

ACC 100001145/34

20034/1

ROYAL PALACE - NAPLES

NOV. 1943 - JAN. 1946

0002

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

20034/1

~~SECRET~~
(See minute sheet -
13 June 1944.)

ROYAL PALACE - NAPLES

00631

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ROYAL PALACE - NAPLES

20034/1 - Reg. 3 - Special Localities
Naples: Royal Palace

10000 / 145 / 34

IN 2 FOLDER
NOV 4 1963
JAN 4 1964

CATALOGUE

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

①
 File 20034/1/MFAA. To this file have been added those items from file 341/CA (passed to MFAA for permanent retention) not already found on the MFAA file. Items taken from the CA file are so marked. Items have been renumbered and cross-references adjusted--both in the documents on the right hand side of the cover and in the minute-sheets, both CA and MFAA.

Ex 13 June 1944.

13 June 44: To Admin^② Section:

File passed as requested.

Exam. Sec. by.

③
 To M.F.A.A.

① Vch seen; a draft reply to No. 51 is being put before V.P. for signature. It will be forwarded in a few days.

② See No. 49. This sort of thing particularly the last para gives courage to the "Philistines".

R.R. Lipp.

52

No action exp.

56

No action required

exp. 24/7/44

This file duplicates in the main
material already held on MFAA /20034/1
but in view of the high policy involved
it has been kept intact provisionally

JWP

13 June 44

Capt. Goff, Murray.

27

Your 20034/1/MFAA ~~20034/1~~

- ① Page 7-8 Has anything further from Dave about the remaining down
- ② Request Major Baconer to do this this Region III or however he may choose

JWP

11.4.44

34 Distribution not very clear but V.P. Admin Section also received a copy, and agreed with Lt. Col. Cripps that he should reply. Main points

- a) Arrangements in 34 paras 1-3 have not worked
- b) Responsible engineer officers not easily available & must be.
- c) Some form of Italian "clear-down" needed in a purely working capacity to report how-by-how damage

Suggested VP should see Brig Ritchie if possible as similar situations are bound to arise in future

JWP. 25.4.44

34

Copy to Major Gardner.

I will endorse it JWP. 12/5/44

This is a highly tendentious & inaccurate document, but in view of the order to cease correspondence, no purpose will formally be served by any detailed analysis JWP

Note The main point of interest is that the work was authorized on 12 Feb. The Regional FA. Officer was invited to a conference on 7 March and work began next day

MINUTE SHEET. from 341/CA

~~20034/1~~

10. M.F.A.A.

(a) See. 24 43 45 ~~38 39 40~~ 34

(b) The note at top of 34 is "important."

(c) You will need to pin this file another number.

15 MAY. 44

[341/CA]

R. J. Cripps

C.O. Admin.

3061

574

- 17 Executive Commission 16/12/41 ^{10/11/41} referred to, and now mislaid, a. Forwarded a complaint as to alleged further damage by traps made by the Prince of Piedmont thro. Gen. Hume. ^{See also 134} b. An enquiry into the present position with regard to Celine Report. Also mislaid Major Gardner's report on the Prince of Piedmont's allegations. ^{Revised: 12/11/41}

Capt. C.M. Murray reports meeting with Brigadier, CE for Naples, who said questions about Palace should be referred to Col. Holland E.F.I. at Flambrun in charge of NAPP/EFI arrangements in parts allocated to British. Stated it was proposed to rehang the painted doors. Capt. C.M. removed to Caserta (i) remaining brocades (ii) same rugs, both for safe custody. ^{20/3/44}

Major Gardner is to ask Prof. Molayoli whether he will remove the furniture at the Villa Floridiana, as suggested at ¹⁵ ~~14~~. Write to Lieut. Livingstone as at ^{20/3/44} (Filed now in 20034/13.) E.C.M. 14: iii: 44.

- 20? In conversation with Lt. Col. Howe it appears that, of the particular recommendations of Celine Report, para T6:
- T6.g Museo Nazionale } Troops have been ordered to move: confirmed that they have started moving.
 - T6.b. and c. Royal Palace } Rejected on request of P.B.S. see 21/16
 - S. Martinus } already in effect
 - T6.d. Caffucino Hermitage } frequent visits only ordered
 - T6.e. Pompeii police post. } turned down.
 - T6.f. lists & furniture } ^{20/3/44}

Report to be submitted to Brig Lush after discussion with Brigadier Ritchie

- 22 ²¹ It does not seem at all probable that the decision of ²⁵ can be upset. The attached schedule of safeguards should in fact meet the case fairly completely. ^{21/3/44}

- 24 ²⁵ Not sent as drafted, ²⁵ put up instead.



*R. Soprintendenza ai Monumenti
della Campania*

Prot. N. 54

Risp. n. del Div.

Allegati

Oggetto

Reggia di Napoli -

10 GEN 1945
Napoli
MUSEO NAZIONALE - TRAPIANO 82001

Wsu

Al Maggiore

Edoardo Croft-Murray
Subcommission for Monu-
ments Fine Arts and
Archives

Headquarters

Allied Control Commis-
sion APO 394

R O M A

Solo oggi mi sono stati consegnati alcuni pezzi dei broccati che adornavano alcune sale della Reggia di Napoli. Mi è gradita, l'occasione per rinnovarLe i miei ringraziamenti per ciò che ha fatto a favore dei disgraziati Palazzi reali di Napoli e di Caserta e per comunicarle che purtroppo dei magnifici parati che addebbavano le sale fastose delle Reggie suddette non resta che il ricordo affidato ai pochi frammenti ch'Ella ha recuperato.

Con distinta considerazione.

IL SOPRINTENDENTE

3058

FILE No 20034/1

Mod. 1 (Belle Arti)



*Ministero
della Pubblica Istruzione*

DIREZIONE GENERALE
PER LE ANTICHITA' E BELLE ARTI

Prot. N° 10004

OGGETTO Reggia di Napoli - Frammenti di broccati recuperati.-

Roma, 29 DIC 1945

Non
At Headquarters Allied
Commission APO 394
Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and
Archives ROME

Risposta al f. del 3/12/1945
Dir. Ita. N. 20034/1

Si accusa ricevuta e si ringrazia dei
frammenti di broccati, inviati da codesto
Ufficio perchè recuperati nel Palazzo Reale
di Napoli.

IL MINISTRO

Assandrucci

20034/1

3057

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel. 46-061, ext 442 & 254; 476480)

NTN/ps

20034/1/MFAA

3 Dec 45

Direction General for the
Antiquities and Fine Arts
Ministry of Public Instruction

R O M E

Subject: Brocades from Palazzo Reale, NAPLES.

Transmitted to you herewith are some pieces of brocade that had been torn from the walls of the Palazzo Reale in NAPLES prior to Allied occupation. They were rescued by Captain Croft-Murray for use in repairing the covers of furniture damaged in the Palace, but are no longer of use to this Subcommission.

NTN
NORMAN T. NEWTON
Major, Air Corps
Director.

3056

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

G-5 Section

APO 512

RS/jw

G-5: 619.3

3 December 1944

SUBJECT: Art Treasures Royal Palace, Naples

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(Attn: Archives, Monuments, Fine Arts
Subcommission)
APO 394.

1. Attached is a communication from Brigadier Gripps, Commanding the Naples (56 Area), regarding the return of certain properties removed to Caserta from the Royal Palace in Naples.

2. The Naples Palace is now a club for Other Ranks.

3. This is a matter for your attention and is submitted for decision.

For the Acting Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

ROLAND SEGALINI
Captain, CAC
Executive Officer

Incl: Ltr DO/127,
dtd 30 Nov 44.

3055

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394, U. S. ARMY

22 JUL 1944
MFA-TH.
HEADQUARTERS
23 JUL 1944
A.C.C. 56

FA - 92

22 July 1944

SUBJECT: Proposed Alterations For British Officers Club
in San Carlo Theatre, Naples.

TO : Subcommittee for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives,
Advance Headquarters, ACC.

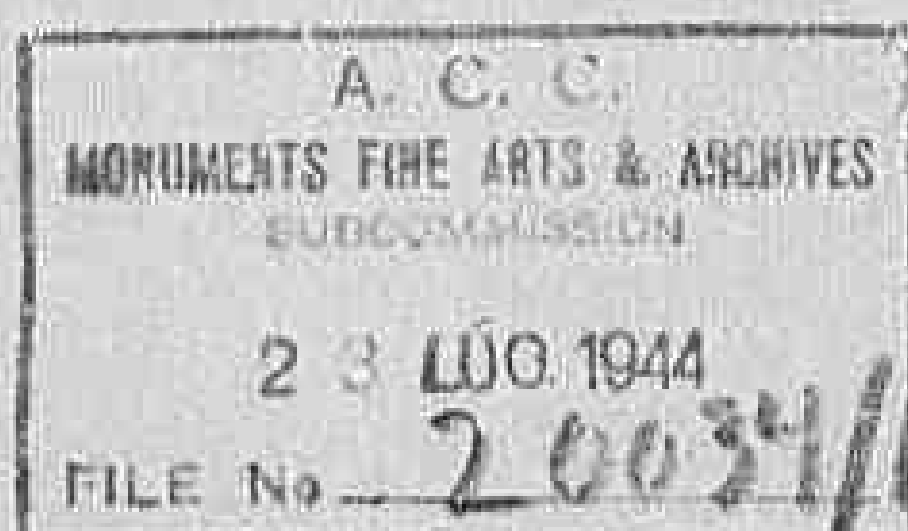
1. The plans of the proposed alterations for the British Officers Club in the San Carlo Theatre of Naples were studied today with Captain Wandsley of the 10 C.R.E. and the building visited.

2. The alterations within the Casino are minor and concern only the adjustment of fairly modern partitions and in no structural way effect the monument.

3. The additional room on the east Terrace concerns a section of the Palace and Theatre which has been seriously damaged by bombs. The room is to be built on top of the Terrace of the Foyer of the Theatre - at present almost completely demolished by bombs - and this section is a fairly modern addition. The room and its corridor will run along the main structural wall of the Palace which is pierced by several doors or windows with elaborate mouldings and pediments and the wall is decorated with flat pilasters and capitals. All the decoration of this wall is an integral part of the Palace.

4. The proposed alterations were discussed with the Superintendent of Monuments and he saw no objection to them provided a solid wall were built to protect these decorative elements; namely that they not be destroyed or removed by tearing away. The undersigned concurs in this.

5. The upper part of this east wall of the Palace has been seriously damaged and there seems no objection to removing the upper parts which are in danger of collapsing.



For The Regional Commissioner:

Paul Gardner
Paul Gardner,
Major, AUS,
Regional Fine Arts Officer

ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

JBWP/rjj

Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.

200 34/1

13 July 1944.

SUBJECT: British Officer's Club, Naples.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Region III
Attn. Regional Fine Arts Officer.

1. Attached copy of letter received today from 57 Area is forwarded for action. Please contact 57 Area at the earliest opportunity.

2. Copy of any report would be welcomed by this HQ.

ERNEST T. DE WILD
Major, Spec. Res.
Director.

Copy to:
OC, 57 Area, CMF.

3053

M+FA

54

SUBJECT:- British Officers Club, NAPLES. Q 704

HQ A.C.C.

1. The British Officers Club, as you probably know, is located in the Casino, which forms the Northern end of the San Carlo Opera House. It is proposed to increase the accommodation by certain minor alterations within the Casino and by building an additional room on the Terrace on the East side.
2. This latter may be considered as affecting the outside structure of the San Carlo Opera House which is scheduled as an "ancient monument". I am anxious therefore that you should know of the intention and I should of course be most willing to show you the plans.
3. Part of the present wall is being pulled down, but this is simply because in its present state it is dangerous. Nothing is contemplated which will in the least prejudice the future restoration of this very badly damaged part of the building, and no other part is affected.

Field

9. Jul 44

MONDRIJN JCBR/PMCO

[Signature]

Brigadier,
Comd 57 Area.

FILE

20094/1

3052

785016

BERNARD BRETT FINDS Naples Nazi

The Eighth Wonder

THE most remarkable club for soldiers anywhere in the world is without any doubt at all in Naples.

It has become our Eighth Wonder of the World.

Half the blokes these days when you meet them in Naples, ask you the way to the Welfare Club.

The other half asks if you have seen the club.

What is this place?

It is the grand-daddy, beyond all shadow of doubt, of all NAAFI's, the most excellent of all EFT's, the masterpiece of British Army Welfare. Other ranks have got the best "joint" in the town.

You Get Lost

The only trouble with it is that it is so large and spacious that you get lost in it.

When you go in, a map faces you. You go up white marble staircases and try to find your way around, and, very fortunately, on the first floor you come across a wide promenade which leads to the snack bars and wine rooms. For the odd ten lire you can get a cup of tea and cakes and take them to the terrace with a view so high and extensive that from it you can see the harbour and Vesuvius towering beyond.

I counted more than two score tables, each with its gaily-striped umbrella over it. The traffic below was so far distant that its noise was not a nuisance. The wind from the sea was so fresh that the sun was not too hot.

A walk along the promenade,

Inside the terrace are wine bars and lounges, with red-covered easy chairs, and beyond them the ball-room with an orchestra playing. The ballroom has been converted into a concert room. Gold and red predominate, in the Italian style of three centuries ago. The only modern notice I read was "NAAFI-Servitor Servientium."

Swallows dart around the terrace, and, up above, are the games rooms, with eight darts' boards and four or five billiard tables, five ping-pong tables. Here and there were soldiers sleeping in quiet rooms, men on day passes were having showers and hair-cuts, shoe-shines. When I happened to go round, there were three exhibitions of paintings on view. In the music room was a gramophone recital. The War Room showed the latest positions on all the fronts. Next to it was the lending library and the reference library.

Cpl. R. Williams, of Davidson Road, Liverpool, 13, put it to me this way. "We used to say there was no use going to Naples. Now we say let's go to the Neafi. I've got a day off from my gun site. I've had a shower and a meal. I've heard the orchestra and the singers. My pants were pressed while I had a bath. I've never been out of here right through the day."

R.Q.M.S. Johnny McMinna of a famous Scottish Infantry regiment, just back from Rome, said Rome had nothing like it. He comes from 11 Nursery Avenue, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, and he wears the 1941-42 Star.

UNION

JACK

15 June 44

3051

20034/1

dollars to provide supplementary relief for civilians in Rome and other liberated areas of Italy.

Glasgow's first corporation lido is to be opened at Glasgow Green.

BEST 'JOINT' IN TOWN

A corner of the terrace at the Naples "wonder" NAAFI where troops can have sun shine with their tea and cakes—"for the odd ten lire."



The Eighth Wonder

THE most remarkable club for soldiers anywhere in the world is without any doubt at all in Naples.

It has become our Eighth Wonder of the World.

Half the blokes these days, when you meet them in Naples, ask you the way to the Welfare Club.

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A walk along the promenade and I saw the city of Naples and the fort towering over it. On this floor the lunch yesterday was cold roast beef, potatoes, and French beans, with fruit pudding. The cost was 30 lire, and there were two sittings. Teas and cakes are being served by the thousand a day.

Inside the terrace are the wine bars and lounges, with red-covered easy chairs, and beyond them the ball-room with an orchestra playing. The ballroom has been converted into a concert room. Gold and red predominate in the Italian style of three centuries ago. The only modern notice I read was "NAAFI—Servitor Servientium."

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R.Q.M.S. Johnny McMin of a famous Scottish Infantry regiment, just back from Rome, said Rome had nothing like it. He comes from 11, Nursery Avenue, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, and he wears the 1929-43 Star, together with the Long Service and G.C. Medal. He has been in France, India, China, Madagascar, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Italy, Sicily, and England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

"I've never seen anything like this anywhere," he said.

THE

and Lon are tho as deer from hea E squ mor gar hor Ti

used to complete preliminary arrangements for the reception



dollars to provide supplementary relief for civilians in Rome and other liberated areas of Italy.

Glasgow's first corporation lido is to be opened at Glasgow Green.

BEST 'JOINT' IN TOWN

A corner of the terrace at the Naples "wonder" NAAFI where troops can have sun-shine with their tea and cakes—"for the odd ten lire."



not the fact to say. Or me, inst cult me, info. So sold pla find fully of

3051

20034/1

15 June 44

JACK

UNION

0077

31 Oct. 78 - Nov. 27

$$\begin{array}{r}
 31 \\
 - 1 \\
 \hline
 30 \\
 + 2 \\
 \hline
 32
 \end{array}$$

HEAD HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

640.-6/43

15 Jun 44

SUBJECT : Royal Palace - NAPLES.TO : Director, ME & A Sub-Commission.

Reference your 20034/1/ME. dated 9 Jun 44.

- 1 The contents of your letter are noted. In view of the CG's direct order that this correspondence will cease and the fact that work has been completed, I do not consider that the matter should be taken further. If however you find the same type of breach of our agreement with HQ ALI occurring again either here or elsewhere, you will keep me informed so that I may consider the action to be taken.
- 2 Reference your para 5, no useful purpose will be served by forwarding copies of the statement either to the Robert's Commission or London at this juncture.

*Stansgate*STANS GATE,
VP Adm Sec.

2050

20034/1

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ETDW/bmp

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Monuments

20034/1/MFAA

9 June 1944.

Subject: Royal Palace, Naples.

To : Vice President, Administrative Section.

1. For purposes of record this Subcommission wishes to report that on 7 June 44 the R.E. Company engaged in renovating the theatre in the Royal Palace stripped the entire proscenium of its mouldings, ornamental piers, hangings, and all decorative details. This proscenium had been undamaged hitherto either by air-raids or by R.E. repairs.

the
2. It was clear understanding of Major Gardner (MFAA Officer, Region 3, who agreed the plans with Major Jenner of the Directorate of Works), of Capt. Croft-Murray, who has assisted Major Gardner throughout, and of Major Ward Perkins, the Deputy Director (who discussed the proposed renovations on the spot with Major Beaujeaux of EFT) that this proscenium was to remain untouched, and that, if the architectural pretensions of the new work required a different design, it should be incorporated as a false wall in front of the existing wall.

3. The damage is now done, and experience does not suggest that any useful purpose will be served by further correspondence on this matter. This Subcommission wishes however to go on record as condemning this wholly unnecessary piece of destruction.

4. Seen in perspective it is clear that the basic trouble in connection with the Royal Palace has arisen from the fact that, on orders from a very high source, a major monument has had to be repaired and renovated under conditions in which it was inevitable that damage should occur, particularly as the officer immediately directing the work has been unsympathetic to the aims of the Subcommission. Brigadier Ritchie of AAI and the authorities of EFT have been extremely considerate and helpful.

5. In view of the inevitable criticism that will be made, permission is requested to forward copies of this statement to the Roberts Commission and to the War Office Advisor on Fine Arts.

Ernest T. De Wald
ERNEST T. DE WALD
Major, Spec. Res.
Director.

3049

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

JHCP/VS

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

20031/1/1000

6 June 1944

TO ALL COMMISSIONERS

From this date, no furniture or other articles (either Italian State or private property) now housed in the Royal Palace of Naples may be removed from store without the permission of the Subcommission of Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives, Allied Control Commission.

PER CHI DI OSPEDALITÀ

Da oggi in avanti nessun mobile o altro articolo (sia appartenente allo Stato Italiano che di privata proprietà) ora situato nel Palazzo Reale di Napoli, può essere rimosso dal deposito senza il permesso della Sottocommissione ai Monumenti, Belle Arti e Archivi, Commissione Alleata di Controllo.

J. H. HARP

J. H. HARP
Major, U. S.
Deputy Director.

3048

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INFORMATION DIVISION2167/INFO
27 May 1944

SUBJECT: Royal Palace

TO : Monuments & Fine Arts Sub Commission

1. At the weekly meeting of "D" (Int.) Section, P.W.B. the G2 representative of P.B.S. brought up the question of the Royal Palace, Naples which has been taken over by the NAAFI/EFI.

2. He reported that "vandalism" (his own words) was occurring and instanced the white washing over of frescoes, the substitution of iron girders for carved beams etc.

3. It is felt that this information should be passed to you.

for Elbinghe Capt
JOHN V. HINDEL
Major, M.I.
Director,
Information Division

Well done Information Division!

Done

Also Pan!

R.R.C.

15 Jan. 44

3047

20034/1

JBW
1/2/44

45
49

NAAFI PALACE OPEN SOON

What promises to be the most attractive centre for British troops in this entire theatre is to be opened early in June in Naples.

It will be housed in the famous King's Palace, situated in the Piazza del Plebiscito, and N.A.A.F.I./E.F.I. will be responsible for it.

When you go in there's an information desk at the main entrance—and believe me you need it, for the place is so vast that the authorities expect to be able to cater for 10,000 troops a day.

On the first floor there are restaurants, wine bars, lounges and a ball room. Concerts will be held there.

On the second floor one wing will be devoted to billiard and table tennis rooms and there will also be rooms for music and recreation. Two rooms will be known as Art rooms where there will be exhibitions of pictures and there will be libraries on this floor, too.

When the centre is in full swing there will be lectures, gramophone recitals and, for the more energetic it's hoped to get a fully equipped gymnasium.

The bare facts and figures are impressive enough. There's seating space for 4,000-7,000 when all the terraces are in use—1,300 people will be able to eat at the same time and there is a theatre on the main restaurant floor where shows and "movies" can be seen by 700 people at a time.

Enormous credit is due to the R.E. companies who were responsible for getting the building ready. As an official remarked—"It was just another bombed building in February—by June it should be going strong." Many people have worked hard on the job, including Major Jenner, Major Westerman, R.E., and Miss Parker, O.B.E. They and their helpers are turning the Palace of the King into a Palace for the Private.

from Union Jack
23/5/44

3046

20034/1

Ref.H.019

From: DC.EFI.AAI (Rr Adm Ech)
15.5.44.To: Major J.B. Ward Perkins,
R.A.
HQ ACC.

Dear Major

Many thanks for your letter 20034/1/MMA of the
14th inst.I am very pleased to be able to tell you that
the words "Royal Palace" will be completely blocked out
of any sign exhibited at the Palace.I have also taken up the question of the present
sketch in the ballroom, and whilst at the moment I cannot
give a definite decision, there is a possibility it will
be removed.I am asking Miss Law for the Text of Croft Murray's
Guide and will send it to you by hand.
Many thanks for your kind assistance and co-operation.

Yours Sincerely

H. A. A. I.

Lt. Col.

DC.EFI.AAI (Rr Adm Ech)

20034/1

3045

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

JBWP/bmp 47

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

20034/1/MFAA

14 May 1944.

FROM: Major J.B. WARD PERKINS, RA.

Dear Colonel

1. I attach a suggestion for a sign to appear along the balcony above the entrance to the Royal Palace on the lines of that agreed in our conversation this morning.

2. If required the words "The Royal Palace" can be inserted in the same lettering. If however you feel that your needs will be adequately met without them, we should greatly appreciate omission. The balance of expediency against local sentiment has already been decided at a much higher level, but we are most anxious to avoid gratuitous offence to those branches of Italian educated opinion on whom we have, after all, to rely for any constructive solution of our future problems.

3. If Miss Law can let us have back the Text of Croft-Murray's Guide tomorrow morning, I will ensure the delivery of the revised version by Tuesday evening at latest.

4. Thank you very much for your most considerate treatment of our problems.

Yours

sincerely

JWP 3044

Lt. Col. Holland
HQ. E.F.I.

SUBJECT: The Royal Palace, NA LES

Monuments & F.A.
7507
Directorate of Works,
H.Q. A.A.I.
C.M.F.

C.E. 3 District

3560/DW
13 May 44

Reference Memo. No. CE 4024 dated 20 Apr and this H. memo
No. 2072/4/Q2 dated 11 May 44.

1. The proposals as outlined in the preliminary sketch plan s have been approved by the Regional Fine Arts Officer, Region 3, A.C.C.
2. Welfare Branch of this H.Q. D.C. E.F.I. and a representative of E.N.S.A. have also approved the plans.
3. Details of stage layout, lighting access etc. should be agreed with E.F.I. and E.N.S.A. The supply of seats is not E.F. but some assistance may be required in fixing. Emergency Exits and fire precaution measures should be agreed with the Area Provost and your Fire Officer.
4. The theatre may be taken over for the work after 21 May viz. when the Region 3 Fine Arts Officer will have given the Palace authorities an opportunity of removing the statues.

