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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 11, 1942--General Clark goes gunning for the French fleet during the morning, scheduling another conference with the shifty Darlan. The meeting is held at Admiral Fenard's home. The Deputy Commander rips straight into Darlan.

"Although you have told us repeatedly that you want to free France," says General Clark, "you have given us no visible indication or decision in support of us or the Allied cause. There are two ways you can demonstrate your fidelity to the Allied cause: first, by summoning the French fleet to a North African port, and, second, by ordering the Governor of Tunisia to resist invasion by the Germans."

Darlan replies that he has no authority to summon the fleet and that, in view of his dismissal by Marshal Petain, he is not certain that "any orders given by me will be obeyed." However, he tells General Clark that he has had word from Vichy to the effect that the French fleet is still in Toulon and has orders to scuttle itself if it is threatened by German seizure. He says he feels assured that the fleet will never fall into German hands. General Clark points out that "the German military machine moves with the greatest rapidity, employing paratroops, tanks and mechanized equipment." He adds that there is danger that the fleet will not be able to scuttle in time. "In addition," General Clark declares, "scuttling of the fleet will be an act against the Allies as much as against the Germans. If the orders were issued at once the fleet could get away." Darlan repeats that he can not issue orders for the fleet to leave France. The general then demands that Darlan issue orders to the troops in Tunisia to resist German landings. Darlan refuses.

"This," declares General Clark, glaring down at Darlan, "just verifies the statement I made when I came here: It shows no visible indication indicating any desire on your part, despite your statements, to assist the Allied cause. Good-day!" And with that he strides out of the house where Darlan is staying.

After lunch, Admiral Fenard calls and asks General Clark to confer again with Admiral Darlan. The general agrees. At the conference he finds that Darlan has changed his mind. This results from two factors. 1--He has received information that Marshal Petain and German Marshal Von Rundstedt are at odds concerning occupation of France. 2--Darlan has seen that General Clark is in no mood for further dilly-dallying. The cable General Clark sends following the meeting shows what happened:

"Following radio has just been sent by Admiral Darlan to Admiral De Labard: 'The protest sent by the Marshal to Marshal Von Rundstedt shows that there is no agreement between him and the German General for the occupation of France. The armistice is broken. We have our liberty of action. The Marshal being no longer able to make free decisions, we can, while remaining personally loyal to him, make decisions which are the most favorable to French interests. I have always declared that the fleet would remain French or perish. The occupation of the Southern coast makes it impossible for the ~~flavainforees-ChirsmaindinMetropolitan~~ French fleet to remain in Metropolitan France. I invite the Commander-in-Chief to direct them toward French Africa. The American Command declares that our forces will not encounter any obstacles from Allied Naval Forces. Signed, Admiral of the Fleet, Francois Darlan.'

"I am not optimistic that it will be obeyed. If French fleet sails it will be given later instructions to move to Mers El Kebir or other ports except British as

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determined by you for refueling and thence to an American port where subsequent negotiations will determine its future use. This step by Darlan came after a hectic day of rapidly changing situation. At final conference attended by Darlan, Giraud and heads of air, ground and navy of North Africa.

"Agreement reached that Darlan will head up political end while Giraud will be accepted as military commander of all French forces in North Africa. Marshal Petain has designated General Nogues as his Supreme Commander and representative in North Africa because, as he stated, Darlan was not available being a prisoner of war. This complicated the picture so I am requesting, and French are arranging, that Nogues come here for a conference tomorrow. I have removed the guard from Darlan's house. Hope to make public announcement tomorrow emphasizing unity of all factions in common effort to support us in our operation. Hope you agree. If not, advise immediately.

"Darlan phoned Esteva and Juin phoned other commanders in Tunisia directing resistance to Germans and support for us. Commanders indicated to him that they would resist where means were available. Giraud is following up with similar orders. Tell Admiral Cunningham that we have arranged with French to release 942 British prisoners at Laghonet and Geryville."

[With the general so involved in political maneuvering, he has little time to watch the tactical situation. Segments of the British First Army sail from Algiers tonight to move on Bone, Bougie and Djadjelli. During the day, scarce reports come in: the Germans are expected at the airports of Setif, Biskera and Constantine... French troops in Algeria are being moved in certain key points and steps are taken to counteract this, as diplomatically as possible, with American troops... Before the afternoon conference General Clark was considering moving Darlan from Admiral Fenard's house and placing him in custody aboard a British Man-o-War in Algiers harbor... Telephone contact is established with Oran and the general orders up two combat team battalions in case they are needed... They are to be held on the alert for prompt movement to Algiers, probably by rail.]

Why the general is spending so much time dickering with [a famed slippery eel like] Darlan probably is not understandable to a layman. But, the general has discovered, in his talks with military and naval officers in all strata of the French forces, that Darlan is the only man who has control over the army, navy and air force in North Africa. All of the principal commanders are with him and are anti-Giraud. Darlan's support is necessary if the cooperation between the Allies and French forces in North Africa is to be workable. The general fears a small civil war, with factions within the French army fighting, if he doesn't get Darlan in the picture. Darlan's leaning, first on one side of the fence and then on the other, is nerve-wracking. The general declares at night that he has "played around with Darlan just about as long as I intend to."

[In the evening, the general goes to Algiers harbor to the H.M.S. Bulolo, flagship of Admiral Burroughs, commander of the Eastern Naval Task Force, and headquarters of General Anderson. The Deputy Commander-in-Chief explains to the two British officers the hectic developments of the past two days. Now that he is in the field, General Anderson is a changed man--much more affable. The general remains on the Bulolo until 2000, then returns to the Hotel St. George and holds a late conference with his staff to outline the Darlan approach for tomorrow.]

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6 hrs ago Charles visited Jim at
Sen Palace at Rabat - we added re Sudan
wife - "I have forgot - after first session, seemed west
happened - He separated - "There a big amuse who
does nothing but found Table + tell me stop fighting."

Rater became very
good friends Juin -
Hed Darlan regarded most
+ Sid and the as
traitors - even if

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joined in at start we
could not see just him over with other
much at once - 97 took long time -
But Darlan already was okay with 7 ranch -

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Algiers, NOVEMBER 12, 1942--The French promise to have their North African troops resist in Tunisia has been revoked. This is the news General Clark awakes to and he hastily summons Admiral Darlan and General Juin. The Deputy Commander-in-Chief has fire in his eyes as the conference opens in the small room off the lobby of the St. George Hotel. Present are the general, Mr. Murphy, and Lieutenant Beardwood and Admirals Darlan and Fenard and General Juin.

"Both of you," says General Clark, addressing Darlan and Juin sternly, "keep telling me you want to save France and French colonial territory. Neither of you have given me one single indication of this except in words. All your deeds have been contrary to the aim you both volubly profess to have. Now I learn that the order for French troops to resist Axis moves in Tunisia has been revoked."

Juin, a little man with shifty eyes and a close-cropped mustache, twists his hands as he explains in French to Murphy that the order has not been cancelled, "only suspended" until General Nogues arrives. Nogues, military head of French Morocco and the man named by Petain to be Commander-in-Chief in French North Africa, is due to arrive this afternoon in Algiers. Juin goes over and over the same ground. He wants to help, he intends to help, but he can't let the order stand until he has Nogues' approval. His eyes search General Clark's face pleadingly but there is no softness as Clark replies:

"Not once," says General Clark, "have you shown me that you are working in our interests. You say that until you have Nogues backing you don't know if the troops will obey your orders. If that is the case--and I have no doubt it is--you are not strong enough to hold the position you do. We will get someone strong enough; someone whom the troops will obey."

Juin starts pleading again, looking across the table to Darlan for support but the Admiral is grimly silent. He sits twisting and creasing strips of white paper he has torn during the conference.

"I don't recognize Nogues," continues General Clark. "To us, he is not the Commander-in-Chief in North Africa. We are in a position where we don't have to accept any individual. Those that we recognize must guarantee that they will fight on our side against Germany."

Juin--"I'm willing to fight the Germans."

Clark--"You must not only say you are willing to fight. You must show, by your actions, that you are fighting. You haven't done that and I'm sick and tired of the way you have been conducting yourself. I think you are weak!"

Juin--"One of the great difficulties is that I am subject to the orders of Nogues. He is Commander-in-Chief by the order of Marshal Petain. Wait until Nogues comes and I confer with him. Then I will issue the orders to resist in Tunisia. I can't do that until I talk to Nogues. If he refuses to let me issue the order, I will do it anyway. But first, for my honor, I must consult him."

Clark--"I can't and don't accept such a plan. While we are waiting the German troops are moving in. I want that order re-issued now. I'm not so sure that you aren't stalling just to help the Germans."

General Clark then turns to his left and looks at Darlan who is sitting meekly

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at his elbow, still twisting and folding paper, [and looking like a schoolboy who is expecting to be censured by an irate teacher.]

A Clark--"Anyone who is going to be accepted by us must show concretely his willingness to march against the Germans. I asked you to do two simple things to prove you want to save France. First, I asked you to order the French fleet to North Africa. Second, I asked you to communicate with Admiral Esteva (governor of Tunisia) to tell him that the Germans must be resisted. What have you done? There is no indication that the fleet is coming to North Africa. The French are not resisting moves into Tunisia."

Darlan--"I know that the fleet has received my message and I have received indications that it will be willing to come here if the Germans enter Toulon. I know the fleet is prepared to go to sea."

Clark--(Merely) (grunting to Darlan's answer)--"The order to the commanders in Tunisia were revoked without any reference to me. That, to me, is almost treachery. Because of your promises I made certain military moves. These were made on the basis that both of you were acting in good faith."

Both Darlan and Juin begin to talk at once. They plead with Murphy, volubly. General Clark [just] sits back, [stonily.] The two Frenchmen declare their hands are tied; that Nogues is now the head man and they must talk to him and that is impossible since he is flying to Algiers. They say the Germans have moved only small forces into Tunisia. They declare that French troops will not aid the Germans in any way; that they have orders to retreat if necessary but that no Frenchmen or French arms are to fall into Axis hands. "The order," shouts Juin, "has not been revoked. It has merely been suspended until we can confer with Nogues."

Clark--"And in the meantime, the Germans are coming into Tunisia. Where is your logic if you profess to want to protect French soil. We now have reports that the Germans plan to move into Constantine and Setif. The Germans may not be in Tunisia in force, but they are moving in and this is a matter of principle--you are doing nothing to block the Germans, nothing to protect your own colony."

Juin--"My attitude is unchanged. I want to fight the Germans! I will accept service with Giraud. (This is the first time any of the French with whom General Clark has been conferring have agreed to go along with Giraud, who, they have been declaring is a traitor to France since he aided the American landings in French North Africa.)

Clark--"Alright then. I want your troops to resist at the Tunisian airdromes where Germans are moving in. I want them to resist where they are able to resist."

Juin--(There are no troops in Tunisia.) "No Germans troops arrived in Algeria last night."

Clark--"I demand that you issue orders to resist. If not, I am considering very gravely the establishment of a military government in French North Africa. I will put into custody everybody who will not come with us and help. I will set up a French official who can issue concrete orders and who has shown his willingness to march with us."

Juin--"I have expressed my desire. I want to march with you."

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Clark--"You must prove it. You must issue the order to resist in Tunisia."

Juin--"The troops and officers are troubled by their consciences. I do not know whether they will obey the orders. You may have chaos on your hands. Please wait until Nogues arrives this afternoon."

Clark--"For your information our second convoy of troops arrived this morning. You have seen that there are new ships in the harbor. We have 40,000 more soldiers, fully armed, in here now. We have artillery. Before coming to this meeting I telephoned Oran. Another convoy has arrived there with 20,000 additional troops. I have the means to enforce what we want and I do not intend to tolerate this delay."

Darlan--"Yesterday you approved my request that Nogues come here. He is due in Oran at 1:30 this afternoon and he should be here by 2:30. Wait until Nogues confers with us [and you] before you do anything drastic."

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[At this point, Admiral Fenard, who speaks English, comes behind General Clark to whisper to him while Darlan, Juin and Murphy are carrying on an animated three-cornered conference. Fenard tells General Clark that he believes he is making a big mistake. "You are getting what you want if you will only be a little more patient and wait," Fenard says. "Don't spoil everything. You almost have solution and a victory in hand." Clark shakes his head and says he believes Juin and Darlan are just stalling. Fenard drops his hands in a hopeless gesture. "That's not true. I swear it. You are blind, man, you are blind." Juin, who has been arguing excitedly with Darlan and Murphy, suddenly turns to General Clark.]

