TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 The Hiding Place	5
CHAPTER 2 An Army for Art	11
CHAPTER 3 The Biggest Heist in History	15
CHAPTER 4 The Spy in the Museum	21
CHAPTER 5 On the Front Lines	27
CHAPTER 6 The Castle on the Hill	33
CHAPTER 7 The Dentist and the Salt Mine	39
CHAPTER 8 Art Heroes	47
GLOSSARY	52

THE HIDING PLACE

American troops gathered in a forest. They stared into a mine. Its entrance was a big hole. Beyond that, tunnels went into darkness. Explosives were inside. About 400,000 tons were there. These could go off at any time.

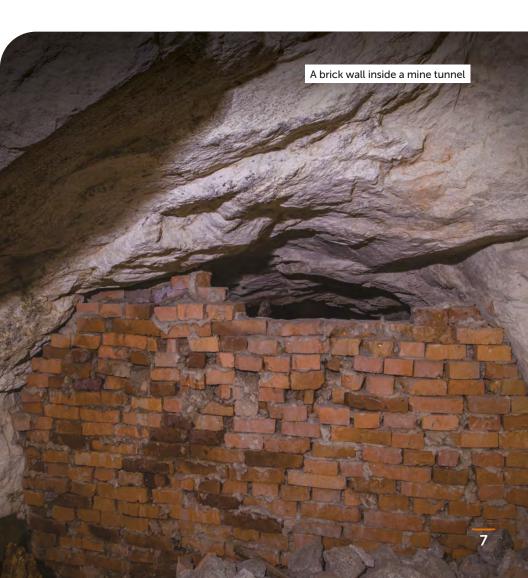


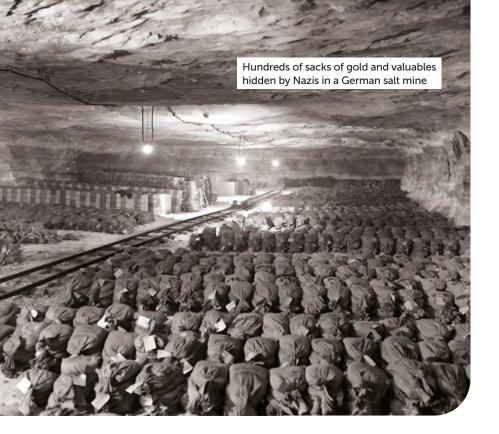
to find **ammunition**. Germans were storing weapons. Americans wanted to find these. Then the weapons couldn't be used against the **Allies**.

These troops walked into a long tunnel. Jagged rock lined it. Weapons seemed to be everywhere. Dynamite lay in stacks.

The men went about a quarter of a mile. Then they saw something odd. It was a wall. This was in the side of the tunnel. The **mortar** was fresh. Someone had just made it.

Soldiers tore down the wall. It was five feet thick. Then there was a door. A padlock was on it.





The men broke in. What they found made them stare. It was a room. Hundreds of flags filled it. Four **caskets** were under the flags. Each casket had a label. One said Frederick the Great. Another said Paul von Hindenburg. These were famous German leaders.

Looking around, the men saw glints of gold. One soldier gasped. He picked up an object. It was a crown. There was a **scepter** too. A row of swords stood nearby. These were German royal treasures.

More rooms opened off this first one. They held art.

There were hundreds of paintings. Many were by famous artists. This art belonged in museums.

The men saw something else. Ribbons were hanging. Each had a small design. It was a swastika. They knew what they had found. This was Adolf Hitler's hidden loot.

