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# REPARATIONS & RESTITUTIONS

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## SYNOPSIS

The month of September, 1945, witnessed the first pronounced progress in reparations since the Potsdam Conference. Thirteen industrial plants located in the United States Zone are now being dismantled and packed preparatory for shipment as reparations.

An interim restitution policy for looted articles found in the United States Zone has been established. This policy provides for the immediate return of certain categories of urgently needed equipment and livestock to those countries from which they were originally taken, regardless of any future effect on reparations. Restitution under this policy and during this period is limited to eleven nations who have been invited to submit lists to facilitate identification. No consolidated lists have been received as yet, although there have been considerable requests for the return of specific properties, and also for restitution in kind.

Shipments of looted works of art have been made to France and Belgium and other such shipments are planned for Holland and Czechoslovakia. The decrease in the number of available military guards for art repositories has made their reduction in number of the greatest importance. An increase in the number of articles received at collecting points was noted during the month, and some progress has been made in weatherproofing these collecting points.

The preservation of world famous historic monuments located in Germany is beginning to become effective in a few isolated spots. Local German art committees are increasing in number and there is hope that their efforts will do much to help in this preservation.



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The Potsdam Protocol establishes the general policy for reparations in the United States Zone. In general it was determined to use all heavy industrial capital equipment, not needed to maintain a minimum German civilian economy, as reparations.

Owing to the time necessary to develop quadripartite agreements on procedures to carry out the Potsdam Protocol directives, no actual determination of reparation availabilities was accomplished until September 1945. During this month, 29 major industrial plants in the Western Zones were declared as non-essential to the maintenance of a minimum German economy. Of these plants 13 were in the United States Zone and they are already in the process of being dismantled and packed preparatory to shipment. This equipment will be shipped on reparations account after inter-governmental policies and decisions have established the priorities of assignment.

## RESTITUTION

To many of the Allied Nations the problem of restitution is of paramount importance, both from the sentimental point of view and from the economic point of view. As a result there is considerable pressure being placed on the Military Government for the return of looted equipment, particularly rolling stock, machine tools and cultural works, the first two for economic reasons and the latter for political reasons. Except in the field of Fine Arts no actual restitution of looted articles has taken place but considerable work has been done on the implementation of the recently announced United States policy for restitution.

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On 24 September 1945, a directive was issued setting forth an interim restitution policy for the United States Zone. This policy provides in brief that restitution may be made of the following categories of property, wherever found in the United States Zone of occupation, if such properties are identifiable and were removed from occupied territory by the enemy:

- a. Heavy and power-driven industrial and agricultural equipment.
- b. Unique machinery and livestock.
- c. Rolling stock, transportation equipment, communication equipment and power equipment.
- d. Works of art, religious, historical, educational or cultural objects.

Restitution of these categories of property will be made regardless of any question of payment by Germany or effect on subsequent reparations, but a system of records and receipts will be instituted for future determination as to applicability to reparations. This policy does not apply to gold, silver or currency.

To implement this interim policy the following governments have been invited to prepare consolidated lists of items taken by Germans in order to facilitate identification of such property in the United States Zone: France, Belgium, USSR, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Yugoslavia. Restitution during the interim period will be made only to the above mentioned countries. After each list has been examined by the Military Governor of Germany, the several countries concerned will be permitted to send small missions into the Zone for identification of these items and to arrange for their return.

No consolidated lists of property so requested have been received as yet, although there have been considerable specific requests received, such as machine tools taken from the Fabrique Nationale d'Armes, Belgium; street cars from the Netherlands; laboratory equipment of the Carolinen University, Czechoslovakia; gunpowder presses from the National Powder Works, France; 352 sporting rifles, Holland; and 30 odd race horses, France.

The Netherlands government has requested that complete telephonic equipment required for servicing 12,000 numbers, looted from the Arnhem area, be taken from German surplus equipment on a phone-for-phone basis in lieu of attempting to locate the specific equipment. This request for restitution in kind was denied on the grounds that the material was not readily identifiable and, therefore, should be made the subject of a reparations claim. Other similar requests, particularly in the field of livestock, can be anticipated.

The looting of occupied areas by the Germans was carried out in a systematic fashion under the auspices of two specialized "looting corporations", ROGES and DELHAG. These corporations, in general, purchased property in occupied areas and reissued or resold it to German enterprises. An investigation of the activities of DELHAG has shown the method of operation of such corporations and it is felt that this will be extremely useful in attempting to locate and return looted property, particularly in the most urgently required categories, those of industrial capital equipment.

### MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS & ARCHIVES

#### Monuments.

There have been 283 cultural monuments inspected in the United States Zone as of the last of the month. These inspections have disclosed that 161 of these monuments are in the need of repairs. The following chart indicates the number of damaged cultural monuments by location in the United States Zone.