Juin--"I am with you."

Clark--"No. You're not!"

Juin--"I am with you."

Clark--"Then prove it by issuing the orders to Tunisia immediately."

Fenard--"Wait and you will have all the factions welded together!"

Clark--"You are not moving fast enough to keep the Germans from coming into Tunisia. We will get a commander who will march with us. I am going to establish a military government. (To Murphy)--Tell them that unless they decide to go along with us right now they are through and I'm prepared to place them under arrest."

Juin--"All we ask for is a suspension of the Tunis order until Nogues arrives."

Clark--"No! We don't recognize Petain's orders and we don't recognize Nogues unless he goes along with us."

Juin--"I think he will accept your terms."

Darlan--"I ask you to reconsider and wait until Nogues arrives. I think it will be worthwhile."

Clark--"No. Nogues' arrival is in no way connected with this. I have a lot of suspicions about a lot of people!" (Darlan is tearing the slips of white paper into shreds.)

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Clark, to Murphy--"Tell them I am going to put them into custody!"

Darlan--"Wait. You will be absolutely clear this afternoon after our meetings. Until then I can't assume any responsibility."

Clark--"I am not going to the meeting. I don't recognize Nogues. I will meet you (Darlan) afterward."

Juin--"If Nogues will not come with you I will put myself at your disposal."

Clark--"Giraud is going to be the military commander."

Juin--"Then I will go with him."

Clark, turning to Darlan--"I have received no word about what action the French fleet will take."

Darlan--"My message was received about 10 last night at Toulon. Marseille was occupied by the Germans this morning and I have received no reply. Cabling is impossible now. I am waiting for a radio from the fleet."

Clark--"Do you understand that your position with us depends not only on your cooperation in the fight against the Germans but also in your ability to secure the fleet for us?"

Darlan--"Yes. I understand very well. But I am no longer in command. It depends on the will of the leader of the squadron."

Clark--"We want results!" When do you think you will meet with Nogues?"

Darlan--"About 4 o'clock."

Clark--"Will Giraud be there?"

Darlan--"The first meeting will be held by the people in power. We will bring the result to you."

Clark--"Who is in power and who will be in power will be decided by the United States government."

Darlan--"I must consult with Nogues. I am not in power. My support is no good to you unless the people with the means come along."

Juin--"Time is wasting. I want to help."

Clark--"Then issue orders to resist the Germans."

[This starts off another volcanic outburst from Juin to Murphy. He argues excitedly. Again Admiral Fenard walks up to the head of the table to tell General Clark: "Wait. You have everybody with you. I swear it!") Juin then turns on General Clark. He is so mad he can hardly sit still. He says he is accused of disloyalty by General Clark.]

Clark--"If you will give me some indication, if you will issue the order to

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the troops, I won't accuse you of disloyalty. I just can't understand the attitude you take--saying you want to fight the Germans and then cancelling an order that gave you the opportunity to fight them."

Juin--"Giraud has agreed to be your military advisor. I want to help him."

Clark--"I'll see General Giraud. If he agrees to have you it is alright with me."

Juin--"I'm not being treated right."

(Fenard, to Clark, in English--"You are making a mistake. You will spoil everything.")

Darlan--"Who is going to command."

Clark--"The supreme command will be American. I will settle the French commanders later."

Juin--"I suggest that Giraud be the military commander from Dakar to Bizerte. And that I command Algeria."

Clark--"Okay, if you will issue the order to the commanders in Tunisia to resist the Germans."

Juin--"Now or after the meeting?"

Clark--"I mean now! I've told you I've had information that the Germans plan to land in Constantine and Setif. Your future with us depends on whether you do this or not!"

Juin--"This puts me in a hell of a spot."

Clark--"I know it but I'm in a worse spot. The Germans are moving up."

Juin--"But the hell of it is that Nogues is my commander."

Clark--"Everything depends on whether you go to telephone now and tell your commanders to resist. I mean this from the bottom of my heart. I will send a plane to check on whether the order is phoned and whether it is being obeyed."

Juin--"Fine."

Clark--"Revoke the order and tell them to resist. If you hold Constantine airport, and Setif, I will guarantee that I will send planes in there immediately to help."

Juin--"If you send the planes nobody will bother you."

Clark--"I insist that you phone the commanders immediately to resist the Germans."

Juin--"I want to talk to Darlan."

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[While Darlan and Juin are out of the room, General Clark strides up and down past the head of the table. Admiral Fenard is pleading with him to wait until Nogues arrival before he does anything drastic. "You don't understand the internal situation," pleads Fenard. "Everyone is behind Darlan. If you will wait you will have everyone with you. If not, you will upset the apple cart."]

Clark—"Yes, and if I wait, in addition to apples, I'll have Germans on top of us. They are building up resistance. Darlan, Juin and the rest of them want to throw Giraud out. I'm going to stick by Giraud. If Juin doesn't issue the orders now I will wait for them to confer with Nogues anyway. Still, I am not sure who are my friends."

[Fenard—"Then you are blind. You are making a mistake if you don't trust us. I am sure of it!"]

Clark, to Murphy—"Juin is weak. I know that the stand am I taking is right. I know it is right!"

Fenard begins pleading again with General Clark. [The Deputy Commander tells the friendly French Admiral, who has declared and demonstrated he is with us, that he will back ~~Darlan~~ "no matter what happens."] Says General Clark: "I can't afford to make any mistakes. The stakes are too high." Darlan and Juin then return.

Juin—"I have just checked. In Tunis, General Barré is covering the railroads. He says he got orders from Vidhy yesterday not to resist the Germans. He thought I was a prisoner. I told him that if the Germans attack, he is to resist."

Clark—"Suppose the Germans come on the airports. What then?"

Juin—"As you know, they are already on some airports. The French should have attacked but Barre had orders from Vidhy."

Clark—"If the Germans come on to another airport are the French going to resist."

Juin—"Yes."

General Clark then instructs Admiral Darlan that he will await the meeting with Nogues before making a decision. The Deputy Commander then shakes hands with the Frenchmen and leaves the room. [He has already ordered that the French naval staff, occupying a large part of the Hotel St. George, be out by Saturday noon so the Americans can take the entire structure over.]

[Following lunch, the general holds a press conference with British and American correspondents. He explains that for the past three days he has had his hands full with the political situation; that he is dealing with several aspirants for power; that he definitely is going to use General Giraud "because we are certain he will fight alongside us." Regarding why he is negotiating with Darlan, General Clark explains that although he "wouldn't put anything past Darlan," the French admiral "has the air and navy solidly behind him and they are all against Giraud. I've had to play with Darlan because he alone has the power to stop all hostilities and give us real support. This will save us great future effort. My goal is to

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get Darlan, Giraud and all the factions together in harmony." He then informs the newspaper and radio men that Darlan has sent instructions to the French fleet to leave French metropolitan ports and proceed to Africa for refueling so it can proceed to the United States so negotiations for its use can be started." He tells them about revocation of the order to Tunisia commanders and remarks: "As you can see, I have some unhealthy bed companions." Because the political situation is still delicate, nothing is to be printed until an accord is reached or Darlan is jailed. "You all saw today the arrival of about 25 ships loaded with supplies and troops," General Clark concludes. "This makes my hand much stronger with the French."

Unable to wait quietly in his room while the Frenchmen get together to try and reach an agreement, General Clark, with Major Meacham driving a Buick that has been requisitioned, goes out to visit troops. He inspects the 39th combat team and confers with Colonel Caffey. The general questions the men concerning the fighting they participated in, how they are getting fed and quartered. He later remarks how refreshing it is to get out among troops again. It is also heartening to see so many rugged, armed but dirty-looking American soldiers stationed around the city and in the suburbs around Maison Carme, Maison Blanche and El Biar.

When the general returns to his headquarters he receives two gratifying reports. 1--Nogues has arrived and the Frenchmen are battling the problem out. 2--President Roosevelt has sent General Clark's nomination to the senate to become a Lieutenant General!]

After dinner, the entire advance staff--about nine men--is alerted. They are to accompany General Clark to his [scheduled] conference at 2100 with Darlan, Nogues, Giraud, Mast and the other Frenchmen. [The group, spruced up and all wearing side arms, goes in a group to the hotel lobby with General Clark. The Frenchmen are already there.] Nogues and Darlan ask General Clark for a separate conference. Giraud, who has been a lone wolf all along, stands in the background by himself. [He looks alarmed.] An interpreter explains to General Clark that Nogues is the Commander-in-Chief by ^{at} Petain's order and that, as such, he is entitled to a private conference. General Clark looks ^{at} Nogues [sternly in the eye, straightens to his full height] and says firmly. "Tell Nogues that we do not recognize either he or Petain!" This makes Nogues blink and, after long ^{discussion} palaver, General Clark goes into the small conference room with Darlan, Nogues and Mr. Murphy. The rest of the officers, both American and French, stand or sit around in the lobby. Soon loud voices are coming from the room. [Almost all the talk is French. Occasionally, General Clark's deep voice comes through the door and wall. Then the Frenchmen are off again, shouting excitedly.] After an hour of this, Giraud, who has been sitting [stonily] in the lobby talking to no one and obviously ignored by the other Frenchmen, is invited in. He knows that none of the other Frenchmen want him [and he is nervous about his future position.] But General Clark has promised not to let him down. When Giraud enters the room, [the other two Frenchmen partially turn their backs.] General Clark [diplomatically] has the three men shake hands. Darlan and Nogues are [bittingly] cold. ^{to Giraud} Then the argument is renewed. It is almost solely between Nogues and Darlan and Giraud. After 20 minutes [of this,] General Clark leaves the conference room. [He reports:]

"I'm leaving the boys to battle it out among themselves, ^{"he says"} I've told them they have to compose their differences or else I will set up a military government.

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I don't want to be too optimistic but I think this thing is going to work itself out. Nogues doesn't want Giraud in the military picture. Darlan is now trying to get Giraud and Nogues together. It is no place for me."

But, 10 minutes later, General Clark returns to the conference room and the argument that has been going on subsides. Fifteen minutes later all the conferees come out. The only one that looks the least bit pleased is General Clark. His officers fall in behind him and walk to their section of the hotel. [through a dark, twisting roadway-courtyard.] In his room, General Clark says briefly to his anxious officers: "The Frenchmen think they can work this thing out. I've given them until tomorrow to do so." [I'm tired now and I'm going to bed. Goodnight.] The strain of the past four days on General Clark has been terrific. He is not used to political maneuvering.]

Late tonight a cable is received that General Eisenhower will fly to Algiers tomorrow from Gibraltar. General Clark believes the showdown is near and General Ike volunteered to come to throw his influence behind his Deputy Commander. [Hence, with the situation not settled and Eisenhower due here tomorrow, no cable is sent to outlined the situation as of tonight.]

What about the French navy. General Clark, convinced that Darlan "is the one man here who can bring these many dissenting factions together," is not too optimistic about the fleet "although," says the general, "he may yet develop some influence." He continues to play with Darlan because he does not believe that the bulk of the armed forces will follow Giraud's orders and that certainly none of the navy and little of the air force will. General Clark has suggested that Darlan assume political leadership for the present, maintaining the present governors in Morocco, Algiers and Tunisia. Giraud will be permitted to organize a volunteer French army to fight alongside the Allies. "This method," says General Clark, "had many advantages: we equip only those French units that volunteer to fight, the rest of the army will probably stagnate or remain under present control for use only in defense of North Africa. In this way will we have active, help, not passive. Under the conditions that have arisen, this looks like the best solution."

[The general still has had little time to watch the military situation. All is fairly quiet in Oran and Algiers.] At Casablanca there is still some fighting. [between the French and American navies.] General Patton's negotiations with General Nogues await the governor's return to French Morocco. [General Anderson's army that is driving east has taken Bone, Bougie and Philippeville. More troops are moving up. One battalion of the 39th U.S. regiment is to move forward with the British. In Tunisia, the Germans have landed some tanks and they have 200 airplanes on Tunisian airdromes. This move was made by Admiral Esteva on orders from Vichy. General Clark, through Juin and Darlan, has taken steps to stop this. Plans are now being made for British and American paratroops to move toward the eastern border of Algeria so they can strike at the Germans. The Axis has only a very small force in Tunisia, apparently going to use it to hold a bridgehead to pour through more troops--probably Italians from Sicily. The Germans have their hands full. The battle in Egypt is going marvelously, with Alexander's force driving steadily on.]

