

# Betrayal

After fleeing Belgium in February 1940, the location of the Andriesses' private property, which had been put into storage, was betrayed to the Nazis by two informers: Georg Hoffmann, an associate of art dealer Katz, and the Andriesses' chauffeur Jean Coen.

## Georg Hoffmann, agent for art dealer Katz

The merchant Georg Hoffmann (April 10, 1907, Regensburg-?) of German, non-Jewish origin, worked, according to his own statement, for several years as an agent for art dealer "Katz, in Paris." While imprisoned for unknown reasons in Berlin in August 1941, Hoffmann revealed the whereabouts of the Andriessse (erroneously spelled "Hendryns") collection to the German authorities. Hoffmann had met Hugo Daniel Andriess in Lisbon in 1940 shortly before the couple left for New York. Hoffmann knew Hugo Andriessse, since he had personally sold several artworks to the Andriesses on behalf of the art dealer Katz. In Lisbon, Hugo Andriessse had asked Georg Hoffmann for assistance in transferring his art collection to the U.S. Hoffmann thereby learned the whereabouts of the Andriesses' collection in Brussels, although he declined to help transfer the collection to the U.S. During his imprisonment in 1941 in Berlin, Hoffmann betrayed his knowledge of the Andriessse's collection to the Nazis. Hoffmann also revealed that Jean Coen, the Andriesses' former chauffeur, had assisted with the external storage of the collection for safekeeping, as well as helping the couple to flee in 1940 to Lisbon. Hoffmann's statement instigated the National Socialists' investigation to find the Andriesses' collection in Brussels, as well as prompting them to search for Jean Coen in Brussels to bribe him with a large financial reward in return for delivering information on the whereabouts of the collection.

## Jean Coen, the chauffeur of Hugo Daniel and Elisabeth Andriessse

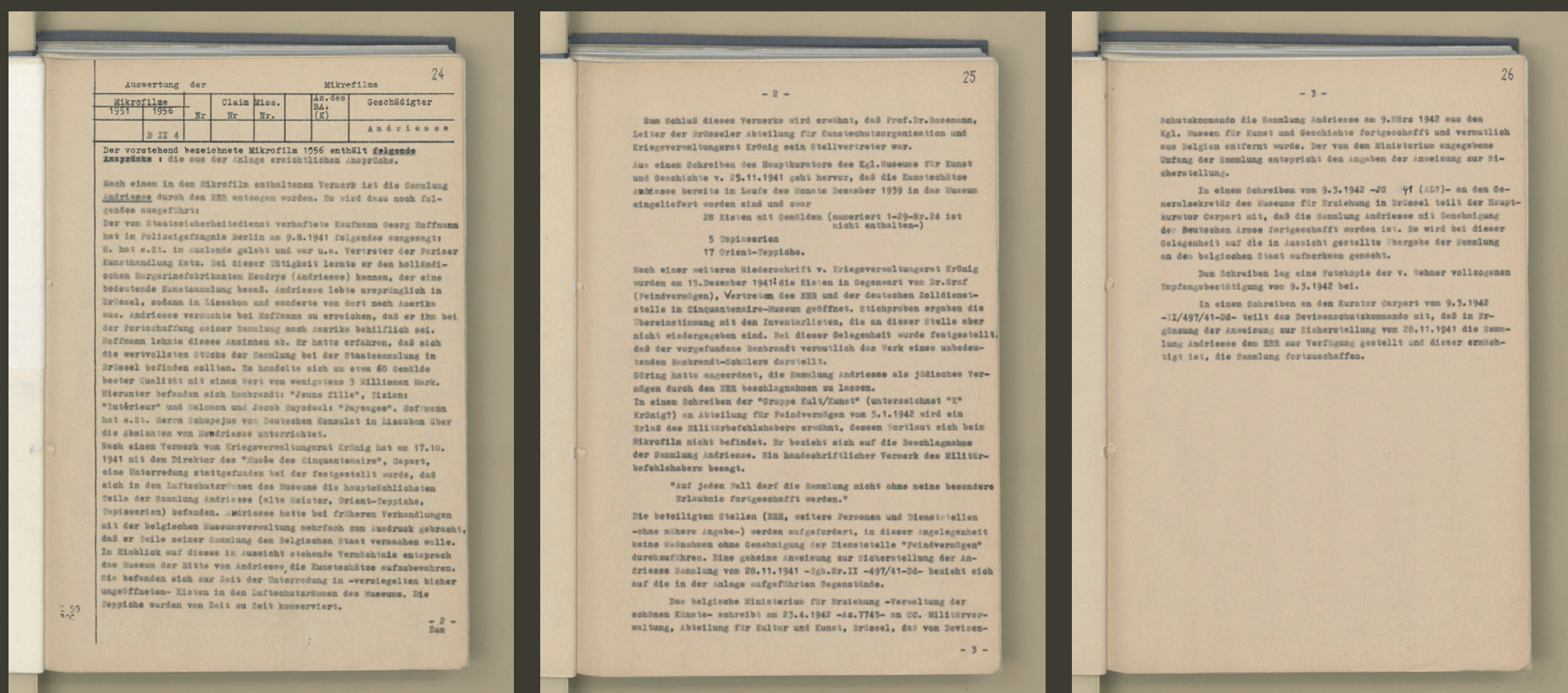
Jean Léon Coen (December 3, 1892, Brussels-?), had already informed the Nazis on March 8, 1941, at the Ortskommandantur Brüssel as to the whereabouts of the Andriesses' collection and received 300 Reichsmarks as a reward. Coen had revealed everything he knew about the Andriesses' escape to the U.S., as well as the different locations where their private belongings were stored: the art and textile collection in the Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, household valuables at carpet dealer Sarafian in rue Montagne aux Herbes Potagères 6, and a large safe in the private home of the Andriesses at 24, Avenue des Klauwaerts walled up in the cellar, which most likely contained bars of gold. Coen's testimony on the location of their scattered cultural property prompted the search by Nazi officials of the Andriesses' private home and stored property in Brussels.