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CULTURAL MONUMENTS

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| LOCATION AND DETACHMENT | TOTAL INSPECTED | DAMAGE    |           |           |          | REPAIRS   |           |            |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                         |                 | COMBAT    |           | VANDALISM | PILLAGE  | COMMENCED | COMPLETED | NOT NEEDED |
|                         |                 | HEAVY     | LIGHT     |           |          |           |           |            |
| DARMSTADT E-3           | 22              | 4         | 2         |           |          | 3         |           | 16         |
| WIESBADEN F-15          | 21              | 2         | 5         | 1         | 2        | 5         |           | 14         |
| MARBURG E-2             | 11              | 1         | 4         | 2         | 2        | 3         |           | 6          |
| KARLSRUHE F-17          | 3               | 1         | 1         |           |          | 1         |           | 1          |
| MUNICH E-201            | 44              | 34        | 9         |           | 1        | 2         |           | 1          |
| WURZBURG E-202          | 9               | 8         | 1         |           |          | 5         |           |            |
| ANSBACH E-203           | 8               | 2         | 2         |           |          | 1         | 1         | 4          |
| REGENSBURG E-204        | 46              | 5         | 32        |           | 1        | 4         | 1         | 9          |
| OBERBAYERN E-205        | 22              |           |           |           |          |           |           | 22         |
| AUGSBURG E-206          | 97              | 25        | 23        |           |          |           |           | 49         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>283</b>      | <b>82</b> | <b>79</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>6</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>122</b> |



After an inspection and report of war damage is effected on each monument, the establishment of a military guard or security and the inauguration of "first aid" repairs follow in logical sequence. Where possible local German administrative officials are requested to make the needed repairs and in many districts Art Committees are being established to aid in this work.

A few local military government detachments are succeeding in obtaining allocations of building materials for emergency repairs to buildings listed on the "Official List of Protected Monuments for Western Germany". A very nice sense of proportion is required to weigh the relative needs of emergency housing for the homeless against the need of saving for posterity such masterpieces as the Tiepolo Fresco Ceiling in the "Residenz" Palace, Wuerzburg. Such a difficult decision has been made at Wuerzburg, whereby a temporary wooden roof has now been completed over the Kaisersaal, the Weisser Saal and the Hofkirche of this outstanding masterpiece of 18th Century architecture.

### Fine Arts.

An increase of 98 new repositories brings the total to 736 repositories listed as of the end of September. The total of 677 repositories reported at the close of the month of August erroneously included 38 Austrian caches.

It is necessary to reduce the total number of repositories for which United States Forces are responsible to a bare minimum. This has become increasingly important as the number of available military guards decreases in this theatre. Each new repository is first inspected as to physical condition, military or other security, and as to its general contents. A closer examination is then made to decide whether its contents contain probable or suspected loot, in which case evacuation to a collecting point is effected as soon as possible. If repositories are

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found to contain neither loot nor German owned objects of great national importance they are turned back to local custodians, either the Buergomeister or some other reliable individual. Other repositories are written off the records when they are totally evacuated, destroyed or their contents proved unimportant. In this manner the total number of repositories for which United States Forces are now responsible will be reduced. Only those repositories requiring especially vigilant protection because of their contents will be guarded until their final evacuation.

Repositories often are found to contain a mixture of cultural objects. An analysis of the contents of all repositories so far reported reveals that 478 contain works of art, 174 archives, 150 libraries, 40 scientific collections and 123 mixed. Looted objects have been found in 85 of these caches.

The condition of German cultural collections remaining in their original place of abode indicates that of a total of 22 inspected in the Western Military District, four were partly destroyed or looted and five were totally destroyed. No reports were available from the Eastern Military District.

The following charts indicate the present status of repositories; the "dead" ones representing those over which United States responsibility has ceased, for one of the reasons stated above.

### MFA&A REPOSITORIES -- U. S. ZONE, GERMANY

30 September 1945

| Region              | As of 31 Aug 1945 | Additions During Sept. | Total | Released During Sept.* | Current Total |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|---------------|
| BAYERN              | 385               | 63                     | 448   | 32                     | 416           |
| WURTEMBERG          | 53                | 9                      | 62    | 4                      | 58            |
| BADEN               | 49                | 3                      | 52    | 4                      | 48            |
| KURHESSEN<br>NASSAU | 143               | 23                     | 166   | 32                     | 134           |
| HEMEN               | 3                 | -                      | 3     | -                      | 3             |
| BERLIN              | 5                 | -                      | 5     | -                      | 5             |
|                     | 638**             | 98                     | 736   | 72                     |               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        |                   |                        |       |                        | <b>664</b>    |

\* See following table, giving break-down.

\*\*The figure of 677, given in the monthly report for August 1945, included by mistake 39 Austrian repositories.