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ALGIERS, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1942—"This may be Friday the 13th," says General Clark at breakfast, "but somehow I feel it is going to be a lucky day for us." It starts out well enough: the Algerian papers, in front page boxes and bold face type, announce this morning that General Clark has been made a Lieutenant General. But General Clark refuses to put the third star on each shoulder until he has official confirmation.

Darlan, Nogues and Giraud are again in conference, attempting to work out their individual problems and a solution to the involved situation. In a cable to General Eisenhower, General Clark, who dislikes Nogues even more than he does "that weakling Juin," describes Nogues by an old term known well by him and his old friend, General "Ike." Nogues, cables General Clark, "is a YBSOB." When the message is received at Gibraltar the decoders believe it is garbled transmission. It isn't. It means "yellow bellied son of a bitch." Clark has absolutely no use for Nogues but, like Darlan, it looks as though he might have to play along with him.

To provide for eventualities, General Clark calls in General Ryder and tells him to put all his troops on the alert in event of trouble. If the negotiations fail, there may be fighting and the American troops, dispersed cagily around the Algiers area, must be ready to fight. Little incidents have been arising daily. Another comes up this morning. First, French Sengalese fighters are matched, man for man, with the small guard that has surrounded the Automatic Telephone Exchange, our signals headquarters. Later, a machine gun company comes and begins setting up its guns in front of our American guard. Ryder is ordered to counteract this move. General Clark orders Juin to report to him.

Suddenly, General Nogues appears and goes into a conference in General Clark's combined hotel bedroom-office. Nogues wants a last minute talk with General Clark before he goes into the conference with Darlan and Giraud. The Deputy Commander is firm: a decision must be reached, the Frenchmen must compose their differences, or they will all be put in custody and a military government established. Then Juin reports. In no uncertain terms, General Clark tells him about the setting up of the French machinegun company and orders him to have it removed immediately. Juin says it is all a mistake and hurries away to have the company returned to its barracks.

The hall outside the general's room is filled. Giraud, Admiral Fenard, various lesser officials and British General Anderson. The general calls in the Britisher who reports that his operation to the east is going well. Bone has been dive-bombed but there is no damage. There has been a torpedo attack on Bougie but there are no casualties. Anti-aircraft reinforcements have arrived at both Bone and Bougie. One battalion of the 36th British Brigade has moved from Bougie to Setif to hold the airdrome and prevent German landings. Another battalion of the same outfit has arrived at Bone to replace the battalion moved to Setif. Seven Italian transport planes have landed at El Alouine, in Tunisia. One hundred ten Italian trucks have moved to La Goulette. Two battalions of Germans have moved to Nador, northwest of Bizerte. There are indications they are going to meet opposition from the French. The two generals go over plans to move paratroops up. Giraud comes in to be assured that General Clark is still backing him. Admiral Fenard wants to assure General Clark that he thinks things are going to work out satisfactorily.

Finally, it is time for General Clark to drive to Maison Blanche to meet General Eisenhower. He thankfully leaves the crowded hall and goes to the airdrome. Just as General Clark's convoy, composed of four passenger cars and two loads of armed soldiers packed in peeps, General Eisenhower's plane lands. Five other

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[Flying Fortresses and a squadron of U.S. P-39 fighters arrive simultaneously. Generals Clark and Eisenhower and Admiral Cunningham drive back to Algiers together, the Deputy Commander bringing the Commander-in-Chief and the Naval Commander up to date during the 18 kilometer ride. It is decided that General Clark will talk to the Frenchmen first and that General Eisenhower will then be called into the conference room.

Arriving at the hotel, the three men have lunch and just as they are finishing, word is brought that the French officials want to see General Clark. They have reached an agreement. General Clark goes to see them. This is the agreement they have reached:]

Darlan will head the civil and political government. The present governors of: French Morocco--Nogues; Algeria--Chattel; and Tunisia--Esteve, will remain in their posts. Giraud is to head the French Armed Forces, recruiting an army to fight at the side of the Allies. He is to be given a free rein to get volunteers from the regular French Army. For the time being, Giraud's appointment will not be announced for political reasons. Says General Clark, after the plan has been outlined to him:

"You have reached an accord that will assist all Allied forces in Africa. I know it has been difficult for you and for me to adjust our differences. I appreciate your cooperation and your help at this time. Now we can go ahead united in our plan of defeating the Axis, restoring France and restoring peace. Admiral Darlan will head up the political and civil end of the Government of North Africa. This will bring complete cooperation and accord with the Allied forces. Through General Giraud you will assist us in our North African campaign. Admiral Darlan will cooperate so that French forces will defend French North Africa. He will use his influence to assemble all available means for helping us.

"The three territorial governors at present installed will remain at their posts. At an appropriate time, General Giraud will be announced as head of all French armed forces in North Africa. Certain other general questions will be taken up later. This concerns equipping, organizing and coordinating French units that will fight at our side. To facilitate our operations, French troops in strategic positions will vacate their facilities to make room for us. I look to Admiral Darlan for signature of the permanent armistice terms. We will work up the details of this armistice later. I propose now to bring in the Commander-in-Chief, General Eisenhower."

Before General Eisenhower is brought in and introduced to all the French officers, Admiral Darlan states he is signing the accord "with the objective of defeating the Germans and returning France to her former place." General Eisenhower, after shaking hands will all the officers, says:

"General Clark tells me you have reached complete accord. What you propose is completely acceptable to me. From this day on Admiral Darlan heads the French North African state. In this attitude I am supported by President Roosevelt. Many details have yet to be worked out. Representing me is General Clark who speaks for me. Such details as you and he agree on will be approved in detail by our headquarters and our governments. We all must agree to put together all means to whip the Germans. I am returning to Gibraltar within the hour. I apologize for the briefness of my visit. Thank you for your cooperation and for joining us in reaching an agreement." Generals Clark and Eisenhower then shake hands all around and depart for the airport. The Frenchmen remain in session to discuss liaison with the Allies and to outline their problems. [Generals Eisenhower and Clark and Admirals Darlan and Cunningham are photographed by newspaper and movie cameramen.]

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[At Maison Blanche airport, newspapermen and photographers are waiting for Generals Eisenhower and Clark. Since the Commander-in-Chief must depart for Gibraltar immediately if they are to land before dark, there are no interviews.] General Clark is to explain the accord to the journalists when he returns to his hotel. [The only ceremony is when General Eisenhower pins the third star on General Clark's shoulder--moving him from major general to lieutenant general. Says Eisenhower as he pins on the star while cameras click: "I've been waiting a long time to do this, Wayne. I hope I pin on the fourth star!" General Eisenhower takes off and General Clark returns to his hotel. The general still insists on wearing two stars until he hears direct from the War Department of his promotion.]

General Clark sketches, at his press conference, the pressure that was brought to bear before the Frenchmen reached an accord. He then tells the newsmen of the Darlan-Giraud setup. "I felt," explained General Clark, "if they were not all together there would be repercussions that would detract from the main effort--getting into Tunisia and coming to grips, wherever possible, with the Axis." He explains that French troops are already resisting German entry into North Africa. "This tremendous help is one step toward our collaboration," he continues. "We are going to attempt to ship in food for the Algerian civilians and provide them with things that the German and Italian Armistice commissions were taking away from them and shipping to their own countries. Darlan is going on the radio to announce the accord. The Frenchmen were all jubilant and kissed each other on the cheek. It was quite a family reunion!"

"What about the French fleet? Well, Darlan is requesting the admiral of the fleet at Toulon to come to Africa. But the Marshall, ^{apparently}, has ordered otherwise. We still have hopes. We know where it is and what it is doing. The Germans are holding back on entering Toulon because of the French fleet. They are dickering for it. Don't forget that if the French bring the fleet out all the Frenchmen in France will be under terrific oppression. The fleet comprises the Frenchmen's last card. You ask what the reaction will be in the States to our having Darlan in the picture. All of you must understand that Darlan was the one man in power here who controls the land, sea and air forces. ^{Whether or not you think him,} [a rat] he was the only man who could issue the proper order and bring all [the] factions together. He is the only man the armed forces would obey. I had to play along with him. A few minutes ago I was informed that Marshal Petain is giving our accord his blessing. Darlan and the rest of his men are tremendously pleased.

"I would have sooner walked into the Germans than into these boys. Politics isn't my line. But I did the best I could and I think I succeeded. I didn't want to have to worry about dissident factions. Giraud has the complete support of the Americans but we have to work him in slowly. Darlan and I believe that the people will now be united for the defense of North Africa. These past four days have been difficult because we have have to disperse our troops to give an appearance of strength. We had had to keep looking back over our shoulder instead of to the front--to the east and Tunisia. Now we have a recognized outfit to deal with in a business-like way. To the east General Anderson is moving in troops at Bougie and Bone. The Axis is bombarding heavily. We lost five ships returning from Bone but everything is going fine. [The British fighter pilots--and they are magnificent--are having a field day in this clear weather. They are doing a wonderful job and the] Axis air losses have been heavy. The paratroop jumps in the east have been successful. Things look good."

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After the newsmen have gone, the owner of the hotel brings in bottles of champagne. Both the owner and the manager are ardently pro-American. General Clark invites in his small group of officers and the American State Department men who have been assisting him and has a small party. The toasts are to the success of the General's negotiations and to his promotion to a lieutenant general. Following dinner, the general, tired out from the past four days, goes to bed at 2000.

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 14, 1942--The advance American headquarters in the Hotel St. George are being set up and General Clark makes an inspection tour of the large building which overlooks Algiers harbor from a hill. Around it is a beautiful, half-tropical garden, full of bright flowers, palm and orange trees. The general goes around pointing out where he wants various sections and offices. The officers' mess is to start Monday noon. Already the place, left very dirty by the French naval staff, is being cleaned up. General Clark plans on staging a show, with crowds and bands, when the headquarters is opened and the American and British flags flown from in front of the building. All the French officers, except one admiral, have moved out. Families are also vacating apartments to make way for offices and sleeping quarters.

When General Clark returns to his office the corridor in front of it is beginning to jam up with French officers coming to him with their problems. The general feels they should work out some of the details among themselves first so he goes on a tour, his first real one since arriving in Algiers last Monday. First he goes to 34th Division headquarters which are in the ornate and quite new German consulate, also overlooking the harbor. He confers with Brigadier General Porter and arranges for a company to guard headquarters and pay honors to the visiting Frenchmen who are bound to flock to him. From this outfit will be selected an honor guard. General Porter explains what the various components of the 34th ran into when they landed last Sunday morning. Part of the troops that participated in the assault are moving forward to Bone and Bougie with the British 1st Army.

The general then goes to the headquarters of the 168th Infantry, quartered in a normal school just outside El Biar. There he confers with General Ryder and Colonel O'Daniel, telling O'Daniel that he is being recommended for a B.C. The two men fill the general in further on what occurred during the landing operation and General Clark, remembering the days when he was in charge of training all U.S. troops as Chief of Staff of the Ground Forces, instructs Ryder to have all commanders report on the lessons they learned as a result of the operation "so they can be used to effect in future training." He particularly wants information on the amphibious phase of the operation since several errors that could have been serious were made in getting the troops to the proper beaches.

Next the General goes to the H.M.S. Bulola to confer with General Anderson and Air Marshal Welsh. Both Anderson and Welsh outline how the operation to the east is going. General Anderson is meeting Axis air opposition only to date. The picture is spotty but encouraging. French troops in eastern Algeria have regrouped in the vicinity of Beja, Tehessa and Souk El Arba to delay German penetration of Algeria. In Tunisia, French elements in the vicinity of Ferryville and Southwest Tunis are observing and delaying the Germans. The deficiency in anti-aircraft, anti-tank, armored vehicles and motor transport does not permit the French to offer rigid resistance and they are carrying on guerilla warfare. There has been no ground hostilities to speak of between the French and the Axis but French anti-aircraft joined the British in firing on German planes at Bone today. Anderson tells General Clark that he does not desire additional ground

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[troops from the Oran force because they cannot be brought up in time to assist in the immediate drive and British troops are due in by sea. However, he wants all the additional air transport that is available. Already light anti-aircraft weapons have been moved to the east by plane. British and American paratroops are scheduled to drop at advance key points in Eastern Algeria tomorrow morning. Air defense at Bougie is bad because of the lack of Radio Direction Finders. Engineers are trying to enlarge the airport there so more big planes can be brought in. At present there are seven fighter squadrons at advanced bases--two at Bone, two at Djedjelli and five at Bougie. A battalion of infantry is holding Setif airdrome where petrol is being moved in so planes can be better dispersed for strategy. General Clark promises he will order Flying Fortresses up to aid in daylight bombing operations. They will be based at Blida airdrome, near Algiers. Light bombers will go into Setif. General Clark, remarking that "things look in fairly good shape," goes down the Bulola's gangplank and returns to his headquarters.

