

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

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS  
MOROCCAN TRAVEL CONTROL DETACHMENT  
AFHQ  
APO 759 U.S. ARMY

PLACE: Arbaoua Section  
DATE: 17 October 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: Renewed Attempt to Cross the Frontier

RE: Commander Joseph R. NAHON

On 16 October 1944, Subject made his second attempt to cross the frontier (See Memo dated 10 October 1944, Same Subject). At 1700 hours Subject arrived at this frontier post while this Agent was on duty at Rabat for the afternoon. This time Subject had an authorization from the "BSM", Casablanca to cross the frontier. However, M. BERTRAND, "Chef de Surete", Quedadra, who had thoroughly discussed the situation with this Agent during Subject's first attempted crossing called "BSM", Rabat and explained Subject's initial attempt and refusal by this organization to allow Commander NAHON to cross. "BSM", Rabat refused to accept responsibility under the existing circumstances and Subject was turned back. Subject remained in Souk el Arba for the night and at 900 hours on 17 October 1944 came to this Agent's Office and explained his presence in the border region.

Subject stated that upon returning to Oran (Azrew), his home station, his commanding officer informed him that it could easily be arranged for him to cross if the "proper" naval authorities at Port Lyautey or Casablanca were consulted. Subject called Captain LEFEVRE, medical officer at Port Lyautey on the possibility of crossing and upon receiving a favorable reply, Subject left Oran by plane and arrived at Port Lyautey on 16 October 1944. Upon arrival Subject contacted Captain HITCHCOCK and later Commander CROWELL. Captain HITCHCOCK went as far as to state that.... "that damned border outfit doesn't know what it's all about"..... and that it could be arranged for him to cross. In Casablanca, Commander CROWELL took Subject to the "BSM" where the authorization to cross was given by Lt. THAUVIN, "BSM". There Subject borrowed a civilian automobile and in naval attire left for the frontier. Upon being refused permission to cross Subject called naval authorities at Port Lyautey and Casablanca and was told to contact Commander WRIGHT, "BONI", Casablanca. Subject called Commander WRIGHT from this Agent's office at 1000 hours on 17 October 1944 and explained the situation. WRIGHT, who had been contacted by Lt. BRAAFLOTT, Acting Chief, CIC, MTCO, reprimanded Subject for hiding the fact that he had been turned down the previous week by AFHQ, and furthermore his leave was cancelled and that he was to return without delay to his home station. Subject left this Agent's office at 1020 hours remarking that he was being blamed for something that wasn't his fault.

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AGENT'S NOTES

This organization with its present limited resources and personnel is hardly in a position to operate as efficiently as before let alone being impeded in its work by our own military and naval personnel. A control which has taken two years to build, operate, and perfect is in danger of being destroyed, and by our own personnel. This Agent and his predecessors have followed rules and regulations set down from higher authority without questioning same. These same rules and regulations should be taken in the same spirit by American military and naval personnel. There are as many French civilians and soldiers with families in Tangier who wish to visit the city as there are American military and naval officers who would like to spend their leaves or furloughs there. If the attitude, "there are more than one way to skin a cat"... (as suggested to Commander NAHON by an unnamed naval officer) is adopted, regulations would become ridiculous and useless. This Agent strongly suggests that proper steps be taken immediately to improve the situation.

Captain HITCHCOCK'S remark is both slanderous and unjust. I am sure that I am in no position to criticize any organization if I am ignorant of the rules that govern its work. If others are not familiar with the regulations which govern passage to and from the Spanish zone (as has been shown to be true on several occasions) criticism consequently becomes unjustifiable.

This Agent is of the opinion that a lack of understanding of the existing regulations is the basic cause of these misunderstandings. It cannot be stressed strongly enough that certain authorities be informed of these regulations.

NICHOLAS A. NATSIOS

SAIC, Arbaoua Section, CIC

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