

PSF Executive Offices: Brown, Adm. Wilson
ex President

DFS
Subject Files "E"
Box [REDACTED] 147
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*PSF: Adm. Brown folder
Exec. Oxc. 2-44*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL BROWN

I wanted to get a slant on what the Army would have done in a case like this of Ensign Braxton, who was found short in his accounts, and General Watson has given me the attached memorandum. I am inclined to agree with him.

However, my curiosity is aroused as to what happened to the \$3,600 -- and the record is very silent on this. It has disappeared. Sums like that do not just fly out of the window! Where did it go?

I think this is a case that ONI should look into -- or F. B. I.

F. D. R.

Case of Ensign Daniel B. Braxton, Supply Corps,
USN.

T-247

*PSF: Adm. Brown folder 2-44
Exec. Ofc.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 10, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL BROWN:

Will you take this up with
Admiral King?

F.D.R.

Letter to the President, 2-13-44, from Henry F. Grady, Vice Pres., Economic Section, Allied Control Commission, enclosing confirmation of a cable he sent to the President on 1-27-44, re plans for reorganization of Allied Control Comm. for Italy, and approving of proposed appt. of Capt. Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R. as Asst. Deputy Pres. to Lt. Gen. Mason MacFarlane, Deputy President.

PSF: Adm. Brown folder 2-14
EXCC. Oxc.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 7, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL BROWN:

It is reported to me that Captain Edward McDonald has been given command of a new carrier and I have been advised that he has not had sea service before. This, of course, seems incredible. Please let me have his record.

F.D.R.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 9, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT
MRS. ROOSEVELT:

Subject: Captain Edward G. McDonnell, A-V(G),
USNR - Assignment to command a CVE.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

Mr. McDonnell has been ordered to an auxiliary carrier for several months instruction to qualify for command of a CVE. F.D.R. a graduate of the Naval Academy (Class of 1912) and was an outstanding Naval aviator until 1920 when he resigned from the Naval Service but immediately joined the Naval Reserve. As a reserve officer he has had periodic cruises with the Navy. He returned to active service in 1920. There can be no question about his fitness to command aviation activities, but it is true that his ship experience is limited to junior officer duty immediately after graduation and to Reserve cruises on carriers. He was specifically selected for command training by Admiral King himself.

Very respectfully,

W. J. Sumner
WILLIAM J. SUMNER

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PRESIDENT
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

JUNE 8, 1944
WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT.

Subject: Captain Edward O. McDonnell, A-V(G),
USNR - Assignment to command a CVE.

Captain Edward O. McDonnell has been given
several months instruction to qualify for
command of a CVE. He is a graduate of the
Naval Academy (Class of 1912) and was an
outstanding Naval aviator until 1920 when
he resigned from the Naval Service but immediately
joined the Naval Reserve. As a Reserve
officer he has had periodic cruises with the
Navy. He returned to active service in 1940.
There can be no question about his fitness
to command aviation activities, but it is true
that his ship experience is limited to junior
officer duty immediately after graduation and
to Reserve cruises on carriers. He was specifically
selected for command training by Admiral
King himself.

Very respectfully,


WILSON BROWN.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1944

MEMO FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Eddie McDonald, Capt.

in the Navy, son-in-law of
Admiral Mason, has been given command
of a Carrier. He has never had
Naval service at sea before. This
is just gossip I happened to pick
up, but thought you might like to
have it checked.

e.r.

PSF: Adm. Brown folder 2-44
Exec. OLC.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 23, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL BROWN:

Will you please speak to me
about this?

F.D.R.

(Memo, dated 6-15-44 re desire of Adm.
Standley to have star on his D.S.M. for
services as Amb. to Russia.) From Flynn.

(3330)

Amo

*PSF. adm. Brown folder 2-44
8/17
Exec. Oxc.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 15, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL BROWN:

To investigate but not to give
up the fact of the letter to Mrs.
Roosevelt or the name of the sender to
anyone.

F.D.R.

Memorandum for the President from Mrs. Roosevelt, 8/4/44, attaching letter which she received from Virginia Timberlake Steinburger, 501 Mariposa Ve., Sierra Madre, Calif., 7/21/44, in re perfection of Radio Controlled Range Finding device, invented by Robineete Electronic Co of Pasadena, or South Pasadena. States that the Ford Co. and the Sperry Co. are suppressing this device. Mrs. Roosevelt states & "I sent a copy of this to Secretary Forrestal".

1-351

*PST: adm. Brown folder
2-44*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

MRS. ROOSEVELT:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

F.D.R.

Confidential memo, 8-22-44 to Admiral Brown from Rear Admiral W.A. Kitts, Asst. Chief of Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Dept., giving information requested re the Robinette Electronic Co. and its radio controlled aircraft rangefinder. Also transmitted is ltr. from Mrs. Virginia Timberlake Steinburger to Mrs. Roosevelt, re same.

T-360

PSF: Brown folder
Exec. O/C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 3, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL BROWN:

**Please let me see copy of
proposed reply.**

F.D.R.

Top Secret Dispatch from Alusna Moscow,
Ø11315 NCR 9ØØ5, Sept. 1, 1944.

