

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL

Place: ~~Arbaoua Section~~

Date: ~~10 October 1944~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT:

ATTEMPTED CROSSING OF AMERICAN NAVAL OFFICER

RE:

Commander Joseph R. NAHON

At 1600 hours on 7 October 1944, Subject arrived at this frontier post in a civilian automobile and attempted to cross into the Spanish zone on his way to Tangier. In his possession Subject had American passport No. 5 issued at Algiers on 18 September 1944. The passport stated that Subject was an American Naval Commander stationed as a doctor at the American Naval Base at Oran. He was born in New York City, N.Y., on 1 October 1900. On being told that he couldn't cross, Subject became indignant and the French authorities called this Agent who at the time was occupied with passport control on the Tangier train at Souk el Arba.

This Agent arrived at about 1700 hours. In the meantime, Subject had telephoned the American Consulate at Rabat attempting to get a diplomatic visa or visa de service and was refused. Subject explained to this Agent that he had been a resident of Tangier previous to the war and had considerable property there. He wished to make the trip to Tangier because of personal business reasons. He claimed that he had consulted American consular officials at Oran and Algiers on the possibility of making the trip to Tangier. On the strength of their favorable replies, Subject left Oran on 5 October 1944 at 1700 hours and arrived at Casablanca on the evening of 6 October 1944. Subject used a government "jeep" to reach Casablanca. There he left the "jeep" and borrowed a civilian car, No. 8990 MAB from friends, and on 7 October 1944, Subject left for Tangier. He arrived at this frontier post at 1600 hours. At 1830 hours, Subject was turned back.

AGENT'S NOTES:

Subject had leave papers signed by the Commanding Officer of the naval base at Oran. He had no American or French visa nor a "laissez-passer". He arrived at this post in naval attire. He expressed great resentment at not being allowed to cross, and placed the blame on the American Consulate for his plight. Yet Subject knew very well the existing rules and regulations, and the procedure to be followed in crossing, for Commander NAHON attempted to cross once before and was turned back. At that time Captain (now Major) TUCKER explained to Subject why his going to Tangier was out of the question.

This Agent referred Subject to Lt. James T.O. BRAEFLADT,

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acting Chief, Moroccan Travel Control Detachment for the final decision. This is not the first time that this organization has had difficulties with American Naval Officers on the border. This Agent suggests that the existing rules be made available to the United States Navy to avoid similar occurrences.

Nicholas A. Natsios

SAIC, Arbaoua Section

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