj Stewart)*

17.

*Re folio 16 and this entire subject - will you
please give me a review of the situation as
it stands to date. It appears that Land Forces
S/C may have to be brought into the picture.*

*JS
25 Apr.*

18

Office of the Executive Commissioner
(attn: Major Stearns)

26 April 1945

Reference above minute. Position regarding gold bars and coins of the Yugoslav National Bank taken by the Italian Army during the occupation of Yugoslavia is as follows.

February

On the twenty-eight of the Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy presented a Note Verbale to the Chief Commissioner stating that on 21 April 1941 the Italian Army captured 40 cases of gold. The gold was first sent to Tirana and from there to Italy. Various times further memoranda were submitted and on the 24th of April, a final list of officers concerned in the capture of the gold was submitted. See Folio 16. All memoranda were submitted to Public Safety Sub-Commission, Security Division, for action. And various replies received from the Sub-Commission are contained in Folios 13 and 14. This office has been only responsible for transmitting information received to the Deputy Delegate. Folio 16 has also been submitted to the Security Division with a request that this office be kept informed of any further developments in the case.

JS
Major Stewart
Liaison Division

3843

3842

19

Land Forces Subcommission:

26 April 1945

Office of the Executive Commissioner
(attn: Major Stearns)

Reference above minute. Position regarding gold bars and coins of the Yugoslav National Bank taken by the Italian Army during the occupation of Yugoslavia is as follows.

February

On the twenty-eight of the Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy presented a Note Verbale to the Chief Commissioner stating that on 21 April 1941 the Italian Army captured 40 cases of gold. The gold was first sent to Tirana and from there to Italy. Various times further memoranda were submitted and on the 24th of April, a final list of officers concerned in the capture of the gold was submitted. See Folio 16. All memoranda were submitted to Public Safety Sub-Commission, Security Division, for action. And various replies received from the Sub-Commission are contained in Folios 13 and 14. This office has been only responsible for transmitting information received to the Deputy Delegate. Folio 16 has also been submitted to the Security Division with a request that this office be kept informed of any further developments in the case.

3843

3843

Major Stewart
Liaison Division

19

Land Forces Subcommittee:

Your attention is invited to this entire file on the subject of gold stores claimed to have been taken by the Italians during their occupation of Yugoslavia.

When this matter was originally brought up, it was claimed that the carabinieri were primarily involved; however, it now appears, per folio 16, that personnel of the Italian Army are claimed to have been involved. Accordingly, this whole subject is brought to your general attention in the event that future developments may implicate the Italian High Command. Action at present is being taken by the Security Division.

Office of Exec Commr
27 April 45

L. W. Stearns
L. W. STEARNS
Major, AGC

Capt Marden (Re folio 1) 7

Will you please have this matter investigated by Civil Affairs - (The CCRR appears to be involved).

W.B. Mar.

4

Pol Sec

As arranged file is now returned to you for ack of 1. see folio 5

Office of EC
5 Mar 45

E. Shorden apt

C.S.O.

Please see b.

E.C.

Ref folio 3. This question is being investigated & you will be informed when they are complete.
Howard Reider, Maj
C.A. Reider

11

Memo for record

Ref 10 + previous corres. spoke 14 CE B.C. He will chase PSS/C.

17/4/45

3842

B/V 2/12

11/10/45

Pa 1/12

12

Memo

785017

1st Sec

as arranged file is now returned to you
for ack of 1.

Office of EC
5 Mar 45

Thurden ^{cpt}

C.S.O.

Please see 6.

8

E.C.

This question is being investigated & you will be informed when they are complete.
Thurden
C.A. Debrine

13 Mar.

11

Memo for record

Ref 10 & previous cases. spoke Lt Col B.C. He will
Chase PSS/C.

17/4/45

384
11/10/45
12/10/45
12/10/45

Memo

Ref 10 & previous cases. informed by Lt Col B.C. that persons named cannot be traced & it is believed they are in the north. Yugo Slavic representatives have maintained contact with PSS/C on this question & are informed of the position.

21/4/45

Thurden ^{PA}

21

Tel: 735

6 June 1945.

Ref: 4611/21/EC.

SUBJECT: Yugoslav National Bank - Removal of
Gold by Italian Army.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.

The attached file from Liaison Division is sent to you as it is considered the correct channel of dealing with this matter is between Public Safety Sub-Commission and Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy, with copies of letters to Liaison Division. Action remains to be taken on the Public Safety Sub-Commission letter dated 28 May.

[Signature] Chief Staff Officer,
To Executive Commissioner.

Incl:
File 424/EC(L)

Copy to: Liaison Division.

