

ACC 10000/145/452

ROYAL PALACE AT CASERTA

NOV. 1943 - AUG. 1944

1897

Fragment turned over to Supt. of Galleries
10/8/44 H.S.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext. 442 & 664; 478480)

ECM/mb

20034/2/MFAA

4 August 1944.

Subject: Damage to Picture, CASERTA Palace

To : R.C., Region 3 ACC, attn. Major
Paul Gardner (Fine Arts).

1. Herewith copy of 20 Court Martial and Holding
Center letter of 21 July 44 (ref. 9/4/A/3468) and of
reply made today by this office.

2. Forwarded likewise is the fragment cut from
J.P. Hackert's painting of the port of Castellammare
hanging at CASERTA. Sig. Battaglia will be able to iden-
tify the picture in question.

in the Sala
Rustica

Edward Croft Murray
for ERNEST T. DE WALD
Major, Spec. Res.
Director.

1735

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ECM/mb

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext. 442 & 664; 478480)

20034/2/MFAA

5 August 1944.

Subject: 14403255 Rfm. Tottman, W.

To : Capt. H.P. Ryland, O.C. 20 Court Martial
and Holding Centre.

1. Your 9/4/A/3468 of 21 July 44 and accompanying
fragment of picture is gratefully acknowledged.

2. Request that report of sentence pronounced upon
the above-named be furnished this office. This information
will be regarded here as strictly CONFIDENTIAL; it is, how-
ever, of importance for our records.

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

1734

C O P Y

Subject: F.G.C.M.

Ref: 9/4/A/3468
21 July 1944

Capt. Croft-Murray,
Monuments & Fine Arts S - Commission
A.C.C.

14403255 Rfm. Tottman. W.

Reference 57 Area's A25/294 dated 14.7.44.
Herewith forwarding the picture which
was damaged in respect of the a/n case.
Please acknowledge.

/s/ ~~H.P. Ryland~~

/t/ H.P. RYLAND
Capt.

[Actually
signature (for
Capt. Ryland)
illegible.]

O.C. 20 Court Martial & Holding Centre.

Field
THW

1733

HEADQUARTERS
REGION III ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army

E -

18 July 1944

SUBJECT : Reggia di Caserta
TO : Major Ward Perkins

My dear John:

Herewith a few notes on how matters stand.

A. Lists:

- (1) Emilia should have reached you by now.
- (2) Toscana (1000 extra) should have also reached you
- (3) Piedmont & Liguria corrected and in press
- (4) Venezia Eug. & Giul. 1st proofs corrected and back to printer
- (5) Venezia Trid. Molaioli has just sent down the typescript, which has been passed to the printer.

B. Caserta Move:

- (1) Appartamento Nuovo: Now completely evacuated without serious damage; found impossible within time - limit to wall up room, so Battaglia on his own responsibility and with sole aid of Palace Staff moved all terracotta figures bronzes, etc. without loss or damage; alabaster dressing table and lower part of chandelier successively dismantled; Murat's writing table too large and heavy to move, so consigned to Air Marshal Lloyd (by Cav. Noce on his own responsibility) and will be looked after from time to time by head Cabinet maker of Palace; two large console-tables and one heavy Empire cabinet (belonging to Murat suite) all left in situ, turned face to wall, and to be boarded up.

- (2) Appartamento Vecchio : Chandeliers and ormolu candle

1732

- 2 -

brackets completely or nearly completely dismantled in all rooms, with only one accident to a sconce-rossette; Ferdinand's barrel-organs and cases containing cylinders to be evacuated or left in situ face to wall; larger pictures to be left in situ, or may in some cases be lent to British Minister for his office, which is also on the Piano Reale; our recommendations for protective measures approved and have already started work with beaver-board.

- (3) Presepio Room: Partly to be used as a Generals' conference room, and part as a stove for architectural models and heavier and less important console tables from adjoining rooms.
- (4) Damage and Theft: On the whole damage slight (considering rush), and consists mainly of chipped frames etc.; theft is much more serious, three small objects of carved tortoiseshell having been filched from a little XIXth. century writing-desk (See attached letter); also silk-rippers have been at work in the Appartamento Vecchio, have completely stripped one little room which happily had modern damask, and have also mutilated the two important yellow rooms (including Maria-Carolina's boudoir); immediately reported matter and was given 24 hr. single Italian M.P. guard (this all A.F.H.Q. could produce) have augmented with one man from the guard in the Deposito; space difficult to isolate with coming and going of work people and inadequate, or non-existent, locks to doors; no British or American M.P.s to be had and A.F.H.Q. does not appear to have personnel to deal with situation.
- (5) Deposito in Stables: When properly arranged material will be well housed there; guarded constantly by three Italian soldiers and two of the Palace Staff; threat of rats probable and have made recommendations for a cat and poison. 1731
- (6) Personnel: Palace Staff have worked 100%, but outside help supplied by P.B.S. absolutely useless; at my suggestion a squad of 20 Italian soldiers was obtained by Noce

- 3 -

who is a friend of Col. of 10th Arty. Regt.; for past week these have worked on heavier transportation and have given excellent help; the only thing in which P.B.S. and A.F.H.Q. have really cooperated is the matter of transport; three 2 1/2 ton trucks with careful negro drivers turned up regularly every day until the job was completed; all work-people concerned, including the Italian soldiers, to receive payment on a lavoro straordinario e pesante basis; to be paid by Molaioli out of a special fund he has for preservation of works of art in War time; Major Gardner arranging this with him; Battaglia's quarters have been ensured (See attached document).

- (7) Demands for Furniture: These are of course beginning; Major Gardner has taken a very firm stand over the matter; when the arrangement of furniture in the Deposito is complete, hope to be able to set aside certain pieces which can be utilized for office or mess use, with the approval of De Filippis.

Could you send my mail down from Rome.

Kind regards to all,

Yours ever

1730

JEMP/hmp

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

20034/2/AFMAA

5 July 1944

Subject: Caserta Palace, Monuments & Fine Arts.

To : AFHQ Accommodation Control (attention Col. Girling).

1. In confirmation of our recent conversation I am submitting the following written recommendations arising out of the occupation of Caserta Palace by AFHQ. Letter-references to rooms are to a plan jointly agreed by Capt. Croft-Murray (ACC) and Capt. W.J. Horns (AFHQ), who holds a copy.
2. Responsibility. Recommended that one officer be made ultimately responsible for the condition of the whole Palace and Grounds, and that some channel of approach to him be afforded to Signor Battaglia, the chief Palace Custodian. It is assumed that normal facilities for periodic inspection will be afforded to the Regional Fine Arts Officer.
3. State Chambers. Recommended that the Heads of Branches occupying the Appartamento Vecchio (B - ZH) and the Appartamento Nuovo (ZI - ZO) be asked to remind their staffs of the necessity for careful and respectful use.
4. Deposits of furniture, pictures etc. Recommended that the deposits now established in the stables and at Capodimonte as a result be guaranteed against further removal.
5. Protection of occupied apartments. Recommended (as agreed verbally by Col. Ramsay) that necessary measures be taken to protect against damage walls and fittings in the Appartamento Nuovo and Appartamento Vecchio. The former is now unique of its kind and period and has never been occupied. The latter was occupied by TAF piecemeal, and no protective work has hitherto been possible. In no case is the work involved heavy, and Capt. Croft-Murray has technical experience of similar work in England. A detailed schedule is attached.
6. Palace Staff. Recommended (as agreed verbally by Col. Ramsay) that Signor Battaglia, the chief Palace Custodian, be provided nearby with accommodation equivalent to that from which he is now ejected, and be allowed to continue the general care of Palace and Grounds with his existing staff.
7. The Park is an integral feature of the Palace. The most important features are:
 - a. Statuary.
 - b. Fountain of Diana and Acteon - already damaged by bathers and put OFF LIMITS by AAI.
 - c. Subterranean Portico and pool with bathing Venus in Giardino Inglese (MAAF encampment).
 - d. The Castelluccio.

1729

To : AFHQ Accommodation Control (attention Col. Garling).

1. In confirmation of our recent conversation I am submitting the following written recommendations arising out of the occupation of Caserta Palace by AFHQ. Letter-references to rooms are to a plan jointly agreed by Capt. Croft-Murray (ACC) and Capt. W.J. Horne (AFHQ), who holds a copy.
2. Responsibility. Recommended that one officer be made ultimately responsible for the condition of the whole Palace and Grounds, and that some channel of approach to him be afforded to Signor Battaglia, the chief Palace Custodian. It is assumed that normal facilities for periodic inspection will be afforded to the Regional Fine Arts Officer.
3. State Chambers. Recommended that the Heads of Branches occupying the Appartamento Vecchio (B - ZH) and the Appartamento Nuovo (ZI - ZO) be asked to remind their staffs of the necessity for careful and respectful use.
4. Deposits of furniture, pictures etc. Recommended that the deposits now established in the stables and at Capodimonte as a result be guaranteed against further removal.
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6. Palace Staff. Recommended (as agreed verbally by Col. Ramsay) that Signor Battaglia, the chief Palace Custodian, be provided nearby with accommodation equivalent to that from which he is now ejected, and be allowed to continue the general care of Palace and Grounds with his existing staff.
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1729
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 - b. Fountain of Diana and Acteon - already damaged by bathers and put OFF LIMITS by AAI.
 - c. Subterranean Portico and pool with bathing Venus in Giardino Inglese (MAAF encampment).
 - d. The Castelluccio.
8. General. It is clearly laid down that, when it is found necessary to occupy a historic building, the prevention of needless damage is the responsibility of the occupying unit or formation. It is respectfully requested that this be brought to the notice of all concerned. The Regional Fine Arts Officer, Region 3, ACC, will at all times be ready to give any technical advice required.

Copy to:

Fine Arts Officer, Region 3, ACC.

J.B. Ward

J.B. WARD HIKINS

Major, R.A.

Deputy Director.

Appendix to M. AGC letter
20034/2/AFIA of 3 July 44

CASERTA PALACE

Specific recommendations with regard to protection of valuable brocades, chimney-pieces, and other permanent fittings in the Appartamento Nuovo (ZI - ZO; scheduled for occupation) and Appartamento Vecchio (E - ZH; already occupied). Beaver-board to be used to a height of seven (7) feet on all walls affected.

Schedule 1. Rooms requiring protective treatment.

Schedule 2. Rooms of importance which do not require protective treatment but should be used with respect.

Schedule 3. List of important fittings which will remain in position.

Schedule 1.

Rooms requiring protective treatment.

<u>Room No.</u>	<u>Relative Importance</u>	<u>Special Contents and Action Recommended</u>
B	++	Green brocade, gilt and white panelled dado; large De Mura and Bardellino paintings; Chimney-piece
C	++	Mirrors; grey-blue brocade; carved decoration; panelled dado; chimney-piece
D	++	Mirrors; figured yellow brocade; carving and panelled dado; chimney-piece
E	++	Figured grey brocade; mirrors; panelled dado; chimney-piece
F	++	Dark olive painted walls with ornolu beading
G	++	Brown figured flock wall-paper
H		Rose brocade; white and gilt panelling; chimney-piece
I	+++	Yellow silk; mirrors; carved and gilt-metal decoration; very important room; if possible, used by a Senior Officer
I 1	+++	Maria Carolina's bathroom; if possible, to be used by a Senior Officer
J	+++	Very important carved and mirror decoration; if possible, to be used by a Senior Officer
J 1	+++	Maria Carolina's lavatory; same remarks as for I 1
K	+	Watered silk brocade and large pictures
L	++	Blue watered silk; ornolu fittings; mirrors
L 1		Small closet with mirror and console table in good condition; doors to be closed and boarded up
L 2	++	Striped silk; marble and ornolu chimney-piece
M 1	++	Striped silk; gold beading; grisaille decoration
O	++	Inlaid book-presses which should be covered if possible
Q	++	Book-presses with ornolu racks; chimney-piece
Z I	+++	<u>Appartamento Nuovo</u> Dark green brocade (in pristine condition)

1727

		and Bardallini paintings; Chimney-piece
C	++	Mirrors; grey-blue brocade; carved decoration; panelled dado; chimney-piece
D	++	Mirrors; figured yellow brocade; carving and panelled dado; chimney-piece
E	++	Figured grey brocade; mirrors; panelled dado; chimney-piece
F	++	Dark olive painted walls with ornolu beading
G	++	Brown figured flock wall-paper
H		Rose brocade; white and gilt panelling; chimney-piece
I	+++	Yellow silk; mirrors; carved and gilt-metal decoration; very important room; if possible, used by a Senior Officer
I 1	+++	<u>Maria Carolina's bathroom</u> ; if possible, to be used by a Senior Officer
J	+++	Very important carved and mirror decoration; if possible, to be used by a Senior Officer
J 1	+++	<u>Maria Carolina's lavatory</u> ; same remarks as for I 1
K	+	Watered silk brocade and large pictures
L	++	Blue watered silk; ornolu fittings; mirrors
L 1		Small closet with mirror and console table in good condition; doors to be closed and boarded up
L 2	++	Striped silk; marble and ornolu chimney-piece
M 1	++	Striped silk; gold beading; grisaille decoration
O	++	Inlaid book-presses which should be covered if possible
Q	++	Book-presses with ornolu racks; +chimney-piece
		<u>Apartamento Nuovo</u>
Z I	+++	Dark green brocade (in pristine condition)
ZJ	+++	Blue brocade
ZJ (1)	+++	Alabaster dressing table and granite bath
ZK	++	Brown striped brocade
ZL	+++	Red brocade
ZH	++	Green and yellow striped brocade

1727

Schedule 2.

Rooms of importance which do not require protective treatment but should be used with respect.

<u>Room No.</u>	<u>Relative Importance</u>	<u>Special Contents</u>
M	++	Early sixteenth cent. yellow and flowered wall-paper
N	++	Early sixteenth cent. blue and flowered wall-paper
P		Book-presses of minor interest
R	++	Painted decoration on walls
U		Painted decoration on walls
W	+	Painted decoration on walls; altar
ZG(1)		Little Oratory; with altar and painted walls

Appartamento Nuovo

ZN	+	Painted decoration about 4 ft. from floor
ZO	+	Painted decoration about 4 ft. from floor

Schedule 3.

List of important fittings which will,
or may, remain in position

<u>Room</u>	<u>Relative Importance</u>	<u>Remarks and Recommendations</u>
B		Candle Branches
C		" "
D		" "
E		" "
G	++	Chandelier and large Empire Buffet
I	++	Chandelier
J	++	Console Tables
M	+	Chandelier
S		Pictures and Settee
N		Remains of Chandelier
ZB	++	Chandelier
ZC	++	Chandelier
ZD		Remains of Chandelier
ZE	++	Chandelier
ZF	++	Ferdinand IV's barrel organs and cabinets containing cylinders; chandelier
ZG	++	Chandelier
ZHX	++	Chandelier

1726

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

10 July 1944

MEMO

TO : Whom It May Concern.

1. Pursuant to Par. 9, Adm. Instruction No. 10, Hq/, A.A.I. (Admin. Echelon) dated 30 March 1944, it is the ruling of the undersigned that, of the furnishings of the Royal Palaces of Caserta and Naples now stored in the Royal Stables of Caserta, only those pieces of furniture designated and set aside by the Superintendent of Monuments or his representative as not part of the national treasure can be requisitioned for any use what so ever.

