

Authority NN0775 059
 By Sc NAPA Date 12/19

IX-VI

C O P Y

S E C R E T

APPENDIX II

HEADQUARTERS
 THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
 APO 403

9 April 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Instruction.

TO : Commanding General, XII Corps, APO 312, U. S. Army.

1. The bearer, Colonel Bernard Bernstein, O918917, GSC, has been designated by the Supreme Commander to take over in the name of the Commanding General, ETOUSA, the stored contents of the salt mine at MERKERS (WH6850, Sheet No. L-51, Map Germany 1:250,000, GSGS 4346) recently captured by your Corps, to include gold bullion, German Reichmarks, French francs, and all forms of currency and specie, art treasures, and all other property and valuables stored therein. Until further instructions are had from higher headquarters, he, as officer in charge, will be responsible for:

a. Making a complete inventory of the entire contents of this mine, to include gold bullion, German Reichmarks, French francs, and all forms of currency and specie, art treasures, and all other property and valuables stored therein, and for furnishing Headquarters Third Army a copy of such inventory, as well as copies to such other headquarters as is directed by the Commanding General, ETOUSA.

b. Arranging with Third Army for the movement of this treasure to other areas when and if it is deemed advisable.

c. Making decisions as to who is allowed to enter the mine and for publicity incident thereto. In this connection, until further definite instructions are received from higher headquarters, such persons as he desires to allow to enter the mine and as approved by you will be given a written pass signed by you, and no other persons will be allowed to enter said mine.

2. Responsibility for guarding this mine and contents thereof, to include guarding against enemy action, remains with the Third Army, which in turn is presently delegated to the Commanding General, XII Corps. You are further directed that no Allied units or separate individuals are to be allowed within the area surrounding this mine, except upon written permission from you.

3. In case of further discoveries and captures of the same character, the contents of this letter will so apply.

By command of Lieutenant General PATTON:

HOBART R. GAY,
 Major General, U. S. Army,