

OFFENBACH ARCHIVAL DEPOT  
OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
LAND GREATER HESSE

Offenbach Det F-13  
2nd MG Bn (Sep)  
APO 633  
31 May 1946

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, May 1946.  
(Auth: MG Regulations, Title 18-612, Modified.)

TO : Colonel J.R. NEWMAN, Director  
Office of Military Government  
Land Greater Hesse.

A. Administration.

1. Location: I.G. Farben, 169 Mainstrasse, Offenbach-  
am-Main, 5. Offenbach. One building,  
5 stories.

2. Personnel.

a. United States.

- (1) I. Bencowitz, Captain, SR, O-527425.  
(Auth: P. 12, S.O. 88, Hq 2nd MG Bn (Sep),  
15 Apr 46.)
- (2) Reuben Sami Corporal. 30000387.

b. German.

- (1) Total, 169.
- (2) List of employees by branch and section,  
see Inclosure 2.

c. Liaison.

- (1) Lt. Colonel Jean Prinnet, Bibliotheque  
Nationale, Paris.
- (2) Major Dr. Dirk Petrus Marius Graswinckel,  
Head of the Netherlands National Archives.
- (3) Commandant Ph. Gangnat, French Restitution  
Officer.
- (4) Commandant P. de la Boulaye, French Restitu-  
tion Officer.
- (5) Captain Hubert de Brye, GECC, French Repara-  
tion Officer.
- (6) Mr. (Captain) Johannes Georg Schönau, Dutch  
Restitution Officer.
- (7) Captain H. Jaffe, Dutch Restitution Officer.
- (8) 1st Lt. Raymond LeMaire, Belgian Restitution  
Officer.
- (9) Professor Koppel S. Pinson, Official Repre-  
sentative of the American Joint Distribution  
Committee to this Depot.
- (10) Mr. David H. Clift, Official Representative  
of the Library of Congress Mission to this  
Depot.
- (11) Major L.G. Perry, B A O R, British.

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(11) Major I.G. Perry, B A O R, British.

3. Building.

a. Security.

1. 5 fire-extinguishers were installed:

- 1 in the 1st floor
- 2 in the 2nd floor
- 1 in the 4th floor
- 1 in the 5th floor.

2. 24 cases with sand were distributed on all floors.

b. State of Repair.

1. 68 windows repaired. One part with glass and the rest with Bizella (glass-substitute).

2. 3 lavatories were established.

3. Installing of a drinking water pipeline is going on.

c. Maintenance.

1. Torch-room. This room was enlarged through addition of Sorting-room C.

2. Care and preservation. This department was moved and enlarged from the 4th floor (room No 43a) to the 3rd floor (room No 22).

3. Employees Reading Room. The room No 43a was established as an Employees Reading Room.

4. Photo-room. Room No 21 (lavatory) was established as the photographic room.

5. The 4th floor was disinfected after movement of the Preussische Staatsbibliothek.

6. Room No 47 on the 4th floor was established as working room for Chaplain I. Rackovsky, sorting documents loose and in folders.

d. Heating Supplies.

1. Heating was stopped by the 13 May 1946.

4. Receipt of Documents.

a. Movement of 569 cases of books and other library materials from Schloss Banz, Rbz. Mittelfranken, (Auth: Ltr, OMG, Bavaria, to OMG, LGH, MFA and A, dated 6 Apr 46.)

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- b. Movement of approximately 250,000 books from Berlin District commenced. (Auth: Ltr, OMGUS, Colonel John H. Allen to Director, OAD, dated 16 Apr 46.)
- c. Ninety-three books were received from Captain G.P. Johnson, PSO, Mil. Gov. Det F-13, Offenbach, 3 May 46.
- d. Ninety-eight books received from Bürgermeister of Wallau, LK. Main-Taunus, part of Alfred Rosenberg collection. (Auth: VOCC, Lt. T.A. Heinrich, MFA and A Officer of LGH, 13 May 46.)
- e. Fourteen cases of French books received 18 May 46, from the Landesbibliothek, LGH, Wiesbaden. (Auth: VOCC, Mr. J.I. Boell, MFA and A, Mil. Gov., Wiesbaden.)
- f. Four hundred and forty-six second rate pictures were received from the Collecting Point, Wiesbaden for shipment to Holland, 16 May 46. (Auth: VOCC, Captain Edith A. Standen, Wiesbaden Art Collecting Center. 15 May 46.)