For the Regional Commissioner:

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

1725

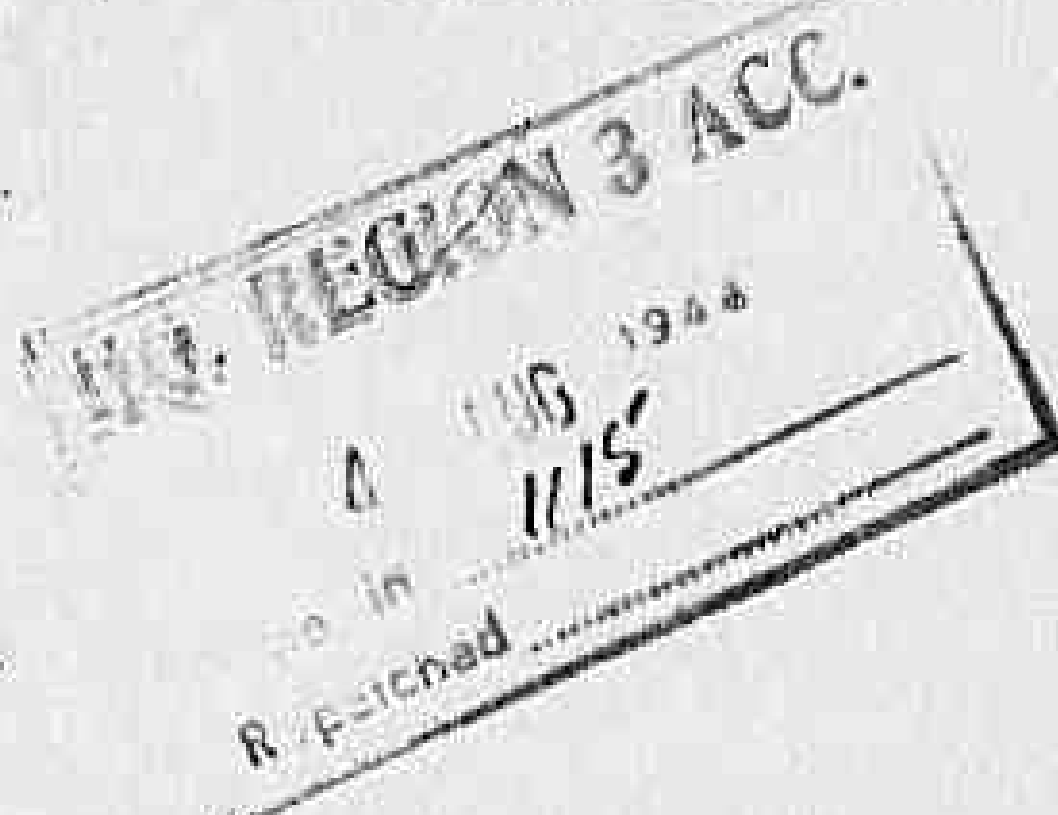
COPY

PRIORITYSECRET

AFHQ ACCOMMODATION CONTROL

2 July 1944

TO : FREEDOM
 INFO : ACC
 FROM : FAIRBANKS.



FROM AFHQ ACCOMMODATION CONTROL (.) Reference FX 66575 dated 30 June 44.

First. Bulk of materials and furniture at present stored in Caserta Palace can be moved and stored in stables at southern end of accommodation allotted to Camp Commandant (British) who is prepared to give up this space (.) This will avoid likelihood of damage through long journey in trucks to Naples (.) ACC agrees provided accommodation is made secure and weatherproof (.) Engineers can carry out necessary work forthwith (.) Request your early approval (.)

Second. Problem of finding storage space for large number of small fragile terracotta figures remains (.) ACC state, and we agree, that if figures are moved under present conditions great damage will be done (.) Coastal Air Force at present unwilling to provide such space (.) As no other immediate solution can be found request orders be issued that Coastal Air Force provide 200 sq feet of space in one of the rooms where furniture is at present stored (.) This area will then be blocked off and made secure (.)

Third. This is agreed by ACC and is our joint recommendation

1724

Apparently sent out under
 (already used) no.
 FX 66575, March
 Re no. BX 13246
 had been assigned to it.

/s/ F.E.B. Girling

/t/ F.E.B. GIRLING
Colonel.

Chairman A.F.H.Q. Accommodation Control.

To MFA or Office Region 3 for info.
 B. Fairbank, Lt Col
 C.C., MFAA

HQ. REGION 3 ACC.

25 GIU 1944

Time in
Dispatched

1630

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

John A. ...
JBW/P/imp

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

20034/2/MFAA

25 June 1944

Subject: Caserta Palace.

To : Regional Commissioner, AMG, Region 3, attention Major
Gardner, MFAA Officer.

1. Ref. your FA - 82 of 24 June 44.
2. The HQ. of the Subcommission will shortly, it is hoped, be moving to ROME, but Capt. Croft-Murray will remain as a rear-party to complete the publication of our remaining List of Protected Monuments and to assist you as requested in the matter of CASERTA.
3. He is nominated for a subsequent assignment but I do not think this is likely to arise before both jobs are cleared.

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

1723

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

24 June 1944

FA - 82

SUBJECT: Removal of Furnishings from Royal Palace of Caserta
and Protection of Wall Coverings.

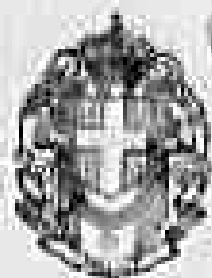
TO : Subcommittee For Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives,
Headquarters, ACO.

1. In connection with the possible need to remove the furniture and paintings from the Royal Palace of Caserta to the Royal Palace of Capodimonte and the definite need that all wall surfaces be covered for protection before occupation, the assistance of Captain Croft-Murray for several weeks is requested to supervise this.

2. Because of the scope of the work of Region 3 and the fact that the Section is without other personnel, it would be impossible for the undersigned to supervise this work personally and satisfactorily.

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

1722



*R. Soprintendenza ai Monumenti
della Campania*

IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII

Prot. N° 928 Sez. _____

Risposta a _____ del _____ Div. _____

Allegati _____

Napoli

ALL'A.C.C. / A.M.G.

SUB-COMMISSION MONUMENTS AND
FINE ARTS

N A P O L I

OGGETTO: - CASERTA - R. Parco. -

Mi sono stati segnalati alcuni danneggiamenti verificatisi nel R. Parco della Reggia di Caserta, ad opera di militari Alleati.

Recentemente nel viale di destra alla " Margherita " sono state rimosse e lasciate in terra tre erme.

Nella " Vasca di Diana ", usata come piscina per bagno dalle truppe Alleate, i militari salgono sui gruppi di statue, provocando sfregi e rotture delle sculture, nelle parti più fragili.

Nel " giardino inglese ", già tanto devastato, è stata fatta una nuova apertura, abbattendo anche due magnifiche piante di camelia, che potevano essere risparmiate.

E' mio dovere segnalare questi inconvenienti nella certezza che vorrà provvedersi per evitare il loro ripetersi.

1721

IL SOPRINTENDENTE
(Bruno Molajoli)

[Handwritten signature]

*Checked
on 22/6/44
with Capt. Craft. W. H. H. H.
"Vasca di Diana" now at of bones.
"Garden English" not today
damaged. P.S.*

SECRETHEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

JEMP/hmp

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

20034/2/MEAA

25 June 1944.

Subject: Royal Palace, Caserta.

To : Vice President, Ada Section.

Items 11, 19 bis, 23, 35A and 35B of the attached file specially refer.

1. This Subcommission has been informed that a portion of AFHQ is proposing to move into the Appartamento Nuovo (or 'Al Nuovi') at CASERTA, which is at present used as storage-space for the best surviving furniture and paintings from Caserta Palace and from the Royal Palace at Naples, and that all the contents have to be moved within a fortnight. (Major Gardner, MEAA Officer, Region III, verbally from Col. Ramsey, i/c Accommodation, Adv. Party of AFHQ.) Col. Ramsey had no knowledge of the action taken by Col. Spofford (35A, attached file) on our behalf.

2. The only space allocated for storage-space is now the chapel, which is quite insufficient. It is moreover in use by the Catholic S.O.F., admittedly with the proviso that if needed it can be used once more for storage (see item 41).

3. In view of the existing orders and in particular of the Supreme Allied Commander's recent strictures on past happenings at CASERTA itself (item 28), there can be no question but that these furnishings should remain in store and that every additional move under wartime conditions means further damage and delapidation.

4. In case, however, it should be necessary to move them, the Subcommission is trying to arrange storage-space at CAPODIMONTE, but it will be necessary also to obtain -

- a) transport: approximately 25 3-tonners
- b) additional labour, to work under MEAA supervision.

These will have to be supplied by AFHQ.

1720

Despatched map
L. EMBERT F. DE WILD

To : Vice President, Adm Section.

Items 11, 19 Ms, 28, 55A and 55B of the attached file specially refer.

1. This Subcommittee has been informed that a portion of AFHQ is proposing to move into the Appartamento Nuovo (or 'di Murat') at CASERTA, which is at present used as storage-space for the best surviving furniture and paintings from Caserta Palace and from the Royal Palace at Naples, and that all the contents have to be moved within a fortnight. (Major Gardner, MEAA Officer, Region III, verbally from Col. Ramsey, i/c Accommodation, Adv. Party of AFHQ.) Col. Ramsey had no knowledge of the action taken by Col. Spofford (55A, attached file) on our behalf.

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- b) additional labour, to work under MEAA supervision.

These will have to be supplied by AFHQ.

1729

Ernest T. De Wald

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

Copied to AFHQ officer, Region III

SECRET

C O P Y
 HQ. REGION 3 ACC.
 16 MAG 1944
 Time in 1730
 Dispatched

Max Gardner

RCS ✓
 FA

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
 Military Government Section.

9 May 1944

My dear Lush:

Your letter of 3 May, reference 1015/20/EC, has been brought to the personal notice of the Commanding Officer, HQ. Command, AFHQ, who is the officer charged with allotting accommodations for AFHQ, and at his request a copy of it has been supplied to him for his files and for future reference. He promised that if and when detailed allotment of space in the Palace is made for AFHQ use that the points you raise should receive consideration.

Sincerely,

(Signed) CHARLES M. SPOFFORD,
 Colonel, G.S.C.

Brigadier Maurice S. Lush,
 Executive Commissioner,
 Regional Control & Mil. Gov't Sec.,
 HQ. Allied Control Commission,
 A.P.O. 394.

To MFA & A. Officer, Region III.

1719

Copies of recent correspondence concerning storage space at Caserta are passed for retention on your file. You will note that the officer charged with allotting accommodation has a copy of Brigadier Lush's letter, and it will be well to contact him at the earliest possible opportunity if you should hear of any invasion.

Edward Penin Maya 16/5/44.

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394

1015/20/EC.

3rd May 1944.

My dear Spofford,

May I bring to your attention a worry which is facing the Monuments & Fine Arts Sub-Commission.

The Royal Palace at Caserta, as you know, is occupied by a Headquarters which, with the agreement of the Monuments and Fine Arts Sub-Commission, has reserved a small suite of apartments as storage space for the best of the furniture and pictures of the Royal Palaces, both at Caserta and Naples. There are many beautiful and valuable objects stored in these rooms and a further removal would cause inevitable damage.

The Monuments & Fine Arts Sub-Commission have now heard that the Palace at Caserta is to be occupied eventually by A.F.H.Q. with the result that the Appartamento Nuovo and Appartamento di Murat are to be utilised as offices and the objects will have to be moved.

I feel that a word in the right direction would prevent someone at A.F.H.Q. doing what we are all trying to avoid, that is to say, damaging works of art and culture, and I am writing to ask you whether you will put that word in the right quarter and ensure that the objects are preserved in these rooms during hostilities.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Mourice Lush.

Colonel Charles M. Spofford,
Chief of Military Government Section,
Allied Force Headquarters.

1718

MSL/JG.

D.O.

2003/2/AFSA

HQ. ACC - APO 394
Subcomm. for AFSA

13 April 1944

Dear Major Gardner:

You may be interested to know that I have heard from Major Drury-Lowe, Camp Commandant of A.A.I., that he has arranged for the Palace employees at Caserta to have their midday meal with the Italians employed by A.A.I. I would be glad if you could pass on this information to Molaioli.

I should also be grateful if you would let Molaioli know about Cav. Noce's request to me that Palace employees should have an increase in salary on account of the work which they performed when we were recovering the furniture and in view of similar work which they might be called upon to do in the future.

If I remember rightly you said that Molaioli's reactions would be distinctly against ~~an~~ such a procedure.

Yours sincerely

*Edward Croft Murray*Major Paul Gardner
Division of Fine Arts
HQ. Reg. III. AMF.

1717

Eda Fa

D. O.

20034/2/NFAA

M. ACC. - APO 394
Successor for NFAA

15 April 1944

Egregio Cavaliere:

Una notizia - per lei, spero, gradevole - mi e' giunta dal Maggiore Drury-Lowe, "Camp Commandant" del Comando delle Armate Alleate in Italia, che secondo un nuovo accordo fra le Autorita' i suoi impiegati riceveranno, giornalmente, insieme agli Italiani degli Uffici A.A.I., una colazione a mezzogiorno.

Riguardo la questione di un aumento del salario agli impiegati del Palazzo, questo affare e' stato da me riferito al Maggiore Gardner, Ufficiale per i Monumenti e Belle Arti, IIIa Regione, A.M.G., il quale suggerisce che la cosa dovrebbe essere sottomessa da lei direttamente al Soprintendente.

Accolgo anche la lettera per la Signora del Proto che vorra' essere cosi' gentile di trasmettergliela.

Mi rincorrerebbe molto di non essermi potuto recare a Caserta per passarvi la domenica di Pasqua; il partecipare alla Sua festa di famiglia sarebbe stato per me una cosa veramente piacevole. La ringrazio dell'invito, mentre mi scuso di essere stato impedito dall'accettarlo.

Saluti cordiali.

Copy to Major Gardner

E.C.M

H. GRIFF-MURRAY
Captain.

Cav. Neos.
Direttore della Reggia di Caserta
tramite:
Major Friend-James.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

RM/vr

20034/2/AFAA

5 April 1944

SUBJECT: Recovery of Furniture in the Royal Palace of Caserta.

TO : Director
Commissioner, AFASA Subcommission.

A. PRESENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE FURNITURE.

1. At Caserta is now housed not only the furniture belonging to that Palace, but also much of that belonging to the Royal Palace of Naples.
2. Most of the more important pieces of the Caserta furniture were carefully stored, when Italy entered the War, and are therefore still in good condition.
3. That belonging to Naples was brought out to Caserta for safety when the city was threatened by invasion, and was stored mainly in the Appartamento Vecchio, where also stood in situ much of the remaining Caserta furniture.
4. During the process of military occupation from October 1943, onward this store of furniture was liberally drawn upon by the formations entering the building, especially A.F.H.Q. and T.A.F., for use in offices and messes. Requisition was carried out in a most haphazard fashion with the result that sets of furniture were indiscriminately broken up and widely distributed throughout the building. The Palace authorities had no control over the situation and were able to remove to safety only a few items, before the remainder was looted.
5. In the course of the past five months this furniture has been subjected to continuous and heavy use, for which it is completely unsuited. Much of it is made of soft wood which long ago has become riddled by worms, and, in the case of chairs and couches, the slightest strain put on them has resulted in broken arms and legs. Likewise many of the silk covers, which were anyhow in a very frail condition, have been unable to withstand the constant contact with battle-dress serge.

