

DOCUMENT 9

September 17, 1945 Document, Subject: Report on the "Werfen Train" Paragraph 5 states:
"During inventory and interrogation of Dr. Avar Lazlo **it was determined that the train contained items which had been taken mostly from Jewish people....**"

Paragraph 6 states: "**During the inventory a large amount of papers were discovered which appear to prove the fact that these things were taken from Jews** and banks. Their papers are at the warehouse and Lt. Colonel Heller, MG Property Control Officer was told about them."

The U.S. knows that the property belongs to victims of the Holocaust from Hungary.

RG 260 USFA/USCA
Prop. 1945
B-20

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67 PD NARA Date 12/21

17 September 1945

SUBJECT: Report on the "Werfen Train"

TO : A C of S, G-2, USFA, APO 777, U.S. Army,

1. The "Werfen Train" was taken over by IOSS of the 6695 Hq. Co, MIS upon orders from G-2 USFA and moved to the Railroad siding at Salzburg - Maxglan where it was unloaded, stored in the Military Government warehouse, inventoried, and then turned over to the Military Government Property Control Officer for safekeeping.

2. The first communication about the train was by letter Hq. 3rd Inf. Div, office of A C of S, G-2, dated 16 May 1945 to Commanding General, 3rd Division (copy attached). Apparently no action was taken and the train, still under Hungarian guard was turned over to the 1st Bn, 327th Glider Infantry upon the 3rd Division's movement to another area.

3. G-2 (IOSS) USFA, acted on the train as of 13 July 1945 (copy of initial letter attached).

4. The train consisted of various items of valueables, to the greatest part of Bugs (4900) and cases of silver (approx 850). There is attached copy of a contract between the Royal Hungarian Government and the German Government which classified the goods as belonging to the Hungarian State.

5. During inventory and interrogation of Dr. Avar, Lenzlo it was determined that the train contained items which had been taken mostly from Jewish people and from banks in Hungary. The items were taken by order of the last Hungarian Nazi Government. Dr. Avar took over the train at Brennberg, where the things were lying about open at the RR station. He admitted that during that time quite an amount of looting by civilians took place. Dr. Toldi, Arpod fled the train and was supposed to have taken along approximately 50 cases of Gold and Diamonds (see attached sworn statement).

6. During inventory a large amount of papers were discovered which appear to prove the fact that these things were taken from Jews and banks. These papers are at the warehouse and Lt. Colonel Heller, MG Property Control Officer was told about them.

7. Dr. Avar could not be interrogated again after the train's inventory was found because he had been returned to Hungary.

8. In Werfen (Kloster House) Oberregierungsrat Schmidt (Hungarian Mission) was interrogated by Capt John F. Beck, 6695 Hq. Co, MIS (IOSS) and gave the following information:

- a. That Dr. Avar was, prior to his taking over the train, Burgomaster at KEMTA, Hungary.
- b. That Dr. Avar was ordered to the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior and there ordered to take over the train.
- c. That the Govt of Admiral Horthy called itself the "Royal Hungarian Government".
- d. That the things were taken from Jews and banks by the Hungarian Nazis and that they had, toward the end, German Gestapo agents helping them.

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e. That apparently a lot of looting had been done by the civilians and Hungarian Gendarmes who lived in the train. He stated that these people were said to have traded jewelry etc. for food.

f. That he believes Dr. Avar to be very honest and not to have done any of that looting himself, but rather that the people with him did that. (The condition of some of the cases etc. upon unloading, seem to bear out this statement).

g. It is the belief that the entire train consists of items and articles which were stolen or taken away by Hungarian authorities and later moved into Germany in order to safeguard them from the advancing Germans.

RUSSIANS
(HKK)

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*Certified a true copy
Homer K. Heller*

HOMER K. HELLER
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PROPERTY CONTROL OFFICER
MILITARY GOVERNMENT, LAND SALZBURG

John F. Beck,
Capt., GAC.