

DOCUMENT 1

May 16, 1945 Document, Subject: "Hungarian Train Bearing Civilians"

"On the train were the valuables from small town treasuries consisting of diamonds, money, gold and silver articles, watches, and miscellaneous items which the Hungarians wanted to keep from falling into Russian hands. . . .

In the beginning, the gold was in one car, the silver in another, etc, but as there was danger of the train being bombed, the valuables were distributed throughout the train. **Several attempts were made by Nazi agents to loot the train but in all but one instance, the Hungarians were successful in guarding their cargo.** In the one instance the Nazis took approximately 500 chrome cased watches. . . . The train finally arrived in Buchstein [sic] where the trainmaster contacted the Swiss consulate who told them to contact our troops in Badgastein. . . .

The Hungarians desire to turn over the entire train to the American authorities."

This is the earliest U.S. document that mentions the Hungarian Gold Train.

DECLASSIFIED
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Sub APO 777
 US ARMY.

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Hq. 3rd Inf. Division
 A C of S, G-2
 APO 3

16 May 1945

SUBJECT: Hungarian Train Bearing Civilians.
TO : CG, 3rd Infantry Division.

1. On 15 December a train left ZIEREN, Hungary with ARPAD TOLDI as trainmaster. On the train were the valuables from numerous small town treasuries consisting of diamonds, money, gold and silver articles, watches, and miscellaneous items which the Hungarians wanted to keep from falling into Russian hands. In the beginning, the gold was in one car, the silver in another, etc, but as there was danger of the train being bombed, the valuables were distributed throughout the train. Several attempts were made by Nazi agents to loot the train but in all but one instance, the Hungarians were successful in guarding their cargo. In the one instance the Nazis took approximately 500 charges cases watches. As the car approached the American lines, the trainmaster ARPAD TOLDI, took some of the gold articles and some diamonds and is presumed to have headed for SWITZERLAND after turning over a very general inventory to one of the functionaries. The train finally arrived in BUCHAREST where the trainmaster contacted the Swiss consulate who told them to contact our troops in BARRABESIE. Our troops put the train under guard and brought it to ZIEREN where it is now under joint Hungarian and American guard. "A" Co, 15th Infantry is providing the guard. Below is a list of cars which contain anything of value:

69142	silver	6533	cloth material, watches
154715	silver	1627301	picturoes
144600	silver	174157	gold & silver articles
1132599	silver	125152	gold watches
265736	silver	34014	gold watches
55438	silver	7303	gold watches
130164	silver	6533	gold & silver articles
123556	silver	130324	gold watches
127260	silver	75395	gold watches
		78155	gold watches
		55438	gold articles
		113513	silver
		1 car	carpets

Special 3 man guard --- diamonds and money

2. There are 136 Hungarians with the train of whom 50 are soldiers and dependents. The balance are functionaries and their families.
3. The Hungarians desire to turn over the entire train to the American authorities.

Certified a true copy

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