Pls. H. May 11/44
D.L. ANDERSON
Brigadier,
D.W.

HMJ/BMR

Copy to: A.C.C.,
"A"
Welfare
E.F.I.

Region 3 ACC for my Gardens.
"Q"

3043

from file
344/CA

45

45

Lt Col Cooper (Admin Sect)

43

45

1. Pl See Ex. Comm's memo No. at 39. It is not
often that we receive official orders to
"put the book"!
2. There is no action to be taken at
the moment & I suggest you hand the
whole file over to M.F.A. "where
responsibility it lies"!

Edward G.
13/5

Pl: also See Chief Commissioner
per letter hto. at top of 38.

CAB

from
the
3rd/CA

39
This letter with a suitable covering
letter including C.C.'s orders and the
file should be sent to Admin Sect: whose
responsibility it now is M/10/S- 3041

Subject:- Theatre - Royal Palace, NAPLES.

M. V. F. A. Sub

HQ AAI,
C.M.F.

2072/14/02.

11 May 44.

Works.

1. Reference your letter 3560/DDW of 26 Apr., 44, on the above subject, addressed to this HQ only.
2. Approval for work to commence on forming a modern theatre in the Palace, is given. The theatre will include sloping floor, and plans will be based on the provision of a balcony at a later stage.
3. Plans should be submitted to Fine Arts Officer, No.3 Region, A.C.C., for comment. If he raises any objections, the matter should be discussed with "Q" Branch at this HQ before the work commences.
4. Sketches are returned herewith.

for. *Brigadier, Army*
D.Q.M.G.

Copy to:- 3 District.
ACC. *ACC.*
"A"
Welfare
DC MFI.

Copy sent
by this Officer to
Maj. Gaudin
14 May 44.
MSL

3040

MEMO OF SUGGESTED POINTS FOR MEETING LORD STANSFORD - BRIGADIER
RITCHIE & BRIGADIER ANDERSON (D.D.W.)

1. Nobody wants to resurrect the Palace. What has been done is past, and the present cooperation is good. We do however want to learn from the mistakes of practice which have emerged.

2. We do fully appreciate the good intentions of the Works Department throughout. The questions are entirely those detailed in the application of those intentions.

3. We do moreover recognize that indiscriminate interference by Italians is most undesirable from everybody's point of view and can't be allowed.

4. From MFA & A point of view however the basic fact remains that despite this goodwill, damage has occurred, which could we believe have been avoided. The main difficulties are:

- a. We have a very small staff and have to rely on trained Italian personnel. There is one officer only for the whole of Region 3.
- b. Much of the danger arises hour by hour and cannot possibly be foreseen in conference. In general the MFAA officer has been kept well informed of all immediate plans.

5. Our concrete suggestions are:

- a. That the Italian Provincial Superintendent, who is a man of culture and education and the opposite number of the Regional MFA & A officer and his named deputy for the monument in question should be allowed to inspect progress at will and report to the MFA & A officer. It will be made perfectly clear to these Italian officials that they have no right to interfere in any way with work in progress.
- b. That the Works officer on the job should at least have the authority to suspend work of detail and does so suspend it on request of the MFAA officer until responsible officer can be contacted. At present the responsible officer often cannot be located before the damage is done.

Additional Memo.

- a. We have a very small staff and have to rely on trained Italian personnel. There is one officer only for the whole of Region 3.
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- b. That the Works officer on the job should at least have the authority to suspend work of detail and does so suspend it on request of the MFAA officer until responsible officer can be contacted. At present the responsible officer often cannot be located before the damage is done.

Additional Memo.

The Museo Nazionale. General Robertson's letter has confused this with the Museo di S. Martino. We have been assured all along that it would be vacated as General Collier recommended. We heard yesterday through Major Jenner that this was still the intention. The store of highly inflammable material in one of the half dozen most important Italian museums is a matter of grave concern.

41
#11
SUBJECT: - Repairs to the Royal Palace, NAPLES

176/DOMG

Brigadier W.H.D. Ritchie,
DOMG.
Headquarters,
Allied Armies in Italy,
C.M.F.

9th May 1944

Dear Lord Stansfield

Reference your ACC/20034/1/MFAA dated 2 May on
the above subject.

I have already taken action with Major Ward
Perkins to arrange a meeting which I agree is most desirable,
and had provisionally suggested an appointment for 1500 hrs
on the 15th May at this headquarters.

While General ROBERTSON would have been
delighted to have asked you to lunch, however, in view of the
long journey you have to undertake we think it much fairer
to meet you half-way.

I therefore propose, subject to your agreement,
to visit you at your headquarters in NAPLES and bring along
Brigadier Anderson our Deputy Director of Works. I should
be glad to know if the date and time suggested above would
be convenient to you.

With regard to the proposed meeting, however,
the work on the Palace is now almost completed, and so there
would appear to be little object in discussing this particular
building. We might, however, discuss future policy with
regard to any other buildings which we may find necessary to
occupy. You will appreciate that where possible we shall
avoid occupying buildings of this nature, but circumstances
may force us to do so, and it is considered that a discussion
at this time would help considerably.

Yours sincerely

W.H.D. Ritchie

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occupy. You will appreciate that where possible we shall
avoid occupying buildings of this nature, but circumstances
may force us to do so, and it is considered that a discussion
at this time would help considerably.

Yours sincerely

W. H. Richards

Air Commodore The Lord Stansgate, DSO., DEC.,
Office of the Vice President,
Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission,
C.M.F.

Stansgate *How's Betty?*

3038

Palace News
Museo

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ECM/vr

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

20034/1/MFAA

8 May 1944

Subject: Removal of Furniture and Pictures from the
Royal Palace of Naples to Capodimonte.

To : Director, MFAA Subcommission.

1. On 4 and 5 May 44, with the cooperation of Major Grant, Control Section, P.B.S., who kindly supplied transport, all the pictures and the more interesting pieces of furniture belonging to the Royal Palace of Naples, which had been stored below the terrace of that building, were removed to Capodimonte.

2. The selection of the furniture to be removed was made by Prof. Comm. de Filippis, and I superintended the actual removal of the material to Capodimonte, where it has been stored on the Piùno Reale along with other furnishing from the Royal Palace of Naples.

3. A letter has been sent to Major Grant of P.B.S. to thank him for his cooperation.

Edward Croft Murray
E. CROFT-MURRAY
Captain
Subcomm. for MFAA.

Copy to:
Major Gardner.

Also to Prof. de Filippis
Prof. Lelaisoli

3037

Subject :- Royal Palace, NAPLES.

HQ AAI,
C.M.F.

2108/q2.

6 May 44.

Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission.

Reference your 20034/1/MFAA CC 000.4 dated 27 Mar.,
44, on the above subject and other matters connected with the
Collier Report.

The principal point at issue concerns the Royal Palace
at NAPLES. The Collier Report makes no recommendation that
this building should cease to be occupied by troops. Para. 19
of the report recommended that the French troops in occupation
should be removed in order to avoid the difficulty of mixed
occupation. GG., PBS, who is the controlling agency in respect
of accommodation matters in NAPLES was requested to seek altern-
ative accommodation for these troops. This he was unable to do,
and it was decided that continued occupation by them should be
permitted. No objects of art or antiquity are to be found in
this particular part of the Palace, and it is well removed from
the proposed Welfare Centre.

So far as the alleged damage by the Royal Engineers is
concerned, this is not borne out by the facts; indeed great pains
have been taken in the work to protect everything of interest
or value in the Palace. That part of the building to be occu-
pied by the Welfare scheme which was damaged by bombing has been
repaired, thus safeguarding a large part of the interior from the
weather and further deterioration.

The question of permitting entry by Italian custodians
while work is in progress is a difficult one. Those in charge
of the work must take responsibility for protecting property
while they are at work. Interference by the custodian with
individual parties of sappers carrying out their tasks would,
however well intentioned, create an intolerable situation, both
disrupting progress and jeopardising the safeguards ordered by
the Royal Engineer Officer in charge. By allowing the custodian
to make a tour of the work with the representative of Monuments
and Fine Arts Sub Commission and the officer in charge of work
whenever he wishes, ample opportunity is afforded to him to
represent his wishes, but constant bickering is avoided.

The Commander-in-Chief takes exception to the charges
levelled at the Deputy Director of Works and his staff, being
that they have handled this matter in a co-operative

should be... GG., PBS, who is the controlling agency in... occupation. GG., PBS, who is the controlling agency in... of accommodation matters in NAPLES was requested to seek alternative accommodation for these troops. This he was unable to do, and it was decided that continued occupation by them should be permitted. No objects of art or antiquity are to be found in this particular part of the Palace, and it is well removed from the proposed Welfare Centre.

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The Commander-in-Chief takes exception to the charges levelled at the Deputy Director of Works and his staff, being satisfied that they have handled this matter in a co-operative and intelligent manner. He feels sure that on reading the statement by D.P.W. in Annexure 1 to this letter you will agree with him in this respect.

The statement contained in your letter that insufficient use is being made of A.C.C. experts is not understood. Every effort has been made to co-operate with both Major Ward Perkins and Major Garaner. The Administrative Instruction which has been issued in accordance with one of the recommendations of the Collier Report to safeguard buildings of antiquity against improper use or damage was prepared in co-operation with your staff. It embodies every safeguard asked for by them and in

- 2 -

some respects goes further than they originally requested. The instruction specially emphasises the need of using the expert knowledge of the AMG Officers to the fullest extent.

The cases in which the recommendations of the Collier Report have not been carried out are set out below. The reasons in each case were given in letters, of which copies were sent to you.

Paragraph 76 (a).
Museo Nazionale not to be occupied by Allied troops and to be handed back to the Italian authorities.

The reasons for allowing continued occupation were set out in CG., PBS's, letter AG. 334 BPPG dated 26 Feb., copy forwarded to you under this HQ reference ALH/rjs dated 11 Mar. The recommendation with regard to Museo Nazionale was not a strong one vide paragraph 33 of the Collier Report.

Paragraph 76(e). Attached as Annexure 2 is Police post at POMPEI. This HQ District on this a copy of the instruction issued to No.3 sub-paragraph.

Paragraph 76(f).
The production of lists of furnishings would require an amount of labour out of all proportion to the results which would be achieved, and it was decided that they could not be called for in a theatre of operations.

Paragraph 77(1).
AFHQ have ruled that The Soldier's Guide to Italy will not be reprinted. This HQ letter AAI/5060/A(PS) dated 30 Mar. refers.

Except as enumerated above the recommendations of the Collier Report have been accepted.

The Commander-in-Chief is most anxious to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to preserve objects of art and antiquity. On the other hand he does not feel that the somewhat difficult task of reconciling this policy with military necessity is made easier by sweeping accusations which are uncorroborated by the facts.

The original accusations made against the Allied Troops were forwarded by Lord Rennell under his

*This letter refers to
Museo di S. Martino
and not to Mus. Naz.*

*On rejection of this
from. agreed by all
parties*

*!! What about?
76(b) R. Palace,
General Troops
76(c) S. Martino*

set out in Cd., PBS's, letter AG. 334 BPPG dated 20.1.1947, copy forwarded to you under this HQ reference AIH/rjs dated 11 Mar. The recommendation with regard to Museo Nazionale was not a strong one vide paragraph 33 of the Collier Report.

Paragraph 76(e). Attached as Annexure 2 is a copy of the instruction issued to No.3 District on this sub-paragraph.

Paragraph 76(f). The production of lists of furnishings would require an amount of labour out of all proportion to the results which would be achieved, and it was decided that they could not be called for in a theatre of operations.

Paragraph 77(l). The Soldier's Guide to Italy will not be reprinted. This HQ letter AAI/5060/A(PS) dated 30 Mar. refers.

Except as enumerated above the recommendations of the Collier Report have been accepted.

The Commander-in-Chief is most anxious to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to preserve objects of art and antiquity. On the other hand he does not feel that the somewhat difficult task of reconciling this policy with military necessity is made easier by sweeping accusations which are uncorroborated by the facts.

The original accusations made against the Allied Troops by Sir Leonard Wooley, forwarded by Lord Rennell under his letter AMG/601/ 24 of 9 Dec., 43, were proved by the Collier Report to be very exaggerated.

He feels that in this case also there has been ^{30.1.1947} exaggeration. It is natural that you should accept the report made by your experts. It has taken considerable time to investigate and ascertain the facts. While renewed instructions are being given to D.D.W. and to District staffs regarding co-operation with your expert staff, he hopes that you will insist that they too must show a co-operative attitude and must be very careful to avoid exaggeration in their reports.

[B.W. Robertson]
Major-General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

Copy to:- D.D.W.
3 District.

This letter refers to
Museo di S. Martino
and not to Mus. Naz.

The rejection of this
para. agrees with the
findings

!! What about?
76(b) R. Palace,
Send. from
76(c) S. Martino

ANNEXURE 1 to 2108/ dated 4 May 44.

Copy of Director of Works letter 3560/DDW dated 5 Apr., 44,
to which are attached -

Appendix "A", Details of work in Main Palace Rooms with
examples of the measures taken to preserve articles of historical
interest.

Appendix "B", Plan of Royal Palace showing area allotted to
EFI with new work in red and some direct bomb hits in blue.

Appendices "C" and "D" referred to in this letter are not
forwarded.

Directorate of Works,
HQ AAI (Adm Ech),
C.M.F.

3560/DDW.
5 Apr. 44.

To: DQMG.

1. Reference 2108/Q2 dated 2 April 44, an investigation has been made concerning the complaints referred to in letter 20034/1/MFAA CC 000.4 dated 27 March 44 from A.C.C. in so far as they applied to the Royal Palace, Naples. For ease of reference I attach a plan of the first floor on which the rooms have been numbered, the new work shown in red and direct bomb hits shown in blue.

2. The fact that the Palace as a whole constitutes a historical monument has always been realised by those concerned with its restoration and for this reason the closest possible contact has been maintained between representatives of this Directorate and Major Paul Gardner (U.S.) the officer responsible for the preservation of Fine Arts for Region 3 A.C.C.

3. On 12 Feb 44, this HQ authorised the preparation of certain portions of the Royal Palace as an E.F.I. Restaurant and Welfare Centre for British Troops (Other Ranks).

Before any work was commenced a meeting was called by Gen. Pence C.G., P.B.S., Col. Griffiths (U.S.) Metropolitan Area acting as chairman and representatives of the various interested bodies being present. It was agreed that certain areas of the Palace would be allotted for the E.F.I. Institute and that work necessary to carry out the project could be put in hand. Work was commenced on the 7th March. On the 8th March a letter with detailed instructions was sent to the C.E., 3 District, and a copy was sent to the Regional Fine Arts Officer who had attended a meeting of all concerned on the previous day when the plans were produced. Up to the 27th March the Fine Arts officer had made no comment to me on the proposals.

one major decision was taken!

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one month after
decision was
taken!

4. The allotted portion of the Palace was at the time of taking it over in a very bad condition having suffered heavily from bombing and consequent exposure to weather. Looting had also taken place on a considerable scale. For example more than 80% of the area of the building allotted to E.F.I. has had to be completely re-roofed and the balance repaired to prevent any further damage to the interior.

Correct.

5. With regard to paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Chief Commissioner's letter, I would comment as follows: -

(a) Para 5. This statement is incorrect as reference to para. 3 above will show. Copies of letters which have been issued in connection with the work have all been sent to the Regional Fine Arts officer, Region III and are attached at

2.

Appendix "C".

A copy of the only letter received from this officer is attached at Appendix "D", together with my reply which has so far not been dealt with by the A.C.C. The attached correspondence is, I submit, sufficient evidence that the Fine Arts officer was consulted and kept fully in the picture.

- (b) Para. 6. No soliders of the Corps of Royal Engineers occupy any part of the Palace other than for the purpose of carrying out repair and restoration work in accordance with the scheme discussed and agreed at the meeting held on the site on the 7th March. The details of the repair work, etc., being carried out in each room is attached at Appendix "A" and it is objected that our efforts are neither stupid nor can they be described as damaging in any way.

Newshelers Touch
Profs remain

- (c) Para. 7. I have made very careful interrogation of all concerned regarding the destruction of the 18th Century fresco by Francesco de Mura. It formed part of the ceiling of room No. 305 shown in the plan attached and had been very seriously damaged by two near misses by bombs. It is estimated by those who had examined the ceiling before proceeding with its replacement that the wooden lathing was showing on approximately 75% of the area and that not more than two square yards of the original picture was recognisable. The plaster which remained in adherence to the lathing was badly shattered and disintegrated on being touched. The ceiling was therefore replastered and repainted. It is further pointed out that this is the first at intimation received by me or my staff that the small part of this ceiling was in any way valuable. Had such intimation been received a false ceiling would have been erected underneath the original as has been done elsewhere.

We have never questioned it, but it was removed in 1940, but at intimation received by me or my staff that the small part of this ceiling was in any way valuable. Had such intimation been received a false ceiling would have been erected underneath the original as has been done elsewhere.

With regard to the period mouldings and doors, all those which are not capable of restoration or required for the scheme have and will be handed over to the Palace custodian who already has a considerable quantity in his possession. He has so far failed to remove twelve doors which he has been informed are not required and should be taken into his safe custody. A considerable number of doors and mouldings have been repaired and replaced and the use of the word "wholesale" is not understood.

This don will explain how many of them got into a new woodstock. The were found leaving the building with their workmen.

- (d) Para. 8. It was found early in the work that a number of unauthorised Italians were wandering round the rooms and the officer commanding the Company immediately and very properly

ign of room No. 300 shown in the photograph. It is very seriously damaged by two near misses by bombs. It is estimated by those who had examined the ceiling before proceeding with its replacement that the wooden lathing was showing on approximately 75% of the area and that not more than two square yards of the original picture was recognisable. The plaster which remained in adherence to the lathing was badly shattered and disintegrated and being touched. The ceiling was therefore replastered and repainted. It is further pointed out that this is the first intimation received by me or my staff that the small remaining part of this ceiling was in any way valuable. Had such intimation been received a false ceiling would have been erected underneath the original as has been done elsewhere.

With regard to the period mouldings and doors, all those which are ~~not~~ capable of restoration or required for the scheme have and will be handed over to the Palace custodian who already has a considerable quantity in his possession. He has so far failed to remove twelve doors which he has been informed are not required and should be taken into his safe custody. A considerable number of the doors and mouldings have been repaired and replaced and the use of the word "wholesale" is not understood.

(a) Para. 8. It was found early in the work that a number of unauthorised Italians were wandering round the rooms and the officer commanding the Company immediately and very properly gave orders that all were to be excluded. The looting which had taken place prior to our entry proved the wisdom of this. In fact in addition to articles of value and antiquity, panes of glass replaced in some of the windows at the commencement of the work were removed and stolen before the putty had dried. It should be explained that the officer referred to in para. 8 of the letter under reference is the A.C.C. Fine Arts Officer and the last sentence of the paragraph is therefore not understood.

The foregoing comments are based on facts which are capable of proof and I have no more to add other than a protest on the most unfair reflections cast on the Engineer Troops by the Chief Commissioner's letter.

(Sgd.) D.L. ANDERSON,
Brigadier,
D.D.W.

This don't explain how many of them got into a secret woodstock and then were found leaving the building with Italian women.

We have not the staff to keep an officer of M.P.A. permanently here. We must have a staff of 6.

on Italian Superintendent.

6.

Details of work in hand in the Main Palace Rooms with examples of the measures taken to preserve articles of historical interest.

Room 312 Damaged ceiling will be repaired and gilt moulding preserved.
2 Marble topped tables temporarily removed will be replaced and mirrors reinstated.

Room 311 Ceiling will be repaired. Doors have been removed and placed in Palace custodian's store after repair by HE.

Room 310 Doors removed and placed in custodian's store. Damaged wooden shutters and windows repaired to match existing where possible.

Room 309 Damaged shutters being repaired.
Two marble topped tables removed to custodian's store.

Room 307 Damaged by bombing. All shutters and doors completely destroyed, and being replaced by new ones to match existing. Ceiling to be repaired.
New partitions being carefully built avoiding damage to existing dado.
Large mirror will be replaced after damaged end wall has been repaired.

Room 305. Room completely wrecked by bomb exploding on terrace outside. New ceiling built and new doors and windows being made. Marble architraves being carefully restored. Marble fireplace removed and placed in Palace custodian's store.

Room 304 Joinery repaired, walls and ceiling restored.

Room 303 As for Room 304, two existing doors retained, others removed to custodian's store.

Room 302 Marble architraves repaired. Damaged mouldings have been placed in custodian's store.
New french windows being made to replace those damaged by bombing.

Room 314 Painted ceiling damaged by exposure to weather due to open roof. False ceiling built under existing ceiling which has been left as found.
Re-roofing will prevent further damage. Doors and windows repaired.
Carved mouldings removed and placed in custodian's store.

Room 316 One doorway now bricked in, can be reopened when required. Door handed over to Palace custodian. Moulding is intact and will be re-used.
Joinery being repaired.

Room 318 Repairs in hand as for Room 316.

Room 320 Existing whitepaper ceiling with overlaid gold moulding has been seriously damaged by damp penetrating through open roof and will not stand being touched. A false ceiling is being erected under existing. Architraves

Large mirror will be replaced after damaged and wall has been repaired.

Room 305. Room completely wrecked by bomb exploding on terrace outside. New ceiling built and new doors and windows being made. Marble architraves being carefully restored. Marble fireplace removed and placed in Palace custodian's store.

Room 304 Joinery repaired, walls and ceiling restored.

Room 303 As for Room 304, two existing doors retained, others removed to custodian's store.

Room 302 Marble architraves repaired. Damaged mouldings have been placed in custodian's store. New french windows being made to replace those damaged by bombing.

Room 314 Painted ceiling damaged by exposure to weather due to open roof. False ceiling built under existing ceiling which has been left as found. Re-roofing will prevent further damage. Doors and windows repaired. Carved mouldings removed and placed in custodian's store.

Room 316 One doorway now bricked in, can be reopened when required. Door handed over to Palace custodian. Moulding is intact and will be re-used. Joinery being repaired.

3032

Room 318 Repairs in hand as for Room 316.

Room 320 Existing whitepaper ceiling with overlaid gold moulding has been seriously damaged by damp penetrating through open roof and will not stand being touched. A false ceiling is being erected under existing. Architraves are being restored and new doors and windows provided.

Room 321 Minor ceiling repairs necessary. Doors being repaired. Carved moulding is intact and will be reused.

Room 322 As for 321 and damaged plaster cornice will be repaired.

Room 319 Ballroom. 70% of the existing ceiling has been ruined by bomb damage. No work has been carried out on the ceiling beyond reglazing the rooflight to prevent further damage by weather. Laylights will be reglazed. It is proposed to remove carefully the remaining ceiling canvas and hand over to Palace custodian. Ceiling will then be recovered with ceiling board and painted. Walls will be repainted.

2.

Room 325

This room now being made into a cloak room. Original damaged timber partition separating it from the library has been replaced with a brick partition to avoid unauthorised access to the library. New false ceiling has been built.

Room 317

Walls being repaired, replastered and repainted. Joinery being repaired. Tables removed by custodian and paintings removed from the walls and placed in his store.

Room 313

Holes cut in walls to provide access to existing latrines. Partition being built to contain new lavatory, false ceiling to whole room.

Room 301

Existing ceiling slightly damaged but it is not safe to repair due to dry rot in timber. False ceiling is being provided underneath.

Theatre

The roof, part of which has been completely destroyed by bombing, is being repaired by ACC/AME contractor. When handed over it is proposed to remove existing plaster statues and hand to custodian. Balustrading round gallery is unsafe and will be removed. Plaster canopy behind Royal Box will be preserved.

Generally

All lighting fittings have been removed and repaired for re-use where required. If not required they have been handed over to the Palace Custodian. Many fittings had been removed or damaged before the R.E. took over.

All sanitary fittings are being cleaned and reinstated where required and drains cleaned out and tested. Many new fittings are being provided.

The locks on most of the doors were forced and broken before the R.E. took over. All doors being reinstated are being repaired.

