

ACC 10000/145/265 20485

MFAA DATA ON ORGANIZATION IN OTHER TL

AP. 1945 - OCT. 1945

DATA ON ORGANIZATION IN OTHER THEATERS

AP. 1945 - OCT. 1945

C O P Y

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 619.3-4

SUBJECT: Policy on Restitution of Works of Art.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394

Reference your 20909/20/AFMA of 30 September, our G-5: 619.3-4 of 9 October and our AG 007 G31-0 of 10 October to USFA, copy to you.

1. Attached communication from USFA is forwarded for your information.

2. You are authorized to communicate direct with the authority named in paragraph 2 on technical matters connected with monuments and Fine Arts.

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

3748

s/ Norman P. Seagrave
t/ NORMAN P. SEAGRAVE
Lt. Colonel, GSC

Incl:
cy ltr fr HQ USFA
ref AG 008 x 00.4-PARGA
dtd 24 October 45

Original letter in 20909/20/4

20/85

23 OCT 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

JBWP/fl

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext 442 & 254; 478480)

20200/1/MFAA

29 October 45

FROM: Lt Col J. B. WARD PERKINS, R.A.

Dear Morey,

Keller has been in and told us something of the sorting centre for looted works of art at Munich, at which apparently all interested nations have representatives.

It is characteristic, I'm afraid, of the whole Allied set-up, that we here should have heard nothing at all about it; this despite repeated requests through proper official channels for information as to restitution policy and procedure. If the centre is what Keller says, the Italian Government should surely have a representative there.

Could you possibly do anything to get word about it through the Roberts Commission or anybody else?

3747

Yours sincerely,

Prof C. R. Morey
U. S. Embassy
Rome

20485

23 OCT 1945

9 OCT 1945
(18)ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

NPS/mcc

G-5: 619.3-4

9 October 45.

SUBJECT: Policy on Restitution of Works of Art.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
APO 394.Reference your 20909/20/FAA, dated 30 September 45, subject
as above.

1. Letters on the above subject are being despatched to USFA and
USFET. Copies will be sent to you.
2. As you will note it has been requested that technical channels
be employed between USFA, USFET and ALCOM, MFAA officials in further
correspondence on this subject.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

5746

NPS
NORMAN P. SEAGRAVE,
Lt-Colonel, G.S.C.[Original
in 20909/20]

20485

9 OCT 1945

United States Forces in Austria
G-5 Salzburg

29 Sept. 1945

SUBJECT: Fine Arts Report

TO: Brig. Gen. E.E.Hume

General situation

1. The undersigned has consulted with Lt. Col. E.T.Dewald, head of the Fine Arts Branch of RDAAR, USACA and with Lt. Frederick Hartt of the same branch with HQ in Salzburg. Practically all of the field work has been done either by these officers or by officers of the 3rd Army who preceded them. The amount of repairs as a result of war damage are at a minimum except in Vienna. There the biggest job is the repair of the great Cathedral of St. Stefan. Lt. Perry Gott; USNR, remains in Vienna to handle the bulk of the work of arranging this job with the other powers there.
2. There are Land Fine Arts Officers. Their work seems to consist in reporting damage and getting first aid repairs done. As compared with Lt. Hartt they are relatively inactive, as they have other job too, i.e.- Religion and Education. There is a Lt. Grinburg who is in charge of restitutions within Austria and he has been very busy and effective in seeing things and organizing their transport to Salzburg. Up to now he has been reporting to the Land Salzburg Fine Arts Officer, Capt. Selke. It is believed that he will come directly under Lt. Hartt, as he is on the TO in USACA and should be reporting to Lt. Col. Dewald. It has been difficult for Lt. Hartt, who has worked hard and well, because of this confusion of channels, to know just exactly what was happening all the time, but the matter was taken up by Lt. Col. Dewald recently and is believed settled satisfactorily.
3. The undersigned has taken the position to date, of a sort of liaison officer between USACA and USPA, willing to help where he can, but not wishing to interfere with work already

3745

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2. There are Land Fine Arts Officers. Their work seems to consist in reporting damage and getting first aid repairs done. As compared with Lt. Hartt they are relatively inactive, as they have other job too, i.e., Religion and Education. There is a Lt. Grinberg, who is in charge of restitutions within Austria and he has been very busy and effective in seeing things and organizing their transport to Salzburg. Up to now he has been reporting to the Land Salzburg Fine Arts Officer, Capt. Selke. It is believed that he will come directly under Lt. Hartt, as he is on the GO in USACA and should be reporting to Lt. Col. Dewald. It has been difficult for Lt. Hartt, who has worked hard and well, because of this confusion of channels, to know just exactly what was happening all the time, but the matter was taken up by Lt. Col. Dewald recently and is believed settled satisfactorily.

