

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

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(VOL. II)

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ADMINISTRATION, ELBA
JAN., FEB. 1945

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105

C. SC: Para. 5, 6 and 7 contain explanation of why the
 LST was ordered to Port Terrace instead of remaining
 at Port Hongone in the island of ELBA by Capt Smith.
 Recommend the matter be considered closed. J. B. J.

W. S. W. 2/2

0200

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0014

520 *520*
HEADQUARTERS
TOSCANA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

File Ref: RVIII/16/125

Date: 30 Jan 45. *106*
get
A/L

SUBJECT Re -routing of Shipping at ELBA.
TO HQ, AC. *101* *5461* *FEB 4 1945* *P/A*

1. Reference your 520/103/COS dated 26 Jan 45.
2. Your attention is invited to this HQ letter RVIII/16/116 dated 3 Jan 45, addressed to PC, LIVORNO, copy to you. *101*
3. In view of the fact that both the Island of ELBA and Capt. SMITH were not under the control of this Region when the re-routing took place, I am not in position nor am I prepared to submit either a summary or an interim report as required by you.
4. Capt. SMITH has been instructed to hasten submission of the necessary report.

GM/ac.

Robert G. Kirkwood
ROBT. G. KIRKWOOD,
Colonel, FA, US Army,
Regional Commissioner.

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6013 *10*

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LIV/55/67

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1ST, IND.

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JL/GOK. 33P/A

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT, PROVINCE OF LIVORNO, TOSCANA REGION, APO 394
8 JANUARY 1945

TO : C.A.O. ELBA
ATTENTION- CAPTAIN R.K. SMITH

Copy 520/98/XIS attached
filed in file 1-31 1945

1. WITH REFERENCE TO PARA 2 OF LETTER RVIII/16/116 (ATTACHED) WILL CAPTAIN SMITH PREPARE AND SUBMIT THE REQUIRED REPORT DIRECT TO HQ. AC QUOTING THEIR LETTER 520/98/XIS, DATED 22 DEC 44, A COPY OF WHICH IS ALSO ATTACHED AND UPON COMPLETION OF THAT REPORT NOTIFY THIS HEADQUARTERS.

J. F. Laboon
JOHN F. LABOON
LT. COLONEL OMP
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER
LIVORNO PROVINCE.

ENCL- LETTER RVIII/16/116 DATED 3 JAN FROM REGION VIII
* 520/98/XIS, DATED 22 DEC 44

HEADQUARTERS, AMG, Island of Elba Jan 24, 1945.

To Hqs. AC.

1. When British Navy was pulled out of Elba the control of all ports was turned over to AMG. AMG asked that a naval officer be detailed to Elba but we were informed that it was unnecessary. No special instructions or information was given at the time or since other than reporting movement and exercising full responsibility.
2. In the latter part of October and first part of November we were told that the Portoferraio would be opened up as it was the only protected harbor on the island. A few days later three mine sweepers arrived and worked about two weeks sweeping the Port and entrance. The Lieut Comd (British) whose name I do not recall now told me that "he had given Portoferraio Harbor a 100% sweep and that the harbor was now free of mines". He went on further to tell and describe what they had found in their work in the harbor.
3. Subsequently, in the month of November An American LST NO 491 with escort arrived to transport French troops and materials off the island. Due to the bad weather they put into Portoferraio and loaded and took off from that harbor.
4. Since the harbor was swept and before and after the above incident in question British warcraft ships have used and continue to use Portoferraio harbor. Also since that time Small Italian Boats hauling supplies use this port almost exclusively.
5. When Lt. Torrence, Operations officer telephoned from Livorno that

see M.105

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Continued- Endorsement #2 previous page.

the LST was coming to Port Longone which is only a small fishing harbor and no docks, quays and impossible to load a LST there; Sol mentioned that he had the wrong port in mind and to tell them to come to Portferrale instead, as that harbor was now open. He did not voice an objection to the change nor has anyone else ever objected, or given any instructions to us as to ports to use.

6. Only small landing craft can reach the shore in Port Longone on the beach as there is no piers or docks or quayside. At this time of year winds are usually so strong that it is dangerous for a ship to anchor outside the harbor. Portferrale offers the only protected deepwater harbor with dock facilities on the island.
7. Inasmuch as the Navy turned over to us the official handling and control of the ports and shipping on the island I am sure that in the absence of keeping us informed of any changes or issuing instructions or orders to the contrary that they would expect us to use our best judgment in the circumstances which was done in this instance.

R. L. Smith
R. L. Smith

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