B. RECOVERY OF FURNITURE

1. It was therefore, decided that steps should be taken to recover as much as possible of this furniture in order to prevent its further deterioration. The cooperation of G/Ops, A.A.I. was invoked, and an order, signed by the G.C.S. himself was issued by this branch empowering me to take whatever action I considered necessary for the recovery of the furniture in question.
2. Note had already been taken of the articles to be reclaimed; and it was decided to give precedence to those belonging to the Royal Palace at Naples, because of the damage which that building had already sustained and

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because its furniture appeared to be of relatively more importance than that belonging to Caserta, at least as far as the chairs and couches were concerned.

3. Sgt. As Lucia arrived on 24 March and from then till 28 March the actual task of recovery was carried out by the Palace Staff under his and my direction. Replacements from the Palace stock were found for nearly all pieces taken, to prevent as little discomfort as possible to the branches and messes concerned.

4. The following are details of some of the more important pieces recovered:-

CASERTA

(a) Writing Table; Empire style; figured wood with ornolu mounts; legs shaped harpies; formerly in the possession Queen Maria Carolina. In fairly good condition.

(b) Upright Secrétaire; about 1800; satin and other woods; drop front lined with green leather. In fairly good condition.

(c) Writing Desk; Empire style; Mahogany with ornolu mounts; marble top; formerly in the Sala da Franco. Two of the ornolu mounts off, but these have been preserved.

(d) Console Table; Empire style, Mahogany with ornolu mounts; marble top broken. The pendant already in store.

(e) Two Large Console Tables; Louis XVI style; gilt with applied gesso decoration; of ravens, garlands, etc; Rosa di Francia tops; from the Sala degli Alabastri. Some of the applied decoration knocked off.

(f) Console Table; about 1790; half octagonal; painted and carved decoration; buff marble top; from the Servizio Maria Teresa. Some of the decoration is damaged. The other table, which is in good condition is in the Commanding General's room, T.A.F.

(g) Two Couches, four elbow chairs, and single chairs; about 1790; painted and carved decoration; covered with the original material woven with formal flowers; from the Servizio Maria Teresa. The covering in bad condition. The remainder of the set is unharmed, having always been in store.

(h) Ten Single Chairs; about 1790; painted decoration; covered with green material. In good condition.

(i) Three Elbow Chairs; Louis XVI style; black and gold covered with yellow cloth; from the Servizio Ferdinando II. In very bad condition. The remainder of the set, however, is unharmed having always been in store.

Four Couches; Empire style; gilt; arms ending in lions heads; covered with rose silk woven with foliated designs in gold (N. 10610 etc.). Seven chairs of this set are in Gen. Dover's private mess, and another, the eighth, is with G.S.I./S.

(b) One Settee, Eight Elbow, and Four Single Chairs; Empire style; gilt; flaring top with mask finial, and arms resting on winged female figures; covered with yellow brocade; from the Sala Famiglia Lotti (N. 10346 etc.). Presumably four single chairs are still missing. The other Settee has always been in store.

In varying conditions, the set having been distrusted throughout different departments.

(c) Two Settees, Eight Elbow, and Eight Single Chairs; Empire style; gilt; covered with brown and gold brocade; from the Sala Coligny.

In varying conditions, having been distributed throughout different departments.

(d) Four Couches and Ten Elbow Chairs; Empire style; the arms of the chairs resting on lions heads; covered with blue and gold brocade; from the Sala degli Ambasciatori.

In varying conditions, having been distributed throughout different departments.

(e) One Couch, One Elbow Chair and Eleven Single Chairs; Louis-Philippe Rococo; white and gold; covered with gold and silver patterned brocade; from the Sala Vittorio Emanuele.

In fairly good condition. The remaining armchair and single chair are in two branches of T.A.F. and await replacement.

(f) Two Elbow Chairs, Eleven Single Chairs; Louis-Philippe Rococo; Gilt; covered with red and gold brocade; from the Sala d'Orfeo.

In fairly good condition. The remaining two couches and one single chair have been located and await replacement.

(g) Two Couches and Ten Elbow Chairs; Empire style; gilt; the arms resting on winged gryphons, covered with rose and white patterned brocade; from the Sala del Figliuol Prodigo.

In fairly good condition.

5. In all, about 3 tables, 4 consoles, 16 couches and 94 chairs have been recovered. The smaller items have been stored in the Appartamento Nuovo, the remainder in the Chapel.

6. On the whole the Camp Commandants and Heads of Branches concerned were most cooperative, but, even so, the matter had to be handled with a certain amount of diplomacy. Furthermore, the task could not have been carried out without stocks having been available on the premises for the making replacements, which now have become exhausted. There still remains a large quantity of furniture to be reclaimed and it is suggested that powers should be given to this subcommission to requisition modern furniture from outside sources in order to meet this immediate requirement, and any similar cases which may arise in the future.

Edward Croft Murray
M. CROFT-MURRAY
Capt., M.I.

1713

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ECM/vr

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives.

20034/2

5 March 1944

SUBJECT: Removal of Furniture from the Chapel of the
Royal Palace, Caserta.

TO : Director, MPAA Subcommission.

1. On 1 April 1944, when inspecting, in company with the Director, the recently recovered furniture which had been stored on the floor of the Chapel, I noticed that a number of chairs had disappeared.

2. Both Signor Battaglia and his assistant, Signor Marino, denied any knowledge of when they might have been taken.

3. The Chapel door is fastened with a padlock, two keys to which are held by Battaglia and Marino respectively, while a third is kept by Father Cahill (U.S. Army Chaplain) who celebrates Mass there in a side-chapel every morning. There was no evidence of the lock having been tampered with, or the door broken open.

4. I interviewed Father Cahill and his clerk, both of whom denied having lent their key to any one. The clerk, however, rather reluctantly informed me that he thought he knew where the furniture might be, and took me round to City Administration (A.M.G.) Officers' Mess, where were a number of chairs which I had already known about. His action was a curious coincidence, however, in the light of further developments, mentioned below at 7.

5. I also made enquiries at the time of various other branches, including A.P.H.Q., the original holders of the chairs in question, but they all denied any knowledge of the incident.

6. I was subsequently informed by Pte. Denton of A.C.C. Liaison that he was standing in the vestibule at the top of the Grand Staircase, on the morning of 30 March when he saw a party of American M.I. carrying a number of white and gold elbow chairs out of the Chapel and down the stairs. The description of these chairs suggested that they were part of the missing furniture.

7. It was not until April 3rd., when I paid another visit to Caserta, that I happened to mention what had occurred to Capt. Bryon, Camp Commandant of City Administration. He said that he thought that perhaps the furniture in question was now being used in the bar which had recently been opened in connection with his Mess.

This bar was on the floor above the City Administration Mess, and indeed there we found all the missing chairs.

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8. I spoke to W/O Montes, who had been responsible for obtaining this furniture, and he informed me that he had asked Battaglia whether it would be all right to have some furniture and received (as he thought) his assent. He (Montes) then found the door of the Chapel open and helped himself. I pointed out that he had no right to take the furniture, and he assured me that he had no knowledge that there was any officer like myself in control, to whom he should apply in the event of his requiring some. I must confess that I am not altogether satisfied with W/O Montes's explanation. Orders were given for the immediate return of the furniture.

9. I then questioned Battaglia, who said he remembered being approached by 'un maresciallo americano' who asked if he could have some furniture for a bar, but that he (Battaglia) had shown him my order, and that is as far as it got. He certainly had never assented to any furniture's being taken, nor, indeed, was any taken with his knowledge.

10. I feel the whole conduct of the affair does not reflect particularly well on A.M.C., whose duty it is to prevent just such incidents as this one from occurring. I would therefore suggest that the substance of this report be sent to Col. Spyrock for his information.

Edward Croft Murray
E. CROFT-MURRAY
Captain, R.I.
AFSA Subcommission.

D.O.

IR. ACC - AFO 394,
MMAA Subcomm.

7 April 1944

20034/2/1FAA

I was over at Caserta yesterday and came to call on you at the Castelluccio but found you had gone into Naples.

There is a certain problem connected with the Palace staff which I had wished to discuss with you. As you may know, there are about twenty official employees under the Soprintendenza ai Monumenti, who do excellent work looking after both the grounds and contents of the Palace. Until recently they have been fed at midday at the canteen provided by 5th Army for their civilian Italian employees, but now that that formation has moved on, they are no longer receiving this benefit. Their position is rendered very difficult, as most of them do not live in Caserta or the near neighbourhood at all, and would, therefore, have to travel several miles on foot in order to get back to their homes for lunch, thereby wasting much time and, as like as not, preventing their returning at all for duty at the Palace in the afternoon.

From my Sub-Commission's point of view, it would be of great advantage to retain their services at the Palace throughout the day, and I wondered, therefore, whether you would be good enough to let them feed with your Italian employees. I feel rather diffident about asking you to do this after all the kindness which you have already shown me, but if you feel that it could be managed, I know my Sub-Commission and I would be most grateful to you.

I hope you got my report on the Palace all right and found it of some interest. Again let me thank you for all the hospitality and good will which you showed me at the Palace which made my stay there such an interesting and delightful one.

Yours

E.C.M.

Major John Druffy-Lowe
Scots Guards.
Camp Commandant A.A.I.

1710

HEADQUARTERS
REGION III ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army

.... March 1944

SUBJECT : Royal Palace at Caserta
TO : Executive Commissioner, Hq. A.C.C., A.P.O. 394

1. With the piecemeal occupation, since Jan. 1944, of the greater part of the Royal Palace of Caserta, there now only remain available, for storage of the more important contents, the following rooms:

- a. The chapel
- b. The rooms which at present house the Archives and books from the library.
- c. The Appartamento Nuovo and the Appartamento di Murat, which together form a small, isolated suite with separate access, at the S.W. angle of the building.

2. The furniture, pictures, and fittings of the Palace are of varied importance, but together they constitute an essential element of the artistic and historic ensemble. They have suffered severely from the ravages of misappropriation and of requisition, often for purposes for which they are wholly unsuited.

3. For a month past an officer of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Subcommittee has been engaged in recovering and recollecting the surviving fittings into the Appartamento Nuovo and Murat. Despite excellent relations with the individual camp-commandants he has been severely hampered by the absence of any single responsible officer with whom to deal, and by the lack of authority to resist requisition.

4. It is now understood that AFHQ may arrive in the near future and that their proposed plan of
.../...

occupation involves the use of the Appartamenti named. There is no alternative storage-space, and a further move will be disastrous for the contents.

5. The following are the minimum requirements for the proper upkeep of this important monument under the present conditions:

a. The reservation from military occupation of the Appartamenti Nuovo and Murat, of the chapel, and of the rooms at present used for storage of books and archives, and the continued access thereto of Sig. BATTAGLIA, the present custodian.

b. The appointment of a single officer to be responsible for the whole building. This is in accordance with the recommendation of Major General Collier's Report Section 70.

c. The clear understanding that the representative of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives sub-commission has authority to prevent the requisition of historically and artistically important furniture and fitting. The onus of appeal to Higher Authority in such an instance should certainly lie with the requisitioning authority.

6. This matter has been subject of discussion between the undersigned and the Director of MFAA Subcommittee and the minimum requirements of para 5 are strongly recommended for fulfillment.

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
Regional Commissioner

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

ECM/bmp

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

20034/2/MFAA

14 March 1944.

Subject: Removal of Sculpture from the Palace of Caserta.

To : Director, Subcommission for MFAA.

1. On the morning of March 10th, 1944, I was informed by Cav. Giuseppe Noce, the Director of the Gardens at Caserta, that American soldiers were in the process of removing statues and other sculpture, which had been stored in a room at the foot of one of the staircases in the N.E. entrance to the Palace, and had already damaged one of the statues.

2. I immediately went to the place in question and found that the American Supply Section of M.A.A.F. were taking over the room as a store and had orders to get it cleared as soon as possible.

3. The sculpture in it was of the garden variety and none of any great importance, though all was well worth preserving from damage. It included two large female figures, a Bernineque cherub, two heads, a relief of a reclining nymph dated 1496, and several blocks of carved marble intended for the cornice of some building.

4. When I arrived, I found in attendance a large truck belonging to M.A.A.F. and a hydraulic crane supplied by the American 230 Q.M. Co. S.C. The crane was, at the moment of my arrival, hauling one of the large female figures into the truck; little respect had evidently been shown to the statue and one arm had been broken in the process of moving it out of the room. I expressed my extreme displeasure at what had happened, and asked why I had not been warned that this clearance was to take place. I thenceforth stood by, and superintended the removal of the remainder of the marbles, which was successfully accomplished except for some minor chips on the carved blocks.

5. The greater part of the material was stacked outside the N.E. entrance, but the second of the two female figures, which was too large to haul into the truck, was placed in the well of the staircase outside the room.

6. On March 11th I obtained permission to use the crane and

1707

Subject: Removal of Sculpture from the Palace of Caserta.

To : Director, Subcommittee for MFA&A.

1. On the morning of March 10th, 1944, I was informed by Cav. Giuseppe Noce, the Director of the Gardens at Caserta, that American soldiers were in the process of removing statues and other sculpture, which had been stored in a room at the foot of one of the staircases in the N.E. entrance to the Palace, and had already damaged one of the statues.
2. I immediately went to the place in question and found that the American Supply Section of M.A.A.F. were taking over the room as a store and had orders to get it cleared as soon as possible.
3. The sculpture in it was of the garden variety and none of any great importance, though all was well worth preserving from damage. It included two large female figures, a Bernineque cherub, two heads, a relief of a reclining nymph dated 1486, and several blocks of carved marble intended for the cornice of some building.
4. When I arrived, I found in attendance a large truck belonging to M.A.A.F. and a hydraulic crane supplied by the American 230 Q.M. Co. S.C. The crane was, at the moment of my arrival, hauling one of the large female figures into the truck; little respect had evidently been shown to the statue and one arm had been broken in the process of moving it out of the room. I expressed my extreme displeasure at what had happened, and asked why I had not been warned that this clearance was to take place. I thenceforth stood by, and superintended the removal of the remainder of the marbles, which was successfully accomplished except for some minor chips on the carved blocks.
5. The greater part of the material was stacked outside the N.E. entrance, but the second of the two female figures, which was too large to haul into the truck, was placed in the well of the staircase outside the room.
6. On March 11th I obtained permission to use the crane and the truck, and transported the entire collection of sculpture to the storehouse at L'Aia Ercole in the Park, where Cav. Noce said that he would like it placed. It was not possible to move the larger pieces into the store, but these have been arranged outside and will be covered with earth in due course.
7. I should like to record the good work done by the men of 230 Q.M. Co. S.C., in charge of the crane, who, as soon as they realised that their load was to be treated with respect, took the greatest possible care of it.

