

(c) FORTBASE assumed responsibility for general administration of all ports and beaches in eastern Sicily under command of Fifteenth Army Group, whilst local administration in eastern Sicily was carried out by Eighth Army through the various Base Areas and Sub-Areas.

This organisation proved entirely satisfactory under the particular circumstances involving

the capture of an island by two armies maintained initially on two separate supply axes with a view to a further advance across the sea to the mainland of Italy. It would, however, have been more satisfactory if Palermo had been taken over immediately after capture by the United States Island Base Section. The Army Administrative Staff would then have been free to devote its attention entirely to the maintenance of formations in battle.

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