PA *[Signature]*

60
12
38
[Signatures]

785017

DEPUTY DELEGATE OF JUGOSLAVIA
TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Pov. br. 510/45

APR 24 REC'D

The Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy presents his compliments to the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission and has to express his gratitude for latter's Note 424/EO (L) of April 20, regarding gold bars and coins of the Yugoslav National Bank taken by the Italian Army during the occupation of Yugoslavia.

In connection with previous correspondence in the premises the Yugoslav Deputy Delegate has the honour to inform as follows :

1. Owing to the fact that the first informations on subject, received by cable, arrived not correct particularly as to precise names and particulars, two correcting Notes (dated March 7 and 14) had had to be forwarded in addition to the principal one of February 28. As a consequence, particulars of persons from which statements should be taken, might appear not quite clear. For that reason please find hereunder repeated particulars of all witnesses referred to, summarized :

- (a) LUNARI, Angelo, Captain of Infantry, who was the first Commander (Comandante del Presidio) of HERCEGNOVI, when this town was occupied on April 17, 1941, but held this Office only for a few days and was replaced by Lt. Col. BARBA.
- (b) BARBA, Guido, Lieut. Col. of Artillery. He was the second Commander (Comandante del Presidio) of Hercegnovi in succession to Capt. LUNARI, in April 1941.
- (c) ROSSI, Lieut. of the 11th Battalion of Carabinieri Reali, stationed in April 1941 in Hercegnovi.
- (d) GENOVA, Alberto, Lieut. Col. of Intendenza Superiore FF.AA. in TIRANA, who specially arrived from Tirana in connection with the taking of gold.

2. For the identification of Lieut. ROSSI, it might be useful that he had belonged to the Eleventh Battalion of Carabinieri Reali, stationed in April 1941 in Hercegnovi.

3. The Yugoslav Deputy Delegate has tried to obtain any more information as to the description of bars, coins and containers in question. In case that such are still available they will be forwarded as requested. 3840

4. It is requested please that investigations are continued for the purpose of having statements taken from the above Officers as soon as possible.

(continued)

PA 11/3 see M.17.18
19720

15

5. The Yugoslav Deputy Delegate would be very grateful if the Chief Commissioner could keep him informed on the course of investigations and action in this matter.

Rome, April 23, 1945.

/s/ Dr. S.S.

E.C. DIST. 24 April

Action - Liaison Div
Info - C Commr
Ex. Commr
Econ Sec
C A Sec

3833

10

Tel: 735

15 March 1945.

Ref: 4611/10/EC

SUBJECT: Yugoslav National Bank - Removal of Gold by
Italian Army.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.

1. With reference to letters 4611/3/EC and 4611/7/EC dated 3rd and 8th Mar 45, attached is copy of further letter from the Deputy Delegate of Jugoslavia dated 14 Mar 45 reference Pov.Br.285/45.
2. Will you please take appropriate action and report to this office the result of your enquiries.

gh
Chief Staff Officer,
To Executive Commissioner.

Incl:
as above

See Mem 11.4.12

130
21/3
3833
[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

785017

4611
LJS/son

Ref: 424/53(1)

20 April 1945

APR 21 REC'D

The Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission presents his compliments to the Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia on the Advisory Council for Italy and refers him to the correspondence in regard to the capture by the Italian Army in 1941 of 40 cases of gold belonging to the Yugoslav National Bank.

Information has been received as to the movements of some of the Italian officers in question, which is as follows:

a. Genova, Alberto Lt. Colonel on 2 February 1941 assigned to "Ladana" Infantry Division. On 15 March 1941 assigned to "Intendenza Superiore Albania, Artillery Headquarters, Tirana. Later transferred to 17 Corpo d'Armata - Direzione Ricupero" and landed at Bari on 12 May 1941. On 14 May 1941 he was assigned to the Military Zone of Torino (nella forza in congedo).

b. Two officers named Lieut. Rossi are known to CC.Ra. Command. They are:

Rossi, Attilio, of CC.Ra Legion, Padova. Transferred on 9 June 1941 to 32 Sezione Motorizzata - 6 Armata.

Rossi, Mario of CC.Ra. Legion, Torino. Transferred on 21 January 1941 to 411 Sezione Alpina. Nothing further has been heard of either of these officers and it is presumed that they are still in enemy occupied territory. The same presumption is made in the case of Colonel Genova.

Further enquiries are, however, being pursued in order to obtain further information respecting the whereabouts of all the officers concerned.

The Chief Commissioner would appreciate it if the Deputy Delegate could furnish as full a description as possible of the gold bars and coins, also of the type of container used.