Copy to:

MFA Office, Reg. III

Edward Croft Murray
E. CROFT-MURRAY
Captain.

1707

HEADQUARTERS,
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref: 340/15/CA.

7th March 1944.

SUBJECT: Royal Palace at Caserta.

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

1. With the piecemeal occupation since January 1944 of the greater part of the Royal Palace of Caserta, there now only remain available for storage of the more important contents the following rooms:

- (a) The chapel.
- (b) The rooms which at present house the Archives and books from the library.
- (c) The Appartamento Nuovo and the Appartamento di Murat, which together form a small isolated suite with separate access at the S.E. angle of the building.

2. The furniture, pictures, and fittings of the Palace are of varied importance, but together they constitute an essential element of the artistic and historic ensemble. They have suffered severely from the ravages of misappropriation and of requisition, often for purposes for which they are wholly unsuited.

3. The following are the minimum requirements for the proper upkeep of this important monument under the present conditions:

- (a) The reservation from military occupation of the Appartamento Nuovo and Murat, of the chapel, and of the rooms at present used for storage of books and archives, and the continued access thereto of Sig. BATTAGLIA, the present custodian.
- (b) The appointment of a single officer to be responsible for the whole building. This is in accordance with the recommendation of Major General Collier's Report, Section 70.

1706

(c)...../

-2-

- (c) The clear understanding that the representative of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission has authority to prevent the requisition of historically and artistically important furniture and fittings. The onus of appeal to Higher Authority in such an instance should certainly lie with the requisitioning authority.

4. I should be glad to have the assurance that these requirements will be fully met.

M. S. Lusk

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

MSH/JG.

Copy to: M.G.S., A.F.M.O.
Regional Commissioner, Region 3 - reference your
letter of 5 March 1944.
Monuments & Fine Arts Sub-Commission.

1705

HEADQUARTERS
REGION III ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army

.... March 1944

SUBJECT : Royal Palace at Caserta

TO : Executive Commissioner, Hq. A.G.C., A.P.O. 394

1. With the piecemeal occupation, since Jan. 1944, of the greater part of the Royal Palace of Caserta, there now only remain available, for storage of the more important contents, the following rooms:

- a. The chapel
- b. The rooms which at present house the Archives and books from the library.
- c. The Appartamento Nuove and the Appartamento di Murat, which together form a small, isolated suite with separate access, at the S.W. angle of the building.

2. The furniture, pictures, and fittings of the Palace are of varied importance, but together they constitute an essential element of the artistic and historic ensemble. They have suffered severely from the ravages of misappropriation and of requisition, often for purposes for which they are wholly unsuited.

3. For a month past an officer of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Subcommittee has been engaged in recovering and recollecting the surviving fittings into the Appartamento Nuove and Murat. Despite excellent relations with the individual camp-commandants he has been severely hampered by the absence of any single responsible officer with whom to deal, and by the lack of authority to resist requisition.

4. It is now understood that AFHQ may arrive in the near future and that their proposed plan of

1704
.../...

occupation involves the use of the Appartamenti named. There is no alternative storage-space, and a further move will be disastrous for the contents.

5. The following are the minimum requirements for the proper upkeep of this important monument under the present conditions:

a. The reservation from military occupation of the Appartamenti Nuovo and Murat, of the chapel, and of the rooms at present used for storage of books and archives, and the continued access thereto of Sig. BATTAGLIA, the present custodian.

b. The appointment of a single officer to be responsible for the whole building. This is in accordance with the recommendation of Major General Collier's Report Section 70.

c. The clear understanding that the representative of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives sub-commission has authority to prevent the requisition of historically and artistically important furniture and fitting. The onus of appeal to Higher Authority in such an instance should certainly lie with the requisitioning authority.

6. This matter has been subject of discussion between the undersigned and the Director of MFAA Subcommission and the minimum requirements of para 5 are strongly recommended for fulfillment.

CHARLES POLSETTI
Lt. Colonel
Regional Commissioner

1703

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

MI/njd

Subcommission Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

In reply refer to:
20031/MPAA

29 February 1944.

SUBJECT: Palace at Caserta.

TO : Executive Commissioner (CA Branch), ROADM Section AGC

1. It is requested that the following facts and recommendations relating to the occupation of the Palace at Caserta be called to the attention of the Commander-in-Chief, ACOMF and of the Commander-in-Chief, AFHQ.

2. With the occupation, since January 1944, by T.A.F. and other formations of the main portion of the State Apartments at Caserta, there now only remain available the following rooms for storing the more valuable property belonging to the Palace:-

- a. The Chapel.
- b. The rooms now housing the Archives and books from the Library.
- c. The Appartamento Nuovo (of Francesco II).
- d. The Appartamento di Murat.

3. In the two last mentioned sets of Apartments situated on the 3rd floor in the S.W. angle and W. side of the S.W. cortile, are at present collected the best pieces of furniture, including those associated with Joachim Murat, as well as a large quantity of pictures which have historical and artistic interest. These Apartments are well fitted for their present function, as there is direct access to them and they can thus be closely supervised by the Custode of the Palace and his staff, without in any way interfering with existing military installations.

4. It is understood that A.F.H. may arrive in the near future and requisition for their use these particular Apartments, with the result that their contents would again have to be moved and perhaps stored outside the Palace. The furniture and pictures inevitably have already suffered damage or loss in the course of several moves, and doubtless yet another move will cause further deterioration. Attention is called in this connection to the report of the Commission

1702

(Cont. para. 4.)

(4) appointed by A.F.M.G. to enquire into damage done to monuments by occupying troops (para. 42, Palazzo of Caserta). It should also be pointed out that it would be very difficult to find any further place where the contents could be adequately and safely housed.

5. It is therefore most strongly recommended that, subject only to the most imperative military needs, the following rooms in the Palace at Caserta should not be requisitioned for use as offices, nor should their valuable contents be disturbed:-

- a. The Royal Chapel
- b. The rooms housing the Archives and books from the Library.
- c. The Appartamento Nuovo.
- d. The Appartamento di Murat.

6. It is also strongly recommended that the Custodian, Signor Battaglia, should be allowed to remain in residence in the Palace, so that he can continue to exercise proper control over the building and its contents, which are committed to his care.

MASON HAMMOND
Captain, Air Corps
For the Director.

Copies to:

GEO, Adm. Sect., AGC
Capt. Croft-Murray
MEASA Officer, Reg. 3
Dott. Molajoli, R. Sopr. alle Gallerie
File 30901

1701

22 February 1944

1. The Royal Palace of Caserta is at present largely occupied by several Commands of the Allied Forces. This occupation was stated to be a military necessity and permission was granted from AFHQ.

2. Before this occupation, the allocation of certain sections in the Palace was secured for the storing of the Library and unused furnishings of the Palace. These have all been moved to these sections under the supervision of the Royal Superintendent of Monuments and the Fine Arts Division of AMG.

3. The head custodian still resides in the Palace and supervises it. As far as is known, no Palace personnel has been discharged.

4. At present, the Sub-Commission of Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives has assigned an officer to the Royal Palace at Caserta whose sole duty is to act as liaison between the occupying Allied Forces and the Italian Superintendent of Monuments and his staff.

To Minister of Education Cuomo.

Requested freeing of requisition of Palace at Caserta

1700

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 464, U.S. Army

20 November 1943.

MEMORANDUM

TO : Major Shenkle, 10th Artillery, A.P.O. 464.

SUBJECT : Repair of Military Buildings Damaged
by Bombs.

1. Prof. MOLAJOLI, Superintendent of Museums of the Province of Naples, informs me that you are charged with repairs of military buildings damaged by bombs. It occurs to me that some of these may be historical monuments such as the Palazzo Reale at Caserta.

2. If this is so, I recommend most definitely that such repairs as covering bombed roofs and glazing broken windows be carried out as soon as possible to prevent further damage.

PAUL GARDNER,
Maj., AUS,
Division of Education
and Fine Arts.

1693

Heading

20 November, 1943

Memorandum

To : Major Shenkle, 10th Artillery, A.P.O. 469

Subject : Repair of Military Buildings Damaged by Bombs.

1. Prof. Molajoli, Superintendent of Museums of the Province of Naples, informs me that you are charged with repairs of military buildings damaged by bombs. It occurs to me that some of these may be historical monuments such as the Palazzo Reale at Caserta.

2. If this is so, I recommend most definitely that such repairs as covering bombed roofs and glazing broken windows be carried out as soon as possible to prevent further damage.

Paul Sordani

Maj. A. U. S. 1698

Division of Education and Fine Arts

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

31 Dec. 1943.

Memorandum to: Major Paul Gardner, Chief.

Subject : Trip to Capua and Caserta.

1. In accordance with the instructions of Major Boettiger, I visited Caserta on 29 Dec. to speak briefly on the significance of Rome to the officers and e/m of the Fifth Army stationed there.

2. I took with me Major J.B. Ward Perkins, recently arrived from the Middle East to serve on the Subcommittee for Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives, AMG. We left after lunch to visit Capua.

3. At Capua we inspected the Cathedral and the Museo Campana.

4. In the Cathedral, we found a contractor, Sig. Raffaele Modugno, who had worked on the restoration 10 yrs. ago and is deeply interested in the preservation of what can be saved. Under instructions from the Archbishop he has a few men seeking to collect and store fragments of marble etc. In particular, he has removed to storage the capital and one piece of the Easter Candlestick. A third fragment was too big to move and was being used by troops as a chopping block for making kindling. Modugno has buried it under rubble to protect it. He has also recovered and stored certain pictures.

5. Not only the Cathedral but the adjacent Episcopal Palace and Seminary were badly destroyed and at many points there is free access. The Capt. in charge of the 101 MP Bn. has had notices printed and posted in English warning troops that the properties are off limits. Modugno reports, however, that they still come and take wood and other materials, and not merely broken wood for kindling but cut up big beams which might be of use later. Apparently before the notices were posted, they removed furniture, including two pianos and one supposedly good picture, from the Palace and Seminary.

6. There are undoubtedly recoverable fragments buried in the rubble, of choir stalls, sculpture, and the important crypt. However, the removal of the rubble will be a long job and requires care and probably cannot be undertaken until the town itself is somewhat cleared up so that trucks may have access. It is therefore recommended

- 2 -

that as soon as possible the means of access be walled up either with drystone walls or with barbed wire. Superintendent Molaloli reports that there is a local Honorary Curator who could take charge of this in conjunction with Modugno. The work should be begun at once and an estimate submitted as soon as possible to secure the necessary funds.

7. The front wing of the Museo Campano has been badly destroyed so that there was free access to ~~rooms~~ the interior over the rubble. This condition has been somewhat remedied because a path has been cut through the rubble next the wall, making it harder to climb up but not impossible. There is not much that can be stolen as the objects still in place are heavy sculpture; the smaller objects were stored in cases which are now buried in the rubble in the cellar. The left rear corner wall was also broken down and a regular path has been beaten over it into the Museum. The custodian states that he does not think anything has been stolen except a typewriter.

8. It is recommended that a temporary wall of stone or barbed wire be erected along the front and at the rear corner and that further the door on the left of the main entrance passage, leading into the destroyed rooms, be walled up (as also the door at the other end of the same rooms). Again, the labor of removing the rubble will be slow and it is unlikely that the contents will suffer more damage by being left in place than they already have.

9. Time did not permit of an inspection of S. Maria di Capua Vecchia, though it was noted that troops are using the piazza in front of the amphitheatre, or of S. Angelo in Formis.

10. At Caserta we were entertained by Major Collins, liaison officer for AMG 5th Army, and by Major Boettiger. I spoke for about 1/2 hour at 1930 to a small theatre full of personnel and then answered a few questions. The talk was followed by two films on Russia's fight against the Germans, which, I fear, explained the full house.

Mason Hammond
Mason Hammond
Capt. AC.

1696

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

31 Dec. 1943.

Memorandum to: Major Paul Gardner, Chief.

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1685

- 2 -

that as soon as possible the means of access be walled up either with drystone walls or with barbed wire. Superintendent Volcioli reports that there is a local Honorary Curator who could take charge of this in conjunction with Modugno. The work should be begun at once and an estimate submitted as soon as possible to secure the necessary funds.

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Mason Hammond
Capt. AC.

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 Perkin 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 Mithraeum 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 altar, the only works of sculpture which might be damaged by storage of supplies. The airraid shelter has been partly dismantled for this purpose. I would suggest that a wooden spron be placed about the doorframe to prevent its being chipped if cases are moved in and out. The Hall of the Barona 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 mass of broken gas-masks in front of the Chapel of the Aragnosai, in the loggia. Posts 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.

1694

- 2 -

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 came 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 ~~xxxx~~ report to the Director, they escaped from him. We 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 rather 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 ~~xxxxxxx~~ 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
Mason Hammond
Capt. AC

1693

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

5 Jan. 1944.

Memorandum to: Major Gardner, Chief of Div. of Mon. & FA

Subject : Storage of furnishings at Palace of Caserta.

1. Yesterday, I visited the Royal Palace of Caserta and found that Major Smith had gone to Algiers. I talked with his substitute, Major Brewer (?) who informed me that it was likely but not resolved that AFHQ would not occupy the palace but possible that other Hqs would move there. However, he advised that we delay, not to say suspend, operations on the moving and storing of furniture pending the return of Major Smith and further instructions from him.

2. I then saw the Chief Custodian, Battaglia (?) who said that he had had definite instructions from Major Smith to suspend all operations. With him I inspected what had already been done.

3. Books: The Books from the Naples Palace Library are still in their cases as we had arranged that they would be brought back to Naples. I will consult with Superintendent Molsioli as to whether he wishes this still to be done. The books in the main library are still in their cases and Major Smith is reported to have said that he hoped that if the building were used this room could be left unused. The remainin Caserta books, about half of the total for Caserta, have already been stored in the Archives.

4. Furniture: No furniture has been stored. Some progress has been made in cleaning up and restoring in the Presepio. A certain number of pictures and furniture are being released, on orders from Col. Smith of the 5th Army, to the Red Cross, which is in the Palace, to furnish its rooms. These are being inventoried and will be signed for. About 2/3, according to Battaglia's estimate, of the furniture removed from the palace has been restored. Some of it is broken, but a relatively slight amount. This occurred during the last two or three days (the return). No inventory exists of the furniture removed so that a check is difficult without going through the inventories for the contents of both palaces.

5. The Chapel is still free of stored pictures and in use. The public rooms are shut off. The Chief Custodian is allowed to continue in residence. I did not inspect the basement storerooms to see if these had been cleared.

6. I gave no further instructions.

1692

Mason Hammond
Mason Hammond
Capt. AC

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

26 Dec. 1943

Memorandum to: Major Gardner, Chief M&FA

Subject : Removal and storage of furnishings at Caserta.

1. Today I again visited the Royal Palace at Caserta accompanied by the Superintendent of Antiquities for Campania, Dr. Molajoli, and S. Sgt. Brunetti. We reached substantial agreement with Major J.M. Smith about the space which would be available. He had already written an indorsement reply to a letter from Col. Hume to his CO and has said that he would send a copy to us for file.