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COPYANNEXURE 2.RESTRICTED. ~~SECRET~~

Subject : - Property of Historical and Educational Importance in
ITALY - Preservation of.

AFHQ. Adv. Adm. Ech.
CMF.
3060/A.2
7 Feb., 44.

"A", No.3 District.

1. The recent Commission of Enquiry on alleged damage caused by Allied troops to property of Historical and Educational Importance in ITALY recommended that in the case of the excavations at POMPEI a combined American and British police post should be established to prevent damage by Allied troops.

2. Owing to the acute shortage of Provost personnel and the considerable area involved, it is not possible at present to establish a post adequate in strength. It is considered, however, that arrangements should be made for the ruins to be visited by Military Police patrols at frequent intervals, with a view to ensuring that no further damage is being done.

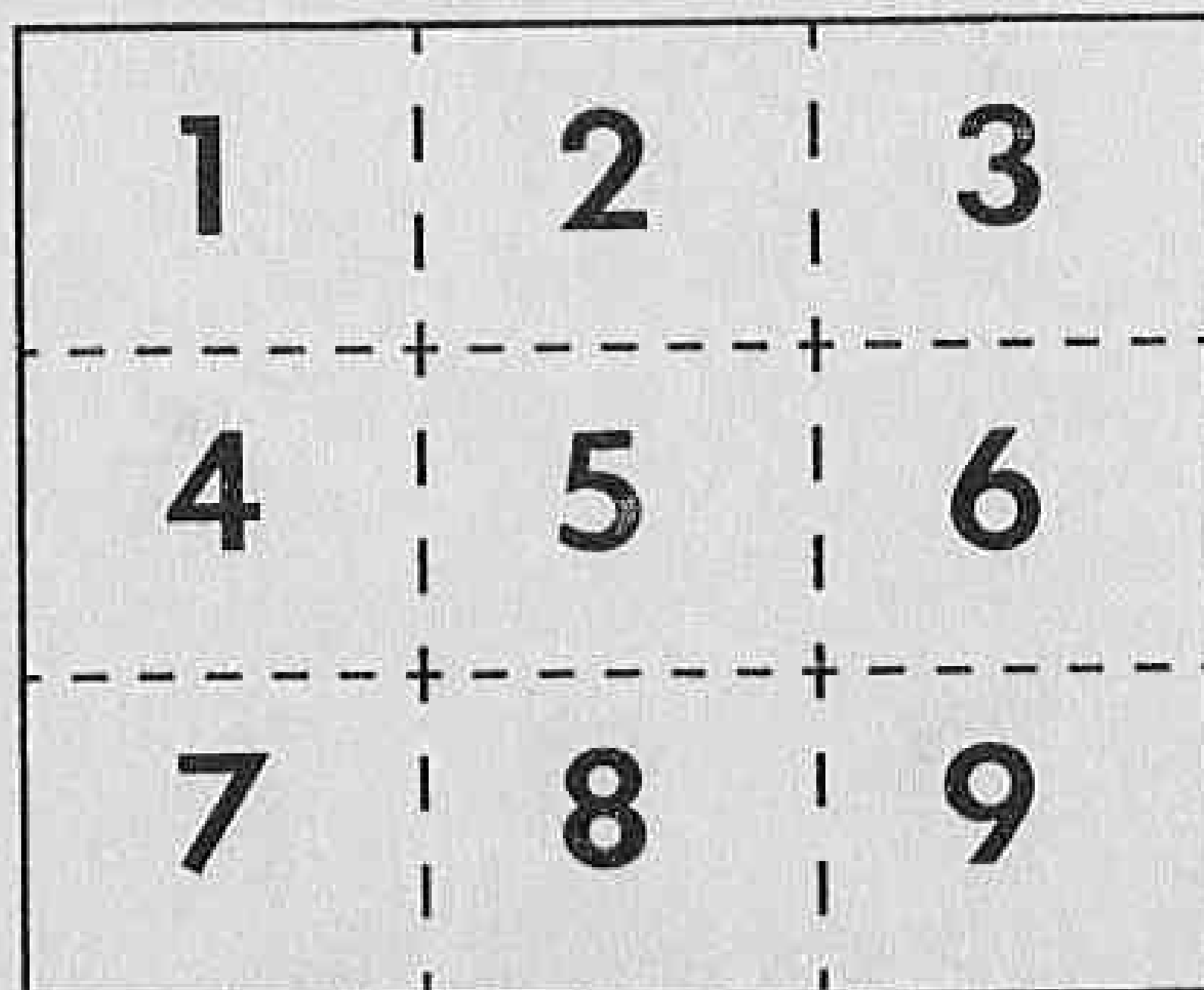
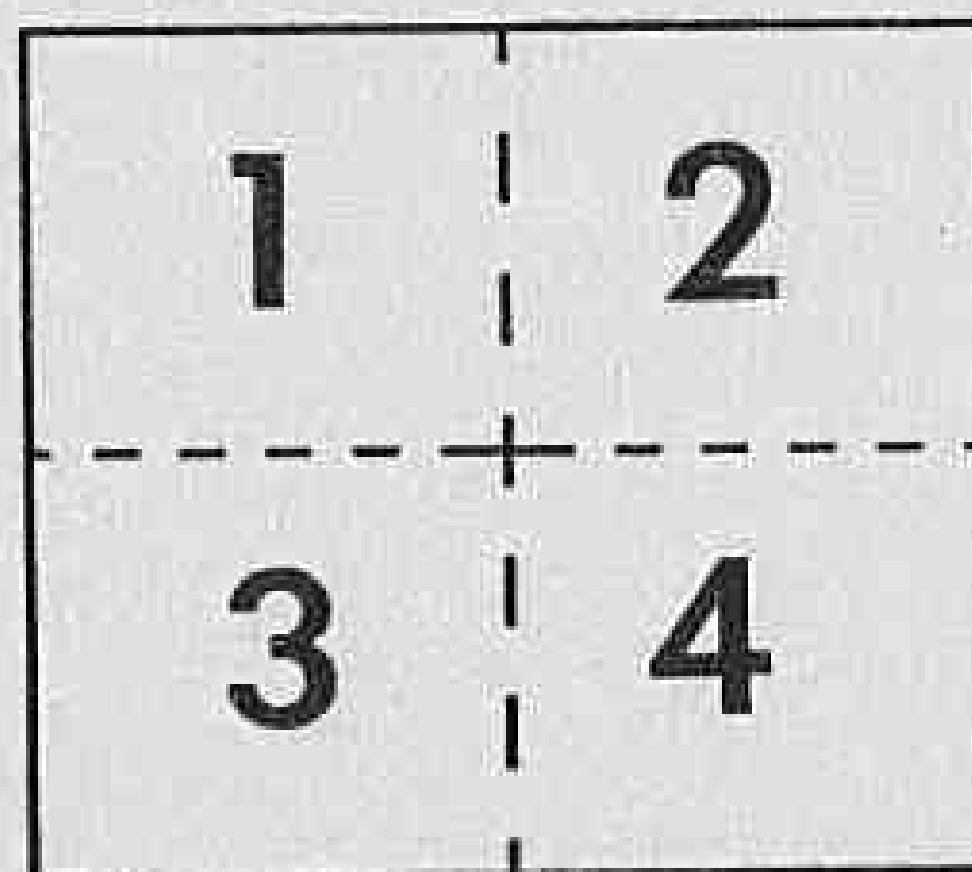
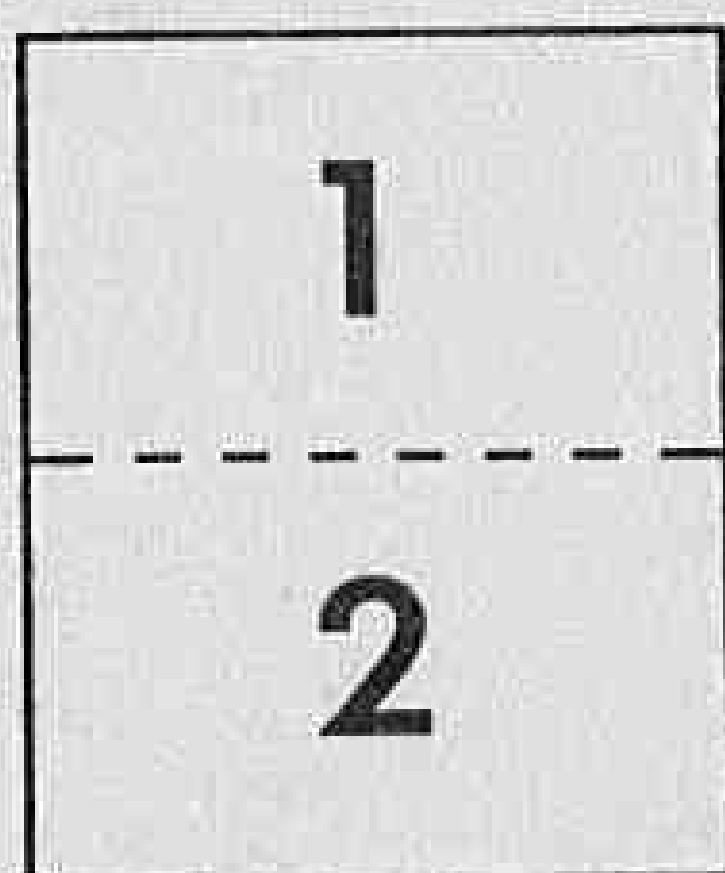
3. In addition notice boards, suitably worded, should be erected in prominent places drawing the attention of all military personnel to their responsibility in ensuring the safeguarding and preservation of the ruins.

(Sgd). C.M. PATON,
Brigadier,
for Major-General,
D.C.A.O.

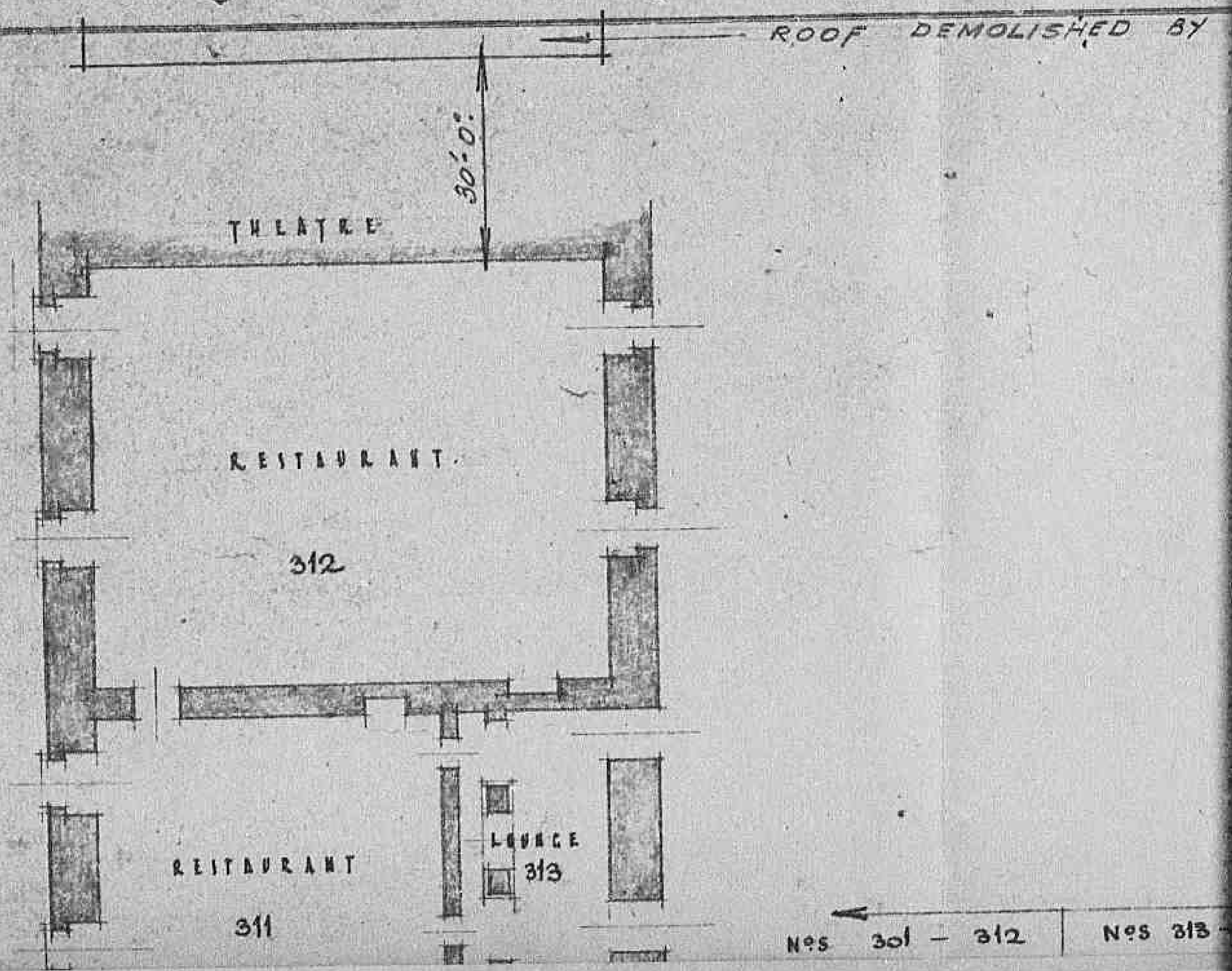
3020

MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

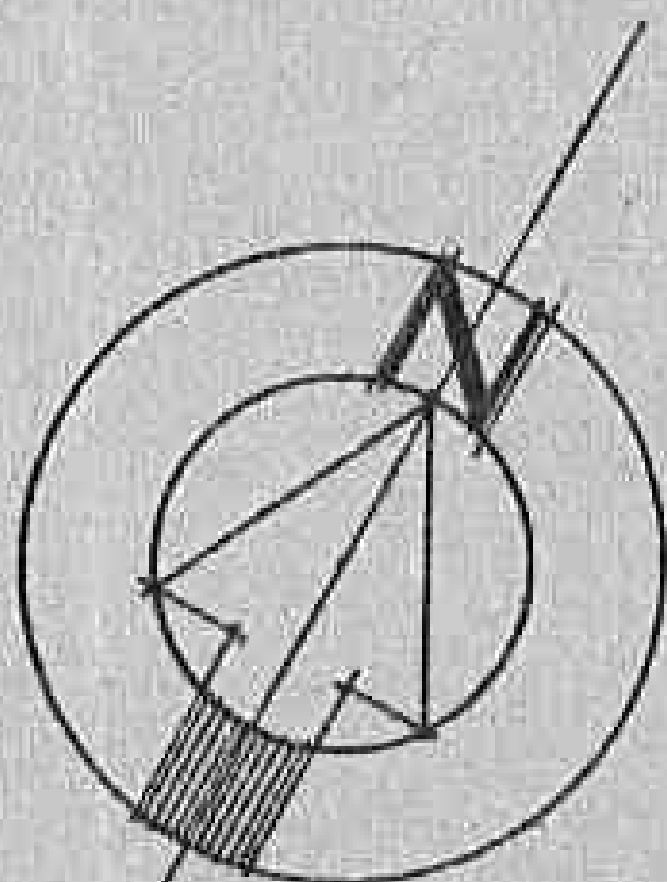
SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.



0109



BY BOMBING.



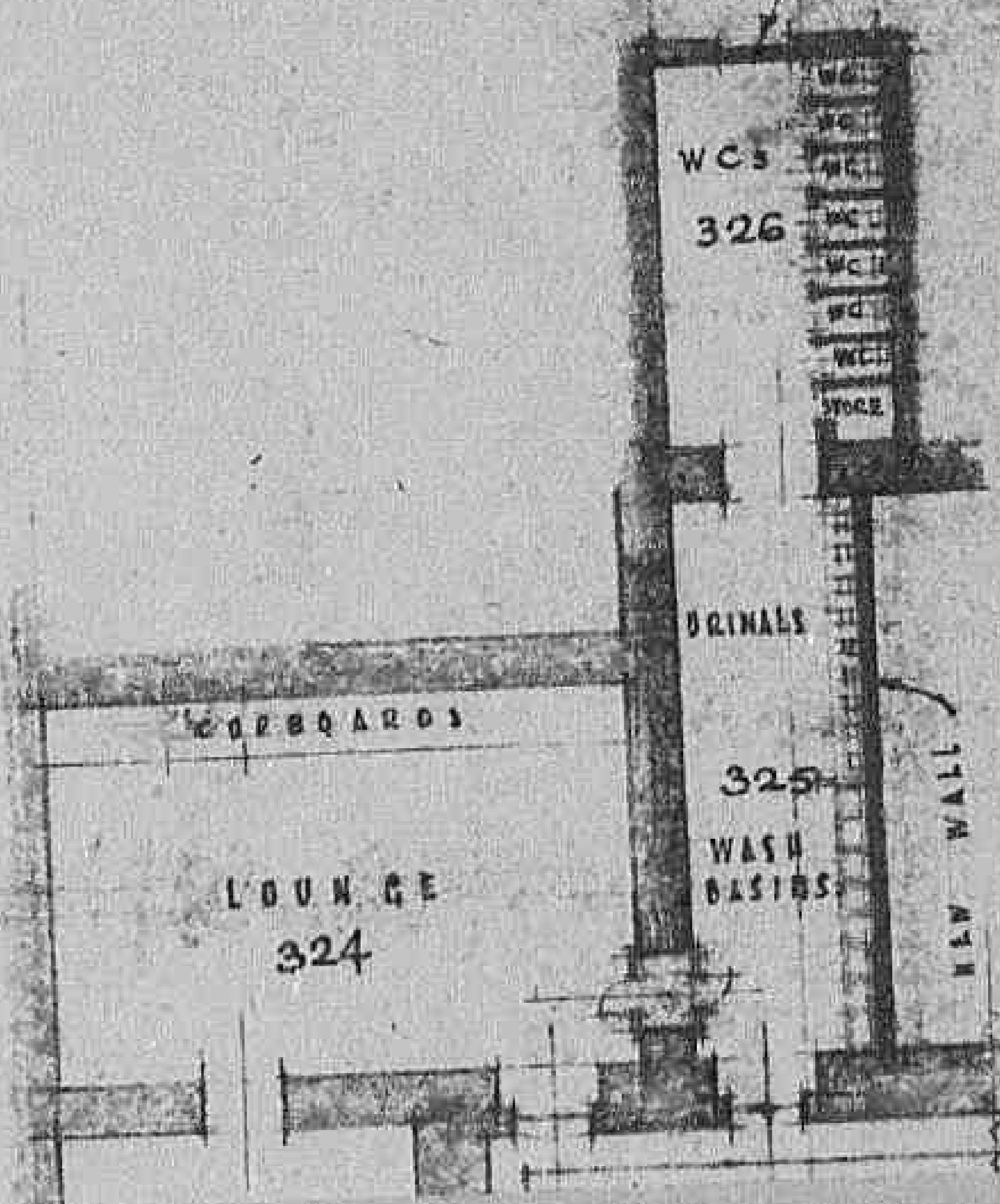
ROOFS DEMOLISHED BY BOMBING

BOMB

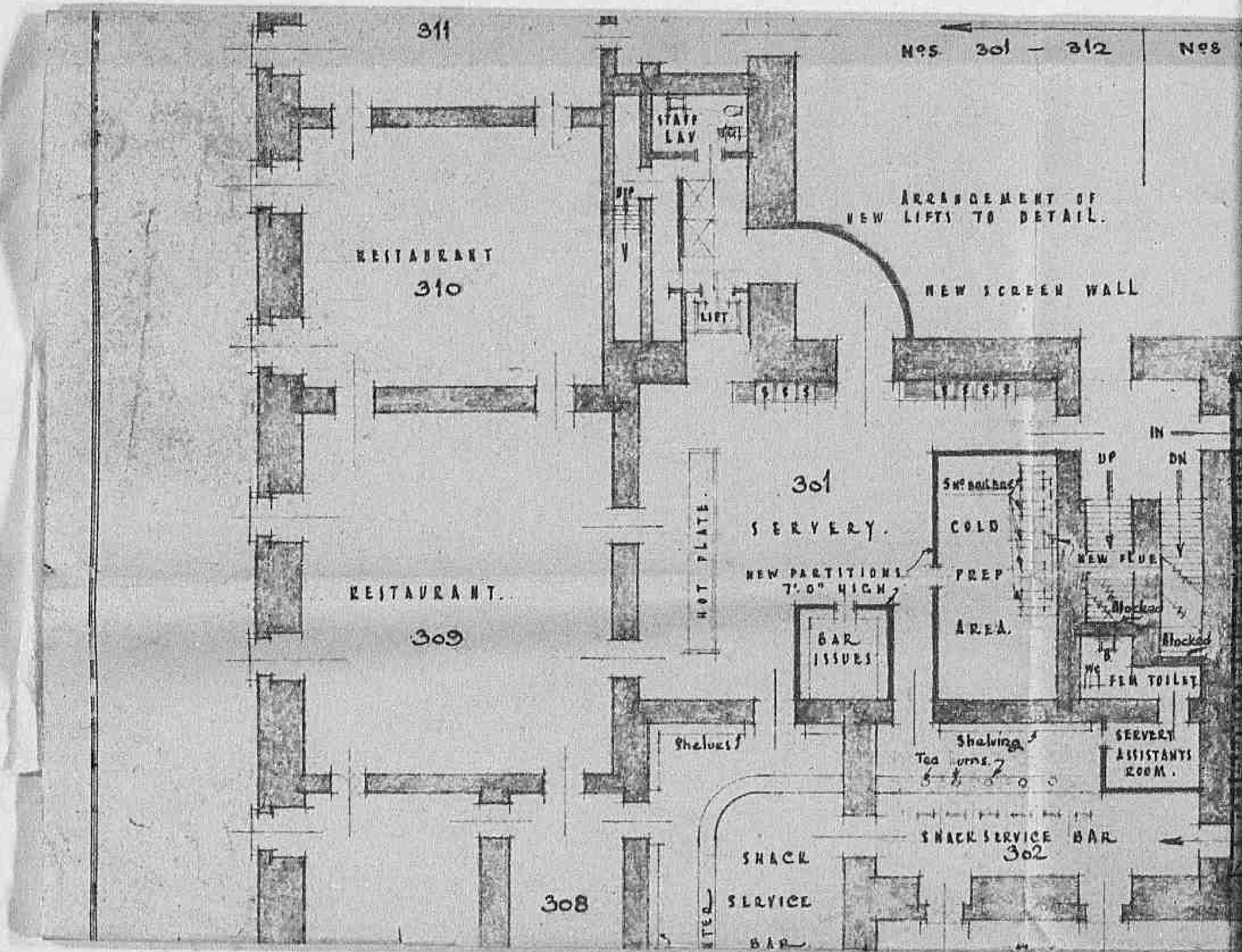
785016

APPENDIX 'B' TO
3560/DDW 5th APRIL '44.