There he cables Gibraltar asking for the 97th Bombardment Squadron to move into Blida as soon as possible "because it is urgent that daylight bombing raids on the Axis in Tunisia get underway." He also asks for at least "a token shipment" of food, clothing, medical supplies and coal to the citizens of North Africa for propaganda and psychological reasons, depending on the urgency of military shipping.

Regarding the French situation, General Clark declares: "It should be realized that the French, having permitted the Axis to bring forces into Tunisia without opposition, are now unable to effectively oppose them since French forces are weak and poorly equipped. Defeat of the Axis in Tunisia must be accomplished almost solely by our troops." He urges the early movement of U.S. armored formation in the eastern campaign. He recommends that they be brought from French Morocco if the situation justifies the move. The Deputy Commander also informs the C-in-C that re-routing of convoys to abet the drive eastward should be looked into.]

Admiral Darlan comes to General Clark to report that he has been advised that Admiral Auphan, until recently Minister of Marines at Vidhy and a close personal friend of Darlan, has just gone to Toulon as commander of the fleet. In addition, Darlan has had a mysterious message from Auphan which Darlan thinks means Auphan is "planning some unusual action with the French fleet." General Clark reports, later, to General Eisenhower that he is "continuing to attempt to influence Darlan to make another request" for the fleet. Darlan reports he is also trying to get Admiral Collingny at Dakar to cooperate "to assure the future use of units at Dakar. Darlan suggests that Admiral Robert at Martinique take the same attitude. He proposes that French merchant and naval ships at Fort de France be transferred to Casablanca and then to Martinique. Darlan says he is ready to announce General Giraud as the military leader and proclaim that DeGaulle is not recognized. He is discouraged for the time being while General Clark determines what negotiations might be going on between DeGaulle and the Allied governments.

Later in the day, General Clark confers with the political and civil experts. The French have been opposing the suggested exchange rate of 75 francs to the dollar and 300 to the pound. Darlan withdraws his objections and that exchange is to stand. Other problems he tries to unknot during the day concern rates for local labor assisting in Allied work, demands the release of General Bethourd in Morocco who has been imprisoned by the French for helping the American effort there, discusses control of the railroads in French North Africa. During the day, the general also confers with Lieut. Col. Raft, the commander of the parachute battalion that landed at Oran. The group had 4 dead, 15 wounded and 88 missing.

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[Raft is itching for more action and his battalion is going to jump further east in Algeria. At present, they have been moved as far as Algiers.]

In the evening, General Clark prepares a statement for the French press and North African radio stations. It reads:

"To the people of French North Africa: In the name of my Commander-in-Chief, General Eisenhower, and myself, I welcome this opportunity of expressing my pleasure at the agreement reached yesterday with Admiral Darlan and the French military authorities.

"I am here for one purpose only--a purpose which every Frenchman will understand--and that is to drive from the soil of Africa the enemies of my country and her allies, who are also the traditional enemies of France, and to restore the unity and independence of the French Empire. It is not for a foreigner, however friendly, to trespass upon the internal life of the French people, but this much, perhaps, I may be allowed to say: It will be a cause of the greatest pride and happiness to me to feel that in this great task we have at our side once again the fighting men of France and I know that every Frenchman worthy of his country will be behind them and behind us in our advance against the common enemy.

"Vive La France. Vie Les Etats Unis. Vive La Liberte."

[One dramatic incident occurs in downtown Algiers today. Italians taken prisoners when our troops landed are being moved to the harbor to be placed aboard ships. Most of them are Italian army officers. As the trucks move through the crowded streets, the Italians are booed and hissed. When a truckload of American soldiers passes by a moment later they are cheered and clapped.]

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 15, 1942--All Algerian papers run front page pictures and stories today about Lieutenant General Clark. Each carries a two-column cut of the general, a bold-face boxed text of his message to French North Africans and a biographical sketch about him.

After going over the messages that came in during the night and finding nothing of extreme urgency pending, General Clark goes to the Holy Trinity Church of Algiers (Church of England) with Captain Wright, Colonel Holmes, Majors Meacham, and Billingslea, Captain Boye and Lieutenant Beardwood. For the first time since arriving in Algiers all the officers go without side arms but as a precautionary measure a soldier with a tommygun rides in the general's black Buick. Later, "Meach" admits he had a .45 in his tunic pocket "just in case." The sermon and hymns have a war theme. Officers notice that when prayer times come General Clark seems very busy. Later he is asked what made him pray so hard and he discloses that he just kept repeating one phrase--"Oh, God, let me get the fleet from Darlan!" "Oh, God, let me get the fleet from Darlan!!" Sacreligous but oh how vital! ||

General Clark's most important conference of the day is with General Giraud who is being announced today by Darlan as head of the French military. Giraud appears to be working in complete harmony with Darlan. He feels that Darlan is actively supporting us in resistance to the Axis. Both Giraud and Juin have issued orders to troops in Tunisia to resist and they both men are going on a reconnaissance of the Tunisian border tomorrow to see that their orders are being carried out. An American officer will accompany them. The French troops are being disposed in accordance with their capabilities. French troops from Algiers and Constantine are being moved eastward to protect the right flank of the advance that General Anderson is planning.

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[The French troops are devoid of anti-tank units so General Clark requests that U.S. tank destroyer troops go along with the French to assist them, with fire power and morale. The general also orders two outfits up from Oran--an automatic weapons battalion and an anti-tank battalion, two platoons of which have self-propelled 75s.]

General Mast, the principal Frenchman with whom General Clark conferred on his secret trip to Africa last month, is in evidence again. He has been assigned by General Giraud as chief liaison officer to General Clark's headquarters. [Incidentally, the owner of the rendezvous villa near Cherchel has come to see the general. Since the Americans were there, the owner has not been able to return to his house. He says it is being watched by pro-Axis elements and he fears assassination. He asks General Clark for a military pass and the right to carry a weapon. The general compromises, giving him a military pass.]

Because reports coming from French Morocco ^{are spotty} concerning operations and conditions there, General Clark is sending military and civil personnel to that region tomorrow so they can bring back the complete picture on conditions to General Clark. [Because of the growing importance of civil affairs, General Clark orders more officers up for that section.]

Yesterday Admiral Darlan came in concerning a slight difference of opinion on ~~_____~~ a minor point between himself and General Giraud. General Clark sensed that Darlan might be attempting to determine if he would be overrode in Giraud's favor. But the general told him that he (Darlan) headed the Frenchmen and sided with him. "That," said General Clark, "put me on a better footing with Darlan and put me in a better bargaining position for the future."

General Anderson comes in to confer and tells General Clark that the situation in the east is "patchy, but good." The French are actually joining in the fighting. [British and American paratroops are being dropped successfully and the British are consolidating their positions. Part of the 39th Division leaves Algiers late in the afternoon for Bone and Bougie to strengthen those points. A bombing policy is being outlined for Tunisia. Because we hope to occupy the region, precision bombing will be the rule so that French ships and vital installations can be retained for our use.]

General Clark moves today from the small bedroom and office that he has been using ^{since} Monday to a three-room apartment that overlooks Algiers harbor from the end of a wing of the Hotel St. George. The general begins, late in the day, holding his conferences in his sitting room. The rest of the Hotel is being rapidly prepared for occupancy--the signal section being the first to start moving in its equipment.]

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 16, 1942--General Clark's difficult negotiations concerning defense measures against the Axis are beginning to pay dividends. The first land skirmish with the Germans in North Africa occurs at Beja where a French Battalion of the Gaurd drives off a German reconnaissance detachment composed of motorcycles and light cars. There was an exchange of shots and the Germans retired quickly.

There are many examples of cooperation by the French. Lieut. Col. Raft, commanding the scrappy and fast-moving 503rd U.S. paratroop battalion calls General Clark from Youks Les Bains, west of Tebessa in the far east of Algeria, and reports

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[that his jumpers, who bailed out over the region yesterday, and the French are in "complete cooperation, in order and ready for action." The French have received orders to resist the Axis and they give every indication that they will, Raft says. Incidentally, the work of the 503rd has been a source of joy to General Clark. In less than a week this rugged bunch has fought at Oran, landed at Algiers, jumped at Youks Les Bains and is ready to scrap again. Raft broke a rib at Algiers but he has refused to slow down. General Clark is recommending the stubby, little fighter for the Distinguished Service Cross.]

A The attitude of the French and the success of General Clark's difficult negotiations is demonstrated in several places: French troops north and west of Tebessa have been increased by three battalions of infantry, one squad of horse cavalry, two squadrons of motorized machineguns. Two batteries of French artillery have been added between Gardinaou and Souk El Arba. These troops were moved from the Constantine area...Admiral Moreau has issued orders to the coastal batteries, some of which are now being manned again by French troops, to fire on anything Axis that comes within their range...French anti-aircraft at Bone has joined the Allies in firing on Axis aircraft...A French battalion that resisted the Americans doggedly at Oran and lost all its artillery is now ready to fight on our side and General Clark is considering reinforcing it with American artillery...French sailors and civilians from Tunis arrive at headquarters during the day, offering their services in the fight against the Axis.

[The first officer of Allied Force Headquarters has been killed. The victim is Brigadier Vogel, British, who was deputy G-3 to General Lemnitzer. Vogel was enroute back to London from Gibraltar to report to the Prime Minister when his Catalina Flying Boat, bucking a stiff headwind, ran out of gas and crashed just outside Plymouth, England. The strange vagaries of war also caught up with Captain Peters, commander of the destroyer that stormed Oran hour on the night of the attack. Peters' ship was heavily shelled by the French coastal batteries. Peters was on the bridge with 17 other men. All but Peters was killed. He suffered an eye injury and was enroute back to England with Vogel when the plane crashed. Peters, too, was killed.]

Incidentally, the Prime Minister pulled a prize crack following the successful landings in French North Africa. Mr. Churchill reportedly rubbed his hands and said there was no use building up the theater further; that attention could now be turned elsewhere. He was soon set straight! But Vogel was going back to talk further with the Prime Minister. Another premature move is made by Foreign Secretary Eden. He wrote, wanting to send a group of ^{who wants} Degaulists to French North Africa for conferences. Both Generals Clark and Eisenhower veto the idea, saying the subject of Degaulle and his followers is dynamite [here] and arrival of such a mission at this time might have very serious repercussions. [Says General Clark: "What are they trying to do, saddle met with THREE Kingpins!"]

General Clark is still working ^{doggedly} furiously to get the French Navy. He is handling Admiral Darlan ^{cautiously} ~~secretly~~, giving in here, stiffening up there. Reconnaissance shows today that the fleet is still at Toulon. The general is now concentrating on getting the naval squadron at Alexandria. Darlan has also suggested that the American consul general in Martinique sound out Admiral Robert concerning whether he will join Darlan's combination. If Robert appears to favor the move, Darlan will contact Robert. General Clark has been informed that Vichy has sent Admiral Platon to Tunis to instruct Admiral Esteva to cooperate with the Germans and resist the Allies. It appears at Vidhy that Admiral Platon, General Bridoux and Laval are urging a definite military alliance with Germany. Petain, backed by General Weygand,

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has refused to accept. Weygand is reportedly urging Petain to cooperate to the fullest possible extent with the United States. Darlan proposes, and General Clark agrees, that French naval officers and seamen interned in England be released so they can fight and that Allied sympathizers, held in custody in French North Africa, be released.