2. The spaces reserved to the Superintendent for storage are:

a) The Royal Chapel. Work is being carried on to make this safe. The engineer in charge is an AFHQ Major, not as previously reported, 5th Army.

b) The Royal Archives. Work is already in process by the employees of the Palace to transfer thither the books from the library.

c) The Presepio (Bethlehem Scene). Work is already in process to rearrange the material stored in this so as to afford more room.

d) Certain storerooms under the Main Staircase. These are approached from the passage between the two right courts. One is a large place used for fir-wood and the other a smaller space used by the Aeronautical Academy. Both are cluttered up with old lumber, etc., but when clear should serve for storage of less important items or items not ~~liable~~ to be damaged by damp.

f) The large room (at present empty) and the two rooms behind (containing property of the Prince of Piedmont) that lie to the left of the main rear entrance.

g) The Casteluccio, or round tower, in the Park.

3. The 5th Army wishes to use the large Halls for a dance on New Years Eve and the movement of picturesxx into these rooms preparatory for storage in the Chapel must be postponed.

4. In about a week's time, Maj. Smith will have an officer ready to aid in selecting furniture useful to him. He feels that he can use less than half of that available and wants space found in Naples for what will have to be moved. Superintendent Molajoli will examine his available space and will be in a better position to estimate the needs when storage in the Chapel and other reserved spaces.

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5. As the work of moving books has begun, the Superintende ~~xxx~~ is eager to move those that belong to the Palace of Naples back to Naples, probably to the Museum. I have therefore undertaken to borrow from 20 to 30 cases from AMG Hq and to secure the use of a 6x6 truck in about 10 days' time. The truck will take the

- 2 -

cases up on one day, return with certain materials already cased, and go back on the next day (or two days after) for the cases which have been filled and bring them to the Museum and then, after a couple of days, fetch them back to Hqs (the Provincia). The cases are being loaned by Major Hazard, Asa. G-4, the truck will be provided by Lt. Zimmerman, Transportation Officer.

6. Major Smith does not feel that the housing of the personnel is our concern. I pointed out that we must mediate between him and the Superintendent and that this personnel is the concern of the Superintendent. As yet, he does not intend to take the quarters outside the Palace (The Passionist Church and the Aiella) but I gathered that he did not like to guarantee that they would not be needed. The Superintendent has asked whether any provision can be made for the Chief Custodian to live in the Palace or at least to have access for inspection purposes to the Storerooms. I did not encourage this but I hope that at least the latter may be possible.

7. Major Smith and a Major in charge of installations stated that every care would be taken to do as little harm as possible to the building in installing any necessary conveniences. I hope that when their plans are matured, they may let either Dr. Molaioli or ourselves go over them not merely with a view to possible harm to the monumental character of the building but also with a view to making the installations a permanent improvement to the Palace.

Mason Hammond
Capt. AC

1699

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

22 Dec. 1943

Memorandum to: Major Gardner, Chief.

Subject : Disposition of Furnishings of Palazzo Reale,
Caserta.

1. In accordance with your instructions, I visited the Royal Palace at Caserta yesterday, 21 Dec. 1943. I was accompanied by the Superintendent of Monuments for Campania, Dr. Molaioli, and his assistant, Dr. DeFilippis. The purpose of the visit was to continue making arrangements for the disposition of the furnishings of the Royal Apartments preparatory to occupancy by AFHq. We discussed the matter with Major J. W. Smith, Detachment 1, Hq. Command, AFHq.

2. Major Smith agreed to leave free for storage:

- a) The Royal Chapel
- b) The room in which is installed the Presepio, including a waste space behind the curved wall of the back, which is approached from the next room.
- c) The round tower in the Park called Casteluccio, subject to access being possible to the surrounding garden.

3. After examining the Palace, certain other problems arose and as I was unable to find Major Smith, I telephoned him today.

- d) He stated that he would examine the Royal Archives, which occupy a rather useless mezzanine over the offices alongside the great hall. It would be wise to leave these in place because they are intimately connected with the Palace and are in no condition to move, and because the space is not good form, much else but storage. If they are left, books from the library can be stored here.
- e) He will also examine the storage rooms on the ground floor to the left of the central rear entrance, which were used for the storage of personal property of the Prince of Piedmont.

-2-

- e) These still have storage space which would be most valuable for the Palace furnishings.
- f) At the moment he does not intend to occupy the living quarters assigned to personnel of the Palace which lie on the left edge of the Park. These are in part around the forecourt of a small church called "Of the Passionists" and in part form two sides of a sort of stable-yard further back, called l'Aiella (?). If this space is retained, personnel evacuated from the Palace can double up with present residents and there are also two storage rooms in l'Aiella.

4. Major Smith agreed to the following arrangements

- a) A Major of Engineers of the Fifth Army in cooperation with the former engineer of the Royal Aeronautical Academy has already placed temporary beams in the place of the two columns knocked out of the chapel. They will strengthen a third, badly damaged, column and will put ~~in~~ black-out cloth in the windows; which should serve to keep out the rain, and will check the roof. The vaulting is in their opinion safe.
- b) Workmen to move and store the furniture will be hired by the Superintendent on funds advanced by AMG.
- c) AMG will endeavor to secure trucks for the moving of any furniture which is brought back to Naples and the Superintendent will find storage space either in the National Museum or in the Royal Palace or elsewhere as opportunity offers.
- d) Rooms at present open to visitors will be closed so that the personnel of the Palace may be used wholly for moving.
- e) Major Smith will select such of the furniture as he wished for AFHQ use either in the mess **1688** or in offices. This will be inventoried.

-2-

-3-

- f) The Royal Chapel will not be used for services after 25 Dec. and as soon as interior repairs are completed, storage may begin.
- g) The clearing of the Royal Apartments must if possible be completed by 20 Jan. 1944.

5. The Superintendent prescribed the following work to begin at once:

- a) Restorage of objects already in the Presepio and the side rooms of the Chapel for more economical storage.
- b) Removal of books to the Archives (if left free) and to Casteluccio.
- c) Stacking of pictures by sizes in the great hall so that they may be moved at once to the Chapel when this is free.

6. It is understood that when the Superintendent has his car operating either he or Dr. DeFilippis will make frequent visits to Caserta to organize and expedite the work. They will assume responsibility for hiring and paying any workmen taken on and will make a request for the necessary funds from you.

7. It is recommended that:

- a) The back door of the Passionist Church be walled up (the sacristy is already occupied by troops) and that l'Aiella be barricaded off to prevent persons living in them from having access to the Park. Both quarters have access on the road outside the Park.
- b) All storage rooms be securely closed and "Off Limits" notices be posted.
- c) You or your representative visit Caserta in the near future to check on the disposition of the Archives and the Storerooms mentioned in 3 a and b above and to push the work.
- d) That so far as is consistent with security, structural changes (installation of toilets, lights, etc.) necessary for occupation by AFHQ. be made in agreement with the Superintendent or his representative, who have the responsibility under Italian Law not to allow changes which effect the monumental character of the Palace.

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Mason Hammond
Mason Hammond
Capt. AC

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

16 Dec. 1943.

Memorandum to: Major Gardner, Chief MFA.

Subject : Royal Palace at Caserta.

1. I visited the Royal Palace at Caserta today in the company of Major DeWalt, Chief of MFA for Region 4. We were shown through the second floor of the Palace by the Director and Chief Custodian. As you know, three quarters of the Palace was used as a "residence" and about one quarter was used by the Royal Academy of Aeronautics until this moved to Forli. The Academy section has already been occupied by US Troops as has a considerable part of the ground floor of the rest of the Palace. The Troops are chiefly 5th Army, US and some Br. A Hq. Detachment from AFHQ. under Col. Brown is in residence and mapping out the building for use by Advanced AFHQ.
2. As you also know, Advanced AFHQ wish the whole Palace cleared for use by troops. Unfortunately much of the second floor has been used to store both the furniture of this Palace and that moved from the Royal Palace of Naples. The furniture comprises chiefly chairs, sofas, console tables, and many pictures. None of this is suitable for Office Use but AFHQ. wish a lot of chairs (up to 2000) for their messes. Equally almost none of the furniture or pictures have great artistic value, though many pictures and some furniture have historic value and all is Italian State Property and should be cared for with reasonable care.
3. Major Smith, speaking for Col. Brown, stated that he would be unable to furnish labor or transport to clear out the furniture. He was unwilling to afford space in the Palace for storage but after discussion it seemed as though the Chapel and some other space might be available.
4. It is therefore recommended that:
 - a. An initial sum of Lire 25,000.xx be made available to the Superintendent of Monuments, Dr. Molalueli, to hire laborers locally to move and store as much as can be stored in the building.
 - b. That Dr. Molalueli be taken to Caserta for as long a stay as is necessary to initiate the work of moving and storing and that thereafter this be in charge of Dr. DeFilippi.
 - c. That an AMG Officer be sent with Dr. Molalueli to stay as long as is necessary, or to make frequent visits as required, to negotiate between the Italians and the representatives of AFHQ as to what furniture will be used by AFHQ, what space may be used for storage, etc.

1686

Maion Hammond
Maion Hammond
Capt. AC

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 464, U.S. Army

13 December, 1943

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT: Requisition of Entire Palazzo Reale at Caserta.

TO: COLONEL EDGAR ERSKINE HUME.

1. This office has been informed that the entire Palazzo Reale at Caserta has been requisitioned and that all the custodians and state employees charged with the care of the Palace, its contents of fine arts and the Park are to be moved out at once.

2. The Palace has been used as a depository by the Superintendent of Museums of Campania and contains the following art objects:

- a. Over 500 framed paintings.
- b. About 1000 pieces of furniture.
- c. 20,000 books from the Royal Palaces of Naples and Caserta.
- d. 700 drawings by the 18th C. Architect VANVITELLI.
- e. 2000 carved wood figures from a famous Presepio.
- f. Large collection of 15th and 16th C. drawings.

A few of these objects are packed in cases but the majority of them are merely placed in formerly unused rooms.

3. The conditions of the requisition were discussed today at Caserta with Major SMITH of the Advanced Echelon, A.F.H.Q. He stated that he had orders to take the entire Palace and intended to requisition also a lot of the usable furniture. He expressed his willingness to allow the custodians to segregate the more valuable furniture which could then be moved from the Palace with the books and other art objects. He has already given orders to the custodians to hang as many of the paintings as possible, disregarding the fact that many of the rooms of the Palace have marble facings as are covered with valuable brocades, all of which would be seriously damaged by nails.

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4. The terms of the requisition raise the question of the responsibility of Dr. BRUNO MOLAJOLI, Superintendent of Museums, who is charged with their safety. He has informed me that even if transposition were available to move this enormous collection, he could not find a place to house it because of the present situation of requisitioning in all parts of Campania.

5. I feel that every effort should be made to have some section of the Palace reserved where these art objects can be stored in safety. I feel also that some arrangement must be made whereby the responsible custodians can check constantly on the condition of the Palace and its contents. This in keeping with the instructions I have had for the safeguarding of all monuments and fine arts. If military necessity requires the requisitioning of furnishings that are officially listed as works of art, complete receipts should be furnished Dr. Molajoli relieving him of his responsibility.

PAUL GARDNER

Major, A.U.S.

Division of Education and Fine Arts.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECTION
A.P.O. 464, U.S. ARMY.

15 December 1943

SUBJECTS: Protection of Objects of Art.

TO : Commanding General, Advance Echelon, AFHQ,
A.P.O. 512, U.S. Army.

1. In view of directives from highest authority requiring Allied Military Government to protect ancient monuments and works of art in invaded countries, attention is invited to the attached report dealing with the proposed requisitioning by AFHQ, Advance Echelon, of the Palazzo Reale at Caserta.

2. I concur in the recommendations of Major Paul Gardner.

3. The Allied Forces have already been severely criticized for damage to works of art in this area, chiefly when troops have been quartered in museums, etc. German propaganda has not been slow to report this by radio to Italy and other countries.

EDGAR ERSKINE HUME,
Colonel, G. S. C.,
Chief, Military Government Section,
Fifth Army.

H/B/z

1683

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

12 December, 1943

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT : Requisition of Entire Palazzo Reale at
Caserta and all Contents.

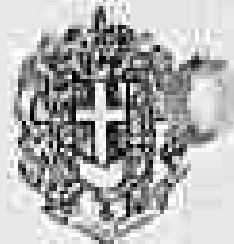
TO : Colonel Edgar Erskine Hume.

1. Dr. Molajoli, Superintendent of Museums at Naples, reports that he had been informed by the head custodian of the Royal Palace at Caserta that the entire palace and all its contents is to be requisitioned at once by Hq. 5th Army. In addition, all of the custodians and state employees charged with the care of the Palace are to be moved out.

2. This raises the question of the responsibility of the Palace and its contents, which are a charge of Dr. Molajoli. The Palace has been used as a depository of works of art and among other things contains over 500 paintings from the Palace Museum and from the Palazzo Reale of Naples, an important collection of over 700 drawings by the architect Vanvitelli, all State Property, 2000 figures of a Royal "Nativity", hundreds of pieces of furniture from Caserta and Naples and several State Libraries. Some of these objects are in cases but the majority, as I have seen, are merely placed in formerly unused rooms.

3. I feel that every attempt should be made to have some section reserved where these art objects can be stored. I have asked Major Collins to learn what he can of the situation to-day and will plan to go to Caserta to-morrow to see what can be done.

Paul Gardner,
Major AUS
Division of Education and Fine Arts 1682



*R. Soprintendenza alle Gallerie
Napoli*

IL SOPRINTENDENTE

Napoli, 11 dicembre 1943

Gentile Magg. GARNER,

il Conservatore della REGGIA DI CASERTA mi informa che il Comando della V Armata ha richiesto l'immediata consegna di tutti i locali della Reggia, con quanto in essa è contenuto (quadri, mobili, libri, etc.) e lo sgombero di tutti i nostri impiegati dagli alloggi entro il Palazzo.

Non posso nasconderLe che il provvedimento mi pone nel più grave imbarazzo e, se dovesse essere attuato così integralmente, mi costringerebbe a fare le più ampie riserve circa le nostre responsabilità per la conservazione di tutto il materiale artistico e mobile, che a Caserta è veramente ingentissimo, comprendendo anche la massima parte dei quadri e del mobilio del Palazzo Reale di Napoli.

La prego di considerare l'opportunità di recarci al più presto a Caserta per conferire con gli Ufficiali addetti a quel superiore Comando e cercare di conciliare le loro esigenze coi nostri doveri.

Le sarò molto grato se vorrà inviarmi cortesemente una risposta, consegnandola al latore di questa lettera o mandandola nel pomeriggio a casa mia (Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 167). Se desidera parlarmi, sono a Sua disposizione nel pomeriggio di oggi o domattina per venire al Suo Ufficio, nell'ora che mi vorrà indicare.

Ringraziamenti, scuse e cordiali ossequi

sequi

deriva
Bruno Molajoli 1681
(Bruno Molajoli)

C O P Y

R. Soprintendenza alle Gallerie
Napoli
Il Soprintendente

Napoli, 11 December 1943

Dear Major Gardner:

The Curator of the Royal Palace of Caserta informs me that the Commander of the 5th Army has requested the immediate use of all apartments of the Palace and all that they contain, pictures, furniture; books etc, and to move all of our employees from their lodgings in the Palace.