PA
B/u 25/4
Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the
Advisory Council for Italy
Via Quintino Sella, 56

Copies to: Econ Sec
3 3837 Affairs Sec
(Ref 4611/3/EC of 3/11/45) Exec Comm
Ch Comm

DEPUTY DELEGATE OF JUGOSLAVIA
TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY.

Pov.br. 285.../45

Rome, March 14, 1945.

MAR 15 1945

The Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy presents its compliments to the Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission, and with reference to former's Note (Pov.br. 551/45) of March 7th, 1945, has the honour to make on the subject of the gold belonging to the Yugoslav National Bank and taken away from Yugoslavia by the Italian Army, the following additional communication:

A further Officer of the Italian Army, who collaborated by the transportation of the gold referred to has been identified, and accordingly it is requested that he too be found out and statement taken from him. He is Angelo LUNARI, Captain of Infantry, the first Commander of Hercegnovi (Comandante del Presidio) after the occupation on April 17, 1941. A few days later this Office (Comando Presidio) was taken over by his successor Guido BARBA, Lieut. Colonel of Artillery (please correct this name and military belonging in the first Note of the Yugoslav Delegation, in which it was erroneously written: Barbara, Lt.Col of CC.RR.); at the transportation of the gold both of them were active among others which had already been named in the previous Notes.

See 10

ELLERY W. STONE, Rear Admiral, USNR.
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission.

3835

MAR 15 1945

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

The Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy presents its compliments to the Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission, and with reference to former's Note (Pov.br. 351/45) of March 7th, 1945, has the honour to make on the subject of the gold belonging to the Yugoslav National Bank and taken away from Yugoslavia by the Italian Army, the following additional communication:

A further Officer of the Italian Army, who collaborated by the transportation of the gold referred to has been identified, and accordingly it is requested that he too be found out and statement taken from him. He is Angelo LUNARI, Captain of Infantry, the first Commander of Hercegnovi (Comandante del Presidio) after the occupation on April 17, 1941. A few days later this Office (Comando Presidio) was taken over by his successor Guido BARBA, Lieut. Colonel of Artillery (please correct this name and military belonging in the first Note of the Yugoslav Delegation, in which it was erroneously written: Barbara, Lt. Col of CC.PP.); at the transportation of the gold both of them were active among others which had already been named in the previous Notes.

See 10

ELLERY W. STONE, Rear Admiral, USNR.
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission.

3835

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COM. SICH

APC 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref. 4611/7/EC

8 March 45

SUBJECT: Yugoslav National Bank -- Removal of Gold by Italian Army

TO : TP, Civil Affairs Section

1. Reference this office 4611/3/EC dated 3 March 45.
2. Copy of letter, Pov.br. 251/45, of yesterday's date received from the Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council, which amends the note sent under cover of letter under reference, is forwarded for information.

Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

1 Incl:
as above

Copies To:

Major Sawary

ECONOMIC SECTION.

WITH ENCLOSURE.

3832

Ref. 4611/7/EO

8 March 45

SUBJECT: Yugoslav National Bank -- Removal of Gold by Italian Army

TO : VP, Civil Affairs Section

1. Reference this office 4611/3/EO dated 3 March 45.
2. Copy of letter, Pov.br. 251/45, of yesterday's date received from the Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council, which amends the note sent under cover of letter under reference, is forwarded for information.

1 Incl:
as above

Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

Copies To:
~~Major Stewart~~
Economic Section. } WITH ENCLOSURE.

3832

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

4611 *Yes*
DEPUTY DELEGATE OF JUGOSLAVIA
TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY.

Pov.br. 251/45

Rome, March 7th, 1945.

MAR 8 1945

MAR 8 1945

The Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy presents his compliments to the Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission, and has the honour to request with reference to former's Note dated February 28, that the following correction in names contained in the said Note be made:

ROSSI (instead of Rissi)

ALBERTO GENOVA, Lieut.Col. - Intendenza Superiore
FF.AA. (Forze Armate)
(instead of Alicelito Genova, Lieut.Col.Inf.)

It is regretted that the above corrections were necessary owing to misprints in the first cable of the instruction.

A copy of the original mentioned Note of February 28 is attached hereto for your information if necessary.

placed in file
ELLERY W. STONE, Rear Admiral, USNR.
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission.

3830

The Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy presents his compliments to the Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission, and has the honour to request with reference to former's Note dated February 28, that the following correction in names contained in the said Note be made:

ROSSI (instead of Rissi)

ALBERTO GENOVA, Lieut.Col. - Intendenza Superiore
FF.AA. (Forze Armate)
(instead of Alicelito Genova, Lieut.Col.Inf.)

It is regretted that the above corrections were necessary owing to misprints in the first cable of the instruction.

A copy of the original mentioned Note of February 28 is attached hereto for your information if necessary.