[Officers arriving here and detailed reports from Generals Eisenhower and Gruenther are now giving a more complete picture to General Clark of what happened at Oran and Casablanca. The fighting there was much more savage than it was in Algiers. Both the harbors were partially blocked when French vessels were scuttled. An Axis submarine has been captured at Oran. The sub came in to strike at shipping. It was spotted by planes that dropped depth charges and forced it to the surface. The sub then held off bombing planes with deck anti-aircraft guns. Spitfires, piloted by Americans, then went after her, strafing the crews on the decks and forcing the commander to take the sub into Oran and surrender! The stiffest land opposition came at the Casablanca area where, apparently, French friends of the Allies had the least influence. All is fairly quiet throughout all of French North Africa now. General Anderson reports to General Clark in the afternoon, giving him details of the British first army's move to the east. No engagements have occurred yet. To assist the drive to the east that will start as soon as General Anderson has brought up sufficient troops will be assisted by American Flying Fortresses. General Clark completes arrangements for the use of the 97th Bombardment Squadron in a conference today with General Doolittle and Air Marshal Welsh. General Clark asks General Eisenhower to exert "all pressure" to get all the 97th to Blida airdrome outside Algiers. Until American bombs are brought up, the Fortresses will rearrange their racks to carry British bombs.]

Giraud's appointment as the French military head in North Africa is announced by the late evening papers. Admiral Micheliu will head the French North African naval forces. [Robert Hopkins, son of Presidential Advisor Harry Hopkins, reports to General Clark. The youngster is with the Signal Corps...The General wires the White House that young Hopkins is safe and well...The St. George Hotel Officers' Mess begins to operate and it is excellent...General Clark starts looking for a villa where he can live during the time he will be in Algiers...Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, commander of the U.S. Fourth Army and the military commander of the Pacific Coast and Alaska, cables General Clark concerning his being a Lieutenant General: "Warm and hearty congratulations on your promotion. My high hopes for you realized. Best wishes..."...Still the general has not had official confirmation of his appointment; still he continues to wear just the two stars of a major general. M.W.C. is wondering if the appointment has been delayed "because I went to bed with Darlan since it was a military necessity!"...Consul General Doolittle of Tunis has arrived, escaping just before the Germans moved in. He was stopped twice while leaving Tunis but the Germans thought he was part of the French commission that had been attached to the Bey of Tunis. Doolittle says the French blocked the harbor of Bizerte, that some air and motorized units have moved in but that the group is not large...At night, General Clark listens to the B.B.C. news on shortwave and hears a long account of the success of combined operations in the North African operation.]

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[ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 17, 1942—The British and American flags are raised with great ceremony today over Allied Force Headquarters in French North Africa! General Clark, wearing for the first time the three stars of a lieutenant general, plans and heads the ceremony and greets the guests: Admiral Darlan, Lieutenant General Anderson, Admiral Cunningham, Governor Chattel of Algeria, Admirals Fenard and Burroughs, Air Marshal Welsh, General Ryder and representatives of General]

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Giraud who is absent touring the Tunisian front.

In the Rue Michelet, American and British color guards stand at attention in the street, facing the parapet where General Clark stands and where the flags are to be raised. On the troops' right is a small band from the 168th American regiment. As automobiles bearing each of the distinguished guests pull up in front of the parapet and alight, the band plays ruffles according to rank and the guest is escorted up to General Clark. When all the distinguished visitors have arrived, the two color guards and the band march up onto the parapet. The street is crowded with Algiers residents--Arabs and Frenchmen, children and dogs. On the parapet, standing between the two flag poles, is a French honor guard that is carrying the French tricolor. It's a three-nation gathering and as the American and British flags are run up the poles, all the officers salute while the band plays. Then General Clark takes his guests up through the hotel garden to a salon for champagne. The Allied headquarters that General Clark heads is now officially open.

General Clark's appointment as a Lieutenant General in the United States Army was approved by the U.S. Senate on November 14 but because of transmission difficulties, the cable officially announcing it was not received until today. The general puts on the third star and his two aides--Major Meacham and Lieutenant Beardwood, who have been straining at the leash to put on three-star aide badges--proudly put on the new badge of "the old man" who is so young--only 46, youngest lieutenant general, by several years, in the U.S. Army. General Clark is to rank as a lieutenant general from November 11.

Movements are building up for a showdown in the vicinity of the Tunisian border. German and British-American-French advance forces have come into contact. A British reconnaissance unit and German motorcyclist feeler troops brushed at El Aquana. Two Junkers tried to land at Gabes but, when fired upon by French troops, they flew away. One Junkers was shot down by the small arms of American parachutists at Tebessa. General Anderson reports to General Clark that the 106th Automatic Weapons battalion has left for East Tunisia--one battalion to Souk El Arba, the second to Souk Abras and Tebessa and one has joined with a British brigade and is moving to Bone. An advanced battalion of the 78th Division has reached a road junction 18 miles east of Tabarka and has sent one company ahead toward Mateur, where Germans are reported, to feel the enemy out. Seventeen planes bombed El Alouian apartment successfully but reported a heavy concentration of light flak. The French are now holding east of Beja and will protect the British southern flank and supply transportation for Anglo-American troops. A United States officer returning from Tebessa reports to General Clark that the French have a well organized defense and that their enthusiasm is great since American paratroops arrived to assist them. Two German patrols at Oued Zarga and west of Mateur were driven off by the French. Intelligence reports show between 100 and 200 German vehicles in the vicinity of Mateur and German outposts at Sidi Nser and Oued Zarga. French estimate that there are 4,000 Germans in Tunis with light tanks and about 8,000 Germans with two battalions of light tanks at Bizerte. In Tunis, the French gendarmerie has been replaced with the Fascist militia. An armistice commission of 20 Axis nationals has been captured at Gafsa and taken to Tebessa. German pursuits are dispersed at Bou Arad and Depienne. Nine subversive French nationals were arrested today in Algiers and General Clark instructs Oran to "intern subversive troublemakers." Bizerte harbor has been cleared virtually of its obstructions and six German ships reportedly arrived during the day.

General Anderson reports to General Clark that the "situation is in hand." He

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Critique of Anderson ? 122

[contemplates dropping British paratroops at Sousse to cut the German's north-south supply road. General Clark approves the strategy. Anderson is also moving a small detachment to Gafsa. General Clark orders additional light tank battalion up from Oran and asks that a 155 mm artillery battalion be ready to move forward in about a week.]

Six Flying Fortresses raided Bizerte yesterday, including General Clark's two planes. Today he sees "bomb pattern" reports and the U.S. fliers were right on the target. All six planes returned but one was quite badly shot up. The Forts got one Focke Wolfe fighter.]

General Clark confers again with Admiral Darlan and Darlan reports that the attitude among French officials in Dakar has "undergone a change following the exchange of messages which resulted in my declaring that the agreement with the Americans had the tacit approval of Marshal Petain." French officials are coming to Algiers from Dakar to confer with Darlan. The Admiral tells General Clark he is "optimistic and I am convinced French West Africa will be with us." There is still nothing definite concerning what is going to happen to the French fleet. The French are hanging tenaciously to the last card they have to play if Frenchmen in the metropolitan area are to get amnesty from the Germans.

[Brigadier General Gruenther flies in from Gibraltar for a quick conference. Future plans are being made. It is possible that General Clark will go back to Oran soon to start organizing the Fifth U.S. Army so it can start a new operation--possibly an attack against Sardinia or Sicily to open the way for an assault on Italy. It is also possible that the lieutenant general will return to London to start planning for a spring offensive against the continent. General Clark believes the British should carry on the drive to the east by themselves, withdrawing American troops as the British strength builds up. The British could then continue to drive until Rommel is out of Africa and the 1st and 8th British Armies meet each other. The offensive of General Alexander is exceeding all expectations. The Afrika Korps is on the run. The British are back to Derna already. Gruenther reports that General Franco's response to President Roosevelt's message concerning opening of the North African front was "excellent." Spain has been strictly neutral. It appears now that if the Germans try to enter Spain to get a crack at us from the back, Franco will invite us in. At Oran, deserters from the Spanish Foreign Legion have walked scores of miles from Spanish Morocco to offer their services in the fight against the Axis.]

General Clark invites General Ryder to have dinner with him in the new Officers' Mess which, all the officers declare, puts out the best food any of them have had since they left the States. The original little band of eight headquarters officer has now swollen to about 50 with more coming in daily.]

(At ^{night} 2100, Lieutenant General Clark again listens to the B.B.C. news and learns that his deal with Darlan is having diverse repercussions in England and the U.S. At Washington today, Secretaries Hull, Knox and Stimson met and when the meeting, concerning the North African agreement, was over, Hull told the press that the deal with Darlan was a War Department matter and that "North Africa was under military control," intimating, as General Clark has repeatedly pointed out, that the deal with Darlan was "a matter of military expediency." In England, [where Mr. Churchill has been currying greater favor with DeGaulle,] the reaction is a bit more acute. In the House of Commons today, ~~Mr.~~ Clement Attlee was questioned rigorously and he declared that any statement concerning the Darlan-Clark negotiations would have to come from the Prime Minister. Says General Clark after listening to the broadcast: "It's a good job my nomination went through when it did!"

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 18, 1942--Lieutenant General Clark's day starts quietly enough but by nightfall things are hectic with Admiral Darlan coming and going and General Anderson making a report that disturbs and irritates the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Allied North African campaign. This, topped and integrated with a declaration by President Roosevelt that Darlan's position is temporary, makes it General Clark's toughest day since he concluded negotiations with Darlan and brought cessation of hostilities.

Darlan is summoned in the afternoon as the result of the President's alleged announcement and because of a report that certain pro-Allied Frenchmen are still being held. Darlan is informed of the President's declaration that Darlan's position is "a temporary expedient."

"You understand, of course," General Clark tells Darlan, "that your present status as far as we are concerned depends upon the degree of whole hearted cooperation we receive from you. In other words, as our government receives factual information as to your assistance in military and other ways, they will be more prone to accept your present position. I have received certain reports and I am not entirely satisfied that General Koeltz is cooperating 100 per cent. I think the time has come for you to tell Giraud that any General found wanting in cooperation should be relieved."

Admiral Darlan agrees with Lieutenant General Clark and agrees to so inform Giraud who is still on the Tunisian frontier checking up on French troops. General Clark then takes up the matter of Darlan issuing a proclamation declaring amnesty for any pro-Allies still in prison. Darlan promises to issue such a proclamation. Reporting military moves by the French, Admiral Darlan reports that Nogues is preparing seven French Moroccan battalions for movement to Algiers to assist in the defense of North Africa. Darlan also declares that he has accepted "certain friendly elements" into his civil organization. The officials are: Saint Hardouin to head foreign relations, Colonel Van Hecke to handle internal security, Regaud to handle censorship. The general feels inclusion of these men "should be favorable to our position."

Before Darlan leaves, General Clark puts on pressure again for the French fleet, telling Darlan that his position would be materially strengthened if he would offer a "few red apples to the teacher and the biggest and reddest apple is the French fleet." The general offers Darlan air cover and anti-submarine protection to move the French fleet out of Toulon. He has already talked this over with British and American naval officers. Darlan says he has issued all the orders he can concerning the fleet at the present time but that he will look for other moves. General Clark feels that the French "are cooperating very well in general."

During the afternoon, the General goes out to inspect troops and installations in the field. First he goes to Maisson Carée to re-visit the 39th regimental combat team. Then he continues on to Maison Blanche where he inspects 105 mm artillery emplacements. The general, who has felt so confined during the past week because he has had to stick close to his office, strides through the fields, happy to be out in the open among troops and fighting equipment again. Before returning home he sees a new and crude cemetery where a number of Americans, killed in the Algiers landing, are buried. There are a number of crude wooden crosses.

When General Clark returns he finds that General Anderson has been anxiously awaiting his return. The minute the British general enters The Deputy Commanders room he declares that he thinks we are being "double crossed by the French." Anderson has heard, as General Clark heard earlier in the day, that the commander of a

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French division from Constantine has told his troops not to start fighting the Germans unless they fire first. General Clark explains he has already taken the matter up with Darlan. But Anderson is excited. It is obvious that he believes he has over-extended himself to the east and that he is looking for an alibi "in case he gets a bloody nose from the Boche," General Clark says. He wants to blame anything that might happen in the next few days on the French. He is beginning to condemn the Darlan negotiations that he (Anderson) support so enthusiastically. General Clark tells General Anderson that he has reportedly told him and General Eisenhower "that we should not rely on the French--they are not equipped to do these tasks; they can't stop armored columns with their bare hands." But Anderson, in his anxiety, has sent General Eisenhower a radio explaining that he thinks the French are double-crossing the British. This piques General Clark.