I cannot deny the gravity of the situation which will be caused by such an action and I feel forced to make the fullest representation of our responsibility for the conservation of all works of art and furniture, which at Caserta is truly inestimable, and in addition it includes also the greatest part of the paintings and furniture of the Royal Palace of Naples.

I beg of you to consider going to Caserta as soon as possible to confer with the officials there in an attempt to achieve some conciliation of their demands and of our responsibilities.

Thanking you and with cordial respects,

(Signed) Bruno Molajoli

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Major Gardner  *7 DIC 1943*
 NAPOLI, *Fine Arts Reg III*
 R. SOPRINTENDENZA ALLE GALLERIE
 E ALLE OPERE D'ARTE DELLA CAMPANIA
 Ai ALLIED MILITARY
 GOVERNMENT
part 15/12
 Prot N. *1335* Allegati _____
 Risposta a N. _____ del _____
 NAPOLI

Oggetto: Requisizione della Reggia di Caserta

Per comunicazione verbale ho appreso che la REGGIA DI CASERTA, finora parzialmente occupata dal Comando della V Armata, dovrà presto essere lasciata a completa disposizione del Quartiere Generale Alleato.

Nella mia qualità di Soprintendente alle Gallerie e ai Monumenti d'arte della Campania, e come responsabile della conservazione del patrimonio artistico dello Stato, ho il dovere di fare presente alle Autorità competenti quanto segue:

1. Le sale che costituiscono gli Appartamenti Reali e che occupano una parte dell'edificio principale della Reggia di Caserta hanno speciale importanza artistica per l'architettura, la decorazione e l'arredamento.
2. In altre sale è conservata un'ingente quantità di oggetti storici e artistici: quadri, sculture, disegni, libri, mobili antichi e arredi vari, che formano le seguenti sezioni: Museo storico, Pinacoteca, Biblioteca della Reggia.
3. Negli stessi locali si trovano ora depositati, per causa della guerra, molti quadri e mobili antichi provenienti dal Palazzo Reale di Napoli, danneggiato da bombardamenti e ora occupato da truppe Anglo-Americane.
4. Il Museo storico, la Pinacoteca, la Biblioteca e gli Appartamenti Reali, nonché il Parco e il Giardino inglese, annessi alla Reggia, essendo proprietà dello Stato, sono per legge tenuti in consegna e amministrati dalla Soprintendenza ai Monumenti di Napoli, la quale provvede alla loro custodia e manutenzione per mezzo di suoi impiegati, che per tale servizio hanno dovere e diritto di alloggio entro il Palazzo e negli edifici del Parco.

Confido che, in seguito a tali informazioni, il Comando Militare Alleato vorrà considerare che un ordine di occupazione non può essere adottato per la Reggia di Caserta allo stesso modo che per un qualsiasi altro edificio vuoto, ma deve necessariamente tener conto del destino del materiale artistico che vi è raccolto, garantendolo da facili dispersioni e possibili

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danneggiamenti.

E' mio dovere richiedere tali garanzie strettamente relative all'ufficio che ricopro. Al tempo stesso ritengo mio obbligo preavvertire come posso l'Autorità competente delle gravi responsabilità che sta per assumere nei riguardi di un patrimonio artistico e culturale che è stato finora salvato dai danni della guerra.

Pertanto prego di volere prendere in favorevole esame le mie seguenti domande:

1. Domando che sia conservata al personale della Soprintendenza la facoltà e l'autorità di custodire e vigilare, dentro la Reggia, le collezioni d'arte appartenenti allo Stato, con le garanzie e i limiti che il Comando Militare Alleato vorrà stabilire, previo accordo, in modo da conciliare le proprie esigenze con i doveri e le responsabilità della Soprintendenza.

2. Domando che le opere d'arte, i libri e la parte non utile del mobilio antico, che si trovano sparsi negli appartamenti Reali, vengano raccolti in alcune stanze come depositi, le cui porte potranno essere chiuse con muratura.

3. Domando che siano lasciati a disposizione della Soprintendenza (per farvi trasferire le famiglie degli impiegati che ora abitano per servizio nel Palazzo) quegli edifici esistenti nel Parco, i quali, avendo accesso verso le strade esterne, possono rimanere separati dal Parco, senza comunicazione con l'interno della Reggia.

4. Domando infine che siano forniti alla Soprintendenza gli automezzi e i permessi occorrenti per trasportare a Napoli i documenti di archivio e quanto altro riterrò possibile e necessario.

Memore delle assicurazioni più volte fatte dai Governi Alleati per il rispetto e la tutela dei Monumenti, dei Musei e delle Opere d'arte, confido sinceramente che in questa così importante occasione si vorrà giustamente e rigorosamente garantire un museo e un edificio di tanto larga notorietà e di tanto alto pregio storico e artistico.

Prego darmi comunicazione scritta delle determinazioni che saranno adottate al riguardo.

Con osservanza

IL SOPRINTENDENTE
ALLE GALLERIE E AI MONUMENTI
(Bruno Molajoli)

Molajoli

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 rarity 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 Comm. DeFilippis and my clerk in view of the fact that the Commendatore seemed the responsible 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 loaned "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 unreliability 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.

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

- 2 -

failed to load the remaining space with Dr. Molajoli's books. The fault for this lies with Cav. Noce, the Director, whose chief interest seemed to be to get himself moved back into the Palace from which he has 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 Hq. Commandant, under whom the Sgt. has charge of billets and furniture. The Sgt. stated that Battaglia had been put on the 5 Army payroll and was most helpful but that Noce did nothing.

4. The only expeditious thing accomplished by Comm. Desplante 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 AFHQ 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 ~~as yet~~ free, save in so far as AFHQ Signal Unit occupies the Throne Room and adjacent rooms.

7. 5 Army has taken the storeboom 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. 1677

9. I further gave instructions to continue what 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 ~~may~~ 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 purely 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 Presence will remain for storage. It will be necessary to see that the closed rooms are respected, since all hands expressed ~~distrust~~ ^{doubt about the cooperation of} 15 Army Group.

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 MFA&A to go up later in the week, preferably with Soprintendente 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 **1678** without going through "channels."

14. It remains my recommendation that some effort be made to centralize the responsibility for the use of the bldg and to secure closer cooperation with AFG MFA&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.

Mason Hammond
Mason Hammond, Capt. AN

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Office of the Liaison Officer Attached to Hq. 5th Army.

16 January 1944

SUBJECT: USE OF RUGS AND CERTAIN PIECES OF FURNITURE BY
GENERAL OFFICERS OF 15 ARMY GROUP - CASERTA PALACE
TO : Major Paul Gardner, Fine Arts and Monuments, AMG
5th Army

1. Major Mordaunt-Snegge, of G-3, 15 Army Group, visited this office this afternoon and stated that several rugs found here in the Castle, as well as certain items of furniture, would be used in the offices of the following officers now being established in the Castle:

- 1 Rug for General Alexander's Office
- 1 " " General Hardinge's Office
- 1 " " General Robertson's Office
- 1 " " General Lemnitzer's Office

2. Major Mordaunt-Snegge further advised that the above rugs, as well as certain items of furniture to be used in the above offices, would be taken good care of, and returned to the custodian of the Palace when such offices are transferred elsewhere.

3. Major Mordaunt-Snegge also stated that Lt-Col Marsham, of 15 Army Group, and Group Captain Reade, of Tactical Air Force, would not permit use of other items of office equipment found in palace without special permission secured from those in authority to give it.



William G. Collins,
Major, AC, AUS,
Liaison Officer AMG-Hq. 5th Army

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PBS 510

AG 000.1 BPAGO (15 Dec 43) 6th Ind. LFN/acg
HEADQUARTERS PENINSULAR BASE SECTION, APO 782, 20 January 1944.

TO: Headquarters AMG, Fifth Army, APO 464.

Noted by the Commanding General.

For the Commanding General:

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

5 Incls:

Added:

Incl. #5 - Ltr, Region 3,
AMG, dtd 13 Dec 43, Sub: .
"Requisition of Entire
Palazzo Reale at Caserta".
(4th Inclosure (drawing) listed
in the 2nd Indorsement was not
received by this Headquarters)

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81-22-15

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AG 000.4 BPAGO (15 Dec 43) 6th Ind. IFN/acg
HEADQUARTERS PENINSULAR BASE SECTION, APO 782, 20 January 1944.

TO: Headquarters AMG, Fifth Army, APO 464.

Noted by the Commanding General.

For the Commanding General:

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

5 Incls:

Added:

Incl. #5 - Ltr, Region 3,
AMG, dtd 13 Dec 43, Sub:
"Requisition of Entire
Palazzo Reale at Caserta".
(4th Inclosure (drawing) listed
in the 2nd Indorsement was not
received by this Headquarters)

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12/21/43 24(2049) 0812

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 HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
 MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECTION
 A.P.O. 464, U.S. ARMY.

15 December 1943

SUBJECTS: Protection of Objects of Art.

TO : Commanding General, Advance Echelon, AFHQ,
 A.P.O. 512, U.S. Army.

1. In view of directives from highest authority requiring Allied Military Government to protect ancient monuments and works of art in invaded countries, attention is invited to the attached report dealing with the proposed requisitioning by AFHQ, Advance Echelon, of the Palazzo Reale at Caserta.

2. I concur in the recommendations of Major Paul Gardner.

3. The Allied Forces have already been severely criticized for damage to works of art in this area, chiefly when troops have been quartered in museums, etc. German propaganda has not been slow to report this by radio to Italy and other countries.

Edgar Erskine Hume

EDGAR ERSKINE HUME,
 Colonel, G. S. C.,
 Chief, Military Government Section,
 Fifth Army.

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H/B/z

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1st Ind.

DNL/ja

AFHQ ADVANCE ADMINISTRATIVE ECHELON, (U.S. Contingent)(Prov), A.P.O.
400, U. S. Army, 21 December 1943.TO: Headquarters Commandant, Detachment # 1, AFHQ.
(attention Major Smith)

Forwarded as pertaining to your office.

For the DD/CAO:

Douglas N. Lawley
DOUGLAS N. LAWLEY
Lt. Col., G.S.C.
Executive G-4

9-26-43

2nd Ind /jhm
Detachment # 1, Hq Comd, AF, APO 512, U. S. Army, 24 December 1943.

To: Commanding Officer, Hq, Hq Comd AF.

1. The following list of locations on the palace grounds have been set aside to accommodate storage of valuable collections which are not anticipated to be used by this Headquarters.

- a. Royal Archives (See Incl 1). This space has been used and now contains the Royal Records. The space had not been intended for use as office space, and has been set aside for its' intended use. It is possible to store additional book collections in this space.
- b. Basement Storage Rooms (See Incl 2). This space has been set aside for storage of metal objects and other moisture proof articles such as non upholstered furniture, china, etc.
- c. Royal Chapel (See Incl 3). Steps are being taken to weather proof this portion of the 3rd floor to provide space to store Paintings and Royal furniture, Rugs, Books, etc.
- d. Storage Rooms located just to the left of the north central arch (See Incl 4). These rooms are now being used for Royal Palace Storage and can be used for the storage of the more valuable paintings and drawings. This space has not been allocated for office space in the block allocations made to date, because it was anticipated that some space was necessary for Royal Collections Storage.
- e. "Garden of Bethlehem" (See Incl 3). Has been set aside to store its present contents of wood carvings, etc, plus other small articles and drawings.
- f. Garden House located in the center of the wooded section just northwest of the Palace. This can be used for storage of miscellaneous articles to include books.

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2nd Ind (Cont'd)

/jhm

2. This headquarters has not issued any orders directing Palace personnel to hang pictures on marble walls. It does not anticipate putting anyone to the task of driving mild steel nails into solid marble.

3. The present plans are to retain a Mr. Battilio, (superintendent of the Royal Palace of Caserta) to look after the Royal Family's collections. The outlined plans for storage have been discussed with him in detail and his reactions have been most favorable as to his storage space requirements.

4. All the above listed locations for storage have been visited by Mr. Battilio and Major Karas and it is thought that the greatest portion of the valuable collections can be taken care of within the Palace itself. This however means that some of the less valuable furniture and paintings remain in place so as to minimize the necessary storage space.


JEROME M. SMITH,
Major, FA,
Commanding.

4 Incls:
3 Pictures
1 Drawing

3rd Ind. 36.27.43 /iw
Hq, Headquarters Command Allied Force, APO 512, U. S. Army,
28 December 1943.

To: Commanding General, AFHQ Advance Administrative Echelon,
(U.S. Contingent) (Prov), APO 400, U.S. Army.

Inviting attention to second indorsement.

For the Commanding Officer:


R.Q. BROWN,
Colonel, FA,
Asst Hq Comdt. 1679

Incls.
n/c

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4th Ind.

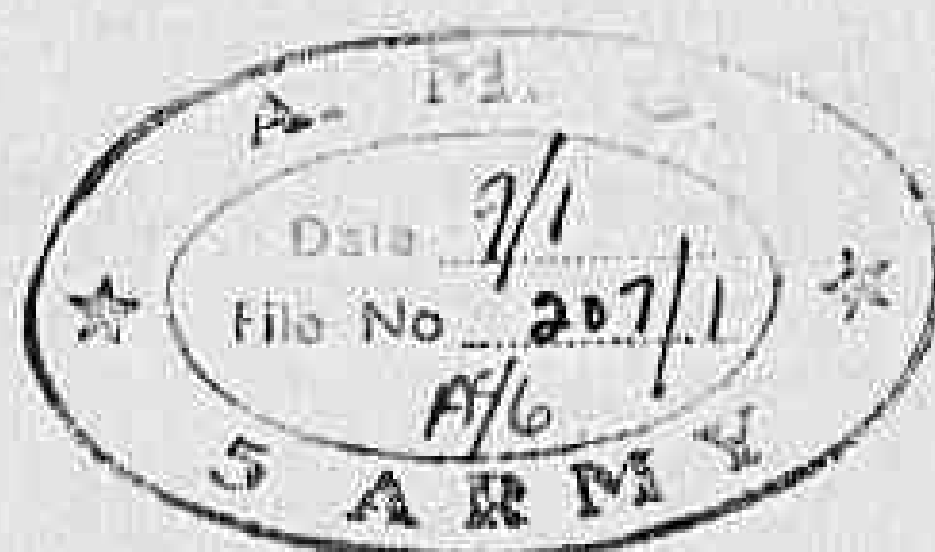
ALH/ja

AFHQ ADVANCE ADMINISTRATIVE ECHELON, A. P. O. 400, U. S. Army, 5
 January 1944.

TO: Chief Military Government Section, Fifth Army, APO 464 **PBS** 5119

1. Attention is invited to 2d Indorsement.

2. It is recommended that these papers be referred to Commanding General, Peninsular Base Section, who undoubtedly will at some future date be responsible for the welfare of the subject building, to note and return to you.



[Signature]
 A. L. HAMBLIN
 Brigadier General, U.S.A.
 D/DCAO

5th Ind.

