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COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
NAVY DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



19 October 1944

MEMORANDUM

JUN 21 1965

08191

**From:** F-48  
**To:** Secret Mail Room.  
**Subject:** Distribution of ComTransDiv 13 Serial 004 of 20 June 1944 (1st End); ComEIGHTHPhib Serial 00344 of 3 August 1944 (3rd End) and ComEIGHTHFleet Serial 001164 of 20 September 1944 (4th End) to CO USS TATTNALL Serial 014 of 26 June 1944 and ComTransports, Eighth Amphibious Force letter of 8 July 1944 (1st End) to ComTransDiv 13 Serial 004 of 20 June 1944. (Subject: Action Report - Landing on Island of PIANOSA.)

1. Please have subject endorsements distributed as follows:

|                                                                    |   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| CominCh                                                            |   |
| F-105; F-48(2); F-30; F-46                                         | 5 |
| Vice CNO                                                           |   |
| Op-02; Op-16; Op-16E; Op-20; Op-20-G; Op-30                        | 6 |
| BuPers (Page 4 of 1st End to TATTNALL letter)                      | 1 |
| BuShips                                                            | 1 |
| CinCPac                                                            | 1 |
| PhibTraPac                                                         | 1 |
| PhibTraLant(5)                                                     | 5 |
| COTCPac                                                            | 1 |
| COTCLant                                                           | 1 |
| Comdt Army and Navy Staff College                                  | 1 |
| Comdt Command & General Staff School,<br>Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. | 1 |
| Comdt Marine Corps Schools,<br>Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va.(3)   | 3 |

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6 NOV 1944

P.O. Reg. # 3166813

FC # 08191

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Reg. No. OM-14681

S.S. No. 10 242

A16-3

UNITED STATES EIGHTH FLEET

Serial: 0 01164

FOURTH ENDORSEMENT to  
CO USS TATTNALL (APD-19)  
ltr A4-3 Ser. 014 of 26  
June 1944.

20 SEP 1944

From: Commander U.S. EIGHTH Fleet.  
To : The Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.  
Subject: Action Report; Landing on Island of PIANOSA; report of.  
Reference: (a) CominCh ltr. serial 7152 of 29 October 1943.

1. Forwarded.

2. These ships carried a French Commando unit for this assault and were under the operational control of a British Naval Commander.

3. The basic correspondence does not indicate that copies were forwarded in accordance with reference (a). By copy of this endorsement, Commander Eighth Amphibious Force is directed to insure that a copy has been forwarded to Commander in Chief, Mediterranean.

*Francis P. Old*

FRANCIS P. OLD  
Deputy Chief of Staff

Copy to:  
CinCMed  
Com8thPhib  
ComTransDiv 13  
CO USS TATTNALL  
CO USS ROPER

1944 OCT 7 8 04

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FLAG OFFICE  
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EIGHTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE N2/get

FILE NO. 8th Phib/A16-3

3 August 1944

Serial 00344 (ops)

THIRD ENDORSEMENT to:  
CO USS TATNALL (APD-19)  
ltr. A4-3 Ser. 014 of  
26 June 1944.

From: Commander EIGHTH Amphibious Force.  
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Via: Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.

Subject: Action Report; Landing on Island of PIANOSA; report of.

1. Although small in scope this was a very well planned and executed operation. Much initiative was displayed on the part of the planners and particular notice is invited to the thorough job of pre-assault reconnaissance.

2. Despite the small enemy forces garrisoned on this island it is remarkable that no damage was sustained by the assault force.

  
JOHN N. OPIE, III  
CHIEF OF STAFF

Copy to:  
CO USS TATNALL  
CO USS ROPER

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
ComTransDiv13 Secret  
Ltr. FE25-12/A4-3 Ser.  
004 of 20 June 1944.

EIGHTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE  
TRANSPORTS

8 July 1944

From: Commander Transports, Eighth Amphibious Force.  
To : Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet.  
Via : (1) Commander Group II, Eighth Amphibious Force.  
(2) Commander Eighth Amphibious Force.  
(3) Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.  
Subject: Landing on Island of PIANOSA, report of.