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## "DEAD" MFA&A REPOSITORIES

September 1945

| Location                | Totally Evacuated | Destroyed | German Custody | Contents Unimportant | False Leads |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| BAYERN                  | 10                | 1         | -              | 4                    | 18          |
| WURTEMBERG              | 1                 | 1         | -              | -                    | 2           |
| BADEN                   | 1                 | 1         | 1              | -                    | 1           |
| KURHESSEN<br>NASSAU     | 19                | 1         | 5              | 4                    | 3           |
|                         | 31                | 4         | 6              | 8                    | 24          |
| TOTAL DEAD REPOSITORIES |                   |           |                |                      | 72          |

No new collecting points have been established during the month but great progress has been evidenced in repairing and organizing those already established. Glass, roofing materials, locks, lumber, plaster and cement are no longer "frozen" for this purpose. Sufficient coal has been delivered to the buildings in Munich to maintain them at a temperature adequate to protect the most delicate art objects from the hazards of cold and condensation.

The Frankfurt/M Archival Collecting Point, for which the damaged University Building had been chosen, was superseded by obtaining an intact five story warehouse building at Offenbach. This building is now being emptied of its present industrial contents to make way for 28 freight cars of books from the Berlin Prussian State Library, and also the holdings of Jewish libraries looted from eastern and western overrun countries. Both these collections are estimated at five million items.

A great increase in the number of items received and inventoried by the collecting points has occurred during the month of September.

### MFA&A COLLECTING POINTS

Number of Objects  
Received or Inventoried  
as of  
30 September 1945



|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Marburg   | 1165 |
| Munich    | 6022 |
| Wiesbaden | 1940 |

TOTAL            9127

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The problem of interzonal transfers of German works of art back to their original points of origin has made evident the need of a Fine Arts Quadripartite consultation. A preliminary meeting with the Assistant Chief of the Education Branch, USSR Military Administration in Germany, laid the foundation for more frequent contact with Russian Fine Arts personnel. At the Berlin level, meetings of the Kommandatura Committee on Fine Arts have been held.

During the month France has received back some 71 paintings of the highest caliber, especially chosen for a proposed exhibition in Paris. In addition the stained glass windows from the Cathedral of Strasbourg and the Cathedral Treasure of Metz have found their way back. Art treasures stolen from Louvain and Bruges, including the Michel Angelo Statue of the Madonna and Child, were shipped to Brussels.

Some 26 especially chosen Dutch paintings are being selected for a similar token gesture, as are paintings from Czechoslovakia. Each of these tentative shipments present different problems. The sum total of these test shipments will point out the easier ways of conducting the operation of restitution of cultural objects.

### Archives.

Some further progress has been made in the salvage of archives. Negotiations failed to secure a building at Freising, Bavaria. However, a substitute building was obtained at Garmisch-Partenkirchen. This is only a beginning for solving the huge problem of storing countless scores of archival collections and libraries whose home structures have been completely destroyed. Each case, upon examination, will require careful consideration of whether to sacrifice convenience for gaining access to these collections near their home grounds or to seek a suitable building at a less convenient distance but large enough to permit an orderly reassembling of the collections.

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MILITARY GOVERNMENT

MONTHLY REPORT OF THE MILITARY GOVERNOR  
U. S. Zone of Germany

20 October 1945

DISTRIBUTION LIST

- 1 The Military Governor, US Zone of Germany.
- 105 Office of Military Government for Germany (US):
- 26 Functional divisions and offices - 2 each.
  - 28 Director of Political Affairs, for State Department distribution in Europe.
  - 20 Control Office, for distribution to Executive Offices.
  - 20 Division originating functional report.
  - 1 AG (plus all extra copies).
  - 3 Field Information Agency (Technical).
  - 3 Strategic Services Unit.
  - 2 Ministerial Collecting Center.
  - 2 Joint Intelligence Committee.
- 75 Civil Affairs Division, War Department.
- 15 Hq, US Forces, European Theater:
- 2 Chief of Staff.
  - 2 ACOS, G-1.
  - 2 ACOS, G-2.
  - 2 ACOS, G-3.
  - 2 ACOS, G-4.
  - 1 AG.
  - 4 COT, CSO, CMO, CE - 1 each.
- 85 Office of Military Government for Germany (US Zone):
- 25 For internal distribution.
  - 10 Eastern Military District.
  - 10 Western Military District.
  - 40 For distribution to the field through functional channels.
- 5 Hq, US Forces in Austria.
- 2 Theater Service Forces, European Theater.
- 2 US Air Forces in Europe.
- 2 Commander of Naval Forces in Germany.
- 1 Mission for Economic Affairs, US Embassy in Great Britain.
- 3 US Headquarters, Berlin District.