## 5. Important Visitors and Events.

## a. Visitors.

- (1) Mr. Jesse I. Boell, MFA and A, Mil. Gov., Wiesbaden, 17 May 46.
- (2) Dr. A. Bogrow, FIAT. 13 May 46.
- (3) Chaplain Burick, PRO, USFET. 14 May 46.
- (4) Captain Victor A. Croxton, OMG, LGH, Det E-5. 27 Apr 46.
- (5) Mr. Leon Dennenberger, OMGUS. 15 May 46.
- (6) Mr. Larry R. Darcy, FIAT. 13 May 46.
- (7) Miss Dorothy Gies, Stars and Stripes, I & E Division. 13 May 46.
- (8) 1st Lt. Irving Ganz, USFET. 2 and 5 May 46.
- (9) Lt. Col. R.G. Hocart, French Officer, ACA. 15 May 46.
- (10) Mr. M.G. Lesky, USFET. 15 May 46.
- (11) 1st Lt. Gavin Lawson, MG Det E-1. 2 May 46.
- (12) Chaplain Isaiah Ruckovsky, USFET. 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 May 46.
- (13) Captain Edith A. Standen, Wiesbaden Art Collecting Center, 21 May 46.
- (14) Lt. James A. Sawicki, OQMG, Wash. D. C. 20 May 46, 23 May 46.
- (15) Major Peter S. Tanous, QMC, OQMG. Wash. D.C. 20 May 46, 23 May 46.
- (16) Captain Rose Valland, CRA, French Officer. 17 May 46.
- (17) Major A.B. de Vries, Dutch Officer. 1 May 46.
- (18) Mr. J. de Vyner, CIG. 27 May 46.
- (19) 1st Lt. S.H. Waltman, OCB. 1 May 46.
- (20) Col. Stanley Q. Wentz, USFET. 27 Apr 46.
- (21) Dr. J. Zuckerman, Library of Congress Mission, Berlin. 3 May 46.
- (22) Mr. Richard S. Hill, Library of Congress Mission. 22 May 46.

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## b. Events.

- 29 Apr 46 - Fire Extinguishers installed on all floors.
- 1 May 46 - Directive Establishing the Offenbach Archival Depot as the sole Archival Depot in the U.S. Zone has been approved by Director, OMGUS.
- 2 May 46 - The top floor was disinfected.
- 3 May 46 - Corporal Rouben Sami, 30000387 was transferred from the 1264th Eng. Bn. B. Co., APO 757 to the 2nd Mil. Gov. Bn. (Sep) APO 633, and assigned to the OAD.
- 4 May 46 - A room designated as Captain Rackovsky Room was established for all loose documents, folders and photographs. The classification of these documents was started.
- 5 May 46 - A special room for packing and crating was established.
- 6 May 46 - Two trucks were given to Professor Pinson for the distribution of books among D.P. camps in the American Zone. Books for this purpose were lent to the AJDC. (Auth: Ltr, General B.L. Milburn to the Honorable Judge H. Rifkind dated 12 Jan 46 in reply to Ltr, The Honorable Simon H. Rifkind to General Lucius Clay dated 1 Jan 46.)
- 7 May 46 - The first load of books from Berlin arrived.
- 8 May 46 - Captain S.J. Pomrenze left for the States.
- 9 May 46 - Captain Johannes Georg Schönau, Dutch Restitution Officer returned from Holland.
- 10 May 46 - The last load of five hundred and sixty-nine (569) cases of books and library material from Schloss Banz arrived.
- 11 May 46 - In the process of sorting loose documents a large file of documents and photographs of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) were gathered.
- A photographic room to facilitate the photographic recording of library markings was established.
- 16 May 46 - Conference with Major L.G. Perry, B A O R, British Officer. Subject: Restitution of books from the Channel Islands.
- 17 May 46 - Captain Hubert de Brye, French Restitution Officer, signed for 130 cases of French books and library material and one night car was shipped for Mayence.

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- 20 May 46 - Conference with Major Peter S. Tancous, OMC, OQMG, Washington D.C. Subject: Books and photographs describing and illustrating foreign army uniforms, medals and coat of arms.
- 21 May 46 - The two safes in the Rothschild Library in Frankfurt were opened. Two cases of religious articles and 7 cases (70x53x50 cm) of manuscripts were removed and brought to the OAD. - Conference with Captain Edith A. Standen, Wiesbaden Art Collecting Center. Subject: Cultural Art values of some paintings and drawings in the OAD.
- 22 May 46 - The management of the civilian employee now undertaken over by the OAD from Offenbach Mill. Co., Ltd.

6. Transportation Available. No change.

7. Miscellaneous.

a. List of Library Collections which have gone through the sorting process. (See Inclosure 4)

b. Sorting Program.

1. Books.

By a system of photographic stamp it has been possible to sort Hebrew and Russian books by personnel unable to read either. Each sorter is given a series of stamps and a corresponding number. The sorter becomes acquainted with the physical outlines of the stamps and selects the books marked by them and sends them to an appropriately numbered box. The books go from one sorter to another until a negligible number is left for further more detailed classification.

