

Report on Work Accomplished in Berlin.

Upon arrival in Berlin I started to work upon the Netherlands gold question. A rather general over-all report had been prepared in Dec 1945, but this report had never been completed.

Upon the request of Mr. Orvis Schmidt I began by tracing the disposition of certain looted Netherlands guilders which were resmelted by the Prussian Mint in 1942. Following this I did a study on the Netherlands gold bars which were resmelted in 1942. Subsequently I prepared reports on the looted Netherlands guilders which were resmelted in 1943, and the looted Netherlands gold which was resmelted in 1944. The last report prepared was on the gold dollars which were included in the Netherlands looted gold.

Mr. Sam Rose then prepared an over-all summary report on the Netherlands gold to which all the studies mentioned above were attached, as well as the pertinent records of the Prussian State Mint and the detailed claims submitted by the Dutch Government. Mr. Schmidt was given a copy of this when he came to Berlin in the middle of November.

Upon the suggestion of Mr. Thoms, Mr. Karl Jahnke, formerly assistant to Wilhelm in the Reichsbankdirektorium, was interrogated as to Reichsbank gold transactions. At first Mr. Jahnke seemed to recall very few transactions with even a moderate degree of detail. His attitude seemed one of constantly "white-washing" what had gone on by minimizing the gold amounts involved and by claiming that looted gold was paid for by the Germans. His first report a sort of skeletal outline relating to gold received and sent to various European countries during the war, was so unde-tailed that it added nothing not already known. Mr. Jahnke believed that in collaboration with Mr. Wilhelm he might be able to render his report much more specific and complete, so he spent an evening with Wilhelm and came back with a report, a translation of which is attached.

In talking with Mr. Jahnke I asked him about the activities of Maurer and other agents who dealt in foreign exchange abroad. He stated that to his knowledge Maurer did not work for any governmental agency, but only for himself, and that he was not a big operator. Maurer would sell foreign exchange to the Reichsbank for gold at a more advantageous rate to the Reichsbank than the official rate. Then Maurer would take the gold abroad and use it to buy foreign exchange on the black market. There were a number of other agents like him in France, Belgium and Holland.

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Shortly before I left Berlin, Mr. Riechers who formerly was an assistant to Mr. Goerlich in the Devisenabteilung, came in for questioning. He was able to give no specific information not previously known from the reports of Jahnke and Graupner, but he did state that he had seen last month in the Staatskontor certain books and records which could furnish more information. He had been called in last month by the Staatskontor (where Goerlich now works) to assemble information requested by the Americans from the Russians (The Staatskontor is in the Russian Sector). He worked for about 10 days and gave the results of his work to Mr. Goerlich. Apparently however, Goerlich -perhaps through fear of the Russians or because of a directive issued by them- decided not to turn this information over to the Americans, and thus when Mr. Rose, Mr. Ferdinand and Mr. Thoms went to the Staatskontor, they were given only a few statistics as to the Berlin Reichsbank balances in May 1945.

In order to determine what was left to be done in the obtaining from the records on hand as much information as possible, I went through all the reports prepared to date and summarized them in a two page outline. What appears to be the most important lack now is a study on the Austrian gold and one on the transactions with Sweden.

Before I left Berlin I talked with Mr. Rose regarding what still remains to be done. Mr. Schmidt, at the time of his last visit, asked Mr. Rose to prepare an over-all report which would tie together the studies already done and such studies as needed still to be accomplished. I gave Mr. Rose a copy of the summary I had prepared and copies of such reports and interrogations as he did not already possess. He asked that Mr. Thoms and I prepare reports on Sweden and Austria, and that I come to Berlin some time before Christmas to show him what was accomplished.

He suggested further that if it appeared that Mr. Graupner could be of help the latter be brought to Frankfurt (he is now in Munich) and if need be, Mr. Rose would come to Frankfurt too.

Right before I left Berlin I read through the greater part of the Puhl interrogation which deals with Reichsbank transactions, especially regarding Belgian gold and Melmer deliveries.

Also, shortly before leaving Berlin I went through the Tagebuch listing entries of gold sent from the Reichskreditkassen and Devisenschutzkommando offices in Belgium, France and Holland. There is a question as to whether the gold obtained in this manner would be classified as looted, since apparently a great deal of it was obtained by German agents dealing in the black market. I promised Mr. Rose I would do more work on this when I returned to Frankfurt.

20 November 1946

1. Overall Gold Report

Is an analysis of closing balances of Precious Metals Department, Reichsbank. Also analysis of precious metals recovered at Merkers and elsewhere. Shows that over 98% recovered (value \$252,497,306.8)

2. Melmer (SS Loot)

Study not completed; there was total of 78 deliveries, of which about 43 were fully inventoried by Reichsbank. These deliveries included gold coins, gold bars, rings, watches, bank notes, broken silver, gold etc. The value of those deliveries inventoried by Reichsbank is RM 23,455,781.96, of which RM 1,866,329.18 is gold coins, and RM 3,018,062.13 gold bars.

Thus, it is possible to say that approximately \$1,600,000 in gold coins and bars were received by the Reichsbank in the first 40-odd deliveries of Melmer (SS Loot) received.

3. Studies on Gold from Particular Countries**A. Belgium**

Gold of the Belgium National Bank which had been sent to Paris for safekeeping before Belgium over-run. After the fall of France this gold ended up in the Reichsbank, Berlin. Amount of gold involved approximately \$223,270,765. This report traces the movement of the gold quite closely, shows what went abroad, etc.

However, this report does not concern itself with gold taken from Belgium during occupation under Devisen laws, etc.

B. Holland

Shows receipt by Reichsbank of gold forced from Netherlands under several titles: "Devisen laws", "Eastern campaign", "Occupation costs" and "Prize gold". Amount involved is approximately \$163,000,000. Report shows disposition of this gold.