3. The undersigned has taken the position to date, of a sort of liaison officer between USACA and USFA, willing to help where he can, but not wishing to interfere with work already started and organized by Lt. Col. Dewald, who has been in the American area a much longer time. This function of the USFA G-5 officer will appear in the following report of the ALT AUSSEE salt mine repository of art treasures.

ALT AUSSEE salt mine repository

4. In the caves of ALT AUSSEE are some 6,000 works of art, pieces of furniture, and 500 cases of books and documents from the Archaeological Institute in Rome. 85% of all of this stuff is foreign to Austria and is to be returned as soon as

(1)

Only minor damage 485

possible to the rightful owner all over Europe. A clearing house has been set up in Munich with abundant personnel for the disposal of the things. For the works that go from these salt mines to Munich, Mr. Ritchie of the Buffalo Museum of Fine Arts has been designated by an USFET order signed by Gen. Eisenhower.

The 3rd Army removed about 1,000 pictures and objects from the caves in June and July under the supervision of Capt. Posey and Lt. Stout, USNR and Lt. Kovalyak, an Infantry Lt., who has become an expert packer under their tutelage. These were the best works found in the caves, among them the things from Monte Cassino.

5. When USPA came to Austria an order went out freezing the transport of all art treasure without a direct order from the Commanding General. The machinery had been set up by 3rd Army and the personnel had been trained for the job. Therefore Lt. Col. DeWald wanted things to keep rolling in the same manner. He has fought for six weeks for the permit authorizing him to proceed with the transport of the treasure and has finally succeeded with an order coming from Gen. Gruenther 28 Sept. at 15,30 hours. Lt. Lamont Moore, National Gallery in Washington in private life, and Lt. Kovalyak, mentioned above, were in the under signed's office when the order was reported to him by Sgt. Miller, Lt. Hartt's EM. These are the two officers charged with the transport of the treasure.

6. The two Lts. asked the writer for permission to operate and evacuate the mines and to be authorized to hire the required labor and to draw the appropriate rations for the labor. Such orders were immediately drawn up by Capt. Rust and signed within the hour by the Exec. Officer, G-5. Lt. Moore called his HQ in Munich and ordered his trucks and materials to proceed at once to AIT AUSSEE, and he and Lt. Kovalyak took off immediately for the mines, very much pleased with the rapidity of the clearing through this HQ. A special authorization from this HQ was written to be presented to the MG Officer at Bad AUSSEE about the labor and the rations.

7. USFET G-5, the HQ of the two Lts., is offering from 3rd Army 16 trucks and sufficient packing and other materials for the job. The things from AIT AUSSEE will be deposited in Munich in special warehouses and the removal will be credited to USPA. As has been stated above, Mr. Ritchie will handle the Munich end.

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8.

3744

Aspects of situation at ALT AUSSEE

8. Maj. Merrill, USFA G-3, in charge of troop movements called the writer a day or so ago and said he wanted to get the troops out of the district before the bad weather set in. The guard is furnished by the 26th Division. Conjectures as to the length of time that the weather will permit removals from the mines vary from two weeks from this date to a month. It is sure that all the 6,000 objects can not be taken out before the roads be-

come impassable. the snow gets so deep up there that Maj. Merrill says food would have to be flown in to the troops. The writer has suggested that Lt. Moore and Kovalyak investigate the possibility of sealing up the caves in the bad period and finding out if national guards would be feasible, inspected at intervals by American personnel. There is also the possibility that a Railroad will be established at BAD AUSSEE, four miles from the caves; if the road could be kept open by national personnel during the winter, it is possible that operations need not be suspended and transport be made by rail. These things will be investigated and a report will be submitted shortly. At the present moment it looks as if operations could go on for a while and then have to cease until the Spring thaw. The works of art will not suffer, as the temperature is constant in the caves and even risen three or four degrees in the cold weather.