The art and textile collection of the Andriesses was seized on November 28, 1941, by the Devisenschutzkommando Belgien at the Musées royaux d'Art et d'Histoire.

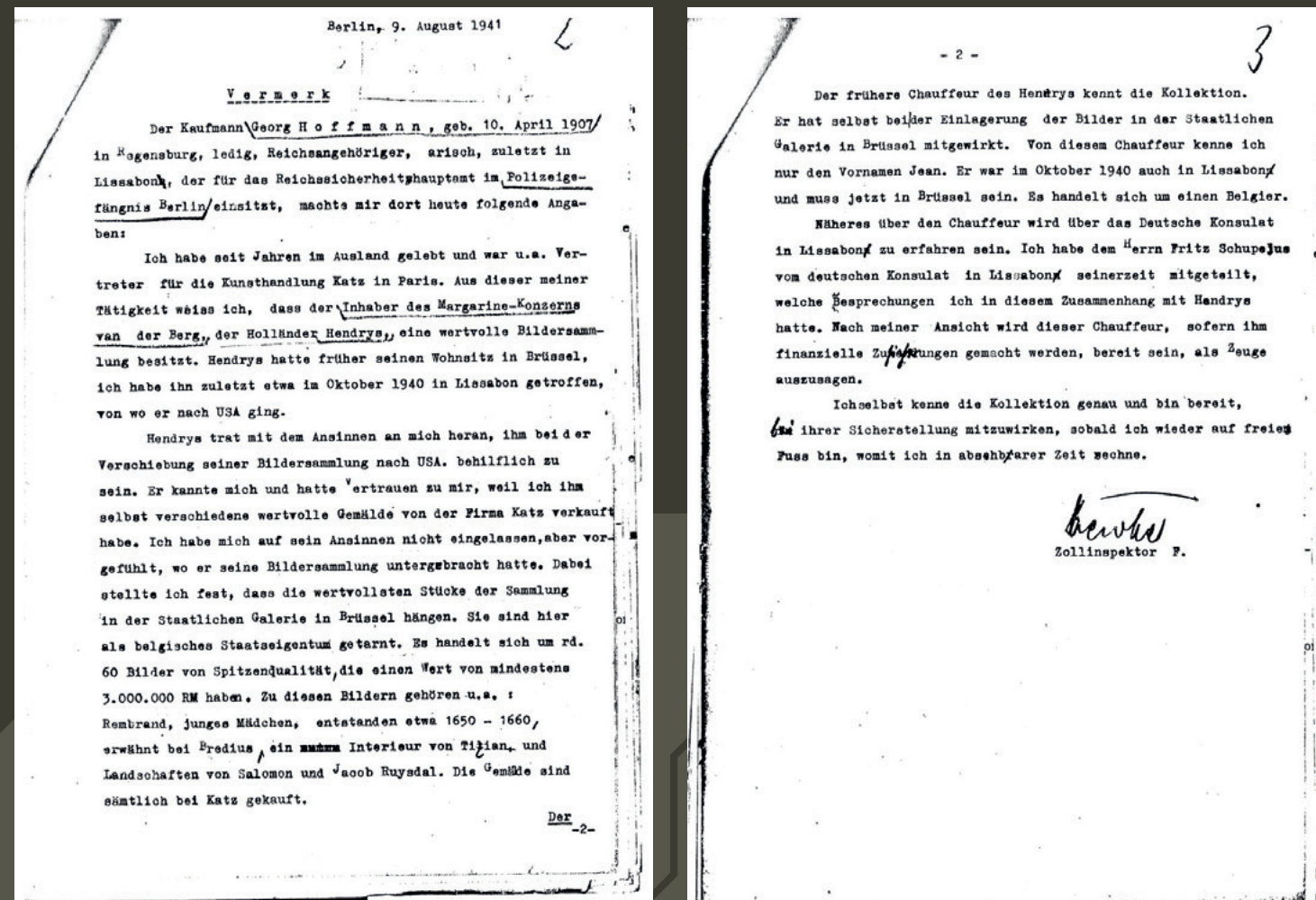
The property deposited with carpet dealer Vart Sarafian in 6, rue Montagne aux Herbes Potagères, Brussels, was inspected by the Nazis on March 22, 1941. The owner Vart Sarafian was interrogated. According to Coen, porcelain, silver, jewelry, and three grandfather clocks had been deposited with Sarafian. The Nazis found twenty boxes with household objects when searching Sarafian's cellar beneath the carpet shop. Sarafian testified that he had stored them for safekeeping since the Andriesses had left Belgium for Nice and Spain. According to a handwritten note on the interrogation report, the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg did not have any interest in these objects.