DOOR WAY BRICKED UP
WITH VENT GRILLE PROVIDED



BOMB DAMAGE

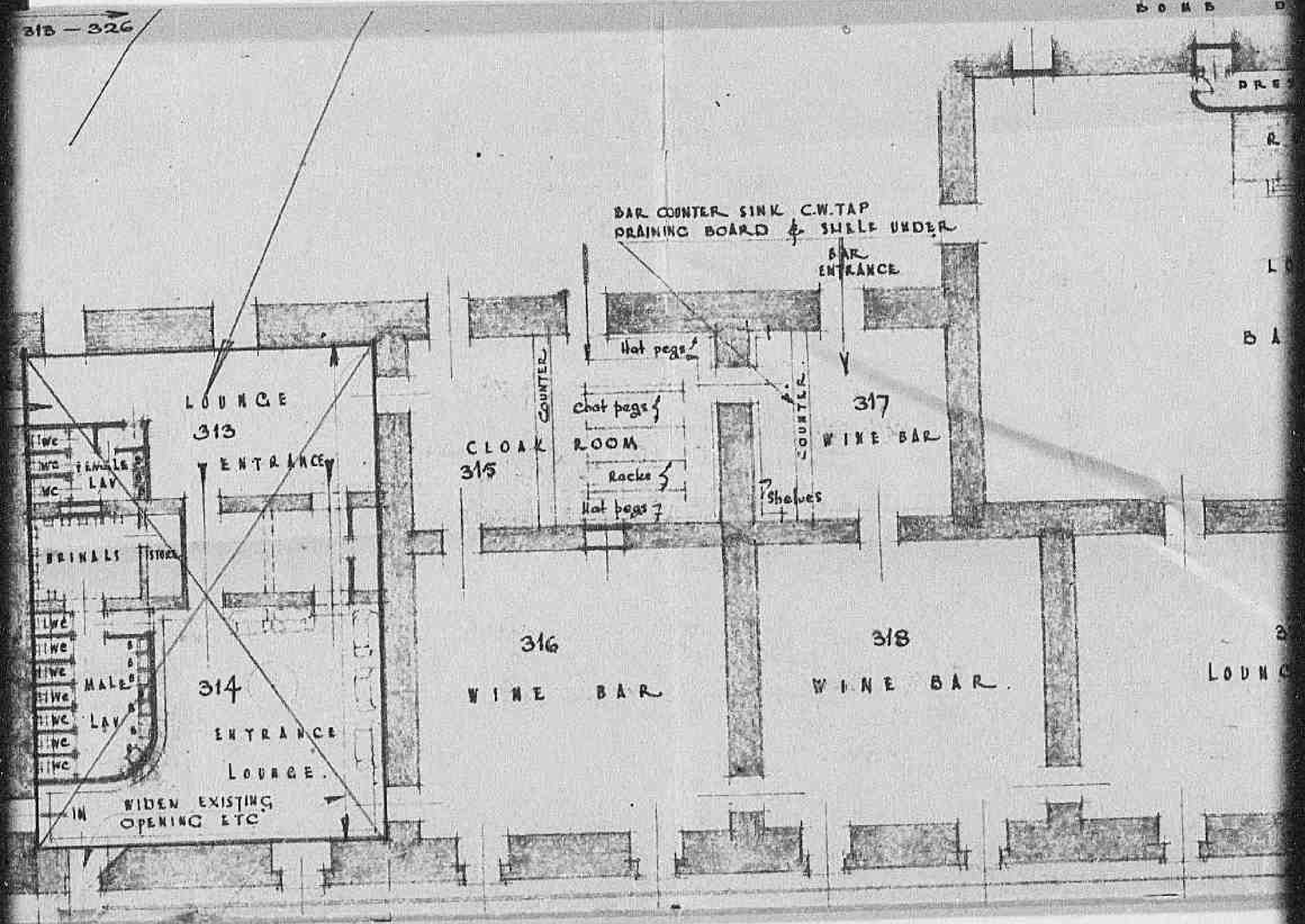


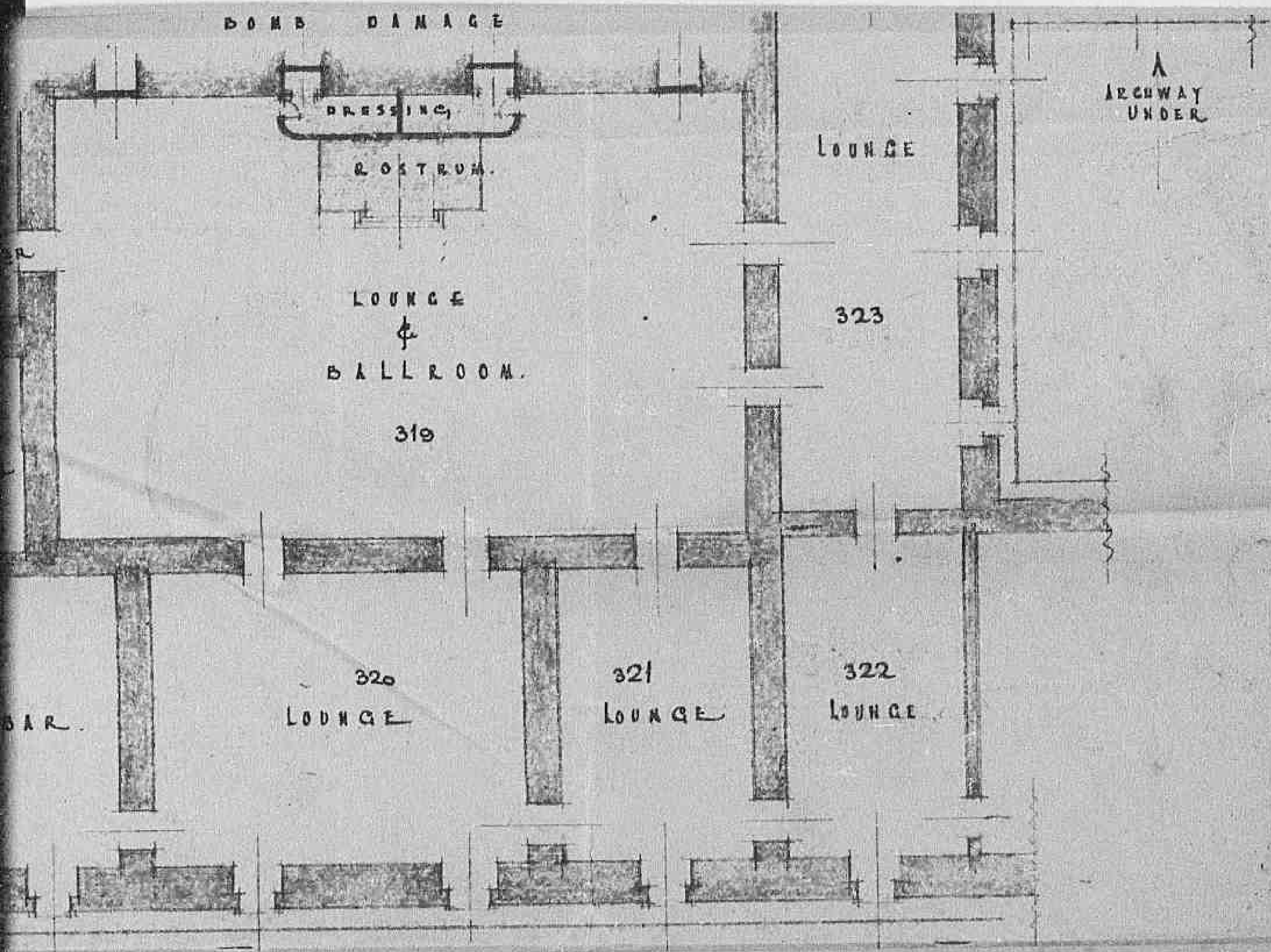
0113

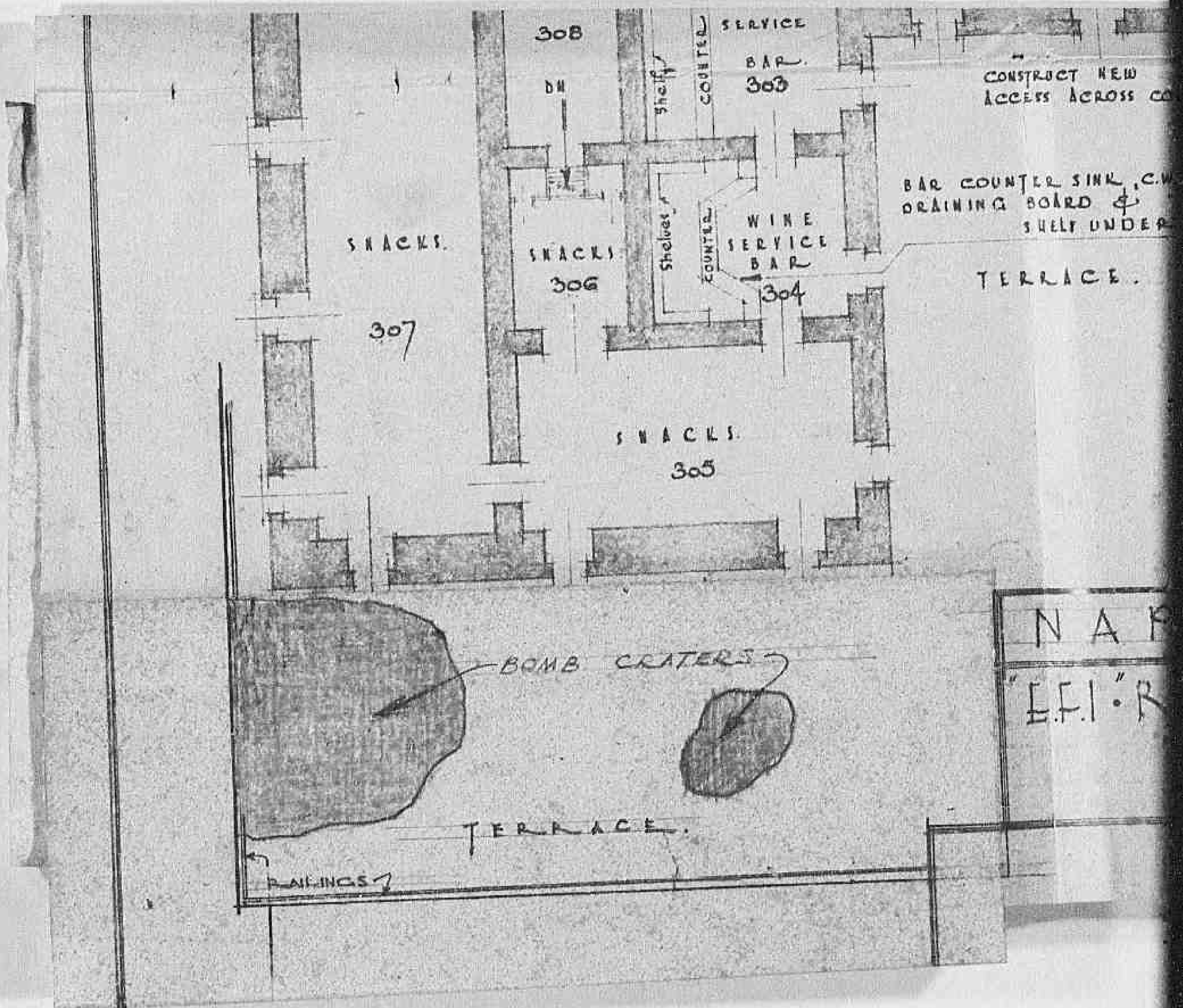
785016

313 - 326

B O M B







DUCT NEW
ACROSS CORNER

R SINK, C.W. TAP
BOARD &
WELT UNDER

RACE

DUMMY CEILING OVER THIS AREA
AT AN HEIGHT TO COINCIDE WITH
TOP OF WINDOW LEVEL, PARTITIONS
ENCLOSING LATS TO BE BUILT TO THIS HEIGHT.
VENTILATION TO LATRINES TO BE THROUGH
DUMMY CEILING TO OPEN AIR GRILLES
THROUGH WALLS.

FIRST MAIN

NAPLES

E.F.I. RESTAURANT & WELFARE CENTRE ROYAL P
PROPOSED LAYOUT

or THIRD FLOOR
SCALE 16' 0" TO 1"

PALACE".

W. S. Langford
FOR LT COL DC/EEI

APPROVED BY
W. S. Langford
for BRIG D.D.W.

DRAWN & TRICED BY
J. Alfred H. Wheel
24. 2. 44. E.D. S/SGT R.E.

DRAWING NUMBER
D. D. W. A. F. H. Q.

1175/C

2003/1/MEAA

HQ. AGO - APO 394
Subcomm. for MEAA

6 May 1944

38

Dear Major Grant:

This is to thank you for your kind cooperation in providing a truck on 4th and 5th May to transport furniture and pictures from the Royal Palace of Naples to Capodimonte. This material is of considerable interest both from an historical and artistic point of view, and, through your help, it has now been possible to deposit it in a place of greater safety. I should like also to mention what care the driver of the truck took to avoid any jarring which might have caused damage to his load; perhaps you would be kind enough to pass this on to the right quarter. Again thanking you for your kindness.

Yours sincerely

E.C.M.

Major Grant,
Control Section, P.B.S.

3028

ACC/20034/1/MFAA

2 May 44

*Dear Brigadier,*Repairs to the Royal Palace at Naples.

- 1 My Director of Monuments has sent on to me your 2108/q2 of the 21 Apl.
- 2 I quite appreciate the points you make and the reasons behind them but I do not feel that your proposals quite meet the case. I would like to meet you to see if we cannot thrash out something better which will not hamper your REs appreciably. You see irreparable damage can be caused almost at any moment through inadvertence, lack of thought or by a subordinate not realising that an article has special value or that a proposed act will have damaging results. These are matters which only a technical expert fully appreciates.
- 3 My chief points are:
 - a Major Paul Gardner has charge of the whole of Region III. It is not possible for him personally to be always available to supervise details of repairs to one particular building.
 - b Apparently it is not always possible to find the appropriate senior RE officer sufficiently quickly to prevent impending damage.
 - c The officer referred to in paragraph 5 of your letter was my Director himself; he must of course have access to all monuments for the care of which he has any responsibility without reference to his subordinates.
- 4 What I have in mind is some scheme which would provide.
 - a Consultation with an expert at the planning stage.
 - b An RE officer on the spot who should have authority to act on technical representation even if it is only to suspend work pending receipt of a decision on the point raised.
 - c Free access by MFAA officers and their representatives (including any designated Italian expert or custodian).
 - d Free consultation between your and my representatives on the spot at all times.
 - e That technical advice shall be reasonable having regard to the circumstances and be limited to essentials but when given shall be followed except for very special reasons to the contrary.
- 5 If you are agreeable to this meeting, will you please let me know a date or dates when it is convenient to you. This can be done either by phoning VAPOUR 177 and informing Major WARD PERKINS who will know my movements or by writing to me at this address.

Brigadier W.T. RITCHIE,
HQ. A.A.I. C.M.F.

Copy to M.F.A.A.

3027
STANDGATE.

8. The Italian Superintendent of Monuments and the Palace Foreman-of-Works both of whom work under the Monuments & Fine Arts Sub-Commission, were denied all access to the work. The D.D.W. is now prepared to admit them only in the presence of an officer, a concession which affords no practical guarantee of a repetition of this stupidity.

9. The occupation of a building of this character, carried out against the recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry, throws a heavy onus of responsibility on the occupying troops. So far no practical steps seem to have been taken to meet this responsibility. I fear that similar damage may be caused in other places which are to be occupied in spite of General Collier's recommendations and I can confirm that at Pompeii considerable and constant damage is done by troops who visit the ruins in great quantities, damage which might be prevented or reduced if the recommendations of the Commission were carried out.

10. The staff of the Sub-Commission for Monuments & Fine Arts is at the disposal of the military authorities who find it necessary to occupy buildings of historical importance and I would ask that at least these authorities should be instructed to consult and refer to the Sub-Commission and to abide by their recommendations during such occupation. In particular I would ask that if historical buildings have to be occupied, the senior officer should be made personally responsible for securing the building against damage and that he should, on departure, hand over that building to a member of the Sub-Commission for Monuments & Fine Arts.

11. The recommendations of the Collier Commission, if carried out, will go a long way to preserving historical buildings from unnecessary damage in the future. But, if proper use is made of the staff of the Sub-Commission for Monuments & Fine Arts by all military formations, much can be done.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant-General
Chief Commissioner

P.S. From the point of view of war effort this monuments business is just a nuisance. But we will lay ourselves--and our masters--open to vitriolic criticisms if we don't do everything practicable to avoid damage at any rate in rear areas.

NMM

3026

D.O.

20034/1

IA AGO - AFO 394
Subcomm. for MIRA-----
29 Apr 44Subject: Royal Palace, Naples.Dear *Gardner*,

I have been wrestling with the problem of keeping you fully informed over the recent correspondence regarding the Palace, but it has been ^{too} complex that I hope you will forgive me for taking the line of least resistance and indicating that it will be found, when next you find yourself this way, in two of our files:

20034/1 Royal Palace, Naples
20930/2 (items 19-21).

There is nothing of urgency.

I am very glad to hear your efforts on the Floridiana appear to be having effect.

Yours

Major Paul Gardner
Division of Fine Arts
HQ. Reg. 3, AME*Daryl*

3025

Herewith:

- A. A.A.I. Administrative Instruction No. 10
B. Extract from Commission of Enquiry report referring to
R. Accademia di Belle Arti
C. Caserta file. Note Nos. 11
14
25
D. Royal Palace, Naples. Present situation.
E. PBS Circular No. 48. Deals with CASERTA. Rec'd
by this office 23 Apr 44.
F. Proof-sample of lists now in preparation.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

from *file*
6/41/CA
ETDM/tmp
35

23 April 1944.

20900/2/MFAA

Subject: Damage to Historical Monuments.

To : Vice President, Administrative Section.

1. Comment upon Marshal Badoglio's letter of 6 April on the subject of Historical and Artistic Monuments in Italy falls under two headings:

- a. The facts of the present situation;
- b. Concrete proposals for the future put forward in his attached memorandum.

2. The facts are that during the initial stages of occupation a certain amount of damage was undoubtedly done. This was investigated by a Commission of Enquiry appointed by the C.-in-C. sitting under Major-General Collier. The findings of this Commission (which have been fully borne out by the experience of the MFA&A Subcommission) were that, while some of the damage alleged to have been done by troops was attributable to civilians, a proportion was undoubtedly the work of troops, and that both could in many cases have been prevented. Certain specific recommendations were therefore made with a view to preventing or minimizing such damage in the future.

3. In addition the Commission made a certain number of recommendations particular to individual buildings in Naples, including the Royal Palace. Except in one instance these recommendations have not since been put into effect, and the failure to implement them is undoubtedly the prime cause of the Marshal's letter. In each case it may be added that the MFA&A Subcommission has been presented from the start with a fait-accompli.

4. The Royal Palace at Naples was badly damaged prior to the occupation and undoubtedly suffered considerably from neglect in the early stages of the occupation. The careless damage and pilfering disclosed by the Commission's enquiry ceased some months ago; but the subsequent sweeping work of repair, undertaken by the RE's with a view to the installation of an E.F.I. rest-centre, has been carried on with only a very superficial regard for the historical importance of the building. The advice of the MFA&A Subcommission's representative has been frequently overruled and the Italian Superintendent for Monuments and his staff denied admittance and treated with great discourtesy. After all efforts at liaison had failed to produce any noticeable improvement, the matter was reported in detail to the Chief Commissioner, who on 27 May wrote to the C.-in-C. on the matter. His letter was referred to the C.A.C. for investigation, and a full reply is still awaited.

5. Caserta Palace. The actual structure has not suffered to any extent from occupation, and is not likely to suffer; the fittings and pictures on the other hand have suffered severely from indiscriminate "requisition" and it was not until 19 March that the MFA&A Subcommittee, by agreement with A.A.I., was finally able to secure the necessary storage-space within the palace and an authorization to withdraw to it what remained of the more important historical fittings and furniture. This arrangement is now threatened with cancellation by AFHQ (see attached document C, 15).

6. The Accademia di Belle Arti is an educational institution housed in a building of little historic or artistic importance. This building is now used as a hospital, and, while the necessity for the requisition of any cultural institution is a matter of regret, in the opinion of the MFA&A Subcommittee it is, under present conditions, very properly so employed. *The Commission of Inquiry could find no evidence of improper action (see attached document for findings)*

7. Marshal Badoglio's proposals for action against the repetition of damage in the future. In addition to the letters written by General Eisenhower (29 Dec 43) and General Alexander (17 Mar 44), A.A.I. Administrative Instruction (appended herewith--A), which was issued on 30 Mar 44 after consultation with MFA&A and embodies the general recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry, specifically covers all the points raised by the Marshal, except that (as already clearly defined by General Eisenhower) it is considered that no absolute prohibitions to occupation can be made.

- a. Lists of buildings, graded by importance, have been drawn up. These buildings may only be occupied under certain very clearly defined conditions and authority from a Major General or officer of equivalent rank. Printing of these lists was necessarily withheld until the final approval of the Administrative Instruction covering them, but the first list (Lazio - Abruzzi) is now in proof. (Adm. Instr., paras. 3-5.)
- b. The Italian Superintendents have already been consulted over the preparation of these lists (Adm. Instr., para. 6).
- c. Where it is found necessary to occupy a listed monument, provision is made for the dispersal of contents on the lines suggested (Adm. Instr., para 7).
- d. Police arrangements are covered in general terms (Adm. Instr., para. 6) and have already been prepared in detail for Rome.

8. Liaison with the Italian Superintendents in Naples has throughout been close, continuous, and cordial, although there has evidently been a certain lack of frankness on the part of Doctor Castelfranco, Director General of Belle Arti under the Ministry of Education at Salerno. 3023

9. While it is false to say that "many irreparable acts of damage continue to be committed", there is no doubt that the two Royal Palaces mentioned are a sore spot and are nullifying the effect of the good work

that is being done by ACC in regard to many other monuments. Furthermore a lot of the damage done has been most unnecessary, and the recent episodes do not augur well for the future application of the terms of Administrative Instruction No. 10.

10. Specifically the MFA&A Subcommission suggests:-

- a. The Royal Palace, Naples, that in view of the Chief Commissioner's letter of 27^{Mar} and the virtual completion of the repair-work, no further action is at present needed. The Officer i.C. E.F.I. has expressed anxiety to cooperate, and the Subcommission, in conjunction with the Italian Superintendency, is producing a suitable guide-book for the use of troops.

There is some confusion still on the ultimate fate of that part of the Palace due for allocation to American troops. The very significant item in this section is the National Library, and it is hoped that this can be safeguarded without further resource to Higher Authority.

- b. Caserta Royal Palace, that AFHQ be urged to reconsider their decision to appropriate the storage-space at present allocated by A.A.I. (see attached correspondence c. /).

144 25

Ernest T. De Wald
ERNEST T. DE WALD
Major, Spec. Res.
Director.

3022

35A
70
CONFIDENTIAL

30 Mar 54

151 AGI (ADM 538248)

ADM INSTRUCTION NO. 10

PREPARATION OF PROPERTY OF HISTORICAL OR EDUCATIONAL
IMPORTANCE IN THEATRE

1. Attention is directed to the personal letter to all Commanders issued by the GOC-42-3 dated 17 Feb 54 on the above subject. The following instructions are issued as a guide to Commanders and in amplification of the letter above referred to.
2. Detailed considerations must obviously influence the occupation of historical buildings etc. during actual fighting, but a rigid control over such occupation will be imposed by Commanders as soon as fighting has ceased.
3. It is not proposed to forbid the occupation by troops of any specific buildings except that churches will not be used for normal troop accommodations. In cases of extreme necessity churches may be used temporarily to shelter wounded personnel awaiting evacuation. This authority is not to be interpreted that they may be used as Casualty Clearing Stations or Hospitals. The responsibilities for decision as to whether an historical building is to be occupied or not is delegated to Commanders, not below the rank of Divisional Commander or officers of equivalent status, except that during actual fighting in cases of extreme operational urgency, lower commanders may have to act.

To assist Commanders in their decisions AGI/421 have prepared lists of the principal historical monuments, deposits of important documents (archives), and article treasures of value, with the names of their important institutions by area. These lists will be known as "Lists of Protected Monuments" and will supersede the lists printed in the Zone Handbook of Italy, and AGI General Order No. 68 of 29 Mar 43 insofar as it refers to the Zone Handbook. For easy reference these lists are printed in sections on a regional basis, and will be issued by AGI/421 on demand as follows:

- (a) 1. Areas, independent formations, Districts and Base sections will demand sufficient copies now to hold a complete set at their HQ and to issue to the undersubdivided those sections which affect their areas of occupation or administrative control:

151 Corps	151 Sub Areas
151 Divisions	Town Majors
151 Areas	Local Estate Offices.

- (b) It will be the responsibility of Army, Independent Formations, District or Base section commanders when planning the capture or conquest of territory to demand and distribute the necessary copies of these lists to the relevant units.