One final thing: Lt. Moore and Lt. Kovalyak will not permit any Military personnel to enter the caves without a pass from USAFA G-5 HQ, nor will permission to war correspondents, photographers be given to enter without a similar pass.

s/ Deane Keller
t/ DEANE KELLER, Capt.
MMA Officer
USMA G-5

3743

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C O P Y

rc.

24 Sept. 1943

MONUMENTS AND FINE ARTS IN AUSTRIA

The following is a summary of the situation as learned by the undersigned from Lt. Col. Dewald and Lt. Fred. Hartt.

1. There seem to be few jobs of repair to be arranged outside Vienna proper where the biggest job is the repairing of St. Stefan. All of the places on the Protected Monuments Lists have been visited either by the above personnel, or by Lt. Grinberg, or by Capt. Posey and his team who were with 3rd Army prior to the formation of USFA under Gen. Clark.

2. At present Lt. Hartt is heading the rear echelon in Salzburg with Lt. Grinberg to assist him. The latter is on the TO at RD and R in Vienna and is here on special mission, which is to search out all displaced and looted art belonging in Austria, more especially that which must return to Salzburg and to the proper owners. This latter was confirmed in a telephone conversation between Lt. Col. Dewald and Lt. Col. Watts this morning 24 Sept. Capt. Sulkey is Lead Fine Arts officer well as Educational in Lead Salzburg and Lt. Grinberg has his office there. However the situation is not too clear, for it seems that Capt. Sulkey reports to Lt. Col. Watts alone. Just where Capt. Sulkey and Lt. Grinberg stand with Lt. Col. Dewald's section of RD and R is not clear. Lt. Perry Cott is in Vienna handling the quadripartite deals in Fine Arts under Lt. Col. Dewald. Mr. Ritchie, a civilian, will go to Munich to handle that end of the subject of the next para., namely the transfer of International works of art from the caves of Bad Aussee to Munich.

3. In the caves of Alt Aussee are some 5,000 works of art, 500 cases of books, Rome Archaeological Inst., and documents and some furniture and other things. 65% of this stuff is foreign to Austria, being the property of French, Dutch, Polish and other peoples in Europe. The clearing house will be in Munich where there is set up a fine organization for this purpose. This is the important job in Austria for a fine arts section and when it is finished their work should be done except for the few

2. At present Lt. Grinberg is assisting him. The latter is on the way to RD with Lt. Grinberg and is here on special mission, which is to search out all displaced and looted art belonging in Austria, more especially that which must return to Salzburg and to the proper owners. This letter was confirmed in a telephone conversation between Lt. Col. Dewald and Lt. Col. Watts this morning 24 Sept. Capt. Sulkey is Land Fine Arts officer well as Educational in Land Salzburg and Lt. Grinberg has his office there. However the situation is not too clear, for it seems that Capt. Sulkey reports to Lt. Col. Watts alone. Just where Capt. Sulkey and Lt. Grinberg stand with Lt. Col. Dewald's section of RD and R is not clear. Lt. Perry Cott is in Vienna handling the quadripartite deals in Fine Arts under Lt. Col. Dewald. Mr. Kitchie, a civilian, will go to Munich to handle that end of the subject of the next para., namely the transfer of International works of art from the caves of Bad Aussee to Munich.

3. In the caves of Alt Aussee are some 6,000 works of art, 500 cases of books, Rome Archeological Inst., and documents and some furniture and other things. 85% of this stuff is foreign to Austria, being the property of French, Dutch, Polish and other peoples in Europe. The clearing house will be in Munich where there is set up a fine organization for this purpose. This is the important job in Austria for a Fine Arts section and when it is finished their work should be done except for the few repair jobs and a number of transportations within Austria itself.

a. When USA came in USFET already had the movement of things to Munich underway with the help of 3rd Army. A Directive came out from USA saying nothing should go out without the permission of the Commanding General of USA. There is RIGHT NOW an USFET directive signed by General Eisenhower authorizing the continuance of the work of transfer. USFET sent an

Organization
7/4/45

order to 3rd Army to put what Lt. Col. De Wald wanted at his disposal in the way of trucks, etc. 3rd Army during Capt. Posey's time had collected packing materials and all other essentials for transporting art, and the drivers and all concerned are used to the job and know what has to be done. Col. Theodore Paul is the head of RD and R in Vienna and is Lt. Col. DeWald's boss.