Exec. Oxc.

file

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

December 9, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Subject: Information available on the Port, Health, and Weather Conditions at Batum and Poti.

The following information has been obtained from the Black Sea Pilot and limited O.N.I. data:

BATUM

Health: In 1926 the city of Batum was reported as being unhealthy because it is surrounded by partly drained swamps. These swamps combined with the rankness of the vegetation are the cause of fevers and agues which are most prevalent between the months of June and October. As late as 1937 there was still a great deal of malaria, although it has been reported recently that malaria has been reduced by drainage of the swamps. The city has a hospital.

Weather: Batum is located on the Caucasian littoral, or "Russian Riviera". The summers are hot and humid, and the winters, with an average temperature several degrees above freezing, are the warmest in the U.S.S.R. In Batum the prevailing wind in winter is from the west and southwest. The southwest wind, often arising suddenly, sometimes blows with hurricane force. The bay is sheltered from winds from the northwest through southeast.

Port: Batum harbor is one of the best in the Eastern Black Sea. The outer roadstead is from 33 to 66 feet deep and has an area of approximately 100 acres. The inner harbor is from 27.9 to 32.8 feet deep and has an area of approximately 62 acres. There are a number of quays on the western shore fronting the town, and the town has several piers. Soviet destroyers base at Batum. Maneuvering a large ship in this port would be difficult.

City: Batum had a population of 64,000 in 1941. Its streets are broad and regularly planned with rows of trees. The town has many large houses, a fine cathedral and several mosques.

It is the principal Black Sea port of the Transcaucusus and the main oil-exporting port of the U.S.S.R.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

Subject: Information available on the Port, Health, and
Weather Conditions at Batum and Poti.

BATUM
(continued)

It is the western terminus of two pipe-lines from Baku, and its principal activity is the refining of oil.

Batum is connected with Poti both by a branch railroad and by a coastal motor road. There is a good plane site southwest of the town.

POTI

Health: Poti is built on a swampy delta and ague is prevalent, especially in July and August. In 1926 the climate was very unhealthy and all the drinking water had to be boiled. By 1939 much swamp land had been drained and the malaria cases in Georgia are reportedly sharply reduced. The town has a hospital.

Weather: Poti, which is approximately 40 miles north of Batum, has weather like that of Batum.

Port: Poti harbor is bounded by two concrete moles and is divided into northern and southern parts by a long middle mole. The port is entirely artificial. There is a water area of approximately 160 acres with an entrance 560 feet wide. The water is kept 29.5 deep by dredging. Vessels of 10,000 tons could berth along the quays in 1942. There are 15 berths.

Poti is the chief port for large Soviet ships, but the space in the docks and the very small anchorage makes everything very congested.

City: Poti had a population of 13,000 in 1941. It is the second most important Black Sea port of the Transcaucasus, and exports primarily high grade manganese. The city is important also for transshipment of cargo for and from central Asia; for centuries Poti has been the terminus of an ancient shipping lane. Poti and Batum are the two termini for the Trans-Caucasian railway.

The port is suitable for seaplane landings, and the surrounding country is good for aircraft.

We will contact Captain Frankel, U.S.N. (Assistant Naval Attache to Moscow), who is expected to reach Washington shortly, for any first hand information on Black Sea ports.

Very respectfully,

W. Brown
WILSON BROWN.

CONFIDENTIAL

T-448

PSF; adm. Brown folder
Exec. O/c. 2-44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 26, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL BROWN:

TO LOOK INTO.

P.D.R.

Top Secret ltr. 11-20-44 to the President
from John C. Wiley, Miami, Fla. suggesting
that the Pres. look into the Island of Brioni.

*PSF: adm. Brown folder
Exec. O.C. 2-45*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 19, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I suggest that you inform Members of the Cabinet that urgent messages for you may be sent through the White House Map Room, and to request that only absolutely necessary messages be sent and that they should be as brief as possible in order not to tie up communications. In case of very lengthy messages, the Map Room officer will have to exercise his discretion as to whether it is physically possible to send them by radio or whether they will have to be sent by pouch.

We should receive a pouch about 30 January and should be able to send a return one about that date.

Very respectfully,

W. Brown
WILSON BROWN.

(Slightly confid. FDR memos 1/22/45 sent to members of the Cabinet & are filed separately)

PSF: adm. Brown folder

2-45

Exec. O/C,

(filed 3/16/45)

March 1945.

From: Vice Admiral Wilson Brown, U.S.N. (Ret.) #1430
(Naval Aide to the President)
To : The Secretary of the Navy (Chief of Naval Personnel).
Subject: Request for Leave and Transfer to Inactive Status.

1. For physical reasons I request to be ordered home on leave about 1 May, 1945, and to be placed in an inactive status at the end of accumulated leave.

2. My home address is: Grosstress, Great Neck Road, Waterford, Connecticut.

WILSON BROWN.

End-1 The White House, Washington, D.C.,

From: The President of the United States.
To : The Secretary of the Navy.

1. Forwarded/Approved, without consideration. The time is not ripe for raising canary birds like old man Osterhaus.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.