3021

2. Tactical considerations must obviously influence the location of historical buildings etc. during actual fighting but a rigid control over such occupation will be imposed by Commanders as soon as fighting has ceased.
3. It is not proposed to forbid the occupation by troops of any specific buildings except that churches will not be used for normal troop accommodation. In cases of extreme necessity churches may be used temporarily to shelter wounded personnel awaiting evacuation. This authority is not to be interpreted that they may be used as Casualty Clearing Stations or Hospitals. The responsibilities for decision as to whether an historical building is to be occupied or not is delegated to Commanders, not below the rank of Divisional Commander or officer of equivalent status, except that during actual fighting in cases of extreme operational urgency, lower commanders may have to act.

To assist Commanders in their decisions HQ/AMC have prepared lists of the principal historical monuments, deposits of important documents (archives), and articles treasures of Italy, with the degree of their importance indicated by stars. These lists will be known as "Lists of Protected Monuments" and will supersede the lists printed in the 1938 Handbook of Italy, and AMC General Order No. 68 of 29 Dec 43 insofar as it refers to the 1938 Handbook. For easy reference these lists are printed in sections on a regional basis, and will be issued by AOC/AMC on demand as follows:

- (a) HQ/AMC, Independent Formations, Districts and Base sections will demand sufficient copies now to hold a complete set at their HQ and to issue to the unaccompanied these sections which affect their areas of occupation or administrative control:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Corps | (11) Sub Areas |
| (2) Divisions | (12) Major |
| (3) Areas | (13) Airborne Operations |

- (b) It will be the responsibility of Army, Independent Formations, District or Base section commanders when planning the capture or eventual occupation of territory to demand and distribute the relative sections down to all Battalion or equivalent units.

Attached as Appendix A to this Instruction, as a guide for dealing in an Index showing the subdivision of the Index by areas.

...../5

- 2 -

All buildings listed in the "List of Protected Monuments" will be deemed "historical buildings" and will not be occupied when all historical monuments are available or without the express authority in writing of the appropriate commander as laid down in paragraph 3 above.

In the event the greater part of the damage is likely to occur between the time the battle moves forward and the time reserves suspension and administration when action will ensue, it will be the responsibility of commanders to place guards on all historical buildings during this phase. In view of the fact that these buildings will be damaged and destroyed.

Whereas it is found essential for operational reasons to occupy any such buildings, the commander of the occupying troops will be responsible for seeing that the buildings are not damaged and that the occupying troops are not damaged. In the case of museums, galleries, libraries, and other cultural institutions, the commander will be required to ensure that the buildings are not damaged and that the occupying troops are not damaged. In the case of museums, galleries, libraries, and other cultural institutions, the commander will be required to ensure that the buildings are not damaged and that the occupying troops are not damaged. In the case of museums, galleries, libraries, and other cultural institutions, the commander will be required to ensure that the buildings are not damaged and that the occupying troops are not damaged.

Whereas it is found essential for operational reasons to occupy any such buildings, the commander of the occupying troops will be responsible for seeing that the buildings are not damaged and that the occupying troops are not damaged.

Partial occupation of a large historical building is the exception of only a small corner, the occupation by troops of more than one Allied nation will be avoided wherever possible. In the past buildings are occupied in view of a high proportion of loss and damage, not necessarily attributable to the occupying troops.

ADG/VI has a staff of officers with complete knowledge of such matters who should be consulted in all cases of doubt. These staff officers rule that specific items of furniture should be included in those stored separately, and that the buildings will be damaged subject to the right of removal of the occupying unit to take it through the rural channels.

In addition to the numerous sites mentioned in the lists, there are many to which responsibility is given to those who have been of numerous and galleries have been removed for safety. The sites of such responsibility are not at present known when these are to be regarded as stored monuments, and their location reported.

In the case of relics and books it is to be noted that some of these which do not appear to be ancient may be of great importance, and only historically but as containing information necessary for the historical purposes of the war, these collections or dispersal of such collections, wherever found, will not be permitted.

[illegible]

APPROXIMATELY 10:30 PM. ALL CALLS INTERRUPTED
BY A POWER OUTAGE AT 10:10 PM. DO NOT ATTEMPT

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

1. *Arctia and Stoly*
2. *Apulia, Calabaria, Campania, Lucania*
3. *Albania and Lazio*
4. *La Marmia, Toscana, Umbria*
5. *Agrofa. and Picenum*
6. *Sicilia and Lombardia*
7. *La Via Veneta*

35
Attachment to letter 20900/2/MFAA
23 April 44

Extract from "Report by the Allied Commission of Enquiry Appointed to Investigate Damage Alleged to Have Been Caused to Real and Personal Property of Historical and Educational Importance in Italy":

+ + + + +

Regia Accademia di Belle Arti.

35. This institution consists partly of a gallery of modern art (19th Century) and partly of an art school. The Commission felt that the evidence as to damage was unreliable. The only Italian witness was the director, an old man who was obviously breaking up as a result of seeing his institution taken over by Allied troops. The Commission do not wish to imply that he deliberately tried to mislead them, but his memory was failing and he could not say what damage or loss had occurred. The Commission therefore examined the commanding officer and adjutant of the occupying unit. All that the Commission were able to establish was that the American hospital now in occupation of the institution had gone to an immense amount of trouble on their first arrival to help the director and his assistants either to remove the more important contents of the institution to another building, or to carry them to another part of the institution where they were walled up. This took about three weeks. The commanding officer admitted that, although every care was taken, some damage was done, but so far as the Commission could ascertain the objects damaged were either plaster casts or student paintings. The Commission were unable to see the damage for themselves, as all the objects removed had been stored in special rooms and walled up. So far as they could ~~ascertain~~ find out, nothing had been lost or damaged that falls properly within the scope of this enquiry.

356 12

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ETDW/BMP

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

20034/1/FAA

24 April 1944.

Memorandum to: Vice President, Administrative Section.

Subject : Royal Palace, Naples: Summary of Events to 21 Apr 44.

1. A Commission of Enquiry sitting under General Collier in January 1944 established the following facts:

- a. That the Palace had been badly damaged by bombardment prior to occupation.
- b. That it had suffered further damage, the most substantial being the wholesale stripping of period-fabrics from the walls.
- c. That the individual responsibility was not easy to assess precisely, but a contributing factor was the mixed occupation by troops of different nationalities.

The Commission specifically recommended the evacuation of the French troops and allocation of the Palace to a single nationality under proper safeguards.

2. After considerable correspondence (in which ACC was not consulted) this recommendation was turned down, and at the instance of PBS the Palace was allocated equally to the existing French troops, to British troops for a NAATI/EFI rest-centre, and to American troops for unspecified purposes. There is some indication that the American troops do not want their part and that it is to be offered to the Italian Army.

3. Historically the most important section has passed to the British and it is here that the great majority of the recent damage has occurred.

4. The RE's responsible did contact Major Gardner, 3047 Officer, Region 3, shortly before commencing work and he has throughout been informed in general terms of the intended alterations. Unfortunately the RE's, while very ready to cooperate so long as this did not seriously affect preconceived policy, have taken the general attitude that such cooperation was a rather troublesome favour and could be disregarded where necessary.

5. It may be that this attitude was necessary to achieve the completion of a time-schedule already agreed before consultation with ourselves, in which case the fault lies higher; but in any case the results have been unfortunate.

6. In particular neither the Italian Superintendent nor his deputies have been allowed to inspect the work in progress other than in company with an officer of this Subcommission. The result has been that a great deal of utterly needless damage of detail was done which could have been prevented by a word of timely advice. Individually trivial, these have mounted up to a considerable total.

7. Particular items already reported were the destruction of a damaged DE MURA fresco (which it had been agreed with Major Gardner should be left in place), the wholesale stripping of period-mouldings, and the removal of several painted doors. The situation was reported to the Chief Commissioner, who wrote to the C.-in-C., who passed the letter for investigation to the C.A.O. The matter is still sub judice.

8. Matters have since been better, but one recent circumstance is worth reporting in detail. About ten days ago Major Gardner was informed that it was proposed to retouch the damaged frescoes in the State Apartments and his advice sought. His reply was that they would be better left in their present condition until proper measures could be taken. This was said to be impossible, as the orders from Higher Authority were to make the Palace "as much like a Palace as possible", and he therefore requested that the work should be intrusted to skilled Italian craftsmen from the Superintendency of Monuments. This too proved impossible as the deadline offered (one week) was hopelessly insufficient for any such task. He then suggested that a neutral tempera-wash over the damaged areas would meet the case without doing damage. The upshot was the repairs were finally begun in oil paint (a medium liable to cause further harm to the undamaged portions) by two sappers. Personal intervention by myself & a day's hard negotiation eventually secured a reprieve for the best surviving 18th-century fresco, which is now being finished in tempera by the same two sappers.

9. The root of the difficulty has been throughout that the Italian staffs, on whom we of necessity rely for day-to-day technical supervision, have been denied admission and that, in all good faith, damage has therefore been done before we could intervene. Most of it could have been prevented without loss of efficiency by a word or two of advice in the early stages. 8016

10. The work of repair is now nearing completion and there is now very little left that can be damaged. The question of the implementation of Administrative Instruction No. 10 is fully

covered by the Chief Commissioner's letter of 27 Mar 44 and the additional facts hardly warrant a fresh attack. Every effort is being made to ensure cooperation with NAAFI/EFI and so far no attempt has been made to requisition the National Library.

Ernest T. De Wald
h. ERNEST T. DE WALD
Major, Spec. Res.
Director.

3015

U. S. CONFIDENTIAL EQUALS BRITISH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIALHEADQUARTERS
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
APO 782

PBS 31875

21 April 1944

CIRCULAR)
NUMBER 48)UNAUTHORIZED CONVERSION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

1. The following directive of the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater, is republished for the guidance of all members of this command:

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Commander-in-Chief

28 March 1944

SUBJECT: Unauthorized Conversion of Private Property.

TO : Commander-in-Chief; Allied Armies in Italy.
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.
Air Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.
General Officer Commanding, North African District.

1. I have been informed that organizations and individuals of our armed forces have destroyed or removed, without authority, from billets and buildings in this theater, furniture and furnishings belonging to private individuals. The Caserta Palace is one building to which I refer. Many of the objects removed are irreplaceable and represent usefulness and sentimental value to the owner far beyond any monetary allowance or claim.

2. These offenses show a lack of discipline and bring into disrepute the honesty and integrity of our armed forces. Permitting or tolerating such acts is a dereliction of duty and constitute a reflection on the efficiency of Commanders.

3. There are authorized means by which civilian property of any kind necessary to the war effort can be procured. It is desired that immediate action be taken to return all misappropriated property and to guard against recurrences of this nature.

/s/ H. M. Wilson
/t/ H. M. WILSON

Supreme Allied Commander, "Mediterranean Theater"

3014

2. Wilful mutilation or destruction of or removal of privately owned property by personnel occupying billets or buildings under requisition will

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U. S. CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

not be tolerated.

3. Any misappropriated property in the possession of a member of this command will be returned not later than 30 April 1944. Subsequent to such date, all violations will be dealt with under the appropriate Article of War.
(A.G. 400.51 BFGAF)

By command of Major General WILSON:

FRANCIS H. OXX
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

L. F. Nickel
L. F. NICKEL
Lt. Col., A.G.D.
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:
"A" "E" & "F"

Subjects: Repairs to the Royal Palace at Naples.



Allied Control Commission,
Rome, First Arts & Archives Sub-Commission.

HQ AAC,
C.M.F.

2106/42.

23 Apr 44.

U-5350

34

1. Possible damage to items of historical value or interest during the work in progress at the Royal Palace has been the subject of several letters and discussions in the past; one point at issue being the right of entry of Italian custodians and of your officers.
2. It was considered that inspection by outside interests unaccompanied by responsible officers of the A.C.C. could only lead to misunderstandings owing to suggestions being made to persons engaged on the work who were not in a position of sufficient authority either to act on such suggestions or to say why they could not be adopted.
3. With this in mind it was suggested that Major Paul Gardner could visit the Palace at any time and obtain a responsible officer who would show him anything he wished to see, and could ensure that his suggestions were represented to the proper persons. Similarly any Italian or other interest wishing to visit the Palace would in the first place contact Major Gardner to arrange the visit. It is believed that Major Gardner is the executive officer responsible for the Area.
4. In making this arrangement, there was no wish to prevent any of your officers seeing exactly what is going on; indeed their advice and the advice of the custodians is most welcome. It is, however, stressed that for this advice to receive attention, it must reach those responsible and not be given to any officer or member who may happen to be at work in a particular room.
5. This letter is now being sent as the North Directorate of this HQ has received reports that one of your officers recently visited the Palace and made suggestions to a Junior Registry Officer regarding the work on which he was engaged.
6. If you do not concur with the arrangements set out in para. 3 of this letter, please submit for consideration an alternative plan, as it is of the highest importance that relations between the experts on your Headquarters and the various Military Commands concerned should be put and remain on a really sound basis. Meanwhile the arrangements made with Major Gardner and as set out in this letter must stand.

A.C.C.
Copy to: Works.

3013
WR
Major-General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

699

19 The undersigned went to the XVIth See Naples guide TCI 347-1
 9, Apr., 1944, to see the repairing being done on the frescoed ceiling, by
 amateurs. Observations: (1) Oil paints with oil and turpentine as media
 are being used. These media will spread, on drying, into adjacent undamaged
 areas of the frescoes and leave stains that are ineradicable. (2) Surface
 plaster with original painting on it is loose in many places and flakey
 and will chip off when touched with a brush; this is reported by the men
 who are doing the "retouching". In these two ways further damage is being
 done to the ceiling (3) The job of restoring the ceiling to something like
 its former state requires the efforts of a good architect to examine the
 condition of the ceiling as a whole, a competent plaster to repair cracks
 and chipped out parts, and most of all a fresco painter thoroughly conversant
 with the medium, and who is conversant with the style of the artist whose
 work this fresco is; a proper job of retouching demands a first rate
 painter, not amateurs, whose work is ridiculous through no fault of their
 own.

Joane Keller, Capt -

33

E. T. B. W.
 acted upon.

COPY

SUBJECT: Royal Palace, NAPLESmade from
COPY received this 5/6
22 Apr - sent to
Major Gardner
Directorate of Works
HQ A.A.I.
C.M.F.Region 3 Allied
Control Commission
(For the attention of Major P. Gardner,
Regional Fine Arts Officer)3560/DDW
19 April 44

Reference visit of Major Jenner to your office to-day,
arrangements made verbally with your Regional Fine Arts Officer
are confirmed, viz. the request not to use oil paint on the
ceiling of the room adjacent to the South of the Theatre in the
above is acceded. Instructions have been given for paint other
than oil paint to be used to colour the new plaster repair of the
damaged ceiling.

(signed)
H.N. Jenner
Major RE
For Brigadier
D.D.W.

HNJ/EMR

20034/1

3012

HEAD QUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
AFO 394

ECM/vr

Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives

20034/1/MFAA

10 April 1944

Subject: Palazzo Reale, Naples.

To : Director, MFAA Subcommission.

1. On 9 Apr 44 I visited the Royal Palace of Naples with Lieut. Perry Cott. U.S.N.R.

2. During our tour of inspection I noticed that three of the four large Empire-style candelabra, which formerly stood in the Throne Room, had been taken to pieces. The sections (which are made of glass imitating bronze) had been left about on the ground in the Throne Room and the adjoining apartments, two of the sections had been broken and had been clumsily repaired with plaster. Two gilt-bronze rings belonging to two of them are missing.

3. As 10 Apr I interviewed one of the Sergeants of Engineers in charge of the works and he told me on 6 Apr his men had taken the three candelabra to pieces and had placed the sections in an alcove in the Throne Room where he assumed they would be safe. When he put them away they were intact.

4. It would appear that one of the Italian plasterers, who were working in the room at the time, must have done the damage in question.

5. All the fitting have now been placed in the Palace Repository, with the exception of the two missing bronze rings, which have yet to be found.

Edward Croft Murray
E. CROFT-MURRAY
Captain.
Subcomm. for MFAA.

3011

Copy to Regional MFAA Officer, Hq. Reg. III.

30

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives

10 April 1944

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The bearer of this document is a member of the official staff of the Palazzo Reale, Naples. He has been ordered to remove into safety all furniture and fittings of historical or artistic importance. It is requested that every facility be given to him and his colleagues to enable them to carry out their tasks.

Ernest T. DeWald
ERNEST T. DE WALD
Major, Spec. Res.
Director.

20034/1

3010

Subject:- Royal Palace () Naples.

M-4-F-A
HQ AAT (Adm Ech),
C. () F.

Chief Commissioner,
HQ Allied Control Commission.

2103/02.

2 Apr 44.

The C-in-C has handed your letter 20034/1/MFAA CC 000.4 dated 27 Mar 44 for action to CAO who has ordered a detailed investigation into the matter, in particular with regard to the Royal Palace in Naples.

A full reply will be sent as soon as the result of this investigation is known.

C. U. Houn L'et
Major General,
Chief Administrative Officer.

812

785016

summary of events connected with Royal Palace, Naples, 18 Dec 1943
-26 Feb 1944, prepared by Major Gaudner, Regim I Officer.
1 April 1944 Division of Fine Arts, Reg. 3, ACC

NOTES ON THE ROYAL PALACE OF NAPLES.

1. At a meeting in General Pence's office (FBS) on 18 December 1943, he gave orders to the various liaison officers concerned, to have all troops billeted in the Royal Palace removed and a guard placed over it. It was stated this was following instructions in a telegram to the General from AFHQ.
2. On 28 December the American troops left and a guard was placed on the area that had been occupied by them. The English troops refused to leave, saying they had permission from authorities higher than the General, to remain. The French troops did not leave. Their liaison officer, Major Jenks, stated that if the English did not have to get out, he saw no reason why the French should. This was reported to the RCAO, Reg. 3.
3. On 22 January 1944, during a visit to the Palace, an English Engineer Colonel was encountered who stated he was surveying the Palace as a possible rest center for British troops.
4. On 23 January, I was given orders by phone from Lt. Col. Griffiths of Metropolitan Area, who said his instructions came from AFHQ, to allow nothing to leave the building that would detract from its appearance as a Palace. Furniture, paintings and painted doors were especially enumerated.
5. On 25 January, I was called to a conference on the Royal Palace in the office of General Pence. The meeting was also attended by Brig. Ritchie, Brig. Bruxton Randall, General Immel, Lt. Col. Griffiths, Col. Davis and a representative of the British Navy. The General announced that AFHQ had agreed that the Palace could be used as a recreation or rest center for troops. It was determined that the space would be divided equally among the Americans, British and French. The British were given permission to leave the A.A. battery housed in one end of the Palace. It was indicated that there would be no objection to the British Navy quartering 1000 Italian sailors in the same end of the Palace. Brig. Ritchie again brought up the question of furnishing. He stated he had noted painted doors were disappearing and I was instructed to order the Italian authorities not to remove another thing from the Palace. To my objections, it was finally agreed that valuable pieces could be removed but no others. A commission of American, British and French representatives was to meet at the Palace the next day to study its facilities as a rest center. I brought up the question of the section of the Palace occupied by the Biblioteca Nazionale and its safety from interference in the project and the question of the storage spaces of the Super-

intendent of Monuments. The majority of the officers present did not know that the Library was housed in the Palace but I was assured that all such areas would be protected, although one officer suggested "the space be investigated as perhaps the Library had more than it needed". The active carrying out of the project depended on the abatement of the typhus epidemic and was set for a period 4 to 6 weeks away.

6. The same day I informed the Superintendent of Monuments of the plan and instructed him to have removed to the walled-up storage, all furniture, fittings, paintings etc. they wanted preserved and not used. This was done.

7. Some time in February a British guard unit took up its quarters in the Palace to guard access to the second floor and many "off limit signs" were posted in the Palace;

8. On 26 February, Major Jenners of the British Engineers came to my office and talked of the project and the work to be carried out. He stated it was their desire to do all the work in cooperation with the Division of Fine Arts, that trained and competent people would be in charge, their desire was to retain the atmosphere of a Palace and to do nothing to damage the present Palace as a monument. The question of the treatment of damaged ceilings was brought up at this time and the Major stated that in cases where the damage to any ceiling detracted from the appearance of a room, a temporary lower ceiling would be installed, leaving the present damaged ceiling untouched.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ECM/vr

27

Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives

31 March 1944

20034/1/IFAA

SUBJECT: Royal Palace at Naples

TO : Director, Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.

1. On 29 March I visited the Palazzo Reale, Naples where I met Major Gardner and Professor Molaioli.

2. I informed them that I had been instructed to recover and place in store all furniture and other movable fittings, including the fine painted doors, belonging to the palace in order to insure their future preservation.

3. Major Gardner was doubtful as to whether I should be allowed to do this, as the British R.E. Unit in charge of the repairs and redecoration of the palace had refused entrance to any of the palace staff.

4. I later met Lt. Jenkinson and his G.O., Major Westerman, and explained what I had come to do. They remembered my previous visit when I had salvaged the silks from the walls of the palace.

5. Reference was made to the destruction of the Francesco De Mura ceiling in Sala dell'Oratorio Maria Cristina, and both Westerman and Jenkinson persisted in the story that there were no pieces of it remaining which were more than two feet square. I pointed out that even so these fragments should and could have been preserved for future reconstruction of the fresco.

6. Major Westerman, who is an architect in civilian life, is the officer who is virtually in charge of the work. He told me that he was going to reconstruct the little court theatre for entertainment purposes. His original plan was to remove the gallery as well as all the line of decoration above the statues, both of which he considered to be in unsound condition. I therefore explained to him that it would be a great pity to destroy anything belonging to such a characteristic interior, to which he agreed. He now contemplates putting a temporary shell inside the structure, covering the whole of the original decoration, which would then be left as it is for future restoration when the premises is no longer used by the Allied Forces.

7. Major Westerman has also agreed that Signore Meli, the Custodian of the Palace, and his staff should remove all furniture and other movable fittings into store. He has made certain reservations with regard to those painted doors which are still hanging on their hinges and some large console tables which normally stand in the sala da Pranzo Diplomatica.

8. The work of removal is progressing and will soon be completed. It will include all furnishings (except those mentioned above), all painted doors which have been unhinged and a marble chimney-piece from the Sala dell'Oratorio di Maria Cristina.

./.

Royal Palace at Naples (cont.)

Some of the fittings of the theatre, including the act-drop and the painted drapery around the proscenium arch, have also been taken down and carefully stored on one side of the stage, to prevent further deterioration.

9. The principle entrance to the part to be occupied by British troops is to be made through the little garden outside the Scala d'Onore, giving on to the Piazza Trieste e Trento, beside the Teatro S. Carlo. In the middle of this is a statue, and Lt. Jenkinson asked me whether I considered that the R.E. should take this down or put a railing around it. It is recommended that the latter course should be taken.

10. The entrance to the Oratorio di Maria Cristina has been walled up which will insure that the chapel will not be disturbed in the future. It is recommended that his Highness the Prince of Piedmont be informed of this.

11. At present my relations with Major Westernman and Lt. Jenkinson are good; they accept my presence in the building as a matter of course, and are willing to listen to my suggestions in order to preserve original features of the building, and (as stated above) are quite agreeable to the palace staff going about their present task of getting the furniture and fittings into store.

Edward Croft Murray

E. CROFT-MURRAY
Capt. M. I.

Copy to:

R.C., Reg. 3, attn...Div. F.A.

3006

26

HEADQUARTERS
 ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
 APO 394
 Subcommittee for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

FKER/ump

20034/1/MFAA

28 March 1944.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Captain E. CROFT-MURRAY, of the Subcommittee for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives, ACC, has been directed to remove for storage and safekeeping all furniture and fittings in the Palazzo Reale, Naples, which he may consider to be of artistic or historical importance.

It will be appreciated if every facility can be given him in order to carry out this duty.

P.K. BAILLIE REYNOLDS
 Major, R.A.

A CHI DI COMPETENZA:

Capitano E. CROFT-MURRAY, Ufficiale della Sottocommissione Alleata per i Monumenti, Belle Arti ed Archivi, e' stato autorizzato di mettere in deposito, a scopo di conservarli, tutti i mobili ed altri oggetti d'arte di qualsiasi genere del Palazzo Reale di Napoli che a lui sembreranno di una importanza artistica e storica.

Si chiede che gli vengano date tutte le facilitazioni affinché possa eseguire questo suo dovere ufficiale.

P.K. BAILLIE REYNOLDS
 Major, R.A.