Darlan is re-summoned after dark to General Clark's office. [The Deputy Commander tells him he has heard that "one of Koeltz' subordinates has issued orders that his troops would not attack the Germans unless the Germans attacked first." Since Giraud is absent from Algiers, the French general's Chief of Staff is summoned. In front of General Clark and Mr. Murphy, Darlan tells the French colonel that "it is my order that all French troops will resist the Axis in North Africa." General Clark is still not satisfied with this action alone so he demands that Darlan telephone Koeltz' headquarters in Constantine. Darlan does this in General Clark's presence and with Mr. Murphy listening on the phone. The French leader gives positive instructions to Koeltz that French troops will resist. [After Darlan has gone, one of the Admiral's closest advisors tells Mr. Murphy that "Darlan is being treated like a lieutenant" and the French resent it. Later, General Clark says it is imperative that he "get rough" with Darlan on occasions.]

General Spaatz arrives in the evening with a secret message to General Clark from General Eisenhower. It only confirms what the Deputy Commander has feared--that the ^{Centurion Service} politicians would, not knowing the military necessity, ^{will} object to the negotiations he successfully concluded with Darlan. The text:

"I have been engaged in a continuous stream of correspondence with London in defense of arrangements we have made. Apparently, we are being rather definitely condemned because we have had the slightest thing to do with Darlan. I have explained again and again that our agreements apply only to this locality and make no attempt to commit our government to any particular line of future political action. The case is apparently becoming one of a great deal of newspaper comment and of incessant correspondence between the PM and the President, most of it inspired by the PM.

"I am sticking firmly by what we have done as the only possible solution in the circumstances; however, I quite agree that we must do nothing to embarrass our governments in the future from a political angle and must confine our own dealings here to those things that have to do with winning the battle of Tunisia. Therefore, we must (a) Have no needless publicity about any dealing with Darlan. (b) We must deal firmly with Darlan to get those obvious advantages that will convince the politicians of the wisdom of our action. Among these is the issue of a general order releasing all internees or prisoners belonging to Allied Governments, including the Free French and the local French that have helped us. (c) We must not allow Flandin, or any other people who are equally odious to the British and American people, to be associated, even in a minor way, with the French Commission. (d) No matter what title or office Darlan or any of his assistants may choose to assume, we must not under any circumstances recognize his authority or his title as extending beyond French North Africa. (e) Above all, we must get out of him the maximum assistance in winning the battle of Tunisia.

"We can logically be more firm with these people than we could a week ago. My greatest concern is the Moroccan area, but the time has come when this whole crowd must realize that unless they go along with us they are nothing.

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"I realize communications are terrible and that it is difficult for you to keep me advised. However, please acknowledge receipt of this telegram and keep me informed of anything that I can use as ammunition in keeping the bosses at home from upsetting the applecart.

"I am desperately anxious to come down there but until this barrage from the rear stops, I don't see how I can do it. Again, I say I approve of everything you have done and no matter what they do to me as a result of this thing, I will make certain that you are protected."

General Clark sends the following cable, late tonight, to General Eisenhower:

"The points you have indicated are thoroughly appreciated by me and I am doing everything possible to carry them out. I believe that all prisoners belonging to the Allied governments here in North Africa have already been released. Darlan will issue a proclamation freeing those who have helped us. Flandin is not in the picture. Darlan goes by the title of High Commissioner in French Africa. In view of the fact that he is working to incorporate West Africa, see no reason why that title is not satisfactory. (General Clark then outlined the steps taken by Darlan today to have the French resist in Tunis).

"This," the cable continues, "gives you an indication of his apparent effort to do what we tell him to do: Giraud realizes definitely that he is not in a position to demand respect from all his subordinates yet. It would have been perfect chaos had we attempted to force Giraud to the top against this seething opposition. I want you to know and Murphy, Matthews and Holmes concur, that if we had this to do over again, we would be forced to deal with Darlan as a military expediency in order to be free to move our troops to the east unhindered by strife and disturbances in our rear areas. I think you should come down and spend at least 24 hours and really see what this situation is. As a result of this you would feel more positively that the steps which you have taken are 100 per cent correct. I have made it very clear to Darlan in no uncertain words and he understands, that we are dealing with him only as long as he does exactly what we say. I made another pass at him for the Toulon fleet tonight, but he says that they will not pay any attention to his orders. However, he does assure me that he has high hopes of securing the naval vessels at Dakar for our use. I have no way of knowing whether he is sincere in this or not."

[Admiral Robert, commanding the French fleet that is held at Martinique, inquires today whether Admiral Robert Battet is in Algiers and cooperating with Darlan. Apparently, Robert is willing to go along if Battet is. And he is here--as a member of Darlan's staff. He has been helpful in negotiations and promptly dispatched cease firing orders. He has stated that if the ships in Martinique become available he expects to command the French cruiser now there.

On the Tunisian front feeler operations are still underway. A British advance guard and 30 German tanks made contact 15 miles east of Tabarka and eight German tanks were destroyed after which the Germans withdrew to the east. The German tanks destroyed four anti-tank guns and four field guns. The German outpost line is Mateur-Medjez-El Bar Pont-Du fhas Grombalia with patrols to the west. Movement behind the German lines is reported. One Junkers 88 dropped butterfly bombs in the vicinity of Maison Blanche airport with some casualties. The French report that a small detachment of the German Afrika Korps had landed at Tunis and say they come from Tobruk.]

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 19, 1942--A "love feast" with Admiral Darlan and the return of General Giraud from the Tunisian frontier with heartening reports, particularly concerning French determination to resist the Germans, feature General Clark's day.

Giraud, who has been to the very front, comes back with a double-barreled report: first, he outlines how he thinks troops should be dispersed and used, and, second, he declares that all the French, including Generals Barre and Koeltz, are following Darlan's order to resist. The tall, mustached French General outlines, point by point, how he thinks the troops should be dispersed. It is the advice of an outstanding and seasoned officer. His great worry is the air problem. The conversation runs like this:

Giraud--The Germans have absolute control of the air over the front. We need heavy and light bombers and fighters up there as soon as possible.

Clark--German superiority in air power at the present time is natural since they are installed there and the front is closer to them. We are moving up air as fast as we can. We are going to start day and night bombardment on a regular schedule Saturday.

Giraud--We ought to get some fighters in so they can strafe German troops.

Clark--Three squadrons of fighters are going to move into the sector in front of Mateur Saturday. We are also moving three squadrons of fighters into Tebessa Saturday.

Giraud--The number is quite satisfactory. It is necessary that British and American fighters destroy German planes before the anti-aircraft can be moved in by the Germans. I think Saturday is a little late..."

Clark--I will get General Doolittle and Air Marshal Welsh in right away. Most of our air is now U.S. aviation. I promise you I will speed it up and get it into Tebessa. I'll have long range fighters working over the area tomorrow.

Giraud--That would be wonderful. I don't want to see the end that we saw in 1940 because of German air superiority.

Giraud also reports that: we must hold the Gafsa area because the best airfield in the area is there and General Clark assures him that "we have 500 American paratroops at Gafsa now" and promises to fly up another American weapons company from Oran; Barre, Koeltz and Volvert are "very good commanders and are with us," to which General Clark replies he is "very delighted--this is the first real encouraging news we have had;" he is satisfied the sub-commanders will obey and resist the Germans; French troops will hold General Anderson's south flank with a little American anti-tank and anti-aircraft aid; the British he met were fine and had "superb weapons;" more Allied troops are needed in the region as both sides appear to be "thin" and General Clark tells him troops are already well on the way to the front.

General Clark then tells the French officer that President Roosevelt has announced that Darlan's appointment is only a provisional setup. He adds that the President has been assured that Darlan is eager to do anything "we suggest should be done." "The information that the General has given me," General Clark tells Giraud, "will be most helpful to me in reporting to my government concerning French assistance. In a little while I am going to see the Admiral and express my faith in him and in you. I think things are working out well."

The Deputy Commander's visit to Darlan's headquarters is a real "love feast." When the general arrives, a troop of cavalry, mounted on white Arabian horses, is lined up facing the steps leading to Darlan's offices. As the general walks between the lines through a semi-tropical garden, Darlan is standing at the top of the steps. He comes down to meet General Clark and greets him enthusiastically. Inside, the general tells Darlan of the improved conditions, political and military, and lets him read a copy of the following radio to General Eisenhower:

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"As a result of a conversation with Giraud just completed, I am completely convinced, and so is Anderson who was in conference, that French troops in Tunisia and Eastern Algeria are doing everything within their power to cooperate with us in resisting Axis advance. Giraud, after two-day trip in that area, is completely satisfied that his orders are being obeyed. Darlan's direct orders to French commanders in that area, as issued last night~~xxx~~, has had a helpful effect. German Commander Nehring this morning at 5 AM demanded of General Barre that he permit Germans to pass. In the event of refusal he threatened attack at 7 AM this date. I am convinced that Darlan is bending every effort to cooperate and facilitate what we are trying to do. I talked over the phone with Raft at Gafsa today and he reported that French troops in that area had placed themselves under his command and were cooperating 100 percent. French armored units are reconnoitering in the vicinity of Gabes and are attempting to intercept a German railway train moving south towards Gabes, presumably carrying ground personnel for air units which recently moved into Gabes."

Darlan is tremendously pleased with the phrase declaring that he "is bending every effort to cooperate..." General Clark and the French North African leader part on the most amicable terms.

General Clark calls in General Doolittle, Air Marshal Welsh and Colonel Vandenburg to arrange for immediate use in Tunisia of an increased number of bombers and fighters. He tells them he wants the heavy bombers brought up and based at Blida, near Algiers; that the fighters should be ordered up to airdromes closer to the lines; specifically he orders that six long-range fighters go out tomorrow to strafe German troops in Tunisia and to go after a train that is reported moving troops up in the vicinity of Gabes. Doolittle says he wants Welsh to "assign us a sector and targets and we'll do the job for you." Welsh apparently wants to retain full control of the Eastern Air Command, saying "until a big American force is in I would like to integrate the command as it is." General Clark finds himself more or less the adjudicator between impatient, two-fisted Doolittle and the slower, more ponderous Welsh. Doolittle wants an all-American bombing base in Algiers. Welsh just wants to move off the French aircraft. Doolittle keeps saying to Welsh that he wants the Blida base "and then you just tell me what you want done and we will do it in a grand manner." Says Clark to the wavering Welsh: "Here's your boy. He can give you all the American help possible." Doolittle also points out that he will be wanting bases farther forward for operations against Italy, Sardinia and Sicily. General Clark agrees. Welsh finally agrees to give Doolittle the airdromes he wants.

Eager to fulfill his promise to Giraud and work with Doolittle, General Clark then sends this radio to Gibraltar: "Conditions being somewhat stabilized here, I feel able to visit Oran. Am flying there tomorrow, returning in evening. Propose to take one infantry company reinforced by anti-air and anti-tank units and fly same to Gafsa to reinforce that point. Have suggested this to Anderson and he asked me to arrange details. Intelligence data indicates mixed motor column tanks and motors moving North from Gabes tomorrow. Have arranged with Doolittle to attack this column with P-38s. Doolittle also moving one squadron P-38s to Tebessa for station. All these movements concurred in by Anderson. French troops at Bizerta and Tunis have been ordered by Germans to cooperate with them in attack on Allies. In order to explain these French troops the situation we are dropping leaflets tomorrow night..."

The political and civil sections have been working for the past several days on the final armistice and protocol. It is brought into General Clark tonight and is approved, but before being signed, a copy is sent to General Eisenhower for perusal and another copy goes to Darlan so he can read it ahead of time. The political people have been busy with Darlan along another line today. General Clark's radio explains:

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"Our people were present today during conference between Darlan and Boisson (Governor of French West Africa) three representatives and I met them at the end of the conference. Following concerning Dakar:

"They are taking to Boisson a letter from Darlan which he read to us and which recommends that French West Africa join with French North Africa in resistance to the Axis and to fight with the Allies for the liberation of France. The three officers will have tomorrow bearing this letter and also a letter from Darlan to Boisson requesting him to come to Algiers in order that an arrangement may be concluded between Darlan, Boisson and ourselves. Boisson's representatives were insistent that all representatives in Dakar and all relations be handled by Americans and in the name of the United States. Appropriate assurances were given. Darlan is very confident that West Africa will come in and discussed in detail how the Richelieu (French battleship) might be taken to the United States for repairs. He is not optimistic with regards to the fleet at Toulon but feels confident concerning naval vessels under Dakar and under Godfrey at Alexandria. He says that as soon as arrangements are concluded with Boisson, he will invite Godfrey to join up by sending a message through Admiral Cunningham. We should have something definite on West Africa within a few days."