3rd Army is offering 16 trucks for the deal and at a sacrifice, for they have their own uses for them. They may get touchy and withdraw. They have been most cooperative and are now. The trucks are granted for the completion of the operation which may take two months. The works they have agreed to help with are only the International ones, not things to be transported within Austria.

In one of Capt. Posey's initial moves two truckloads of Austrian staff were taken to Munich and these must be returned. They will go in the Salzburg warehouse.

b. USPA loses no credit for the fact that 3rd Army is offering the trucks. The staff taken from Alt Aussee will be placed in separate warehouses in Munich in the name of USPA and Gen. Clark, so that it may be known that Gen. Clark is making the restitution.

c. Whole USACA and USPA Planning board approved the ³⁷⁴¹fer coming up. The whole thing is an American undertaking. The deposit at Alt Aussee is the largest in Western Europe, and now the mines are under American Guard. The Military Authorities want the guard pulled off as soon as possible to do other things.

d. IMPORTANT: ALL THAT ~~IS~~ WANTED IS THE PERMISSION OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL? USPA? TO GIVE THE GO AHEAD SIGNAL. It may have been held up in the office of Col. Charles Howard (Salami) in Plans and Operations USACA. (There are two Col. Charles Howards in Vienna, so that this one has the calamity attached according to the writer's informants). The plan for the movement was presented to Col. Howard, but was sent back by him to Lt. Col. DeWald for some reason which is not clear to Lt. Col. De Wald. It is most urgent that this thing go through now, as the weather will prevent moving the things soon, unless the Railroad is put in order. It is said that this may be done in three weeks.

e. It is not easy to get the staff out of the mines as they are relatively hard to get at and good weather is at a premium.

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e. It is not easy to get the stuff out of the mines as they are relatively hard to get at and good weather is at a premium. If the deal does not go through soon we may have to wait until Spring.

4. Lt. Col. DeWald wants to separate the MFA from the RD and R outfit, so that his work need not be channeled through that office and that he may not be bothered with all sorts of property control problems. He and his staff have enough with the two Land and the 4 way settlement of things in Vienna.

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5749. MFA 7 APR. 1945

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

JB/LC/JJJr

11 April 1945

SUBJECT: M.F.A. & A.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394

The attached document, which has been of great interest to this Section, is returned herewith with thanks.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

Incl:
as above.

Doc. herewith is
copy made in 5/4
14 Apr 45. Two
others to holders
file
for
Germany
- Austria

3740

Julius Byles
JULIUS BYLES
Major, F.A.

MONUMENTS	ARCHIVES
20485	13 APR 1945
FILE No	20485/2

11 APR. 1945

Miscellaneous Information.

1. I am informed by a good source that Adolf HUNSTER has been in MADRID since about last October. He is said to have been entrusted with the decoration of the German Embassy there.
2. MATIAS: I discussed this case with Mr. Bliss, who showed the French report to M. CHARGUERAUD. The French Government will take what action they can.
3. The former assistant of Prof. POSSE is now resident in Switzerland. He is

Dr. Karl JAEHNIG
VERMIDAZ
pres GENIÈVE

He moved to Switzerland in 1938 and despite tempting offers from Posse refused to return to Germany.

4. The GALLERIE GURLITT of BERLIN (reported from Paris as big purchasers) has now moved to : -

LEMAU HUNDEL
BAD AUSSER
AUSTRIA

5. Carl BUNNING has been bombed out in DARMSTADT and is now living somewhere in the ODEWALD.
6. The following German public collections are said to have been badly damaged by bombs : -

Stadel Institute, FRANKFURT a. MAIN
Print Room, KARLSRUHE
Print Room, HENICH.