Signed by
 Maj. Baillie
 Reynolds,
 approved & subse-
 quently by
 Major D.W.
 R.H.P.
 M.P.

3005

Ref: 20034/1/MFAA
CC 000.4

27 March 1944

Subject: Royal Palace at Naples

To: G.O.C.-in-C.,
Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy

1. As a result of reports of damage done to monuments and fine arts in Italy you caused to be appointed a Commission of Enquiry to investigate damage alleged to have been caused to property of historical and educational importance in Italy.
2. This Commission made certain recommendations, some general and others for immediate action, in the area in and around Naples.
3. One of the general recommendations was that liaison between Commanders and the Allied Military Government should be improved. The Commission had noted that insufficient use had been made by Commanders of the knowledge and experience of the experts in the Allied Military Government.
4. Of the six recommendations regarding the area in and around Naples, three have been rejected, viz., those concerning the Royal Palace at Naples, San Martino, and Lists of Furniture. The recommendation regarding a permanent police piquet at Pompeii has been accepted in a form which practically nullifies its value.
5. In spite of the recommendation to make more use of the experts in Allied Military Government, these recommendations were rejected without any consultation with, or reference to, myself or the Sub-Commission for Monuments and Fine Arts.
6. The continued occupation by troops of the Royal Palace in Naples, contrary to the recommendations of the Collier Commission, has resulted, as was to be feared, in a great deal of stupid and unnecessary damage done in the process of restoration by the Royal Engineers under the D.D.W.
7. In particular, the only remaining 18th Century fresco, by Francesco de Mura, previously damaged, has now been utterly destroyed in spite of verbal assurance that it would not be touched; period-mouldings have been stripped wholesale; several painted doors have been removed.

3004

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Ref: 20034/1

25 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Royal Palace at Naples.

TO : H.Q. A.A.I. (Adm Ech), C.M.F.

1. The occupation of the Royal Palace, Naples, by troops has already, as was to be feared, resulted in a lot of stupid and unnecessary damage done in the process of restoration, in particular:

- (a) The wanton destruction of the only remaining 18th century fresco, by Francesco de Mura. This had been previously damaged, and verbal assurance had been given to Major Gardner, Fine Arts Officer, Region III, that it would not be touched.
- (b) The wholesale stripping of period-mouldings.
- (c) The removal of several painted doors.

2. The Italian Superintendent of Monuments and the Palace Foreman-of-Works, both of them responsible to the Monuments & Fine Arts Subcommittee of ACC, have been denied all access to the work. The DDW is now prepared to admit them in the company of an officer, a concession which affords no practical guarantee against a repetition of this stupidity.

3. There are no doubt two sides to the question; and in attempting to prevent unnecessary damage the Italian foreman may well in the past have been somewhat of a nuisance to the troops engaged. This would not have occurred if steps had been taken from the start to provide them with some official channel of approach.

4. The occupation of a building of this character against the Recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry throws a heavy onus of responsibility on the occupying troops, and so far no practical steps seem to have been taken to meet this responsibility.

5. I consider that the following are the minimum requirements if further unnecessary damage is to be prevented:

- (a) That the Italian Superintendent of Monuments and his Foreman-of-Works be allowed free access to all parts of the building, and that alterations affecting structure should only be undertaken after consulting them.
- (b) That the National Library, which has been considerably damaged, remain undisturbed, and access assured to the librarian, Dottoressa Guerriera Guerrieri.
- (c) That space be reserved for the storage of the remaining period furniture. This consists primarily of a set of gilt-and-marble console tables, assorted fittings of a purely decorative character, and the painted doors of the State Apartments.
- (d) That some officer be made personally responsible for securing the building against further damage.

6. I should be grateful if written orders to this effect could be issued to those concerned.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

MSL/bmp

3002

Subject:- Commission of Enquiry.

A.F.H.Q.

1. Reference this HQ letter 108/Q2 dated 19 Feb forwarding copies of the interim report by the Commission of Enquiry on Preservation of Historical Monuments.

2. Paragraph 3 of this letter informed you that action was being taken to implement all the recommendations of the Commission except 76(f). In the undermentioned cases further investigation has caused this decision to be modified.

A. Palazzo Reale Naples.

(i) The ground floor, on which there are no art objects will continue to be used by French troops.

(ii) The remainder of the building is planned for a welfare centre for British and U.S. troops. Repairs to the structure are well advanced and this project will continue.

(iii) The Italians have been directed to remove or look up any articles of fine arts value that they desire. Allied Control Commission are investigating what rooms should be allocated for storage and every effort will be made to comply with their recommendations.

B. Museo Nazionale di San Martino.

Having regard to the fact that the most important objects of art have been removed for safe keeping, and others have been collected together in special rooms and secured, the Italian troops have been permitted to remain.

C. University of Naples.

Having regard to the fact that the University authorities have expressed complete satisfaction with the present arrangements for bivouacing American troops in the University, it has been decided to allow present arrangements to remain undisturbed for the time being.

3. With regard to B and C above, the accommodation problem in Naples is now so acute, that it was not considered practicable to remove troops already in occupation. All possible precautions are being taken against unnecessary or serious damage.

3001

W. J. L. L.

U-2141 Monuments & Fine Arts
25 MAR 1944
HQ AI (Adm Ech), 23/5
G.M.F.

2108/Q2.

28 Mar 44.

26 MAR 1944

(11) The British and U.S. troops. The project will continue. structure are well advanced and this project will continue.

(iii) The Italians have been directed to remove or lock up any articles of fine arts value that they desire. Allied Control Commission are investigating what rooms should be allocated for storage and every effort will be made to comply with their recommendations.

B. Museo Nazionale di San Martino.

Having regard to the fact that the most important objects of art have been removed for safe keeping, and others have been collected together in special rooms and secured, the Italian troops have been permitted to remain.

C. University of Naples.

Having regard to the fact that the University authorities have expressed complete satisfaction with the present arrangements for billeting American troops in the University, it has been decided to allow present arrangements to remain undisturbed for the time being.

With regard to B and C above, the accommodation problem in Naples is now so acute, that it was not considered practicable to remove troops already in occupation. All possible precautions are being taken against unnecessary or serious damage.

3001

W. H. L. C. H.
General, Army
Commander-in-Chief.

Copy to:- Allied Control Commission.
G-4.

45

20034/2

22

Royal Palace, Naples: Suggested Safeguards.

1. That the National Library, which has been considerably damaged, remain undisturbed, and access assured to the librarian, Dottorressa Guerriera Guerrieri.
2. That space be reserved for the storage of the remaining period-furniture. This consists primarily of a set of gilt-and-marble console tables, assorted fittings of a purely decorative character, and the painted wooden doors of the State-Apartments.
3. That no alterations affecting structure be undertaken without consultation of the Italian Palace Foreman of Works as to ways and means. The latter is in a position to be of great practical assistance.
4. That there be a single responsible officer with whom we can deal.

3000

Subject:- The Royal Palace, Naples.

Hq Allied Control Commission.

Reference your 341/22/CA dated 7 Mar 44.

The CG., PBS stated his case against vacating the Royal Palace NAPLES in his letter AG 334 BFPG dated 26 Feb 44; a copy of this letter was passed to you under this Hq reference ALH/RJS dated 11 Mar 44.

This Hq has agreed with the CG., PBS that the Palace will be used for a British and U.S. Welfare Centre, and that British and French units at present in occupation will be allowed to remain.

QUARTERS

19 MAR 1944

A. C. C.

W. S. Keith
Major General, *Long*
Chief Administrative Officer.

287

15 MAR 1944

13 MAR 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

HQ AGMF (Adm. Echelon)
APO 400ALH/rjs
11 March 1944

AG 334 BPTCG (26 Feb 44)

SUBJECT: Court of Enquiry.

TO : Commanding General, Peninsular Base Section, APO 782,
U. S. Army.

1. Reference is made to your letter above subject and file number dated 26 February 1944.

2. The recommendations contained in paragraphs 2d and 4d are concurred in. A copy of your letter is being forwarded to AGO for its information and guidance.

3. Your attention is invited to the last sentence in paragraph 2 of our letter 108/Q2, 20 February, and to paragraph 4 of our letter 108/Q2, 19 February, to AFHQ (copy to CG PBS). No reference is made in your reply to the University of Naples. May this matter have your early consideration?

16 MAR 1944

A. C. C.

Major General,
Chief Administrative Officer.Copy to: AGO Hq.
Region III AGO.
Q.
A.

NOT LEGAL

CONFIDENTIAL

4459

Received MPA. PA.
16 March 1999

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ECM/bmp

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

11 March 1944.

20034/1/MFAA

Subject: Report on Removal of Hangings/^{etc.}from Walls of Royal
Palace, Naples.

To : Director, MFA&A Subcommission.

1. On March 7th., 1944, I arranged for the following rooms in the Palazzo Reale to be stript of the remainder of their brocaded hangings:-

Sala degli Ambasciatori
Sala Orfeo
Sala Torquato Tasso.

2. This material can be used to repair the upholstery of the furniture, now at Caserta, which formerly stood in the above rooms and which is covered with corresponding brocades.

3. The following rooms at Naples still remain to be stript:-

Sala del Figliuolo Prodigio
Lo Studio
Sala Oratorio Maria Carolina ~~Cittina~~
Sala Famiglia Lotti
Anticamera Appartamento Rappresentanze
Sala Adorazione dei Tre Magi
Sala Vittorio Emanuele.

3. I also removed a number of pieces of modern carpet from below the stage of the little Court Theatre in the Palazzo Reale at Naples. These will be useful in case Signor Battaglia is asked to produce floor-covering for messes or officers' quarters, and will prevent the requisition of the more valuable carpets for this purpose.

4. I should like to record the help given me by Lieut. A.D.P. Jenkinson, R.E., 656 Artisan Work Coy., who is now in charge of the work of repairing the Palazzo Reale at Naples.

Edward Croft Murray
E. CROFT-MURRAY
Captain.

2998

Copy to:
Regional MFA&A Officer, Reg. 3.

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394

Ref: 341/21/CA.

7th March 1944.

SUBJECT: Royal Palace at Naples.

TO : Headquarters, A.C.M.F.

1. In para. 76(b) of the report of the Allied Commission of Enquiry presided over by Major General Collier, it was recommended that the French troops be removed from the Palazzo Reale of Naples.
2. In a memorandum passed to the Real Estate Officer, P.B.H. by the Commanding General it is stated that "G.C., P.B. has decided to divide the Palace equally with the French and British and Americans".
3. I should be glad to know:-
 - (a) whether the recommendations of the Collier report have been accepted in principle and whether action is being taken to implement them; and
 - (b) whether, in this particular case, the recommendations will be carried out.

M S Cuth

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

MSL/JG.

Copy to: Monuments & Fine Arts Sub-Commission.

2997

Copy of Collier Report returned
herewith

341
5 MAR RecdHEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

JBWP/bmp

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

From file
341/CAIn reply refer to:
20900/MFAA

5 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Royal Palace at Naples.

TO : Executive Commissioner, R.C. & M.G. Section.

1. I refer to your 16/12/CA of 19 Feb. 1944. In view of the volume of correspondence which has now accumulated in connection with the occupation of the Royal Palace at Naples, I summarize the present situation.
2. The Commission of Enquiry appointed by the G.O. C.-in-C. to investigate damage alleged to have been caused to real and personal property of Historical and Educational Importance in Italy and sitting under the Presidency of Major General A.L. Collier, Commanding No. 3 District, found, after a meticulous examination of the evidence, (Sections 14-23) that considerable damage had been done to the Royal Palace at Naples other than that caused by bombing. Some of this was caused by troops, but the chaotic character of the occupation in most cases prevented the precise allocation of responsibility.
3. The Commission recommended:
 - a. that in general mixed occupation by more than one nationality be avoided (Sect. 70)
 - b. that in particular the French troops at present in occupation be withdrawn (Sect. 19).
4. Since the session of the Commission further allegations have been made by the Prince of Piedmont through Brigadier General E.E. Hume. These appear after investigation to be substantiated in two cases:
 - a. Theft of an early printed book on SAVOY, published circa 1473 A.D. and believed unique, stolen (date uncertain) from a safe in the library.
 - b. Theft in January of vestments and a tabernacle from the Oratoria chapel.50 British and 250 French troops remain in occupation. Sikh and British guards have been posted but these are being partially withdrawn at 1800 hrs. today and will probably be replaced by Italians.
5. Through Lt. Col. Bowman, ACC liaison officer to PBS, I learn that the Palace is the direct responsibility of General Immel. He acts through Lt. Col. Griffith, Real Estate Officer

of PBS, who has allowed me to see a memorandum (extract appended) setting out the proposed policy with regard to the Palace.

6. This policy appears to run directly counter to the recommendations of the report submitted by the Commission of Enquiry, in particular in that it proposes to replace the present duality of nationalities by a mixed Franco-British-American (or -Italian) occupation. Without knowledge of the considerations behind this reallocation, it would appear to be a somewhat gratuitous solution.

7. In view of General Collier's verbally expressed opinion that the Palace can legitimately be used as a Rest Centre, it seems very doubtful whether any objections to this project will be upheld.

8. If the Palace is occupied as proposed, it will certainly suffer further damage. To keep this to a minimum it is essential that there should be a single authority appointed as responsible for the whole structure. This is specifically recommended by the Commission of Enquiry wherever mixed billeting is found to be essential (Sect. 70), and will allow the Subcommission to retain at least some measure of useful liaison, and in particular to try to protect the National Library and the remaining fittings housed therein.

9. Lt. Col. Bowman advises me that in view of the expressed policy of PBS the matter ceases to be one of liaison, and I am therefore referring the matter to you for your decision.

J.B. Ward Perkins
J.B. WARD PERKINS
Major, R.A.
Deputy Director.

Copies to:
MFA&A Officer, Reg. 3
File 20031.
Vice-President, Administrative Section

Extract from Memorandum passed to Real Estate Officer, PBS setting out proposed policy for future of the Royal Palace, Naples.

1. "GC, PBS has decided to divide the Palace about equally with the French and British and Americans. You are to make an equitable division, each to make whatever use of their portion as they choose, assuming it for personnel."

2. Provides for separate entrances and exits, where possible.

3. Provides that in the event of its establishment as a Rest Camp the British Section shall pass under control of 57 Area.

NOTE: Lt. Col. Griffith states that in fact the Americans do not want their share and that it is probably offered to the Italians.

Action
taken
7 May
1945

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
Office of the Commanding General
APO 782

AG 334 BPPCG (26 Feb 44)

26 February 1944

16

(20 refs)

Subject: Commission of Enquiry

To : Major General B. H. Robertson, DCAO, AFHQ, Adv. Adm. Ech., APO 400
U.S. Army

1. Reference is made to your letter of 20 February 1944, File 108/Q2, subject, "Commission of Enquiry".

2. Palazzo Reale

a. Paragraph 76 (b) recommends that "the French troops be removed from the Palazzo Reale of Naples". In my opinion this would affect extensively the operational efficiency of the French Command, which is using the ground floor (on which there are no art objects) as bivouac area for Headquarters Company of 901 Base Section. There is no alternative location in overcrowded Naples, and this unit must be in Naples properly to serve the French Base located here.

b. The presumption made in Paragraph 19 that any damage was done by French troops is not warranted by fact, and is so admitted by the Commission in Paragraph 19. There were also British troops quartered in the building and, in addition, the police and Carabinieri at the front gate were entirely ineffective in preventing entry, either of civilians or those in uniform. The damage may have been done by anyone, including civilians or Nazi agents.

c. There is very little remaining in the building of value in fine arts which is likely to be damaged. What little remains could be removed or locked off. On the other hand, covered space is at a premium in Naples and the building should be used. It is well located and planned for a rest welfare center for U.S. and British troops, in addition to the present French and British occupancy.

d. It is recommended:

(1) That the Italians be directed to remove or lock up any articles of fine arts value that they declare.

CONFIDENTIAL

2994

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

(2) That the remainder of the building be utilized for military purposes.

3. Museo Nazionale di San Martino

a. Paragraph 76 (c) recommends that "the Italian troops be removed from the Museo Nazionale di San Martino".

b. The Commission finds that the most important objects of art have been removed for safe keeping, and others have been collected together in special rooms and secured.

c. Great difficulty has been experienced in finding space for the Italian Army in Naples, and the lack of such space has greatly hampered the ability of the Italian military authorities to get organized and aid the Allied cause. Their operational efficiency would be greatly impaired if they should lose any of the space they now have.

d. It is recommended that the Italians be permitted to remain.

4. The Commission did not call on the Commanding General, PBS, controlling authority in Naples, to give testimony and, therefore, doubtless did not consider the housing problems in that city. The fact is that Naples is a much larger port and military base than it ever was under the Germans. The number of troops in the city, including U.S., British, French, and Italian, both military and naval, is very large. In addition, many headquarters have come to Naples. Refugees are being brought here. Large barracks, hotels, and other buildings available before our entry were destroyed by the Germans, in addition to the destruction by bombing of a large portion of the city's covered accommodation. The net result is an acute lack of covered accommodation and every possible building must be utilized.

5. It is my strong recommendation that all easily damaged articles of artistic or historical value be removed from the two buildings in question and that they be used.

A. W. PENCE
Brigadier General, USA,
Commanding.

AWP:mn

- 2 -

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

RECEIVED
20 Feb
15

Ref: 16/12/CA.19th February 1944.

Subject: Destruction of Italian Property by Allied Troops.

To : Director, Monuments & Fine Arts Sub-Commission.

I refer to your 20900/MFAA of 16th February 1944.

1. I suggest that you should visit the appropriate Staff Officer in 57 Area and P.B.S. and explain your fears for the future if the Royal Palace is occupied by troops. When visiting P.B.S. you should be accompanied by Lieut. Colonel Bowman, ACC Liaison Officer at that Headquarters.

2. It is probable that recommendations regarding the use of the palace buildings for troops will be included in the findings of the Commission of Inquiry and perhaps you would enquire whether this is so.

Defence note
the Com's recommendation
is known
H.M.
20 Feb.

M. S. Lush

M. S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

MSJ/JG.

Collier Report para 19 recommends that French troops be removed from
Palazzo Reale & Naples

2993

From Lt 341/CA341/9
18 FEB Recd

14

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and ArchivesIn reply refer to:
20900/AFAA

16 February 1944.

SUBJECT: Destruction of Italian Property by Allied Troops.

TO : Executive Commissioner.

1. Ref. letter of Captain Carr, subject as above, ref. 16/9/CA, dated 14 Feb 44, covering (1) letter of Major Gardner, dated 7 Feb 44, and (2) letter of Brig. Gen. Hume, dated 1 Feb 44, subject of both as above. (1) and (2) returned herewith.

2. Major Gardner's report can be relied upon. He has been in Naples since the early days of the occupation and has reported frequently the damage which was being done, and has reiterated protests against the occupation of the Palace.

3. Evidence as to the damage caused in the Palace was fully given before the Commission appointed by AFHQ to enquire into such matters. The report of that Commission has not yet been published, so far as I know, but I have seen the draft.

4. I have visited parts of the Palace myself, and can confirm that much damage has been caused which is not attributable to bombing. I had some reason to believe that damage is still being done to the painted doors of the state apartments.

5. There are now Sikh guards posted, who appear to be efficient. As I have no official document to show that I am responsible to ACC for Monuments etc., I had some difficulty in persuading the Sergeant of the guard to allow me (and other officers of my Subcommission recently arrived in Naples) to inspect, and he sent a man around with us. I cannot say definitely how long they have been on duty there.

6. There can be no doubt that the treatment of the Royal Palace has received under Allied Occupation will damage the reputation of the United Nations among educated Italians. One can imagine the reaction of educated English opinion if say Kensington Palace had received similar treatment.

7. ~~The complete removal of all occupying troops other than the guard is strongly recommended.~~ While it is probably true that the damage has been done to furnishings, pictures, decorations etc. which are not in themselves works of any high degree of importance either artistically or historically, yet the 'ensemble' of the Palace has been irreparably injured.

8. A rumour has reached me that there is a proposal to make the Palace into a rest centre for troops on leave here from the Line. Quite apart from the expense of making it habitable, its use for such a purpose is to be strongly deprecated.

9. The complete removal of all occupying troops other than the guard is strongly recommended.

P.K. BAILLIE REYNOLDS
Major, R.A.
Director.

Copies to: File 20901
File 20031

File in Post of Mors (20/10/44)

Ref: 16/9/CA.

13
14th February, 1944.

Subject: Destruction of Italian Property by Allied Troops.

To : Chief, Monuments & Fine Arts Sub-Commission.

12A+10
I am directed by the Executive Commissioner to forward the attached report on alleged damage by Allied troops to the Palazzo Reale of Naples for your perusal and comments.

9L. Carr
I. E. CARR,
Captain,
P.A. to Brig. Lush.

IEC/JG.

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785016

From file 241/CA

16
12 FEB Recd

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RC-MGS

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HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394, U. S. ARMY

LE/33f

386.1 R

11 February 1944

SUBJECT: Destruction of Italian Property by Allied Soldiers

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission

1. The enclosed report on the situation in the Palazzo Reali of Naples got out by the Chief of the Division of Fine Arts, Region III is forwarded. This report was requested in a letter signed by the P.A. to Brigadier Lush and received here on February 5th.

Forrest
LORD FORRESTER
Lt. Col., R. M. G.
D. R. C. A. O.

Incl.
as above



2289

From file 341/CA

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
A.P.O. 394, U. S. ARMY

7 February 1944

SUBJECT: Destruction of Italian Property by Allied Soldiers.

TO : R.C.A.O., Hq., Region 3, AMG.

1. With reference to the attached correspondence, the Palazzo Reale of Naples has not been occupied by American troops for over a month. About fifty British troops and two hundred and fifty French troops are still billeted there.

2. The chief custodian of the Palace, Perito, was consulted about this reported destruction. He stated that a large Blanc de Chine statue of a kneeling man was found broken in a storeroom early in December 1943. This was seen. There are evidences that the statue had been broken before but it is doubtful if it can be repaired now as many pieces are missing. The statue had been in a locked storeroom No. 51 which was forced open. The portrait of Lord Nelson was in the same storeroom and was cut from the frame at the same time. Store-room No. 51 is located in the section of the Palace occupied by British troops.

3. No tapestries in the true sense of the word were left in the Palace but wall brocades in several of the State Apartments have been stripped from the walls during the occupation of the Allied troops. The Commission of Enquiry found some of these pieces in the billets of the occupying troops. The custodians have claimed that women of Naples visiting the soldiers in their quarters have carried away parts of these wall brocades but this has never been proven.

4. The Royal Chapel is still buried under great piles of wreckage from the collapsed roof. The custodian Perito states that as far as he knows, nothing has been taken from there. A small subsidiary chapel, called the Oratoria, was broken into the middle of January. Vestments and a small plated tabernacle were taken. The stairway leading to this chapel is adjacent to

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the section occupied by French troops. This fact was reported to the French Liaison officer who promised an investigation and a report. None has been received to date.

5. Dr. Guerriera, the Director of the Biblioteca Nazionale, states that as far as she knows, only a few books from her Library have been found in the grounds of the Palace and that these were returned immediately to the Library. It is true that the Library, which is in the section occupied by British troops, has been broken into a number of times and books and medals have been taken. All efforts to find these by show-down inspections have failed. For the past month, the Library has been guarded day and night by special guards, arranged for by AMG, and there have been no recent reports of entering and looting.

6. There is another library in the Palace, called the Palatine, which had been housed in the apartments of the Prince. The greater part of this library was sent to Caserta months ago but some of it remained in the Palace. This librarian states that books have been taken from this remaining part and the covers of them have been found in the Palace grounds. No information could be obtained on the mentioned book on Savoy but a safe in the Library has been broken into since the occupation by Allied troops.

7. It should be borne in mind that at all times since the occupation by Allied forces, the grounds and the Palace have accessible to large numbers of civilians.

8. At present the sections of the Palace not actually occupied by Allied forces are guarded and are clearly marked with Out of Bounds signs.

Paul Gardner

Paul Gardner
Major, AUS.
Division of Fine Arts.

2987

The file 341/CA 16 4 FEB Recd

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 59.