Went the day well militarily speaking. General Anderson, when he reports to General Clark, is pleased. Allied troops ambushed a German motor column and got six armored vehicles and 12 prisoners. The rest of the Axis troops in the column were killed. After rejection of the German ultimatum to General Barre, the Germans attacked French troops defending a bridge immediately west of Medjez el Bab after artillery preparation and air support. The French report the attack was repulsed and prisoners captured. The British report fighting in the vicinity of Mateur with three German tanks destroyed. The Germans are reported as laying anti-tank mines and erecting defenses in the vicinity of Mateur and Medjez el Bab. B-17s raided Bizerte successfully this morning and reported no fighter interception. Six enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. Thirty probably were destroyed when one hangar was demolished. Enemy air reconnaissance was active over southern Tunisia. Additional units of our anti-aircraft arrived at Bone, and one infantry battalion passed through Bone enroute to La Calle. One Allied infantry battalion arrived at Djahord. General Clark's promise to send American troops to reinforce French units is fulfilled when one battery of U.S. anti-aircraft troops, one company of armored cars, one battery of light anti-aircraft and two troops of a parachute brigade arrive at Medjez el Bab. The stage is being set for an all-out fight on the Tunisian border.

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ALGIERS-ORAN-ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 20, 1942--General Clark, accompanied by General Doolittle, Captain Wright, Colonel Holmes, Major Meacham and Lieutenant Beardwood take off from Maison Blanche airport at 0851 for Oran in a Flying Fortress. The big plane, named the "Little Commando," is soon flying at 800 feet along the fringe of the North African shore at 155 miles an hour. General Doolittle is in the co-pilot's seat and, soon after the ship is off the ground, General Clark goes up and takes the pilot's seat while the Pilot, Lieutenant Cecil Duncan, watched apprehensively from behind the two generals. Enroute to Oran, General Clark pilots the plane low and in front of the famed rendezvous house just west of Cherchel light. Nearing Oran, the plane is dipped low over a German submarine that has been driven ashore by Allied planes.

Lieutenant General Clark's plane lands at Tafaraoui airport, 24 kilometers south of Oran, at 1013 and the Deputy Commander is met by Generals Fredendall and Rooks. The party is then driven in two cars to the Grand Hotel in Oran, General Fredendall's II Army Corps headquarters, where General Clark renews acquaintances with old friends under his command: Colonels Ferenbaugh, Hewitt, Adcock, Harman and General Iarkin. Despite his higher position, General Clark still considers these men "his boys." Word is received that General Eisenhower is arriving at Tafaraoui at 1300 so General

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Clark hurries back out to the airport. But first, with Generals Frednedall and Oliver, he arranges for the remainder of the 1st Armored Combat team to be alerted for prompt movement to the Tunisian frontier. He also completes arrangements for the movement forward today, in troop carriers, of the infantry company supported by anti-tank and anti-air units. Members of General Doolittle's staff participate in the discussion. The armored troops probably will move up by combined rail and road.

General Clark eats and waits at Tafaraoui airdrome, a vast, dusty but excellent field, but General Eisenhower's plane does not show up. The deputy commander then confers at the field with General Allen of the 1st Division, his old friend Colonel "Dutch" Koda and others. Just before the general is to take off at 1500 for the return flight to Algiers, the troops that he has ordered up to the front by transport load into C-47s and, with fighter protection, take off, organize into formation over the field, and take off. None of the troops has been in a plane before, with few exceptions, yet they load in an orderly fashion. General Clark is pleased.

After being interviewed and photographed by the correspondents and photographers stationed at **Oran**, General Clark and his party take off at 1508 in the "Little Commando" and head west for the advanced Allied Force headquarters. Once again, on the return flight, the plane circles both the beached German submarine and the villa where General Clark conducted his successful negotiations. The plane lands at Maison Blanche at 1834 and, in a plane side conference, Generals Clark and Doolittle and Air Marshal Welsh arrange for Flying Fortress raids and fighter sorties to Tunisia tomorrow. The general then returns to his hotel headquarters. During the visit in Algiers, Captain Wright visited the port and found that authorities were "working like beavers" to clear the harbor entrance of scuttled ships. Already, Captain Wright reports to General Clark during the return flight, four ships have already been raised from the channel mouth. One, a big French freighter, can be reconditioned for use.

Upon his return to his headquarters General Clark receives information that Marshal Petain has again instructed General Barre in Tunisia not to resist the Germans. The French in North Africa, including General Barre and Admiral Darlan, realize that Petain issued the order "with a gun in his back." General Clark double checks to find if the Petain order is going to mean any change and satisfies himself that it isn't; that the North African French are behind us. General Clark sends the following radio to General Eisenhower:

"Just returned from Oran. Have alerted the remainder of Oliver's force for movement here. Suggested to Anderson that he might later profitably employ this armored task force...It will be employed as an American unit under Oliver.

"Arranged while at Oran to send one rifle company reinforced by anti-tank and anti-air units by air. It has arrived at Blida and it will be pushed on to reinforce Raft at either Gafsa or Tebessa tomorrow morning. Believe it is highly important that we hold Gafsa. Anderson has moved up to Jemmapes but before he left I arranged to handle this for him.

"Upon my return read your message describing Esteve's effort to induce Barre to cease firing. This had already been brought to Giraud's attention who has issued orders to Barre to disregard such instructions. Have just sent Holmes to Darlan to have him also denounce this effort to induce Barre's action and order Barre to continue fighting.

"Have just approved an announcement which Darlan personally will make tonight over the radio in which he tells the people that Marshal Petain's appeal to the people here to resist the Allies is a German forgery. Darlan urges them to support us in every way and fight alongside of us. It is a good speech and should be helpful."

To button up the movement of air support to the front, General Clark summons Air Marshal Welsh and Generals Doolittle and Craig. They canvass the air situation.

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and find that there are now 38 P-38s of the 14th group, 13 DB-7s of the 27th group, 15 B-17s of the 97th group and a varying number of C-47s in the Algerian area. Enroute are 2,200 ground maintenance men to service these units. A trainload of gas and bombs and ammunition is due here tomorrow from Oran. A tanker carrying aviation fuel has been diverted from Oran to Algiers. The rest of the 14th fighter group and the 97th heavy bombardment group is being sent immediately to MaisonBlanche. In addition, 50 Spitfires and 50 P-38s are on call at Oran and ready to move forward as soon as supplies are available in the forward area to support them. 12 P-38s are now stationed at Tebessa and covering the area to the east with frequent sweeps.

General Clark and the air men agree that the Flying Fortresses can operate more effectively from Algiers than from Oran. General Clark radios General Eisenhower that "bomber and fighter sweeps into Tunisia to smash harbors and airfields with American and British aircraft will continue daily. B-17 daylight attack scheduled for tomorrow morning on all ports at Tunisia. Both high and low altitude attacks will be made and airports, ports and shipping covered. The squadron of DB-7s will be moved into the forward area as soon as supplies can be brought in. This will be in the next few days..."

Just as General Clark is completing dictation of this air report to General Eisenhower, Algiers' air raid sirens start. Soon the Bofords and ack-ack guns are filling the air with fire and noise. Then the Axis bombers strike, the "crump" of their bombs being punctuations marks to the steady sentences of the anti-aircraft guns. General Clark and the air men go to a balcony overlooking the harbor. It is a terrific sight. Although it is night, the moon is so full that the harbor is visible. Luckily, there are not many ships in since the last convoy has almost moved out and the next convoy is not due until tomorrow. A fire starts to burn on the docks. In the bay, geysers of water shoot up where the bombs hit. Harry Hopkins' son, Corporal Robert Hopkins, is shooting the battle from the balcony with colored motion picture film. The bombing of the harbor doesn't appear to be effective but the semi-darkness and an abundance of smoke makes visibility poor. Ack-ack fire and the "crump" of bombs well off to the right indicates that Maison Blanche too is being attacked. The Axis planes come back four times to bomb the harbor. Although the anti-aircraft fire is fairly heavy and undoubtedly is keeping the enemy planes at a good height, no planes are shot down. Much of the anti-aircraft that was here 10 days ago has been moved up to protect Bone, Bougie and other cities farther forward.

As Lieutenant General Clark watches the bombing and the colorful but deadly pyrotechnics, he remarks: "I wish Bill could be here to see this." Bill is the general's son who is a plebe at West Point. The show has diminished somewhat when the General and his party go down to mess. However, while the meal is being eaten, the sound of intermittent bombs and ack-ack can be heard in the somewhat noisy dining room. During dinner the general hears that the fighter sweep into Tunisia today was effective but that the train reportedly bringing up Axis troops was not located despite several searches; also that General Eisenhower agrees with the permanent armistice terms but that he has "reluctantly decided" to forward certain sections to the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington "in order to obtain the quickest results." He says he is "emphasizing strongly the excellent and increasing cooperation that the French are giving."

Following dinner, General Clark goes to the harbor and out to Maison Blanche to determine first-hand how much damage has been done. Accompanied by his two aides, Meacham and Beardwood, he goes to Admiral Burroughs flagship, the Bulolo, and is told that one bomb hit a wharf shed where British troops were billeted and that 20 men were killed and about twice that number injured. Another bomb hit close to a flack ship and that some aft compartments are filled with water. (Later, it is reported that a tanker was hit,) The general then goes, in complete blackout, to Maison Blanche.

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As soon as the Deputy Commander's Buick skirts the edge of the field he can see that the bombing there was heavy. The wreckage of several planes shows grotesquely in the moonlight. He goes to the Operations Office and find that four Beaufighters, four Spitfire photographic reconnaissance planes, two P-39s and one Flying Fortress have been destroyed by bombs. Seven of the eight crew members of the Fortress were killed. The eight is in the commandant's office, badly shocked. He was walking away from the plane when the bomb hit. The commandant also reports that two petrol dumps were hit and estimates the number of attacking planes at 30. Two night fighters got into the air but because of the weakness of the night fighter detectors were unable to battle the bombers. General Clark goes outside to the wreckage.

He inspects the charred hulks of the four Beaufighters and the Flying Fortress. Although the plane is so badly blown apart and burned that identification is almost impossible, the position of the plane leads him to believe that the destroyed bomber is the one that flew him to Oran and back today. Lieutenant Beardwood has the number of the "Little Commando." It is 124576. The burned tail of the B-17 shows the number 124376. An error in copying is likely. The bodies of the crew are still in the plane. General Clark, after determining that the bomber and fighter plans for tomorrow will still be carried out, with one less B-17, returns to his hotel.

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 21, 1942--Twelve Flying Fortresses, escorted by six P-38 fighters, successfully bomb the Tunis airport today, paying off more than in kind for the raid by Axis bombers on Algiers last night. The Axis airdrome is heavily bombed and three Me109s are destroyed in the air. All the American planes returned to Algiers but one P-38 crashed on landing at Maison Blanche. The pilot escaped with minor injuries.

Today is one of the quietest General Clark has spent since leaving London. He concerns himself, for the most part, with minor matters--another long session with heads of the headquarters commandant's staff concerning assignment of office space and billeting, a conference concerning communications difficulties with British Major General George Clark and Brigadier Scott, a long inspection tour during the afternoon with General Ryder in jeeps and during which the Deputy Commander soaks up a lot of badly needed sunshine, dinner at which he has Admiral Burroughs and his staff at his guests at a 10-place table that has fiery red poinsettias for the centerpiece. Tonight, the Germans bomb Algiers again. The bombing and ack-ack lasts for an hour beginning about 8:30 PM. All the damage the Germans can do is the destruction of a single P-39.

General Eisenhower is inquiring when he should come to Algiers and General Clark informs him he should wait until communications--a difficult problem for the past 13 days--improve. General Clark is planning a tour of the Tunisian front. He discusses it with officials of the 12th Air Force and Air Marshal Welsh. They suggest that he go up in a British Beaufighter which is capable of carrying two passengers. The general seems always eager to be near the front!

Regarding the communications difficulties, General Clark (British) reports to Lieutenant General Clark that the French are "cooperating but they are slow and inefficient." The principal difficulty, within French North Africa, is moving messages over the territorial system. Brigadier Scott suggests that orders be issued to reduce the French traffic. The British general suggests setting aside certain hours for French traffic. General Clark is running repeatedly into the difficulty brought to him by Scott and Clark: both have different ideas, they have had no discussion between themselves. They bring their problem to the general before it is

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"ripe." Says the Deputy Commander: "I feel like the unfamiliar fellow who looked at the insides of a piano for the first time. I'm a bit confused. You get together and outline what you want and then I'll go to bat for you 100 percent. I must know what you want when I go to Darlan."