3739

German Repositories for Works of Art.

- A. (Half line cut out), and employed from 1938-1943 in the Ostasiatische Abteilung of the Staatliche Museum in BERLIN, gave me the following facts about German repositories:-

- a) The contents of the BERLIN STATE MUSEUMS were in 1943 almost all stored in the big concrete Flak towers, one at the ZOO and the other at FRIEDRICH-SHAIN. He specifically referred to the Ost-asiatische, Egyptian, Tel-el-Amarna & Kaiser Friedrich Museum collections.
- b) He confirmed previous reports that bank vaults in Berlin are full of art treasures and that they have proved bomb-resisting until now.
- c) The collections from FRANKFURT a. Main are believed to be in the ODEWALD.

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BAD AUSSEE
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c) The collections from FRANKFURT a. Main are believed to be in the ODEWALD.

d) The two most important repositories in AUSTRIA are the salt-mines of ISSEL and ALT-AUSSEE. The former contains large quantities of the looted ROSENBERG collections. Parts of the VIENNA collections are said to be in each.

e) Schloss NIENBURG (see previous reports) the property of Furst BIERBRUNNEN, which is on the border of Czechoslovakia and NE of VIENNA is confirmed as other very important ROSENBERG repository.

f) When last heard of the ROTHSCHILD collections were stored in the JAGDSCHLOSS ROTHSCHILD (exact name and location unknown) near MARIAZELL in STEIERMARK.

g) LINDBERGENSTEIN property in AUSTRIA is as follows :-

- 1) Gallery and two palaces in VIENNA. Some parts of the Prince's private collection is still in the palaces.

ii) Some of the most important pictures of the collection are stored at SCHLOSS GAMMELN, MARAZZELL in SWITZERLAND. The collections of the Albertina and the Kunsthistorisches Museum were stored here until 1944 when they were removed to the salt-mines, but it is possible that some parts of them still remain there.

iii) The large series of Decimus Mus by Rubens and some other important pictures are in the cellars of STIFF KLOSTERNEUBURG.

iv) Two other castles containing the Prince's collections are SCHLOSS FELDBERG and SCHLOSS EISENRUB, near LUDWIGSBURG (near Schloss Nilsburg).

B. Other information.

b) Dr. REICHMEISTER of the Ost-Asiatische Abteilung of the Berlin Museum is now in ITALY with the Kunstschatz.

j) Strachwitz's assistant in the department was Prinz Lerschwin zu Lippe, a brother of the Crown Prince of Holland.

k) Eberhard HANFSTAENGL, formerly of the National-Galerie in Berlin is now with the firm of publishers BRUCKMANN in MUNICH.

Baron von der HEIDE of ASSONA, who has a well-known collection of Chinese works of art, tells me that he has objects stored:-

a) in the THYSEN BANK, DIERHESSTRASS 8, in BERLIN. The Bank has been badly damaged, but the safe deposit below is untouched.

b) in JOSEPHUS GLAUBACK, COMLSDORF near AKKEMUNDEN, under the care of FUERSTEN LUTAR. (25 large sculptures).

It is von der Heydt's intention to give these pieces on permanent loan to English museums, as soon as he can recover them: parts of his collection already are in English museums like Denmark, Wakefield, Leeds, etc.

A report of November 6th, 1944, from H.M. Consul General at Zurich states that the Van Eyck altarpieces from CHIEF stolen by the Nazis from the deposit at PAU is now stored in the salt-mine at ALT-AUSSEE.

Prof. VOSS is reported as saying to a friend of mine that the details of the German repositories were only known to two or three people besides himself. He stated that one office in which all the details were available was in the Reich Ministry of Education in Berlin.

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Information specially concerning France.

1. It has been reported to me by several sources that the firm of Paris art dealers, HERMELIN JEUNE, a Jewish concern, was seized by the Nazis and offered for sale in Switzerland for 1,000,000 French francs. The persons involved in this offer are reported to be:-

M. CHARLES MENIAC (Swiss)
M. STEFANE BUNOU (Paris art dealer)
Herr ADOLF HUNSTER (German Embassy)

The offer was definitely made to Herr TANNER of the Galerie TANNER, Bahndammstrasse 59, Zurich.