4.2.44

Subject: Destruction of Italian Property by Allied Soldiers.

To : R.C.A.C., Region III.

I am directed by Brigadier Inch to enclose copy of letter received from R.C.A.C., AMB, 9 May and to request you to check the Prince of Piedmont's statement and to submit a report to this office.

A. J. STEWART,
Captain,
P.A. to Brig. Inch.

2986

From file ³⁴¹/CA/

74/ 4 FEB Recd

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
FIFTH ARMY, APO-464, USA

10

1 February 1944

SUBJECT: Destruction of Italian Property by Allied Soldiers.

TO : The Committee of Enquiry to Investigate Alleged Damages by Allied Troops to Historical Buildings and Monuments in Italy. (Through the Headquarters, Allied Military Government).

1. On 26 January 1944, I called on the Prince of Piedmont at his request, and he reported to me further instances of destruction and theft of property by Allied soldiers. The statements made to me by the Prince of Piedmont are transmitted for the information of the Board of Officers making a study on the subject. I report them merely as an officer of the Allied Forces to whom the information was given direct by the person concerned. I do not make this report as the Senior Civil Affairs Officer, AMG, Fifth Army.

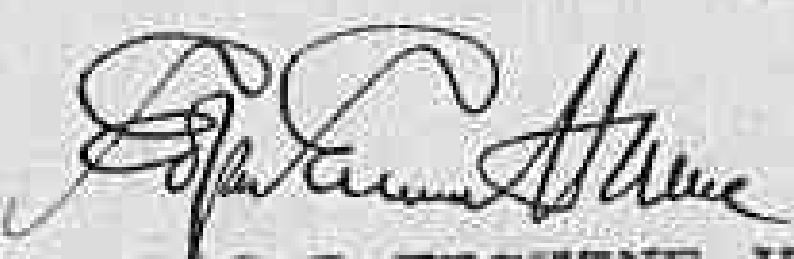
2. The Prince stated that he had been told that Allied soldiers were to be withdrawn from the Royal Palace in Naples, and accordingly, he had directed that certain Italian sailors likewise quartered in the palace should be ordered elsewhere. This was done, but he is informed that Allied soldiers, French, British and American, are still quartered in the Royal Palace.

3. The Prince said that he did not report these matters to me as the Crown Prince of Italy, nor as one who used to make his home in the Royal Palace, but merely as an officer who is distressed to hear the increasing expressions of opinion in Naples to the effect that - "even the Germans did not do that." He stated that of his own knowledge he knew of the breaking into small pieces of a large porcelain statue, one of the most valuable works of art in the palace, and said to be the largest piece of porcelain ever kilned. Tapestries

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and brocades have been stripped from the walls, and in some instances, given to the people of Naples. The chapel has been entered into and the tabernacle itself carried away. The same is true of some of the plate. A large oil painting of Lord Nelson, which was painted from life in the palace at the time that Lord Nelson was stationed in Naples, has been destroyed. The Prince stated that he was considering the presentation of it to the senior British naval officer, or possibly, to the Admiralty, in London. The canvas, however, has been cut from the frame and only one corner remains - a strip of about one foot square.

4. The most serious destruction reported was the further looting of the library, which is a national institution and not the personal property of the King or the royal family; He said that at this moment one could see in the gardens of the palace, evidence of what is left of the books, partly destroyed or damaged, which have been swept out of the library and are still on the ground. He referred also to a rare book on SAVOY, published about 1473, and thought to be the only known copy. It was purchased some years ago by subscriptions raised by the Italy-America Society and presented to the Prince personally. He in turn deposited it in the library. It was kept in a safe which has been broken open and the book is gone.


EDGAR ERSKINE HUME,
Brigadier General, G. S. C.,
SCAO, AMG, Fifth Army.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 324
SUBCOMMISSION FOR MONUMENTS FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES

25 Jan. 1944.

Memorandum to: Major Gardner, Chief of Division of Monuments
and Fine Arts, Region 3.

Subject : Use of National Library by University of Naples.

1. The attached letters were turned over to the Subcommission on Monuments Fine Arts and Archives by the Director of the Subcommission on Education, Lt. Col. Gayre. They were addressed to him respectively by the Rector of the University and the Librarian of the National Library and deal with the use of certain rooms ~~xxxxx~~ in the Library by the University for lectures.

2. Signorina Guerrèri and a lady Professor called this afternoon on Lt. Col. Gayre and on the Advisor for Region 4, Major Washburn. I understand that they did not get a great deal of direct encouragement from them. I spoke briefly with them and informed them that as far as this Subcommission was concerned, the responsibility for decisions on such matters lies wholly with the Regional Divisions.

4. The Professor asked for a favorable word from me but this I cannot give. It seems to me that without adequate guarantees of control we cannot ensure that the public does not circulate in the Palace and so long as there are troops it will simply afford another complexity in the question of responsibility for damage.

5. Adequate control could be ensured as the Signorina suggests by building a barbed wire passage from the garden gate to the Library ~~gate~~. This in itself would be a good thing; custodians could be posted at either end and the public could thus be admitted to the Library with no question of the rest of the Palace. Now ver, before entering into that expense it would be necessary to be sure that the expense was justified and that no other suitable quarters could be found for the University lectures and this, I suspect, has not been adequately explored.

6. In any case, suspension of these University functions for a month or two more until it is clearer whether many troops won't move north, thus freeing the University, does not seem to me a serious "withering of the spirit," as the Professor felt.

7. The above are, of course, only personal thoughts.

Mason Hammond
Capt. AC.

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HEADQUARTERS
COMMISSIONERS FOR MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES

15 January 1944.

Subject: Damage to Cultural Monuments in Italy.

To : Col. Glavin, Military Government, Civil Affairs
Section, War Department, Washington, D.C.

1. Since the Allied Commission of Enquiry which has been investigating alleged damage caused by Allied troops to cultural and historical monuments of occupied Italy has not concluded its work, I cannot give you the promised summary of its findings.

2. The most serious damage occurred in the Naples area (Region 3). There has been little either in Sicily (Region 1) or in central & southern Italy (Region 2). It should further be noted that it has been impossible in most cases to determine whether the damage was caused by Italian civilians or by Allied troops, since buildings were in many instances left unguarded after the Germans left for periods ranging from a few hours to several days.

3. In Naples, the most significant instances of damage caused by Allied troops after the occupation are the following:

a) The Museo Nazionale, one of the most important museums of the world, was stripped of such its treasures as could be moved by the Italians, who stored them. Much sculpture and other objects, however, had to be left in place and bandaged. Some of the sculpture galleries have been taken over for use as a medical supply depot (British). Even despite the protection about the sculpture, there remains risk of fire or explosion from the medical supplies. The Commission will recommend that the Museum be not so used.

b) The Palazzo Reale had had much of its furniture removed for storage and was in addition badly looted. Since the occupation, silk brocade has been ripped from the wall, about 40 paintings removed, about 15 paintings badly damaged, tables, chairs, candle-sticks, and ornaments removed. It has been used as billets by US, British, and French troops contemporaneously.

c) In the Biblioteca Nazionale (National Library, in the Royal Palace), a safe was opened and seven gold medals taken.

d) In the Castel Nuovo, the crypt of the Gospel of St. Barbara and two lesser crypts were violated. From one (the Old Prison) glass covered coffins were broken and the skulls of the corpses taken.

e) From the Palazzo Reale at Capri, small pictures and furniture were taken.

Subcom
reports
attached
9/12

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- 2 -

f) In the University losses were stolen from scientific instruments and the instruments themselves broken and collections thrown into disorder. This was undoubtedly done by US troops.

3. Much of the damage in Naples might have been prevented. Billeting Officers had no knowledge as to which buildings are registered as historic or cultural monuments; no orders such as that of General BISHOPMAN of 29 December 1943 had been issued earlier; troops of the different nationalities, US, British, and French, and even Italian, were billeted in the same buildings with independent commands so that each could blame the other for any damage which occurred; in the early stages, no trained officers were at hand to advise about the use of historic and cultural monuments and when these officers did appear on the scene with AMG, they found it difficult to get a hearing. Yet a number of such trained officers, US and British historians of art, archaeologists, or museum directors, were held in idleness at Tial Geron and Palermo. They were fully equipped with carefully prepared lists of monuments and photostat maps, executed under the direction of the Commission in Washington appointed by the President for the Protection and Salvage of Cultural and Historic Monuments.

4. If trained officers, equipped with the information prepared in advance for just this purpose, could be attached to the advanced troops and could be provided with transportation so that they could reach a site immediately after its occupation, a good deal of the sort of damage described above could be avoided. Most of the damage has apparently been due not to the combat troops themselves, who are too busy or too tired for plundering, but to the second line supply and administrative troops who take advantage of the confusion of the initial days of occupation. A trained officer, with the specific function of caring for monuments, could also take steps to mitigate the civilian pilfering which characterizes the confused days of occupation and could attempt to reinstate at an earlier date such regular custodians as may have left their posts.

5. I am submitting this memorandum directly to you at your request. It is informal and does not represent an official report of the Commission of Enquiry of the AMG Subcommittee for Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives. The Commission of Enquiry will submit a formal, full, and documented report to the War Department through channels.

THOMAS HIXER

Major AG

Deputy Director, Subcommittee for
Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives
AMG.

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HEADQUARTERS
SUBCOMMISSION FOR MONUMENTS FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES

12 January 1944

Evidence submitted by Capt. Mason HARMON, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Officer to AMG Hq., 15 Army Group, to the Commission of Enquiry into damage done by Allied Occupation Forces to Monuments in Naples.

1. You have asked me to place on record certain incidents which have come to my attention in the Palazzo Reale of Naples in virtue of my residence at the moment in that Palazzo. I have not personally witnessed any of these incidents but they have been brought to my attention by the Italian personnel and others and I have no reason to doubt the reports.

2. About ten days ago, on my return to my apartment after dinner, I was stopped on the stairs by a lady from the apartment beneath and asked if I had sent three soldiers to examine her apartment. I said that I had not. She then stated that she, her daughter, and her young grandson lived in the apartment and that about 1600 hrs., while she was alone with her grandchild, three soldiers had knocked at her door and, when she opened it, pushed her aside on the ground that they were "police" and examined the whole apartment. They did not take anything though they remarked on an electric heater which might do for "the commandante" upstairs, perhaps as if they had seen the notice on my door, and one asked for wine. The lady stated that earlier their storeroom on the ground floor had been broken into and much linen and other furnishing taken. She could not identify the nationality of the soldiers who molested her.

3. Four mornings ago, the custodian who looks after my room reported to me that on the previous day he had caught two French soldiers entering my apartment from the balcony which runs along the front of the Palace and which is accessible at several points. He turned the soldiers over to another custodian to take to the Director but they ran away. He was positive that they were French. A door opening from the rear of the apartment has been so often broken open that it has now been walled up.

4. Yesterday morning I interviewed Cav. Perito, the Director, and he stated that within a few days, he and a General, Aide de Camp to the Principe di Piemonte, had gone down into a storeroom and found three French soldiers looking about with flashlight. They had not taken anything.

5. Cav. Perito further reported two days ago to the Superintendent and yesterday to me that on the preceding day, one of his patrolmen found that ten of thirteen very large pictures in the passage leading from the Palace to the San Carlo Opera House had been mutilated. I personally visited these pictures about three weeks ago with Cav. Perito and the Superintendent, Dr. Molajoli, in response to a request from the Captain in charge of the US troops then billeted in the Palace that they be removed to storage.

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-2-

I found on enquiry that the Captain had no intention of using the space but in view of the stir that was then being made about damage in the Palace he wanted them put in safety. As they were too large to move, I recommended that they be stacked together. This was not done. At that time, one had suffered heavy tearing from a bomb explosion, but the others were in good condition, with perhaps minor rents in one or two. Yesterday I saw that almost all had been pierced and torn. Some of the rents were clearly made with a knife or bayonet, others might have been made by flats or sticks. There is no evidence of who did this.

6. On Saturday last, I was taking a friend through the Palace and found some of the personnel moving back into a storeroom. They showed me how when this room was found locked, troops and climbed up to an inside window and let themselves down inside with ropes. Marks of their sliding feet still showed on the walls. They asserted that these were troops, not civilians. They could not assert that anything had been taken.

7. At present, the US troops have almost wholly left the Palace. There are only five or six in residence. There are said to be some twelve to fifteen British and over two hundred French, though several days ago it was reported to Major Gardner that the French were leaving.

8. I have consulted again with Cav. Perito and am quite prepared to accept his, and incidentally Dr. Molajoli's, statement that it is impossible without great expense to wall off the various internal sections of the Palace that part could be used for billets without leaving access to other parts. I do not feel that great initiative has been shown in coping with the situation; e.g. on my previous visit we found that the iron gate leading to the stairs to the Opera had had its padlock smashed. Dr. Molajoli instructed that the entrance be walled. Nothing has been done and Cav. Perito states that workmen have not been sent from the engineer's office. He went down the stairs to a door at the foot which has been nailed up but, as I pointed out to Cav. Perito, it could be thoroughly closed by taking a piece of beam, much of which is lying about, and bracing it against the opposite wall. Nevertheless, the only real assurance is to empty the Palace of troops and secure the relatively few main entrances.

Submitted under oath by

MASON HAMFORD
Capt. AG

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Region 3
9
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SUBCOMMISSION FOR MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES

10 Jan. 1944.

Memorandum to: Major Gardner, Chief of Division of Monuments
and Fine Arts, Region 3.

Subject : Transfer of books from Caserta to Naples.

1. Through the cooperation of AMG Hq., it was possible to borrow twenty-one cases and have the use of a truck to bring from the Palace of Caserta to the Museum of Naples a considerable portion of the books taken from the Library of the Royal Palace of Naples to Caserta. This transfer was originally arranged as part of the clearing of the Palace which was contemplated when it was proposed that AFHQ occupy the Palace. After AFHQ abandoned its occupation, Commendatore DeFilippis and Soprintendente Molajoli thought that it would still be wise to remove the books to safer keeping in view of the variety of some of them.

2. I made a trip to Caserta on Friday, 7 Jan., with the empty cases. Com. DeFilippis went with me and, without asking permission, brought an Italian Colonel Mazza whose cousin, a court official, had certain personal belongings stored at Caserta, the condition of which the Col. said he wished to ascertain. At Caserta, I left the unloading and loading in charge of Com. DeFilippis and my clerk in view of the fact that the Commendatore seemed the reasonable official. It had been understood that since the truck would come back empty and return later for the cases when filled, it would bring back certain crated books of Dr. Molajoli which he needed in his work. On returning to the truck, I found that it had been loaded with household furniture and on the return journey I was informed that Col. Mazza had loaded "two or three small cases." When the truck was unloaded, I found that half the load was property of Mazza. This abuse of government transport for the moving of personal possessions might have been justified had it been necessary to clear the palace. Under the circumstances, I feel responsible for the abuse and I would like to place on record the unavailability of Commendatore DeFilippis and his abuse of my confidence as well as his transgression of Dr. Molajoli's precise instructions based on the understanding we had reached. Col. Mazza endeavored to have the truck deliver his cases at the Palazzo and again today tried to return for further property. To all of this I absolutely refused with strong criticism both of him and of Commendatore DeFilippis, criticism which I have repeated to Dr. Molajoli.

3. This morning, 10 Jan., I again returned with the truck. Commendatore DeFilippis did not come, though his is the responsibility for the books. At Caserta I found the cases packed and a surplus of loose books. There were duly loaded in the truck but, despite my request, they

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- 2 -

failed to load the remaining space with Dr. Molajoli's books. The fault for this lies with Cav. Nace, the Director, whose chief interest seemed to be to get himself moved back into the Palace from which he had been ejected and to secure compensation for the expense and damage occasioned by his move. I should like to place on record my feeling that he is a useless encumbrance to the Palace staff and that the Conservator, Battaglia, though old and slow, is ~~xxxx~~ perfectly competent to handle things himself. This opinion is confirmed by the Sgt. who works for Lt. Col. Smith, 5 Army Gr. Commandant, under whom the Sgt. has charge of tickets and furniture. The Sgt. stated that Battaglia had been put on the 5 Army payroll and was most helpful but that Nace did nothing.

4. The only expeditious thing accomplished by Comdr. DeFillippis was to have the crates unpacked at once at the Museum so that it was possible to return them to AMG Hq and not to make a later trip to the Museum for them.

5. I was unable personally to supervise the loading at Caserta today as on my arrival I was informed that plans have again been changed and I had to consult with Lt. Col. Smith. Both he and his Sgt. were most cooperative and are doing their best to protect the monumental rooms and their contents. However, it now appears that though AMG is not coming in, 15 Army Group is. Hence the arrangements with Maj. Smith are off and a new agreement must be reached as to the use of rooms and the storage of furniture.

6. 15 Army Group is taking only the monumental rooms along the ~~xxxx~~ right side and back. The rooms across the front and down the center are so far free, save in so far as AFHQ Signal Unit occupies the Throne Room and adjacent rooms.

7. 5 Army has taken the store room of the Prince of Piedmont to the left of the rear entrance and is moving there furniture which they may want later to use or which they fear 15 Army Group may damage. They are conscious of the problem and promise that no furniture will leave the bldg and all will be listed.

8. Due to the risk of plaster falling from the ceiling, services have been discontinued in the Royal Chapel. They say that the vault is structurally safe and I therefore gave instructions to use the Chapel, as originally planned, for the storage of furniture and pictures, since it did not seem likely that large enough chunks of plaster would fall (if they do) to harm these.

9. I further gave instructions to continue ~~xxxx~~ ²⁹⁷⁷ Battaglia had already begun, the transfer of the remaining books to the Archival Rooms, as had been planned with Major Smith.

- 3 -

10. Lt. Col. Smith was eager to find better and more accessible quarters for the Red Cross than those which they now occupy. He had offered them the so-called Rustic Rooms, a large wall unfinished hall and adjacent rooms opposite the main hall on the central crossing. It seemed to me that it might secure the front monumental rooms to have the Red Cross occupy two or three of the big halls and thus obviate any attempt to keep the Monumental part open to the public. I discussed this with the head of the Red Cross, Mr. Stevens, and he thought that they might use the Rustic Hall, as it has toilet facilities, and the first of the big halls opposite. I submit this proposal, or such other as he may care to make, for approval. Though the rooms get hard use, there is little that they can be hurt in their decoration and they will be under supervised use and their use can be made an excuse for closing off the remaining rooms. It will be necessary for the Police Staff to move its offices into the front rooms, but this is no difficulty since their present offices, off the first hall, are merely temporary. They can have their own access, not up the main stair, but up a smaller one along the front.

11. Lt. Col. Smith had already given instructions to move the furniture out of the rooms on the right side to those in front. Certain furniture may be used by 15 Army Group or by the Red Cross. I confirmed this arrangement. The Drapery will remain for storage. It will be necessary to see that the closed rooms are respected, since all hands expressed ~~doubt~~ of 15 Army Group.

doubt about the cooperation

12. At the moment it seemed impossible to determine who would be responsible for 15 Army Group billets. It will therefore be necessary for some representative of MRA&A to go up later in the week, preferably with Superintendente Molatoli, and attempt to meet jointly with Lt. Col. Smith, Mr. Stevens of the Red Cross, and a 15 Army Group representative and see if a concrete, preferably written, agreement can be reached on the use of rooms and furniture or their closing and locking.

13. At present it appears as though the problem of storage will be simpler than it would have been for AFHQ. However, it must be envisaged that since all Hqs. grow, demands for further accommodation will be almost inevitable and rooms reserved under Lt. Col. Smith's present understanding with 15 Army Group may be demanded later. Also it will create more serious problems of policing if the furniture is left in the front rooms than if it were removed for storage. It will be much easier for persons to get for office use without going through "channels."

14. It remains my recommendation that some effort be made to centralize the responsibility for the ²⁹⁷⁶ the bldg and to secure closer cooperation with MRA&A and with the responsible Italian officials. 5 Army is fully cooperative. The disposition of 15 Army Group, the higher command, is yet to be determined, Capt. AD.

determined

Mr. H. Conner

Subcommission for Monuments
Fine Arts & Archives

7 Jan 1944

Received 7 Lt. Thompson 20
cases to be borrowed for the
transport of books from Caserta
to Naples

Mason Hammond

MASON HAMMOND

CAPT AC

14 for
Review of Capt in Hammond
21 cases

gk Guido Moeira

98

Sub Commission Monuments, Fine Arts, & Relics
7 Jan 1943

Private vaults with vaults of
restoration of Legation of Honduras

Capitol #144 - G. L. W. C.

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HEADQUARTERS
SUBCOMMISSION FOR MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES.

8 Jan. 1944.

Memorandum to: Major Gardner, Chief of Division of Monuments
and Fine Arts, Region 3.

Subject: Visits to Monuments.

1. Yesterday, I went to Caserta with a truck of empty cases for books. A report on the movement of books will be rendered when it is completed, but while waiting for the truck to be unloaded and loaded, Major Perkins and I secured a car from 5 Army and visited Sant' Angelo in Formis and the Amphitheatre at S. Maria di Capua Vecchia.

2. The Church of Sant' Angelo in Formis is in good condition save for a shell-hole through the wall of the left aisle. The shell seems to have done no interior damage save that all the windows are broken. In penetrating it may have destroyed some of the frescoes. The wall has been braced with timbers and no repairs are essential though to protect the interior it would be advisable before too long to close the hole and the windows. There is a custodian in residence. The church and grounds were neat and well kept up.

3. Though the open park in front of the amphitheatre at S. Maria is used for vehicles and stores, the amphitheatre itself showed no signs of damage save that a statue of Venus in the substructure is covered with pencil signatures, German, Italian, and Allied. Time did not permit of a visit to the important Museum in S. Maria.

4. Today I revisited the Castello Nuovo and the Royal Palace. In the Castello Nuovo, the Chapel of S. Barbara is still empty of supplies, but workmen have constructed stone protections for the Ciborium and the marble slab, the only works of sculpture which might be damaged by storage of supplies. The alaroid shelter has been partly dismantled for this purpose. I would suggest that a wooden apron be placed about the doorframe to prevent its being chipped if cases are moved in and out. The Hall of the Bayona has been thoroughly cleaned. It is my impression that more pictures are missing from the Chapel of S. Francesco, over the Chapel of S. Barbara, but these may have been removed by the Custodian, whom I did not consult. There is an untidy mess of broken gas-masks in front of the Chapel of the Aragonese, in the loggia. Boards for a fence have been placed diagonally across the court from the upper right to the lower left, presumably to protect the stores. The fence is not yet in place.

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5. Conditions in the Palace seemed unchanged. As you know, I am living there and get a fairly constant report of minor difficulties. This morning the custodian who cares for my room reported that yesterday two French soldiers forced their way into the apartment by a window and when turned over to another custodian to be taken to ~~the~~ report to the Director, they escaped from him. He also stated that a door leading from the bath to the S. Carlo Passage (I believe) had been forced again. In touring the Palace, I found certain of the personnel putting books into a storeroom and they showed me where this storeroom had been forced from time to time but I did not gather that any recent incidents had occurred.

6. If you agree, I would like to survey the Palace rat or carefully with the Director and see if walls or other reasonably strong protection cannot be built to close off the parts not needed for billets, and also to see how many of the exits can be closed. I noticed today that the gate from the street below the S. Carlo to the Park was open, yielding free access (I was tempted to go in myself that way). In view of the incident reported above of my apartment, would it be proper to approach the Commandant of the French troops? The custodian was sure the ~~French~~ men whom he saw were French and the men handling the books stated that now the French were the only ones causing trouble; that the British had much improved their behavior.

Mason Hammond
Capt. AC

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HEADQUARTERS
SUBCOMMISSION FOR MONUMENTS FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES

5 Jan. 1944.

Memorandum to: Lt. Thompson, Hq. Commandant's Office.

Subject : Loan of cases to move books.

1. Some ten days ago, Major Hazard agreed verbally that I might borrow from AMG Hq cases used for the move from Palermo. These cases are to be borrowed to facilitate the transportation of books now in the Royal Palace at Caserta to the Museum of Naples. The books are part of the library of the Royal Palace at Naples and as they comprise certain rather scarce books, it is felt that with the possibility of the occupation of the Palace at Caserta by the Allied Forces, it would be as well to get the books to the Naples Museum.