HQ, AMG 5th Army.

TO: P.B.S.

For your attention.

HARRISON G WILLIAMS
 Captain, C.A.C.,
 G - 1.

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REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 464, U.S. Army

13 December, 1943

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT: Requisition of Entire Palazzo Reale at Caserta.

TO: COLONEL EDGAR ERSKINE HUME.

1. This office has been informed that the entire Palazzo Reale at Caserta has been requisitioned and that all the custodians and state employees charged with the care of the Palace, its contents of fine arts and the Park are to be moved out at once.

2. The Palace has been used as a depository by the Superintendent of Museums of Campania and contains the following art objects:

- a. Over 500 framed paintings.
- b. About 1000 pieces of furniture.
- c. 20,000 books from the Royal Palaces of Naples and Caserta.
- d. 700 drawings by the 18th C. Architect VANVITELLI.
- e. 2000 carved wood figures from a famous Presepio.
- f. Large collection of 15th and 16th C. drawings.

A few of these objects are packed in cases but the majority of them are merely placed in formerly unused rooms.

3. The conditions of the requisition were discussed today at Caserta with Major SMITH of the Advanced Echelon A.F.H.Q. He stated that he had orders to take the entire Palace and intended to requisition also a lot of the usable furniture. He expressed his willingness to allow the custodians to segregate the more valuable furniture which could then be moved from the Palace with the books and other art objects. He has already given orders to the custodians to hang as many of the paintings as possible, disregarding the fact that many of the rooms of the Palace have marble facings as are covered with valuable brocades, all of which would be seriously damaged by nails.

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4. The terms of the requisition raise the question of the responsibility of Dr. BRUNO MOLAJOLI, Superintendent of Museums, who is charged with their safety. He has informed me that even if transposition were available to move this enormous collection, he could not find a place to house it because of the present situation of requisitioning in all parts of Campania.

5. I feel that every effort should be made to have some section of the Palace reserved where these art objects can be stored in safety. I feel also that some arrangement must be made whereby the responsible custodians can check constantly on the condition of the Palace and its contents. This in keeping with the instructions I have had for the safeguarding of all monuments and fine arts. If military necessity requires the requisitioning of furnishings that are officially listed as works of art, complete receipts should be furnished Dr. Molajoli relieving him of his responsibility.

Paul Gardner

PAUL GARDNER

Major, A.U.S.

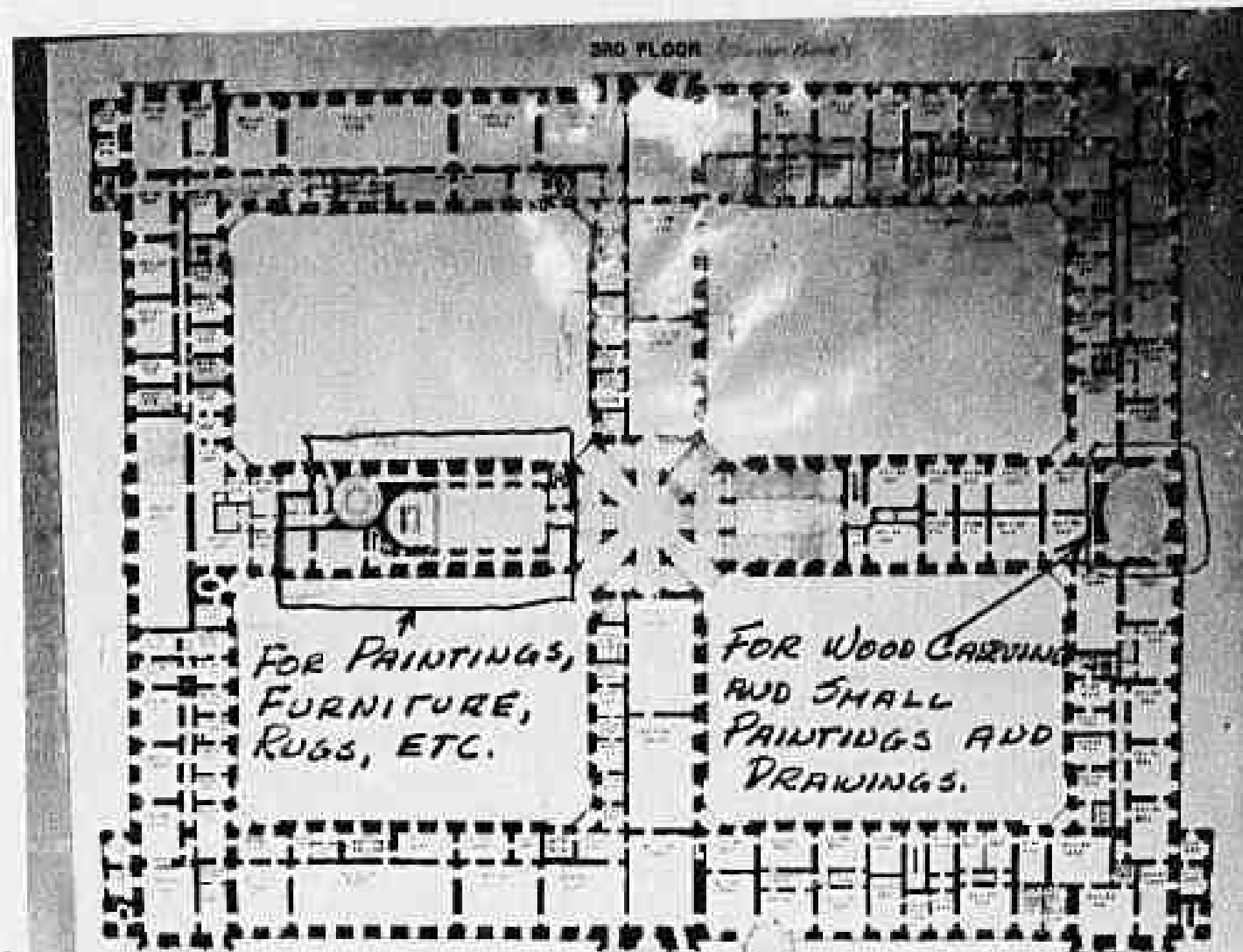
Division of Education and Fine Arts.

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Incl. #5

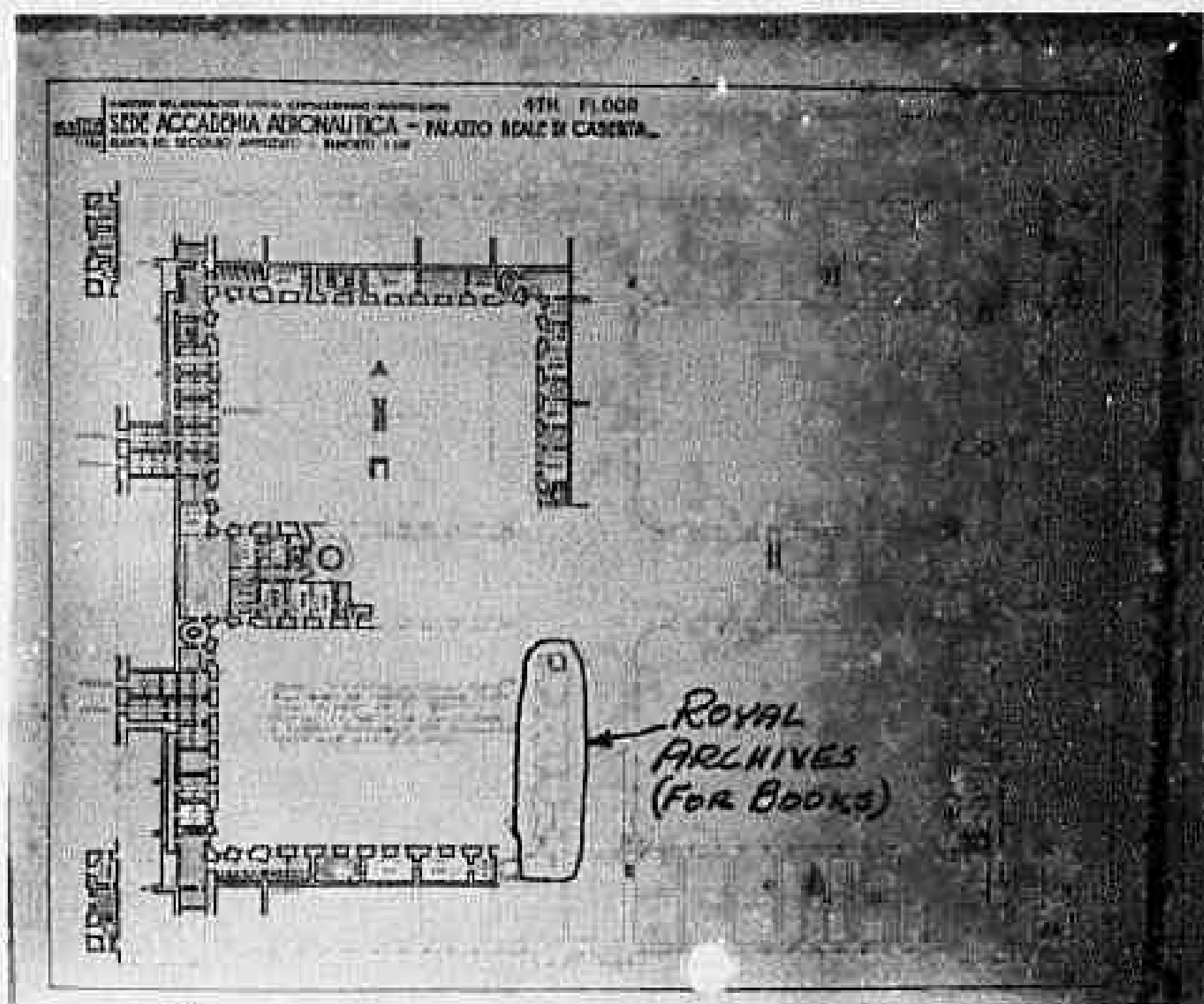
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INCL. #3

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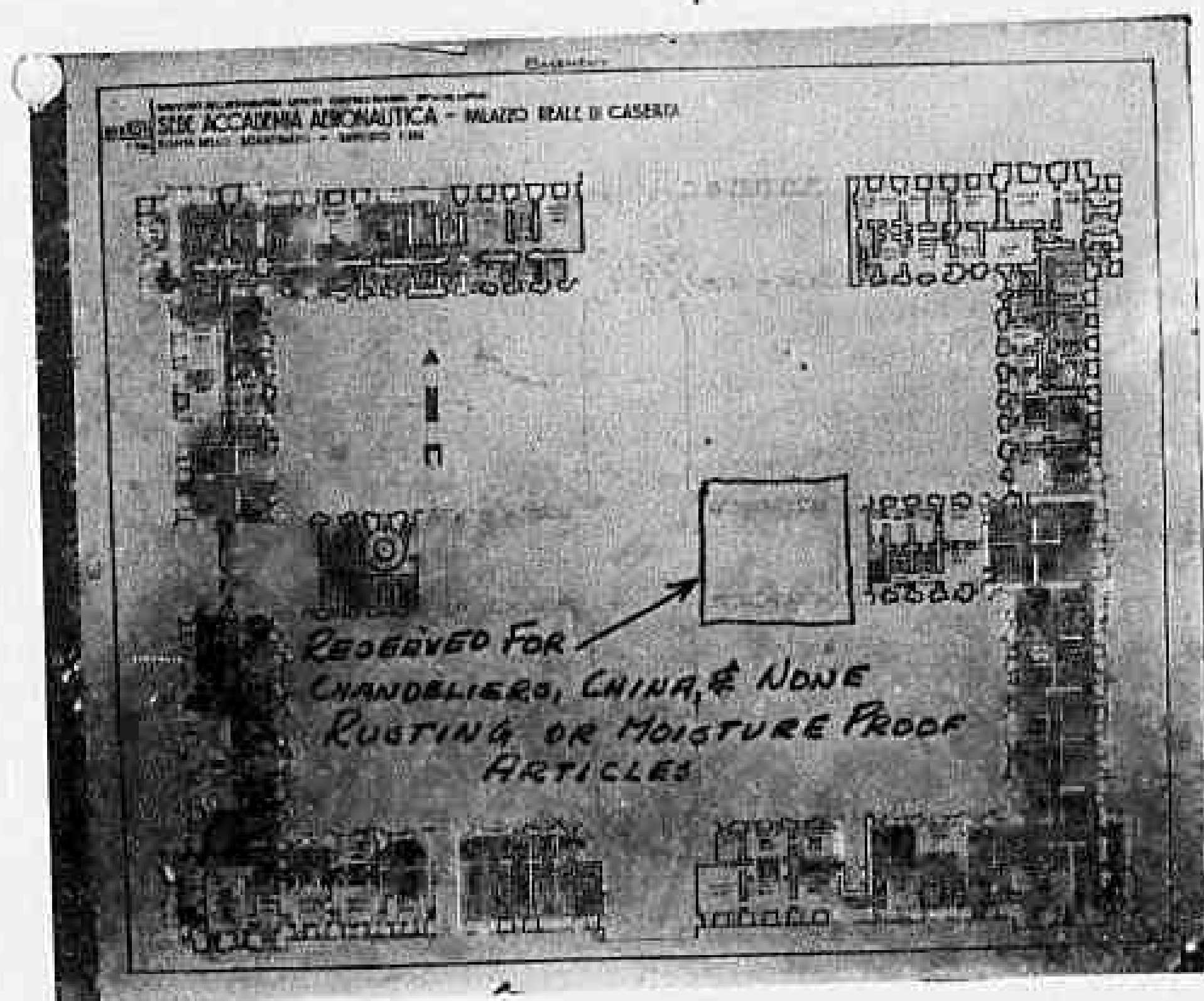
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INCL. #1

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021



INCL. #2

HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED MILITARY FORCES IN ITALY
 ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
 DIVISION OF MONUMENTS FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES

19 January 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: Major Gardner, Chief of Division of Monuments and
 Fine Arts, Region III, AMG.

SUBJECT : Royal Palace at Caserta.

1. On 17 and 18 January I paid two visits to Caserta to continue the inspection of the occupancy of the part of the Palace dependent on the Superintendency of Monuments for Campania and to see about the use or storage of the contents.

2. As I am now under orders to leave this Theatre, this report will attempt to resume somewhat the whole picture in order that anybody taking over can be familiar with conditions. Copies of the various reports which I have submitted to you are on file in the temporary files which I have been maintaining pending the arrival in Naples of the Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives.

3. As you know, on my first arrival in Naples I was assigned to your Division of Monuments and Fine Arts in Region III and you gave me the opportunity of interesting myself in the Palace at Caserta. When I was transferred to AMG Hq. 15 Army Group (now AFI) and instructed to await the move of that Hq to Caserta, you allowed me to continue my interest in the Palace. You are also more familiar than I with the representations which you have made to higher headquarters about the use of the Palace and the uncontrolled removal of furnishings.