Nazi officials also inspected the safe in the cellar of the Andriesses' home in Avenue Klauwaerts. "The safe has already been... searched. Neither gold bars nor important documents were found."

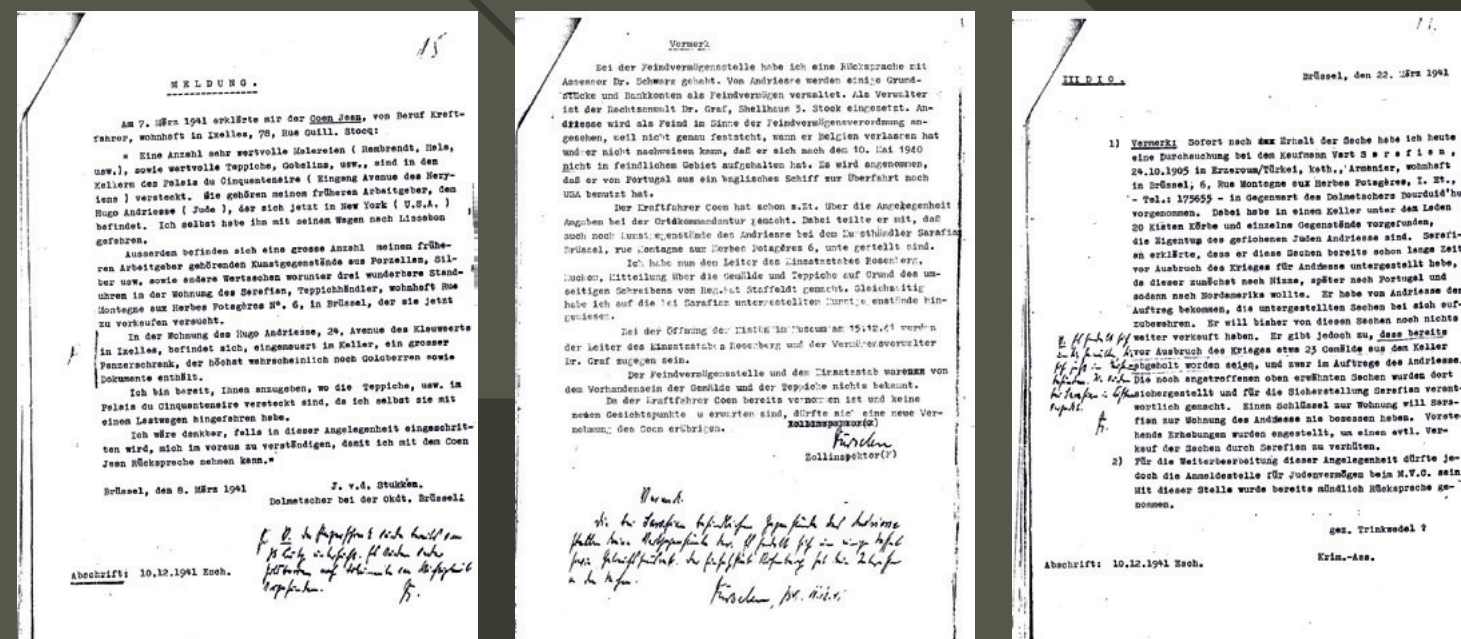
In addition to the 300 Reichsmark reward, Coen profited a second time. Upon his return to Brussels after driving the Andriesses to Lisbon, he sold their automobile and kept the proceeds.