2. Documents.

Captain I. Rackovsky has volunteered to work on his over time evenings and Sundays to sort Hebrew documents and letters.

3. Photographs.

Photographs are being sorted in the Torah room.

c. Schematic working plan of the Depot.

The fact that the first sorting processes have been completed by the end of April has enabled the establishment of a permanent schematic working plan of the Depot. The books, as they arrive, are taken to the top floor. The boxes are opened, the contents examined, and then sent to appropriate departments (See Inclosure 3).

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The books and documents from the sorters are taken to the packing room or to the storage of unidentifiable books on the 2nd floor.

3. Recommendations.

- a. The Offenbach Archival Depot has been designated as the sole Archival Depot in the U.S. Zone (Auth: Ltr, Lt. Col. G.H. Garde, Adjutant General, OMGUS, dated 1 May 46, subject: Removal to Central Archival Depot of Archives, Books and other Library material). It is estimated that with the present staff and program all the books can be sorted and crated by the end of August. It is urgent therefore that the transfer of books and library material to the OAD be expedited. Unless more books arrive to the OAD at a more rapid rate, the staff will have to be reduced and the completion of the assigned task thus very much delayed.
- b. A large file of documents and photographs of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) has been collected and is growing daily. It is suggested that this file be kept intact in the OAD or transferred to some other institution where this material can be studied by interested U.S. personnel.

B. Summary of Operations.

1. Inventory of Books and other Library Materials in Depot (Estimate, conservative). 25 May 1946.

a. Totals by Floors, Cases, Piles, Stacks and Packages:

Floor	Cases	Piles (in Cubic meters)	Stacks and Packages
1	1361	-	-
2	32	90	-
3	212	37	-
4	177	80	-
5	177	25	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1959</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>-</b>

b. Totals in items (books, pamphlets, newspapers etc.)

1959 cases at 220 items per case equal . . . . .	430,980
232 cu.meters at 1750 items per cu meters equal	
Stacks and packages . . . . .	406,000
<b>Total in Depot as of,</b>	
<b>25 May 46 . . . . .</b>	<b>836,980</b>

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Total in Depot as of	
25 Apr 46 . . . . .	901,445
Total received in May 46 . . . . .	33,680

Total shipped from	
25 Apr 46 to 25 May 46 . . . . .	31,483
Total shipped from	
25 Mar 46 to 25 Apr 46 . . . . .	779,305
Total shipped from	
1 Mar 46 to 24 Mar 46 . . . . .	242,840

Grand Total shipped	
from Activation to 25 May 46 . . . . .	<u>1,053,628</u>

## c. Books crated and ready for restitution.

(1) Austria	14 cases
(2) Belgium	2 cases
(3) Czecho-Slovakia	3 cases
(4) England	17 cases
(5) French	71 cases
(6) Greece	72 cases
(7) Holland	280 cases
(8) Italy	56 cases
(9) Poland	9 cases
(10) Russia	536 cases
(11) Yugo-Slavia	13 cases

## Photographs crated and ready for restitution.

(1) Wide World Photos.	
The New York Times.	4 cases
(2) Keystone View Company.	1 case
(3) Associated Press.	half a case
(4) Interpress News Photos,	
Paris.	1 case

## 2. List of items shipped out as of 25 May 1946.

## a. French Restitution.

130 cases. Alliance Israelite, Universelle de Paris, Ecole Rabbinique de Paris, Bibliotheque de Chinon and French Free Mason items.

## b. American Joint Distribution Committee Loan.

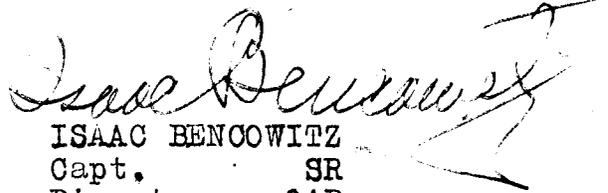
Total as of 23 Apr 46 . . . . .	19127 items.
30 Apr 46 . . . . .	863 items.

TOTAL	<u>19990 items.</u>
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c. Library of Congress Mission.

22 May 46 -- 21 boxes, 2020 books.

  
ISAAC BENCOWITZ  
Capt. SR  
Director OAD

- 4 Incls.  
Incl. 1 - Floor Plan of Depot as of 25 May 46.  
Incl. 2 - List of Personnel as of 25 May 46.  
Incl. 3 - Sorting Plan of Depot as of 25 May 46.  
Incl. 4 - List of Library Collections which have gone through the sorting process.

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Inclosure 3 : Work-Plan for Sorting

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Work-Plan for Sorting