2. I am requesting Lt. Zimmermann to have a truck in the Provincia Bldg on Friday morning, 7 Jan. to load the cases as soon after 0800 as possible.

3. It is requested that four men be on hand to fetch up and load the cases. If the hour is too early, let me know. The estimate was for about 30 cases but if there aren't that many we will have to take what there are.

4. It is hoped to have the cases returned by about Wednesday, 12 Jan.

Mason Hammond
Capt. AG

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HEADQUARTERS
SUBCOMMISSION FOR MONUMENTS FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES.

5 Jan. 1944.

Memorandum to: Lt. Zimmerman, Transportation Officer.

Subject : Truck to Caserta.

1. It is requested that a 6x6 truck be made available on Friday, 7 Jan. to take about 30 empty cases to the Royal Palace at Caserta to be packed with books. The truck will return with certain cases already packed there and leave these at the National Museum in Naples.
2. It is requested that the truck report at the Provincia Bldg. to load the cases as soon after 0800 as possible so as to be ready to leave by nine.
3. It is dubious whether the driver will get back for lunch so he should bring his mess-kit. There is a mess at Caserta.
4. It is requested that the truck be again made available on Monday, 10 Jan. to return to Caserta and get the filled cases. If it leaves as soon after 0800 as possible it should be able to get there, load, return, and unload before lunch. It will unload again at the National Museum, Naples.
5. It is requested that the truck again be available on Wednesday, 12 Jan., to go to the National Museum, Naples to collect the by then empty cases and return them to the Provincia Bldg.
6. The truck will be accompanied on its trips to Caserta by myself and by Dr. DeFillipis of the Superintendency of Galleries.

Mason Hammond
Capt. AC.

Region 3

Subcommission

of Inquiry

Dupl.

AD-ITS MILITARY GOVERNMENT
MAIN HEADQUARTERS
SUBCOMMISSION FOR MONUMENTS FINEARTS AND ARCHIVES

31 Dec. 1943.

Memorandum to: Major SIZER, AMG/ACC representative on the
Commission of Inquiry into damage done by
occupying troops.

Subject : forceful entry of three soldiers into a
private apartment in the Palazzo Reale.

1. This memorandum is addressed to you not in the
hope that anything can be done about the incident reported
but to serve as a small example for the Commission of
Inquiry as to the problems raised by the uncontrolled
billeting of troops in such monuments as the Palazzo Reale.
A copy will be submitted to Region 3 Hqs., through Major
Gardner, Chief of Division of Monuments and Fine Arts.

2. Through the courtesy of the Superintendent of
Monuments for Genoa and the Director of the Royal Palace,
I have been permitted to occupy two rooms of an apartment of
an absent court official in the Royal Palace, Naples.

3. This evening, on my return, two ladies from the
apartment below stopped me on the stairs and asked me if I
had sent three soldiers to enter and examine their apartment.
I replied that I had not and that any dealings I had with
the Palace would be through the Director. They then related
the following: ~~incident~~

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4. The apartment belongs to the Chief Inspector of
the Palace Police for the Prince of Piedmont. He has been
cut off at Rome and the apartment is occupied by his elderly
sister, her daughter, and the daughter's son, a small boy.
The daughter's husband is in Sardinia so that the three are
alone and unprotected in the apartment.

5. They have had constant difficulty with troops
entering this part of the Palace, which is not used for billets
and on which "Of Limits" notices have been placed by the
US Officer in charge of the unit recently moved out of here.
They asked if I could make a more forceful notice but it is
my experience that troops disregard "of limits" notices
when there is no MP to enforce them. In the past, troops broke
into their store rooms on the ground floor and took a good
deal of household goods. They used to keep the main door to
the stairway bolted but troops climbed in through windows. Now
that as I have to get in, they can no longer bolt the door.

6. This afternoon, about 1600 hrs., three the
daughter was ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ out and the widow and ill child
were alone in the apartment. Three soldiers knocked at the
door and when the lady refused entrance they forcefully
shoved her aside. Only one spoke a little Italian they
claimed to be police, though she states that they had no
arm-bands or other insignia of police. They right, of course,
have been CIC. They went all through the apartment and when

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- 2 -

they saw two electric stoves and apparently said that they might do for the "commandante" upstairs. They could only have known of my occupancy, if they in fact were referring to me, if they had already been upstairs and seen the notice which I placed on my door. As they left, the one who spoke some Italian asked the lady if she had any wine, apparently because she had two big demijohns in a bathroom which had been used for water. I gather that the lady is something of a prohibitionist from her condemnation of wine.

7 The three left without doing any damage or taking anything

8. As usual, the lady could give no specific information. The coats of two being cloaked in linen and one in a wool uniform with a long jacket. It may even be doubted if they were US soldiers. It is probably too much to expect the Italians to demand identification and to put up a stiff front against such incursions. ~~xxxx~~

9. This incident illustrates the difficulty which is faced in getting concrete evidence sufficient to fix guilt for damage done by occupying troops.

a) The troops have no respect for notices and do not hesitate to pretend to positions or orders which do not exist.

b) The Italians do not have the strength or sense to demand certificates or written requisitions etc.

c) The Italians do not secure any max evidence which would suffice to identify the culprits.

10. The lack of centralized control in the Palace and the numerous possibilities of entrance make it at present impossible to prevent such incidents. If only two solutions are possible:

Either - killed soldier -

a) ~~xxxxxxx~~/guards must be posted much more numerous than at present.

b) Or the various entrances to the Palace must be locked or walled, save for one, and a rigid control must be exercised at that. Furthermore the troops billeted in the Palace should be responsible, as far as conduct goes, to some one officer.

11. If the Royal Navy and the Italian Navy should be quartered in the Palace without adequate control measures both as regards clearing off the port, not used for billets, ensuring adequate policing, and having ~~xxxxx~~ a responsible officer in charge of their conduct, the situation is likely to get worse rather than better.

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Mason Hammond
Capt. AC.
MPAA Officer, 15 Army Group.

Region 3

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION 3 NAPLES
DIVISION OF MONUMENTS AND FINE ARTS

27 Dec. 1945.

Memorandum to: Major Gardner, Chief.

Subject : Storage of Pictures in Royal Palace, Naples.

1. I visited the Royal Palace 24 Dec. with the Superintendent of Galleries, Dr. Molisoli, and asked Sig. Perito, the Director, about the storage of pictures in the San Carlo Corridor. He referred me to the US unit where I interviewed a Lieutenant whose name I did not get.
2. The Lieutenant said that they did not intend to use the space but were concerned only with the safety of the pictures following your visit with the Inspector General.
3. Sig. Perito will hang some back on the walls and stack others. They are too large to be removed through the doors.
4. Dr. Molisoli gave orders to have the means of access from the Theatre to the Royal apartments walled up.
5. We did not have time to look for missing furniture in the quarters occupied by the various units.

Mason Hammond
Capt. AC

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HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394, U. S. Army

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20 December 1943

SUBJECT: Monuments of Fine Arts and Cultural Institutions of
Naples occupied by Allied Troops.

TO : Brigadier General ARTHUR S. FENCK, C.G., P.B.S.

1. Complying with your request, herewith the list of monuments of
fine arts and cultural institutions of Naples which are occupied by Allied
Troops.

A. The Palazzo Reale of Naples.

This important Royal Palace still contains a large amount of
state furniture and houses several libraries, the most important of which
is the National Library, one of the largest libraries in Italy.

The Director of the Library has reported many instances of
breaking into the Library since the occupation of Allied troops, and of
looting.

The Custodian of the Palace has made several complaints that
state furniture has been carried out of the Palace in Allied trucks. It
is claimed that some of this furniture is in quarters occupied by English
troops in the Museo San Martino on the Vomero. This claim is being checked.

The units occupying the Palace are:

American: HQ. Det. P.B.S.
C.G. Capt. T.S. Fitts.

French: Cie. de Base, 901/3 Bureaux
C.G. Lt. Haric

English: 37th Light A.A. Battery, "A" Troops,
C.G. Maj. Winston.

B. Museo San Martino.

Most of the collections have been removed from this Museum but
the architectural monuments, the Church of San Martino and the cloisters are an
integral part of the Museum.

There have been no complaints of vandalism here.

The units occupying the Museum are:

English: 37th Light A.A. Battery, "C" Troops,
C.G., Maj. Winston.

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B. Museo San Martino. (cont'd)

Italian: Det. 10th Art.
C.O., Col. Grande.

Det. 31st Inf.
C.O., Col. Mancini.

C. Castel Nuovo.

This Castle built by the Angevin king is one of the oldest monuments in Naples. Architecturally, it is of great importance.

The important library, Storia Patria, is situated on the top floor of one of the wings of the castle.

There were claims of vandalism in the early days of the occupation of Naples. The librarian claims that it has been broken into several times and books taken.

The units occupying the Castle are:

British Navy: Supply Depot.

English: 37th Light A.A. Battery,
C.O., Maj. Winston.

D. The University of Naples.

This is the largest University in Italy. Many of the several buildings were damaged by bombing and the library of the Royal Society and other sections were burned by the Germans.

Claims of vandalism and destruction are made by the Director of the University and there are visible evidences of such damage.

It is hoped that by an exchange of space now being occupied by American troops, it will be possible to free laboratories and certain sections of the University so that some of its faculties can function.

The units occupying the University are:

American: 603rd M.P.
C.O., Col. Downey.

Port Battalion,
C.O., Col. Clementi.

E. The Agricultural College of the University.

This important institution is in the Royal Palace of Portici and it is understood it has been requisitioned for an AFHQ unit.

E. The Agricultural College of the University. (Cont'd)

The laboratory and experimental work being carried on by this institution, is the work of many years and is of vital importance to the problems of agriculture and food production in all southern Italy.

It would seem of vital importance that this requisition be lifted.

F. The Palazzo Reale of Capodimonte.

This Palace is the residence of the Dowager Duchess d'Aosta and houses a museum of decorative arts. All the collection is still in place.

The grounds of the Palace are used as billets for several Allied units and as far as is known, no complaints have been made.

Because of the nature of the palace and its contents, it would not seem desirable for requisitioning.

G. The Villa Pignatelli.

This building was formerly a porcelain and decorative arts museum but most of the collection has been removed.

It has been occupied by several units and at present a medical outfit is establishing a convalescent hospital there.

As far as is known, no complaints have been made against the use of the building by troops.

PAUL GARDNER
Major, AUS
Division of Education and Fine Arts

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
A.P.O. 464, U.S. ARMY.

18 November, 1943

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Colonel Edgar Erskine Hume.

1. The Superintendent of the Museo Nazionale has informed me that the British Medical Corps, No. 10, Base Depot, Medical Stores, has requisitioned a large part of the Museum as a medical depot and intends to quarter troops in rooms now occupied by the collection and to install a kitchen in the court.
2. The Museum has the most important collection of classical and Roman sculpture in the world and the greater part of it is still in place in the building. Other sections are still installed with parts of the important painting and unique Pompeian collection.
3. Because of the nature of the building, it is impossible to close off any section and troops would have access to the entire structure, its collections and libraries. The above unit claims that they are quartering only forty men in the building but the procedure with such requisitions has always been that once a section is occupied, in a short time the entire building is taken. I have seen too many occupied historical monuments such as the Palazzo Reale, the Castel Nuovo, the Biblioteca Nazionale and the University reduced to a shambles by troops, to foresee any other destiny for the Museo Nazionale.
4. I cannot protest too strongly such a requisition. The continued requisitioning and pillage of historical monuments in Naples is furnishing just the type of propaganda that the Germans and Fascists use with telling effect. Further, once troops are quartered in the midst of one of the greatest collections of all Italy, I cannot assume any responsibility for its safety.

Paul Gardner,
Major, A.U.S.
Division of Education and Fine Arts.

Italy
Report
Gathering
(Start)

From the London Times, Presumably Oct. 15, 1943
Courtesy Capt. Poole, PRO

DAMAGE TO MONUMENTS IN NAPLES

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ALGIERS, Oct. 14

Particulars of the condition of various buildings and places of interest in Naples and the environs have been obtained from Fifth Army headquarters. The east portion of the Palazzo Reale is damaged by bombs. The Castelnuovo is undamaged, except for broken windows, and the triumphal arch undamaged. In the case of the Porta Capuana some parts of the gate and the piazza were damaged by bombs and German demolitions. The Cathedral is undamaged except for broken windows. No damage has been done to the Museo Nazionale, the San Martino monastery, the Via Tasso at Posillipo, the Camaldoli monastery, and the Pozzuoli amphitheatre.

London Times

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

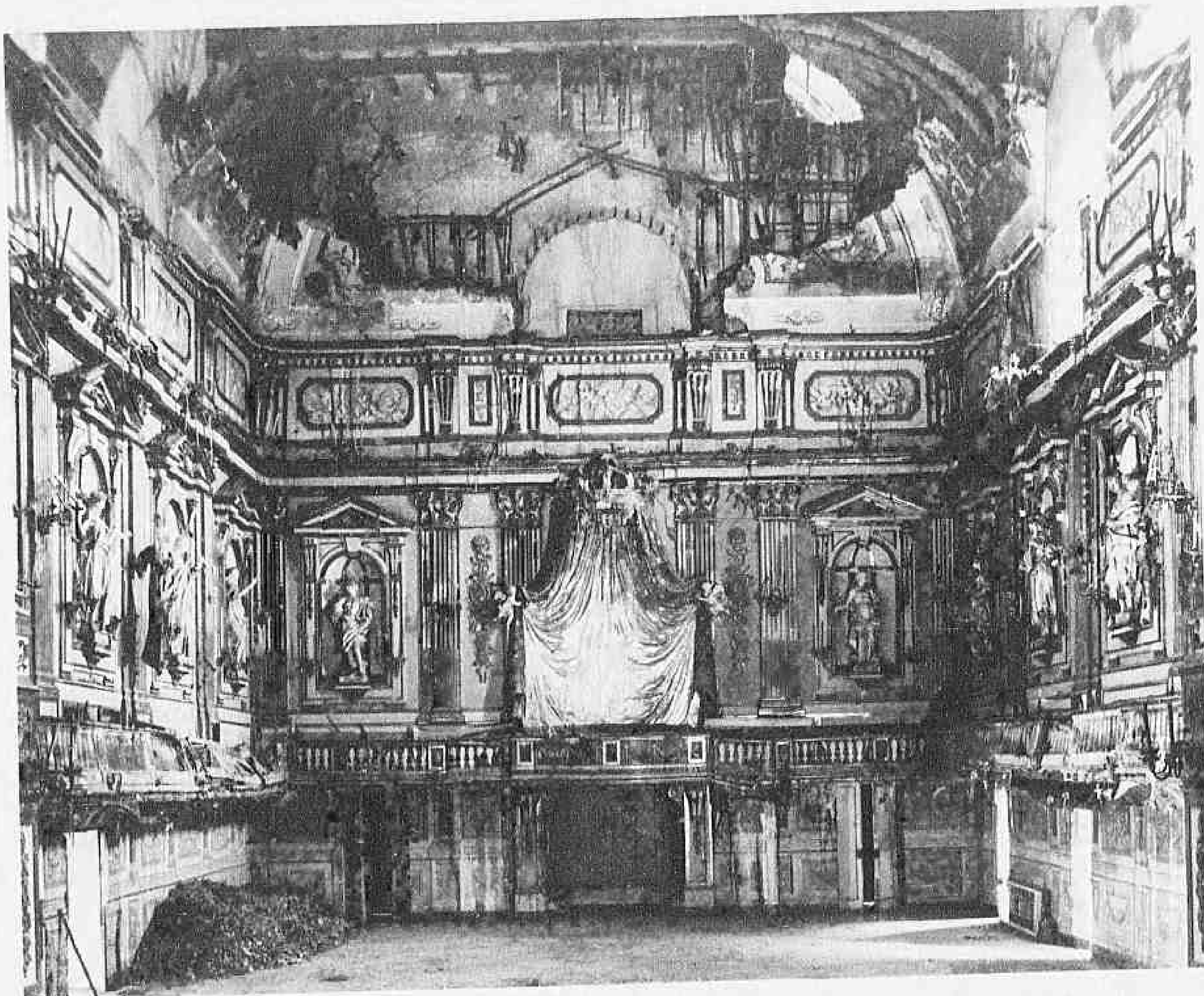
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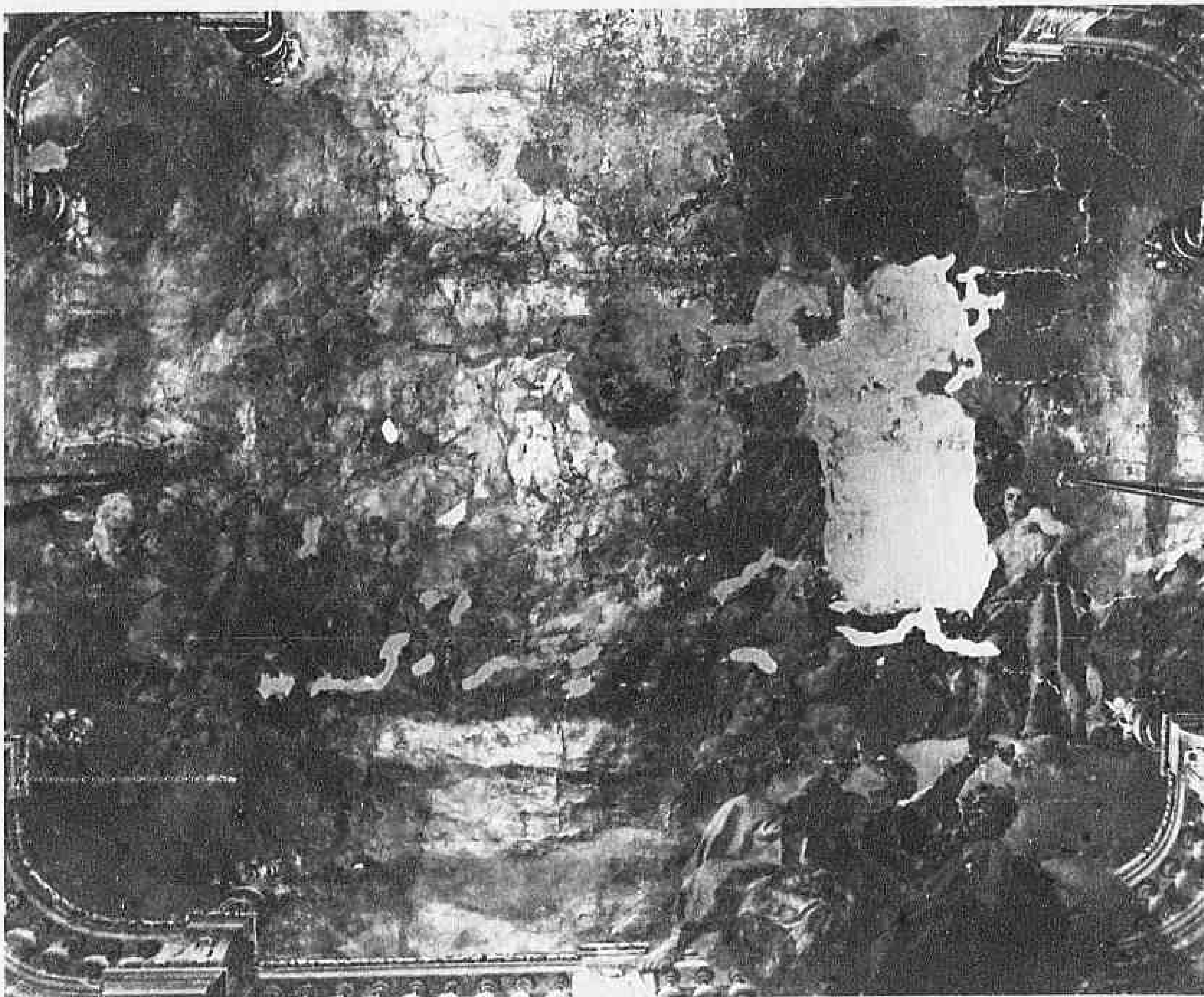
To Capt. [illegible]

Naples - Palazzo Reale - Theatre - June '44.

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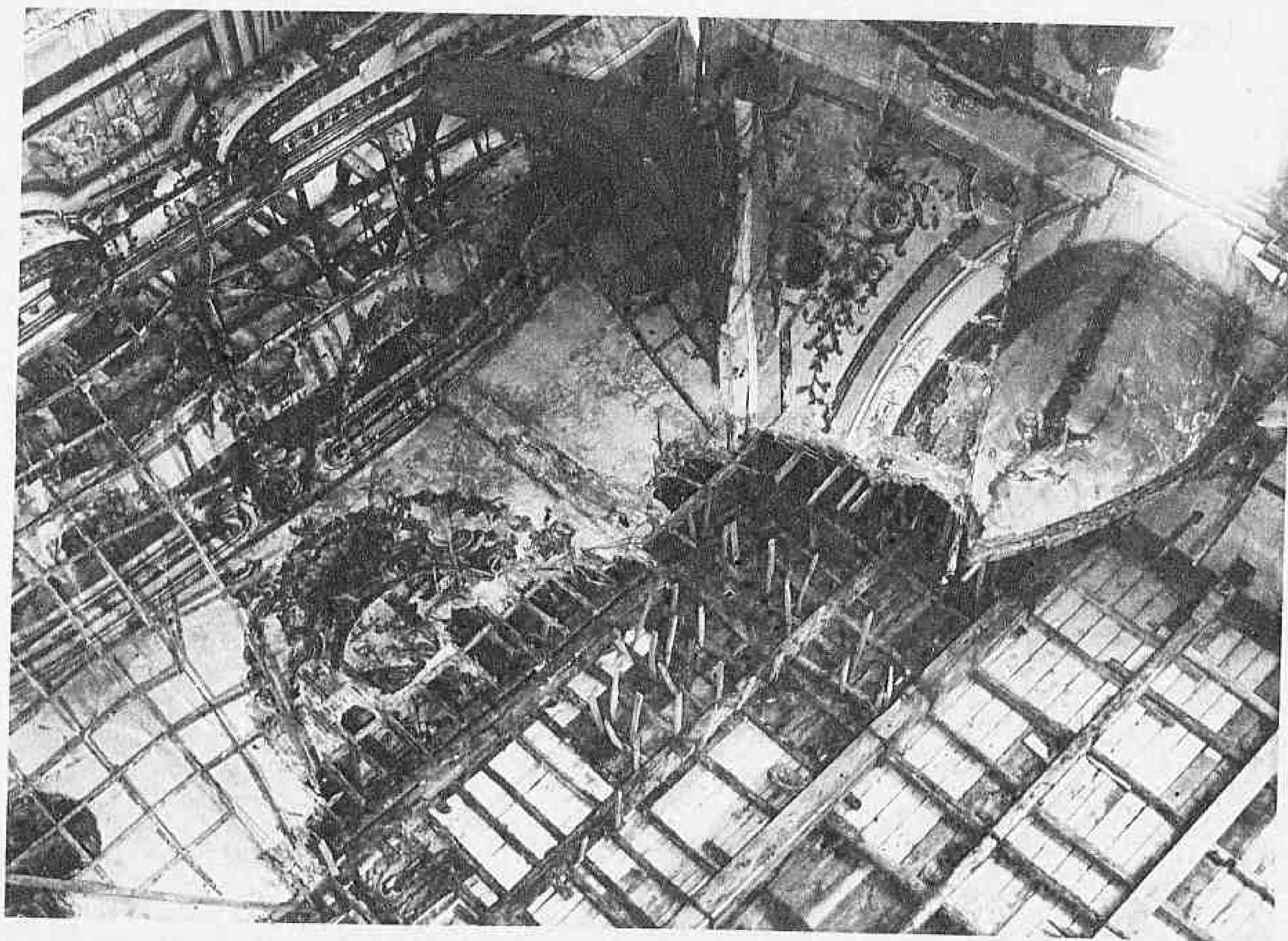
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Naples - Palazzo Reale - Sala da Pranzo Diplomatico -
Ceiring (June 1944).

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 752116



Naples - Palazzo Reale - Theatre - June 1944

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