1. Forwarded.

2. This operation described in Commander Hughes excellent report appears to have been executed with skill, daring and precision. I consider that Commander Hughes, Lieut. Commander Lennox, Lieut. Commander Carter, Lieut. Commander Worth, Lieut. Davidson and the officers and men of the USS TATTNALL and USS ROPER together with their Allies are to be highly commended for a well conceived and smartly executed landing. The use of underwater sound in transmitting signals between vessels is particularly interesting. Though the method is not new, this is the first occasion of which I am aware, that it has been applied in connection with an amphibious landing. The use of rubber boats as a landing pier is also of interest.

  
R. A. DIERDORFF.

cc:  
ComTransDiv13  
CO, USS TATTNALL  
CO, USS ROPER

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
U.S.S. TATTNALL conf.ltr.  
APD19/A4-3/Serial: 014, and  
U.S.S. ROPER secret ltr.  
APD20/A9/Serial: 001

FE25-12/A4-3  
Serial: 004

EIGHTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE,  
Transport Division THIRTEEN,  
U.S.S. TATTNALL (APD19), Flagship,  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
New York, New York,  
20 June 1944.

From: Commander Transport Division THIRTEEN.  
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Via: (1) Commander Transports EIGHTH Amphibious Force.  
(2) Commander Group II, EIGHTH Amphibious Force.  
(3) Commander EIGHTH Amphibious Force.  
(4) Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Northwest African Waters.

Subject: Landing on Island of PIANOSA, report of.

Enclosures: (A) U.S.S. TATTNALL conf.ltr. APD19/A4-3/Serial: 014,  
(Action Report).-p.1  
(B) U.S.S. ROPER secret ltr. APD20/A9/Serial: 001, (Action  
Report).-p.3  
(C) Grid Chart of ISOLA PIANOSA, Sheet 126 III NW, Scale  
1:25000, with annotations by the staff of S.O., Force  
"N". (with original of this letter only).-Missing

1. As a temporary part of Force "N", under Rear Admiral T. TROUBRIDGE, Royal Navy, U.S.S. TATTNALL and U.S.S. ROPER landed a contingency of French Army personnel under the command of Major G. DUPRE (Compagnie Franche, 9th Zouaves, and attached troops) on the island of PIANOSA at about 0120 B, 17 June 1944.

2. This was a subsidiary assault in the broader operations against ELBA which were being carried on by Force "N" at the same time.

3. There were no personnel or material casualties in the operation against PIANOSA.

4. Sea was smooth, Wind South Southeast, Force 1. Sky was one-tenth overcast.

5. The operation against PIANOSA was carried out in conjunction with a French naval assault force (the Groupe Naval D'Assaut) under the command of Capitaine de Frigate R. SERIOT, French Navy, embarked for this operation in two submarine chasers (CHASSEUR 52 and CHASSEUR 51).

6. Preliminary reconnaissance of the shore was made by Commander SERIOT on the night of 18 May 1944, accompanied by Lieutenant Commander C.R. WORTH, U.S.N.R. (Liaison Officer), Lieutenant (j.g.) H.N. MOORE, U.S.N.R. (Scout & Raider), Ensign W.B. HULTQUIST, U.S.N.R., and two or three French Officers of the Naval Assault Group.

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
U.S.S. TATTNALL conf.ltr.  
APD19/A4-3/Serial: 014, and  
U.S.S. ROPER secret ltr.  
APD20/A9/Serial: 001

FE25-12/A-43  
Serial: 004

EIGHTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE,  
Transport Division THIRTEEN,  
U.S.S. TATTNALL (APD19), Flagship,  
20 June 1944.