I have been able to trace four pictures by COROT:-

- 1) Femme Orecque
- 2) San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice.
- 3) Femme et Enfant

- 4) Lac d'Oberland : reported sold in 1944.

stolen from the REUTEM collection which are at present held by Frau Klara VERACHT, Kinkelstrasse 28, Zurich.

All these pictures are well-known and have been reproduced many times. They are said to have been acquired in HOLLAND in 1944. Nos. 1 and 2 were exhibited at ZURICH in 1942.

2. The picture of "Mme GAIUS at the piano" by DEXAS, stolen from the collection of ALPHONSE KAHN in PARIS, was sold to HENRI LAND by the Paris dealer BIRSHANSKI.

3. DEJOUY has sold pictures to Herr Emil BUEHLER (Greuz, David, Fragnard, etc); to the Kunsthans of Zurich (two Remairs); to Paul JOSTIN of BASEL.

4. I am informed that Alfred DABER, 109, Boulevard Haussmann, Paris, was trading in looted pictures with the EINSATZGRUPPE ROSENBERG. He summoned TARNER of ZURICH to LYONS in 1944 or 1942 and made him an offer which was declined.

Recommendations.

1. Investigation of M. CHARLES MONTAG and his activities, also of BIGNOU.
2. Investigation of BIRSHANSKI.
3. Investigation of DABER's files. He has already been similarly reported on through the VAUCHER Committee.

3737

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3737

20485/MFAA

G
US

ORGANIZATION OTHER THEATRES

GERMANY (U.S.)

Policy-making:

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT GERMANY (U.S.)

Economic^S Division,
Restitution Branch,

Monuments Fine Arts and Archives Section, APO 742, U.S. Army

(This is the policy-making body. It is also known as "Control Commission Germany, U.S. Element" and U.S. Group Control Commission Germany. HQ is located in BERLIN. Present are: Capt Calvin Hathaway, Capt Harry Greer, Mr Sargent Child (Archives) and Capt Regan, MAC)

Operations:

HQ U.S. Forces European Theatre
G-5 Section, MFAA Branch (?) APO 887 U.S. Army

3736

(In charge is Maj L.B. La Farge)

Best channel: Direct to CMGG with copy to USFET.

...

Copy to 20485/3/MFAA

From S/L Norris
15 Nov 45

20485/MFAA

G
B

ORGANIZATION OTHER THEATRES

GERMANY (British)

[CONTROL COMMISSION GERMANY (BRITISH ELEMENT)

Internal Affairs and Communications Division
Monuments Fine Arts and Archives Branch
Main HQ, BERLIN (GERMANY)

Cable address: COMCOMB
In charge : Col G.F. Webb

Adv HQ, BERLIN

Cable address: BERCOMB
In charge : S/L R.C. Norris

Rear HQ, LONDON

Cable address: BRITCOMB PICCY
In charge : S/L Douglas Cooper

Best channel: direct to Main HQ with distribution for Adv HQ and
Rear HQ.

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15 Nov 45

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Lt Col De Wald

20 October 45

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HQ U.S. FORCES IN AUSTRIA,

RD & R Division, US ALLIED COMMISSION AUSTRIA,

Monuments Fine Arts and Archives Branch,
(attention Lt Col E. T. De Wald)
APO 777, US Army

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U.S. ALLIED COMMISSION FOR AUSTRIA (Vienna)

Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(attn Lt Col E. T. De Wald)
APO 777, U.S. Army

(The above is the VIENNA office, with Lt Col De Wald and
Lt P.B. Cott)

U.S. ALLIED COMMISSION FOR AUSTRIA (REAR)

Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(attn Lt Frederick Hartt)
APO 777, U.S. Army

(This is at Salzburg)

Best channel, according to Capt Keller, is:

U.S. FORCES AUSTRIA
G-5 Section
APO 777, US Army

(Capt Deane Keller is here at Salzburg but not solely for MFAA)

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From Capt Keller
Oct 45

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Allied Commission for Austria (British Element),
Monuments Fine Arts and Archives Branch, VIENNA

Cable address: ACABRIT VIENNA

In charge : W/Cdr J. Goodison

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