

ACC 10000/145/271

20485/5

MFAA IN AUSTRIA. AMERICAN

Jan. - Dec 1945

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES IN AUSTRIA
G-5 SECTION
APO 777, U.S. ARMY

8 January 1945

SUBJECT: Missing Painting from PESCOCCOSTANZO

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission,
Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives
APO 394, U.S. Army
Attn: Major NORMAN T. NEWTON

1. Reference is made to letter your headquarters, file 20485/5/MFAA, subject as above, dated 4 December 1945.
2. As no trace of this painting has been discovered in U.S. Zone, Austria, your letter has been forwarded to Central Collecting Point, Munich, Office of Military Government, Bavaria.
3. All non-Austrian art material from deposits in the U.S. Zones of Germany and Austria are consolidated at the Central Collecting Point, therefore some information concerning this painting may be had from this source.

FOR THE ASS'T CHIEF OF STAFF G-5:

Frederick Hartt
FREDERICK HARTT
1st Lt., Air Corps
Monuments and Fine Arts Officer

4351

FILE No. 20485/5

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext 442 & 254; 478480)

HTN/PS

20485/5/AFAA

4 Dec 45

SUBJECT: Missing Painting from PESCOGOSTANZO.

TO : U.S. FORCES AUSTRIA, G-5 Section,
AFAA Branch, APO 777, U.S. Army.

1. In December 1943 there was removed from the church (S. Francesco) of the Convento di Gesù e Maria, at PESCOGOSTANZO (Aquila Province), a highly prized painting on wood of the Madonna and Child between two saints, size 1.07 x 0.62 meters.
2. Local testimony is that the painting was taken by German troops by order of General Heydrich of the Parachute Division and removed first to the General's quarters at INTRODAGUA (Aquila Province). The local assumption is that the painting was transported from there to Berlin. Its present whereabouts is in fact unknown.
3. The loss has been known for some time and has been reported. A photographic reproduction has now been discovered and is attached hereto with a copy of the statement of the Superior of the Convent.
4. All concerned are requested to be on the watch for the painting and to send to this office any news of its discovery.

1. In December 1943 there was removed from the church (S. Francesco) of the Convento di Gesù e Maria, at PESCOOSTANZO (Aquila Province), a highly prized painting on wood of the Madonna and Child between two saints, size 1.07 x 0.82 meters.

2. Local testimony is that the painting was taken by German troops by order of General Heydrich of the Parachute Division and removed first to the General's quarters at INTRONDAO UA (Aquila Province). The local assumption is that the painting "was transported from there to Berlin". Its present whereabouts is in fact unknown.

3. The loss has been known for some time and has been reported. A photographic reproduction has now been discovered and is attached hereto with a copy of the statement of the Superior of the Convent.

4. All concerned are requested to be on the watch for the painting and to send to this office any news of its discovery.

495

Non
NORMAN T. NEWTON
Major, Air Corps
Director.

Inclosures: 2

COPYALLIED 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 534.

Reference your 20902/20/AFSA of 30 September, our G-5: 619.3-4 of 9 October and our AG 007 GEX-O of 10 October to USFA, copy to you.

1. Attached communication from USFA is forwards for your information.
2. You are authorized to communicate direct with the authority named in paragraph 2 or technical matters connected with monuments and Fine Arts.

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

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

Incl:
cy ltr fr HQ USFA
ref AG 006 x 00.4-PAACA
dtd 24 October 45

4349

Original letter in 20902/20/1

20485/5

United States Forces in Austria
G-5 Salzburg

29 Sept. 1945

SUBJECT: Pine Arts Report

TO: Brig. Gen. E.E.Hume

General situation

1. The undersigned has consulted with Lt. Col. E.T.Dewald, head of the Pine Arts Branch of RDandR, 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 Pine 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 Pine 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.

The undersigned has taken the position to date of a sort

head of the Fine Arts Branch of RDandR, 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 Cott; 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. Grinbarg 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 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

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 USFA 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 ALT 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 ALT AUSSEE will be deposited in Munich in special warehouses and the removal will be credited to USFA. As has been stated above, Mr. Ritchie will handle the Munich

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 officer 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 ALT 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. USPEP 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 ALT AUSSEE will be deposited in Munich in special warehouses and the removal will be credited to USFA. As has been stated above, Mr. Ritchie will handle the Munich end.

8.

4347

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-

com

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 Lts. 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 USFA 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.
MFA Officer
USFA G-5

4348

.....

3/
COPY

rc.

24 Sept. 1945

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's. All of the places on the Protected Monuments Lists have been visited either by the above personnel, or by Lt. Grinburg, 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. Grinburg 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 Land 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 Land Fine Arts officer as well as Educational in Land Salzburg and Lt. Grinburg 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. Grinburg 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 6,000 works of art, 500 cases of books, Rome Archeological Inst., and documents and some furniture and other things. 85% of this staff is foreign to Austria, being the property of French, Dutch, Polish and

43/45

or by Capt. Posey and his team who were with Lt. Hartt at 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 Land 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 Land Fine Arts officer as 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 Gott 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.

4345

3. In the caves of Alt Aussee are some 6,000 works of art, 500 cases of books, Rome Archaeological 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 USFA came in USFET already had the movement of things to Munich underway with the help of 3rd Army. A Directive came out from USFA saying nothing should go out without the permission of the Commanding General of USFA. There is RIGHT NOW an USFET directive signed by General Eisenhower authorizing the continuance of the work of transfer. USFET sent an

2-15/5

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 stuff were taken to Munich and these must be returned. They will go in the Salzburg warehouse.

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

c. Whole USACA and USFA Planning board approved the transfer 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? USFA? TO GIVE THE GO AHEAD SIGNAL. It may have been held up in the office of Col. Charles Howard (Calamity) 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. DeWald. 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.

It is not easy to get the stuff out of the mines as they

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

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

c. Whole USACA and USFA Planning board approved the transfer 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? USFA? TO GIVE THE GO AHEAD SIGNAL. It may have been held up in the office of Col. Charles Howard (Calamity) 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. DeWald. 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 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 ED 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 Lend and the 4 way settlement of things in Vienna.

...

4342

Lt Col De Wald

20 October 45

ORGANIZATION OTHER THEATRES

AUSTRIA: U.S.

HQ U.S. FORCES IN AUSTRIA,

RD & R Division, US ALLIED COMMISSION AUSTRIA,

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

....

4343

20485/5/MFAA

ORGANIZATION OTHER THEATERS

AUSTRIA: U.S.

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. Gott)

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)

4342

...

20485/5/MFAA

100-100

100-100