Subject: Landing on Island of PIANOSA, report of. (continued)

7. For the execution of the operation, the Naval Assault Group departed Ajaccio, Corsica, in the two chasseurs at 0930 B, 16 June 1944. The TATTNALL and ROPER embarked the assigned troops at 1200 of the same day and departed from the Gulf of Ajaccio at 1300, proceeding through the Bonifacio Strait. At 2030 they overtook and rendezvoused with the submarine chasers, and the two groups thenceforth proceeded as one.

8. At 2330 B this group arrived at Point "J" (Latitude 42°-35'N., Longitude 09°-58'E.) and stopped. CHASSEUR 52 (Commander SERIOT embarked) immediately moved into a station 300 meters directly ahead of TATTNALL and stopped. Prearranged signals were exchanged by underwater sound to acquaint the Commander of the Naval Assault Group and of Transport Division THIRTEEN of their mutual readiness. TATTNALL and ROPER each lowered their four LCP(R)'s, and the landing craft immediately formed into wave columns and took stations on the quarters of CHASSEUR 52, as follows:



9. At 2352 the area was briefly illuminated by what is believed to have been a very brilliant shooting star, bearing about 040° True.

10. At 2355 the 8 landing craft had formed with CHASSEUR 52, and it proceeded at a speed of six knots. CHASSEUR 51 followed at a distance of 1500 meters. On arrival of this group at a point previously selected by Commander SERIOT, central in the Golfo della Botte, on the northwest side of PIANOSA, about 1000 yards off shore (approximately 769508 on Enclosure (C)), CHASSEUR 52 anchored, using manila line instead of anchor chain. Landing craft immediately moored alongside and astern of CHASSEUR 52, according to the following plan:

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
U.S.S. TATTNALL conf.ltr.  
APD19/A4-3/Serial: 014, and  
U.S.S. ROPER secret ltr.  
APD20/A9/Serial: 001

EIGHTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE,  
Transport Division THIRTEEN,  
U.S.S. TATTNALL (APD19), Flagship,  
20 June 1944.

FE25-12/A4-3  
Serial: 004

Subject: Landing on Island of PIANOSA, report of. (continued)

ROPER BOATS  
(2nd Wave)

TATTNALL BOATS (1st Wave)



11. At 0030, from Point "J", the tracers of a violent machine gun duel were observed bearing 060° True. Nothing could be heard, so it was realized that these were much to the northeastward of our boats.

12. Immediately after anchoring, CHASSEUR 52 put into the water one scout rubber boat, of ten man capacity, and two rubber rafts, each of twenty man capacity. The scout boat carrying Commander Seriot, French Navy, Lieutenant Commander C.R. WORTH, U.S.N.R. (Liaison Officer), and several officers of the Naval Assault Group, proceeded ahead to the shore and landed on a rocky coast close by the foot of a cliff some seventy feet in height (approximately D 768497 on Enclosure (C)).

13. This Scout Party reconnoitered the path ascending the cliff, to the plateau above, and established a preliminary bridge-head. It then called in the two 20-man rafts which were lying to about a hundred yards off shore. The arrival of these brought reinforcement of the bridge-head and a Beach Party. The two rubber rafts were moored alongside one another and end-on to the beach. Their outer ends were prevented from lateral movement by lines led well up and down the beach.

14. When all was in readiness, a shielded red light was shown from the seaward end of the port raft, looking to seaward. A shielded green light was shown from the seaward end of the starboard raft. Similar lights of the same colors were shown somewhat inshore and a little above these for use as range lights.

15. The lighting of the red and green lights was the signal for boats of the First Wave to unmoor from astern of CHASSEUR 52 and land by two's against the rubber rafts. As the last pair of these neared the end of its unloading, a signal was flashed by directional light to start the boats of the Second Wave from alongside the chasseur. By the time the Second Wave had finished landing troops across the rubber rafts, two boats of the preceding wave were back at the landing with mortars, machine guns, motorcycles, ammunition, and ammunition carts brought from the chasseurs.