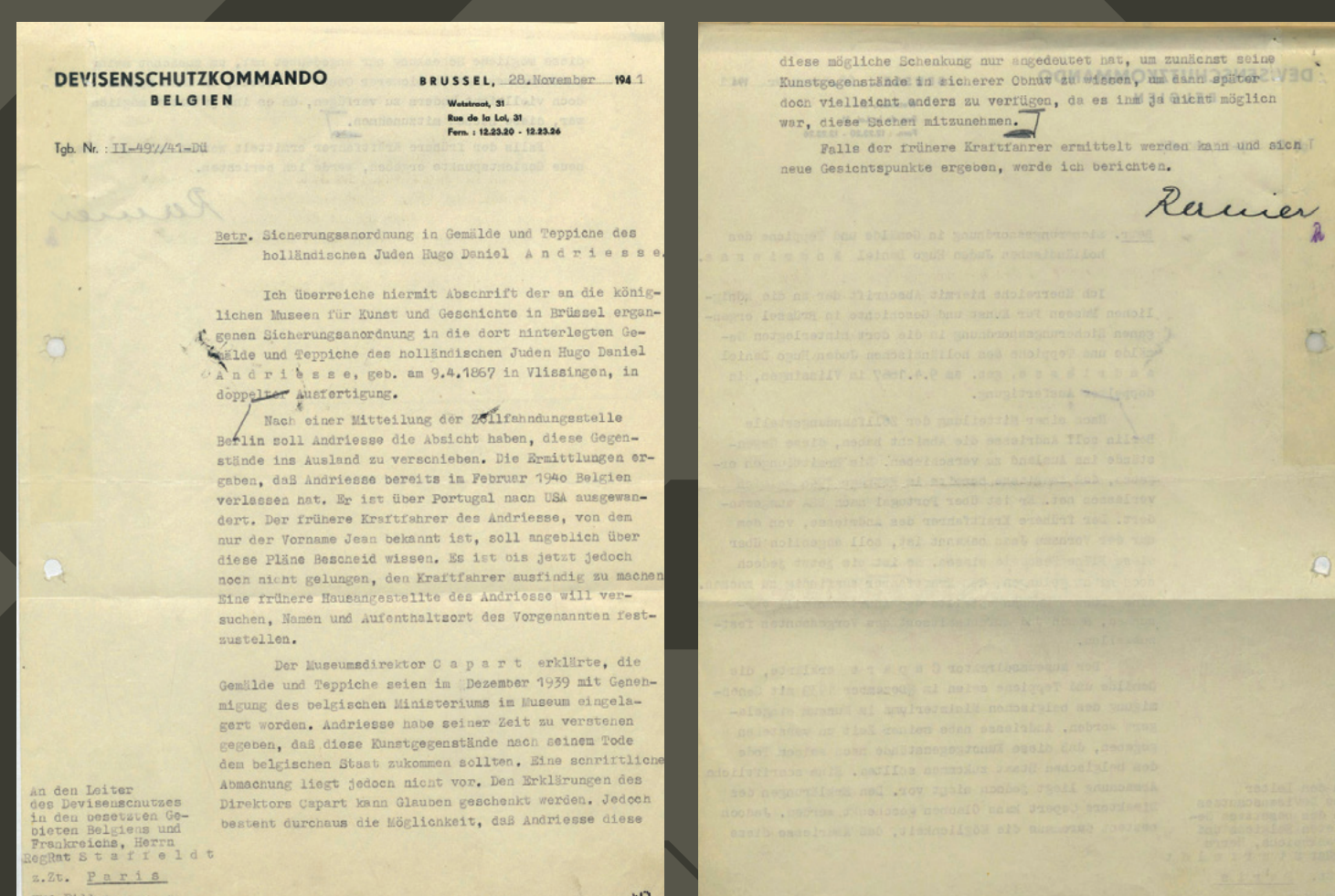
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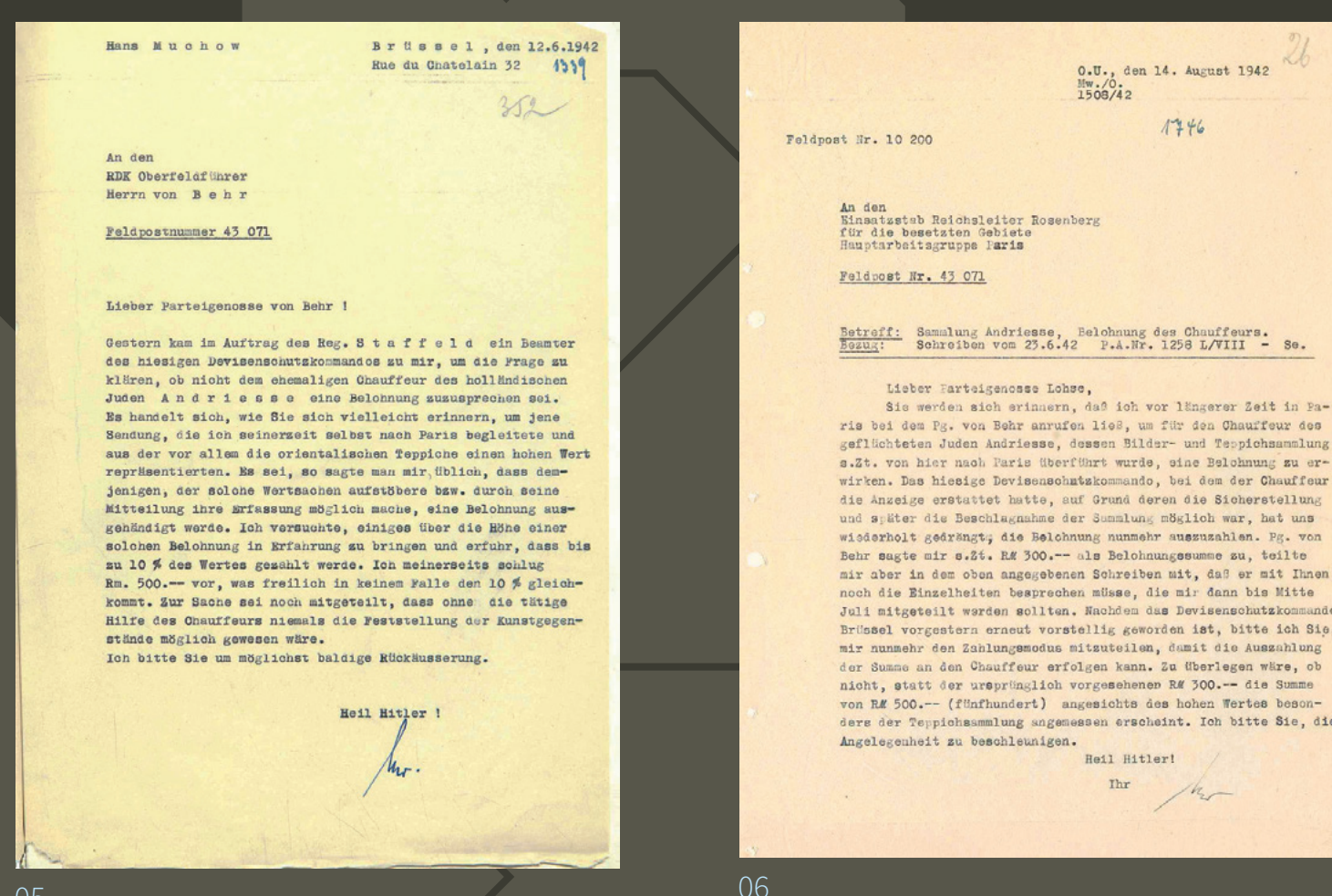
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- 01 — Note on the Andriessse case including testimony by Georg Hoffmann on the Andriessse (Hendryns) Collection, August 9, 1941, Bundesarchiv Koblenz, B 323/404.
- 02 — Note on the testimony by Georg Hoffmann on the the Andriessse (Hendryns) Collection, August 9, 1941, Federal Public Service Economy Ministry of Belgium.
- 03 — Testimony by Jean Coen, March 8, 1941 and note on the Andriessse property according to Jean Coen's testimony. Note on the inspection of deposit with carpet dealer Sarafian, December 12, 1941, Federal Public Service Economy Ministry of Belgium.
- 04 — "Security Order" for the Collection of the Dutch Jew Hugo Daniel Andriessse by the Devisenschutzkommando Belgien in Brussels, November 28, 1941, Bundesarchiv Koblenz, B 323/266.
- 05 — Letter to the Oberfeldführer von Behr regarding the reward of Jean Coen, June 12, 1942, TSDAVO (Kyiv).
- 06 — Letter to the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, Paris, regarding the reward of Jean Coen, August 14, 1942, TSDAVO (Kyiv).