4. So far as I can make out, the Italian administration of the Royal Palace of Caserta fell under two heads, the Royal Aeronautical Academy and the Palace proper. With the former we have no concern. Of a reputed 1200 rooms, about 200 were reserved as the Palace proper or monumental portion. These are all on the main floor, including the front half of the left end (apartments of Francis II), all the front (Throne Room, Royal Apartments, etc.) all the right end, and the right extremity of the rear, and of the cross within the rectangle, the front arm (three large halls), half the left arm (the Chapel), half the right arm (the unfinished Rustic Hall). Besides these rooms we have been concerned with certain storerooms elsewhere, e.g./those used by the Prince of Piedmont to the left of the main rear entrance, with the Opera House, with certain quarters occupied by personnel ~~xxxx~~, with the grounds, etc.

with/

5. The official ultimately responsible in this area for the Palace proper was the Superintendent for Monuments for Campania. As he was cut off by the war, his colleague, the Superintendent of Galleries, Dr. Molajoli, assumed his responsibility. Under him and responsible for both the Palace at Caserta and that at Naples is Dr. DeFillipis. Both of these have their office in the Royal Museum of Naples and are therefore

1563

able to exercise supervision over Caserta only as transportation is afforded and to date they have been dependent on A.G. for transportation. The local head of the Palace is a Director, Cav. Noce, who has been forced to leave the apartment assigned to him in the Palace and to live in the country. This naturally has handicapped his efficiency of which, in my opinion, he had little in any case. Under him is the Conservator or chief custodian, Battaglia. He has been connected with the Palace for 44 years and is the official "consignee" for the contents, that is, he has signed the inventory lists and is personally responsible for the furnishings. He is very familiar with the Palace and its contents and all who have dealt with him speak most highly of his ability and calmness and spirit of cooperation. Naturally he is old and slow and the confusion of the recent months has been very wearing for him and has, I fear, injured his health. When AFHQ was to take over the whole Palace proper, he was moved from his quarters and temporarily lodged in two large rooms, where his wife had to cook over an open fire and where the nearest toilet was several hundred metres in one direction and the nearest running water the same in another. When AFHQ abandoned their plan of moving, he was moved back to his apartment. Two days ago, when I visited the Palace, he had received notice at 1400 to vacate his quarters by 1700 and he is now lodged in some very unsatisfactory rooms on the ground floor, as will be explained below. However, he is still in residence and may be regarded as the Italian Official most directly responsible for the Palace and its furnishings and the one with whom dealings can be most effectively carried on. Under him there is a staff of regular Palace personnel, some of whom were quartered in the Palace and others in buildings in the grounds. Most of those in the Palace have been moved out but as yet the quarters in the grounds have not been taken. The 5 Army has been very generous in hiring extra civilian labor to help the Palace Personnel in moving furnishings during the various stages of the occupation of the Palace.

6. The original occupants of the Palace as a whole seem to have been combat troops, chiefly British, who are said to have removed a good deal of furniture without any control. Then 5 Army Read Hqs moved in and occupied the ~~whole Palace~~ ~~Then AFHQ sent a Hq Detachment~~ Royal Aeronautical Academy but respected the Palace and its contents. Then AFHQ sent a Hq Detachment under Major Smith with orders to prepare for the occupation of the whole ~~Palace~~ ~~with~~ building, both Academy and Palace, and to evacuate all civilians residing in the building and to store all furniture not desired for use. As you know, it was at that point that I became involved and reached substantial agreement with Major Smith as to the rooms which would be reserved for storage, the moving of the furnishings, etc. About two weeks ago, the move of AFHQ was called off, as you know, and the ~~palace~~ personnel and we were instructed to suspend operations. A week ago, on my visit, I was informed that 15 Army Group would move in and occupy the left side of the Palace proper ~~smthng~~ and it was as a result of this that I returned on the 17th to consult with them about the disposition of the contents.

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7. On my visit on the 17th, I found that first: 15 Army Group was taking not only the right side but half the front of the Palace rooms. Second:, one branch of AMHQ, the Mediterranean Air Force, had, after having its arrangements cancelled, been sent over on short notice. This

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second was the most unfortunate. Squadron Leader Spencer, in charge, was given, on short notice, the original AFHQ assignment of space to MAF and sent over to make the space ready in about two days' time. The space included the apartment of Battaglia and of another family, the man of which was ill in bed. Due to some confusion, the two families were not notified until 1400 hrs of the day on which they were to be out by 1700 hrs. It was more unfortunate in that 5 Army and 15 Army Group had already assured Battaglia that he would not be moved. The situation was no one's fault and everybody felt badly about it, but it serves to illustrate again the need of some centralized office of control when such a building is taken over by a variety of units. As was reported above, space was found for the two families and also for the detachment of Carabinieri who were displaced at the same time, despite orders from some Hq that Carabinieri quarters and equipment were not to be requisitioned, but the space is most unsatisfactory. 5 Army hopes to find Battaglia better quarters.

6. At present there are five independent or semi independent organizations using the ~~whole~~ whole building, in order of rank as follows:

Hq. 15 Army Group (AFI), largely in the monumental part.
Mediterranean Air Force (MAF), in the rear right corner. They also have a Signal Unit in the Throne Room and adjacent rooms, originally installed as part of AFHQ and, according to them, impossible to move.
Tactical Air Force (TAF), on the right side, in various of the Academy Rooms. They are subordinate to some extent to AFI but have their own Hq. Commandant.
5 Army Rear Hq. in most of the right half of the bldg and elsewhere.
The Red Cross, more or less dependent from 5 Army, in the three main halls running from the front to the center stair.

7. The Hq Commandants as far as I could learn are:

AFI: Lt. Col. Marcham, 5th floor in stair in rear rt court. (Br)
MAF: Squadron Leader Spencer, in back right corner. (Br)
TAF: A very cooperative RAF Officer whose name I did not get. (Br)
5 A: Lt. Col. Smith, left rear corner (US)
RC: Mr. Stevens, office off first Hall going from center stair. (US)

8. Besides these there are still Major Smith with the Hq. Detachment of AFHQ, whose office is to the right of the main front entrance, and a Br. Chaplain who has the use of the Rustic Hall as a chapel and movie hall, but is dependent from Lt. Col. Marcham.

9. At present the following arrangements for storage are made:
a. The rear rooms of the Prince of Piedmont's storerooms to the left of the center rear entrance still contain some of his furniture and some historic pieces of Maria Carolina. The front room has been taken by 5 Army for storage of furniture which they may want to use. 1664

b. The Royal Archives are closed and the books from the Library are stored there ~~except those~~ except those of the Naples Palace ~~have not been~~ brought back to the Naples Museum under my supervision.

except/

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c. The Chapel is used for the storage of furniture. The windows should be boarded up and Battaglia was authorized by 5 Army to secure lumber and labor for this purpose.

d. Private property of Superintendent Molajoli and others is stored in a storeroom behind the big door on the main staircase.

e. The Presepio is used for storage.

f. The apartments of Francis II (front of left end) are used for the storage of pictures.

g. A room between the Halls and throne room is used for storage.

10. So far as I could gather in the somewhat hasty inspection and conversations which I had, the actual condition is as follows:

a. The Red Cross has a number of pictures taken for its original quarters and listed but not yet hung in its present quarters. It has also furnished the three big Halls and the adjacent offices partly with its own and partly with Palace furniture. The Palace furniture has not been inventoried. I asked that this be done and instructed them to remove one embroidered divan. This last has been done. The remaining furniture is ~~some of it~~ probably usable, though a selection of less valuable pieces might be substituted. I did not notice any rugs.

b. The Chaplain has set up one end of the Rustic Hall as a chapel, mostly with unimportant chairs but with two swell ones for the front. I see no reason why this use is not proper but his ~~own~~ furniture should be inventoried. He now intends not to take any more furniture except perhaps a red curtain for the window behind his altar.

c. 5 Army has used little or none of the Palace furniture and claims to have inventoried what it took.

d. MAF claims that all its furniture was prepared for it and is not Palace furniture.

e. A great deal of furniture has been distributed by API throughout the rooms it occupied, notably in Officers Messes. Many of these rooms are not Palace rooms. Much furniture remains in the Palace rooms. Battaglia estimates that he stored less than half of what was originally in the Palace rooms. As you know, this furniture is not only from the Caserta Palace but also from Naples. The furniture in use has not yet been inventoried but all Branches have been ordered to prepare an inventory in triplicate: one for file, one for API and one for Battaglia. Lt. Col. Marcham ~~1663~~ achieve this. API is using rugs.

f. In recent days the Presepio has been broken into and two small bronze lions taken. Also the apartments of Francis II have been broken and a painting of a scene from Don Quixote taken. The Chapel is not strongly closed or adequately policed during working hours when it must be open. Troops live in the stair off which the Archives open and could readily get in by breaking a none to strong padlock. There are now many fine and valuable books stored there.

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11. The following steps are recommended:

b. It is recommended that an attempt be made to inventory all Palace ~~in~~ furniture in use throughout the building. This could be done gradually over a period of time by the MEAA Officer in the company of Battaglia.

d. It is recommended that strong OFF LIMITS notices be prepared for all rooms used for storage, signed by Lt. Col. Marcham for AFM and Lt. Col. Smith for 5 Army. At present only innocuous CLOSED TO VISITORS notices are posted.

f. It is recommended that periodic inspections be made as to the condition and use of the Palace, by arrangement with the different occupying Hqs. 16

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h. It is recommended that if possible decent quarters, preferably with office space attached, be found for Battaglia and that he be left in charge of the Palazzo for the Superintendency of Monuments.

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12. In conclusion, I would like personally to place on record mention of the cooperation which I have received from all the Hq Commandants and others ~~with~~ with whom I have discussed the problems. They have all been eager to help, but the pressure of other business and the speed with which quarters have had to be prepared have prevented the taking of adequate steps to protect the treasures and other properties of the Italian State. They have been hampered, as in the case of Battaglia's apartment, by allocations of space made previously or at a distance and by the shortness of time which did not permit of restudy. The difficulties which have arisen have not been due to individual faults but to the complication of having several Hqs all eager for space and to the lack of a centralized allocating and supervising authority. It can only be hoped that in the future when such buildings are to be used either only one Hq will be installed or a central billeting authority, backed by the highest command likely to be involved, will be given complete charge of the allocation of space and the use of contents.

13. In particular it is requested that ~~you~~ if it can be done through official channels, you convey on behalf of the Division (in so far as I have been part of it) to the proper authorities of the 5 Army commendation for the great interest and cooperation shown by Lt. Col. Smith, Hq. Commandant, and by Sgt. Freshman. They have done all in their power, and far more than their duties required, to soften the impact of occupation on the Palace and its staff, to look after the staff, to provide funds and materials for protecting and storing the contents, and to secure a proper use of the Palace and its contents.

Mason Hammond
MASON HAMMOND

Capt. AC

Division of Monuments Fine Arts and
Archives, AMG AFI.

1661

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
SUBCOMMISSION FOR MONUMENTS FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES

16 February 1944.

Memorandum to: Major CARPENTER, Director of Division of Monuments and Fine Arts, Region 3.

Subject : Visits to Caserta Vecchia and Caserta.

1. On 8 Feb. and 15 Feb. I visited the Cathedral of Caserta Vecchia and the Palace of Caserta. The first visit was made in the company of Major WOODS, Director of the Subcommission for Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives of ACC, of Major DEWALD, Director of the Division of Monuments and Fine Arts, Region 4, and of Capts. Penoyer and Keller and Lt. Downer of the Subcommission. The second visit was made in the company of Capt. E. CROFT-MURRAY of the Subcommission on instructions from the Director that after consultation with you he was to assume responsibility for our interest in the Palace.
2. At Caserta Vecchia, the Cathedral is still in process of a restoration interrupted by the war. The priest in charge seems intelligent and interest. The damage reported was done by German troops in the last days before the Occupation when they went up to Caserta Vecchia to hunt for young men to deport as laborers. No war damage has been suffered. The Germans are reported to have pried pieces of mosaic out of the Pulpit and Altar front, to have taken a stone statue of St. John the Baptist, which was lying loose in the chancel and which had formed part of the pulpit, and to have taken ivory keys from a small organ.
3. At the Palace of Caserta, all furnishings have now been stored in the Chapel or in the Apartments of Francis II except for the books and archives in the archives, for furniture in use, and for a few pieces still in the store-room of the Prince of Piedmont. The most important furniture from the latter, the throne room set, the Marat chairs, and the Maria Carlina furniture, have been moved up to the apartment of Francis II. The pictures, save for those hung on walls, are in the apartments. The furniture in the Chapel is not of prime importance. The office of the Conservator, Battaglia, is now in the apartments of Francis. The work done by Battaglia and his crew and the aid afforded by Sgt. Freshman are highly to be commended.
4. Capt. MURRAY was taken to the various Offices of Hq. Commandants etc. and while not all were in, he was at least introduced to personnel in them and particularly to Sgt. Freshman and Sign. Battaglia. He hopes to undertake seriously the inventorying of the furniture and the general coordination of the use of the Palace. It is threatened that when 5 Army and 15 Army Group move out and AFHQ comes in, the Apartments of Francis II will be taken and all the furniture will again have to be moved and stored. It is recommended that strong representations be made at this time to avert this.

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Mason Hammond
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Capt. AC

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Mason Hammond
 Capt. AG

NOTES ON CASERTA, 24/1/44

Battaglia sick and almost too old to carry on.

Noce seems entirely incompetent and not at all well informed about what is happening.

The Custodian had only three requisition slips for all the furniture taken by the 15th Army Group. These merely notes on scrap paper, some written by hand, no headings and the signatures often illegible. Sgt. Freshman of the 5th Army is endeavoring to get recognized receipts from all organizations.

Now all remaining furniture stored in extreme west part of the Palace, apartment of Murat. Most of the paintings seem still to be there but only a fraction of the furniture that was seen a month ago and Molajoli states that the finest furniture has been taken and without receipts. This furniture storage was broken into a few nights ago and a painting (of the series of Don Quixote) was out from the frame. Sgt. Freshman is arranging to have a burglar alarm placed on the doors leading to the storage section.

Most rugs and some valuable furnishings are stored safely behind two rooms used by the 5th Army. To gain access to these; it is necessary to get a key from Sgt. Freshman and then have one in custody of the custodians. This storage is also guarded by MP's 24 hours a day.

Archives and all remaining books from the several Libraries are stored in the Archivio. This is not adequately locked, merely by a chain and an old padlock and access is on stairs used continually by soldiers going to billets. All windows were found open and there is a water leak in one of the rooms. Noce was ordered to have this corrected and it will need checking later.

Much furniture still in Chapel and it was ordered to have all this moved to storage section and 5th Army will supply laborers.

Dismantled chandeliers; crystals etc. stored behind Chapel and access to this room is open to anyone. Seems necessary to leave here as fragile and difficult to move again.

Presepio Room is being used as passage and orders given to move everything there to storage space. 1658

Much gilt furniture and divans being used in English chapel and in American Red Cross Rooms.

-2-

It is the belief of Sgt. Freshman that none of the furniture that has recently been taken from the storage section is leaving the Palace but this must be checked and made sure that proper receipts are on file. The nephew of Battaglia, in pay of Superintendent, has been instructed to check all furniture with representative of each organization and note Palace check number on inventory.

Situation is far from satisfactory from the point of view of the safety of the Palace furnishings.

1657

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