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FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
U.S.S. TATTNALL conf.ltr.  
APD19/A4-3/Serial: 014, and  
U.S.S. ROPER secret ltr.  
APD20/A9/Serial: 001

EIGHTH AMPHIBIOUS FORCE,  
Transport Division THIRTEEN,  
U.S.S. TATTNALL (APD19), Flagship,  
20 June 1944.

FE25-12/A4-3  
Serial: 004

Subject: Landing on Island of PIANOSA, report of. (continued)  
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16. At 0342, with all boats unloaded and back again near CHASSEUR 52, landing craft were started back to parent transports and a codeword was transmitted to signify that they were enroute.

17. At 0427 all boats were back alongside TATTNALL and ROPER. A signal was immediately transmitted to Commander SERIOT informing him of their return. U.S.S. TATTNALL and U.S.S. ROPER then withdrew and established antisubmarine patrol off the entrances to the swept channels being used by assault forces against ELBA, as directed by the Senior Officer, Force "N".

*Bulw*  
18. The Groupe Naval D'Assaut subsequently coordinated the landing of vehicles from an LCT on the east shore of PIANOSA shortly after daybreak. Lieutenant Commander C.R. WORTH, U.S.N.R., and a Lieutenant DAVIDSON, U.S.N.R., attached to Petroleum Division ONE, remained with the Assault Group until later in the day. It is understood from Lieutenant Commander WORTH that a particularly spectacular performance was given by Lieutenant DAVIDSON in the latter's repeated discovery and disarming of various ground mines and booby traps.

19. The classification of Enclosure (A) is hereby changed to SECRET.

*J. N. Hughes*  
J. N. HUGHES.

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U.S.S. ROPER (APD20)

A9/APD20  
Serial 001

26 June 1944.

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To: Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet.  
Via: (1) Commander Transport Division THIRTEEN.  
(2) Commander Transports EIGHT Amphibious Force.  
(3) Commander Group TWO, EIGHT Amphibious Force.  
(4) Commander EIGHT Amphibious Force.  
(5) Commander Naval Forces, North African Waters.

Subject: Action Report; Landing on Pianosa Island  
17 June 1944.

Reference: (a) U.S.N.R., Art. 874(6) and Art. 712(1).

1. At 0940 Baker 16 June 1944 while moored in Ajaccio Harbor, Corsica in company with U.S.S. TATTNALL, received orders from Commander Transport Division THIRTEEN in TATTNALL to get underway at 1045. Upon arriving at the seaward end of the swept channel in Ajaccio Gulf in company with TATTNALL, landing craft were sent to the beach to embark five officers and one hundred twenty three men of Compagnie Franche du 9th Zouaves, and returned at 1245. Thence proceeded in company with TATTNALL through Bonifacio Strait to rendezvous with French Chasseurs 51 and 52 in latitude 42° 10.5'N, longitude 9° 40.5'E, arriving at 2030. All four vessels proceeded in company from this point to latitude 42° 35'N, 9° 58'E a point 3½ miles west of Isola Pianosa, arriving at 2326 and stopped all engines. Sea amount was 1, wind force 1 from SSE and visibility about 8000 yards. The silhouette of Pianosa was discernible to eastward. Condition of readiness one and material condition affirm had been set at 2050.

2. At 2337 received orders via underwater sound from Commander Transport Division THIRTEEN to disembark troops. This was accomplished and at 2347 landing craft of TATTNALL and ROPER were formed astern of Chasseur 52, which led the boats to the beach followed by Chasseur 51. The landing was made at 0240 without opposition, and all boats had been recovered at 0424. During the period from 0200 to 0400 heavy gun and rocket fire and many flare clusters were observed at intervals, incident to the landing on Elba twelve miles northeast. While landing craft were engaged in making the landing, ROPER steamed in company with TATTNALL on various courses and speeds in the vicinity.

3. Upon recovery of landing craft ROPER in company with TATTNALL commenced anti-submarine patrol south of Pianosa.

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*P. McK. Shiflett, Jr.*  
for U.B. CARTER.

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