Dr. SS.

ELLERY W. STONE, Rear Admiral, USNR.
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission.

3832

785017

Ref: 424/30(L)

23 April 1945

APP 23 0000

13

The Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission presents his compliments to the Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy and has the honor to refer him to the Chief Commissioner's letter No. 424/30(L) of 20 April 1945 in regard to the capture by the Italian Army of 40 cases of gold belonging to the Yugoslav Bank.

Further information has been received that two of the Italian officers, Colonel Guido Farba and Major Angelo Iankari, have been traced and that instructions have been issued for their earliest interrogation and for complete statements to be taken from them as to their knowledge of the matter. No trace can be found of the other officers and it is believed that they are not in Allied occupied territory. Inquiries are nevertheless being continued.

Major A. J. STEWART

Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the
Advisory Council for Italy
Via Quintino Sella, 56
Rome

Copies to: Office of the Chief Commissioner
Office of the Executive Commissioner ✓
Civil Affairs Section
Economic Section

3832

PA. 24/4

Ref: P/424

6 March 1945

MAR 7 1945

1.

The Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission presents his compliments to the Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia on the Advisory Council for Italy and wishes to thank him for the information submitted in his Note Verbale of 28 February 1945. The Chief Commissioner has the honor to inform the Deputy Delegate that the competent military authorities have been asked to make the necessary enquiries and to submit a report to this office as soon as possible. The Deputy Delegate will be informed of the action taken in this case in due course.

Spencer H. Jones

Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia
on the Advisory Council for Italy
Via Quintino Sella, 56
Rome, Italy

3832

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Tel: 735

3 March 1945

Ref: 4611/3/80

SUBJECT: Yugoslav National Bank - Removal of Gold
by Italian Army.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.

1. Attached hereto is copy of Note Verbale from the Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia dated 28 Feb 45 concerning the capture by the Italian Army in 1943 of forty cases of gold belonging to the Yugoslav National Bank.
2. It will be noted that two of the names given of those responsible are officers in the Carabinieri, so that Public Safety Sub-Commission should initiate inquiries.
3. Please report the results to this office in due course.

Chief Staff Officer,
To Executive Commissioner.

Incl:
as above

Copy to: Economic Section.

Pol Sec

3831

12 Mar

Noted J.

NOTE VERBALE.

MAR 1 - 1945

The Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy presents his compliments to the Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission, and has the honour to state by instruction and on behalf of his Government as follows:

The Yugoslav Authorities possess evidence from reliable sources to the effect that on April 21st, 1941 the Italian Army captured at Hercegnovi forty cases of gold belonging to the Yugoslav National Bank; said quantity amounted a total of three thousand and two hundred kilogram, and consisted of both bars and coins. The gold was first sent to Tirana and from there to Italy.

This was carried out by action of

Barbara, Lieut.Col. of CC.RR., Commander of Hercegnovi, and ~~Rossi~~ ^{ROSSI}, Lieut. of the 11th Battalion, CC.RR., and ~~Alberto~~ ^{ALBERTO} ~~Intendenza Superiore~~ Genova, Lieut.Col. Inf., belonging to FF.AA. troops from Tirana.

Accordingly it is requested please that statements be taken from the mentioned Officers as to the circumstance to whom the above gold had been handed over.

Rome, February 28th, 1945.

BSS

3830

1st Dist.
Copies to
CC Files
File

785017

The Deputy Delegate of Yugoslavia to the Advisory Council for Italy presents his compliments to the Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission, and has the honour to state by instruction and on behalf of his Government as follows:

The Yugoslav Authorities possess evidence from reliable sources to the effect that on April 21st, 1941 the Italian Army captured at Hercegnovi forty cases of gold belonging to the Yugoslav National Bank; said quantity amounted a total of three thousand and two hundred kilogram, and consisted of both bars and coins. The gold was first sent to Tirana and from there to Italy.

This was carried out by action of

Barbara, Lieut.Col. of CC.RR., Commander of

Hercegnovi, and Rossi, Lieut. of the 11th Battalion, CC.RR., and

FF.AA. troops from Tirana. ^{ALBERTO} ~~Alberto~~ Genova, Lieut.Col. Inf., belonging to ^{INTENDENZA SUPERIORE}

Accordingly it is requested please that statements be taken from the mentioned Officers as to the circumstance to whom the above gold had been handed over.

Rome, February 28th, 1945.

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone,
Chief Commissioner,
Headquarters Allied Commission.

Dr 55

3830

1st Dist.

Copies to

CC Files

P.L. See

(in 5 cc (heron))

Copy Enver

see M2 of Feb 3

see M4 of Feb 5

0 9 3 2