British General Clark also tells Lieutenant General Clark that the Algiers prefecture of police has been to him to report that he "is being threatened for dealing with Darlan. The prefecture wants a letter sent to the papers saying he has the support of the Allies. The Deputy Commander chuckles and tells the British general to get a statement from the prefecture "then I can let Darlan know that people are out to cut his throat."

Lieutenant General Clark is getting piqued at the constant criticism that seems to center in London concerning the deal with Darlan. The B.B.C. has just broadcast a commentator who criticized Darlan and praised Degaulle. General Clark believes "the Prime Minister is being very uncooperative." He explains: "If I had not obtained French cooperation we would have had to have kept most of our troops back here watching these fellows while the Hun built up his strength in Tunisia. Because of negotiations the French are fighting with us. Darlan was the only horse we could ride and I think we should ride him to death!"

Both sides are still moving into position for the brewing battle of Tunisia. German mechanized patrols worked out on the roads from Gabes to Gafsa, and Kairouan Sbeitla-Feriana. An enemy motorized column worked out from Sbeitla with 51 trucks carrying infantry and motorcycle escorts. The situation on the Southern flank is still obscure. On our side, one company of the 26th Infantry, reinforced with anti tank and anti-aircraft weapons arrived in Tebessa. A squadron of P-38s also arrived at Tebessa to work out across enemy territory with light bombs and strafing. Tonight we bombed Bizerte but the results are not yet known. French mounted troops at Tebessa went out on patrols but there is no report on ground operations other than small "feeler" skirmishes.

General Eisenhower has forwarded the protocol that General Clark has prepared for Darlan's signature to the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington. A report back on it is expected momentarily. General Eisenhower radios General Clark that he believes the Deputy Commander has "done a fine job of work."

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 22, 1942--Lieutenant General Clark and Admiral Darlan, high commissioner in French North Africa, sign today a protocol that puts down in black and white the agreements they reached during their lengthy and dramatic negotiations. One of the preamble paragraphs explains the gist of the agreement: "It has been agreed by all French elements concerned and United States military authorities that French forces will aid and support the forces of the United States and their Allies to expel from the soil of Africa the common enemy, to liberate France and to restore integrally the French empire."

General Clark goes to Admiral Darlan's home for the signing ceremony that takes place at 3:18 PM. Only Admiral Darlan and General Clark sign the seven page document that, after the preamble, takes up specific problems point by point. (A duplicate, signed copy of this historic document is to be found in the back of this book). The signing is photographed by both motion picture and still cameras. Because of the damnable situation existing in London and Washington, the pictures and stories will be held until a more propitious time. A cable is received from Washington today stressing that all publicity concerning the political situation is to be withheld.

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General Anderson returns from a visit to the Tunisian front and, after a long conference with General Clark, decides he may be able to start an advance to the eastward on November 24, two days from today. General Anderson says he has three alternatives and admits he would like General Clark's advice. First, he can throw in everything he has but then, in case of reverses, he will have nothing behind him; second, he can make a lighter attack and leave behind a few, but a very few, reserves; third, he can continue present "feeler" operations and wait for more troops, at least ten days.

General Clark weighs the three plans. The first one appears inadvisable for two reasons. First, if Anderson's attack results in a bloody nose for the combined British-American troops, it would have far-reaching effects on both the strength of Allied troops in French North Africa and might change the attitude of the French who are just beginning to throw their weight--what little they have--into the fight. Second, it would mean that the Axis, if successful, would have nothing to stop it between Tunisia and Algiers. The third alternative is equally bad since, while Anderson is waiting for a troop and material buildup, the Axis troops in Tunisia will also become strengthened and the situation will still be the same. The best bet, General Clark and General Anderson concur, is a slight revision of the second alternative. Anderson should start an advance, not with the purpose of shooting the works, but to drive enemy covering detachments back and to determine the strength and disposition of the enemy. Anderson says that reports indicate there are about 12,000 Axis troops in Tunisia and that they have about 100 tanks. Anderson has a slight edge in man power, about an equal number of tanks but a tougher supply problem. The plan is to send one brigade of the 78th division advancing from Dj Abid toward Mateur and the other from Medjez El Bab toward Tunis. The 1st Army will have its armor on its right flank. The British and American generals agree that Anderson must more fully determine the enemy's situation before he tries an all-out assault.

"As you advance and determine enemy dispositions," General Clark tells the 1st Army commander, "the better prepared you will be to decide on the direction and weight and time of your all-out attack. I don't want to be over-cautious but at this early stage we must make certain that we are not going to get a bloody nose. This plan has a fair chance of success. We will do all we can to give you air superiority and cover."

Anderson has ordered "little attacks tonight and tomorrow to keep them on the hop." He plans to drop parachutists in forward areas simultaneous with his initial concerted push. General Clark promises to give him all possible air--air and armored--and tells him that he will order up additional units of the 1st (American) Armored Division. French troops will hold fast to keep the Axis from encircling Anderson's force from the south. General Anderson asks that all French troops north of the line Souk Arhbas-Tebousouk be placed under his command. General Giraud will command all French troops south of that line. General Clark promises to take the matter up with Giraud. He also promises to attack Axis shipping to Tunis with both day and night bombing raids. Air Marshal Welch and General Doolittle will do everything possible, General Clark says, "to neutralize enemy airports at Tunis and Bizerte and Cardinia. He also queries to see what the British navy can do about harassing enemy shipping to Tunisia. General Clark is going to attach small but strong American units to the French so they can better hold the south flank. When the long conference closes, General Clark instructs General Anderson to go immediately to General Giraud to straighten out the matter of command on the Tunisian front.

While waiting for a late afternoon conference with General Giraud, the Deputy Commander meets with General Bethouard, the French officer from French Morocco who assisted so materially the American effort in that region and who was imprisoned.

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It is agreed that Bethouard, General Mast and other French officers who facilitated our landing, will be sent, for the time being, to Gibraltar. These officers are still frowned upon by the other French officers but Darlan has told General Clark that the situation will soon be clarified and the officers will be able to return and take commands. General Mast has been around headquarters frequently of late but always in civilian clothes. General Clark grows increasingly pleased with the way his "Darlan deal" is turning out; and, it still rankles him that the attitude in Washington and London is so "unrealistic."

The general also takes step to do a personal favor for Darlan. He radios that Darlan "is anxious to obtain for his son, who is suffering (in Algiers) from infantile paralysis," certain medical equipment. General Clark and Admiral Darlan are growing more friendly. During one of Darlan's recent visits, the two men, with the impetus of the picture of General Clark's plebe son, Bill, had a long chat about their families, General Clark practising his somewhat rusty French and surprising Darlan.

General Giraud reports, when he arrives at General Clark's office, that General Anderson and he have agreed to the command line and that French troops in the northern sector will come under the British general's command until they are replaced by British troops and returned to Giraud's command. General Giraud is issuing orders to Generals Koeltz and Juin to that effect. The French general is still worried about air superiority and attacks against the Axis in Tunisia and his dour face lights up when the Deputy Commander tells him that "we are instituting daily bombing raids on Tunis and Bizerte and we are going after the Hun steadily with long range fighters." After last night's raid on Algiers, General Giraud is particularly pleased when General Clark tells him that a big raid is planned for tomorrow on Sardinia "to stop the Boche, at his source, from coming here."

The general then tells Giraud, who he considers "the best of the Frenchmen I am dealing with," that he has just signed an agreement with Darlan settling protocol and assistance matters. Says General Clark: "Well, General, "it looks as though we are getting to be one big happy family now!" Giraud lets out an almost falsetto laugh. General Clark then tells the lanky, mustached French general that "French mobilization must not slow down what we are trying to do in moving men and material to the east."

At 7:50 PM the Algiers sirens wail again and the bombing is on again! The attack does not appear as heavy as last night. More bombs land on the hills on which Algiers is built. The windows in the American headquarters rattle and shake. Lamps swing. The attack again is on the harbor and Maison Blanche airport. When the attack is at its height, a group of officers goes down town to Radio Algiers to broadcast the Army Hour to the United States. Because of a special order prohibiting general officers from appearing on the program, General Clark's message is read by one of his aides, Lieutenant Beardwood. In the message, General Clark reports to "the parents and friends of American troops here in North Africa" on the morale and health of their men. He concludes by saying: "We will keep on the offensive. That is the spirit of all your men here. And it is the spirit that can win--and the spirit that is going to win."

Tonight, General Clark lets his hair down in a letter to General Eisenhower. It reads:

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"Dear Ike:

"Attached hereto is the signed copy of the agreement with Darlan...I thought you might wish to send this on to the War Department.

"Received your letter about GCM. It naturally troubles me because I know it has troubled you. I must say that I think some of the boys in Washington are getting unduly alarmed about small matters. The only thing that has gone to the press is what has gone out through your headquarters. It seems to me that the boys back in Washington could do better to facilitate out work here rather than to bother us with such unimportant tripe. (This refers to Washington objections to certain sections of stories concerning General Clark's African rendezvous trip) The story of our visit here was one that naturally appealed to the press. They built it up and magnified it just as you would expect them to do. Every indication that I have received and other people that I have talked to think that it was a swell story... more

"I know the hell you have been taking, sitting in that damn tunnel, but don't think I haven't had my share of it here. I have never gone through tendays like this before in my life, but I must say that we are now obtaining the best combination of results that I think were possible to squeeze out of the dirty mess we found here. I don't mind making decisions--you know that--but it is doubly hard when you make them knowing that they are another's responsibility. I have not once asked you to come over here, for I thought that was your decision, but I do want you to know that when you do come it will certainly be a great relief to me. I think that the time has come when you should be here. Most of the communications are between you and me and that will all be eliminated with your arrival.

"I am delighted that you feel as I do about cutting down the size of the staff. I read the War Department radiogram on the formation of the Fifth Army. I don't know how you feel about it, but I think--as General Marshall suggested--that the American troops here should be all headed up under one army and that plans be made by that army for their arrival and training for its next offensive mission.

"With regards to the radio broadcast, I am glad not to have to appear. It is quite a burden, but I totally disagree with the decision that senior officers should not appear. After all, the people back home want to know from authoritative sources how their boys are getting along. There seems to be too many people afraid that senior officers are getting too much publicity. I will tell you more about that when I see you.

"I can't tell you how grand your support has been during this trying time. Your whole-hearted and complete backing has been the one thing that has kept me from going just a little bit screwy.

"I rather think Welsh is somewhat of an old "dodo." I don't think he has the zip and "do it now spirit" to get the maximum results out of the tools he has available. Jimmy Doolittle and I keep prodding him in the hindend every day and urging more action.

"As for Anderson, he has been doing all right, but I did think his message of November 21 (saying French support was weak), which appa rently went to everybody from the King down, showed a little sign of weakness. However, he is in a tough spot and has hard decisions to make. We had lunch together today and I urged him to push on as soon as he could, at the same time maintaining some control until he found more about the enemy dispositions and strength.

"As Ever,
(signed) Wayne."

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[ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 23, 1942--The strategic port of Dakar and all of French West Africa is falling into line and will join the pact reached between Lieutenant General Clark and Admiral Darlan! This is the big news of the day and the week and it brings from General Clark the explosive comment that "I guess that will show the powers that be in Washington and London that we made the right move in entering into an agreement with Darlan."

General Clark is conferring with General Eisenhower--who arrived in late afternoon to establish his headquarters here--when Colonel Holmes bursts into the room to exclaim "Dakar and North Africa are in the bag!" Darlan has been informed by Governor Boisson of North Africa and Admiral Barran, in charge of the fleet at Dakar, of "their support and the desire of French West Africa to join in our common effort to defeat the Axis." This means greater solidity in French Africa and a real opportunity to get part of the French fleet. Located at Dakar are the French battleship Richilieu, partly damaged but fixable, and several cruisers, destroyers and submarines.

Now that negotiations with Dakar have reached such a high point, there are increased hopes of getting the active support of Martinique and remnants of the French fleet there. Originally, Darlan suggested that negotiations with Dakar should be coupled with an approach to Admiral Robert in Martinique to reach an agreement. Darlan now asks that the approach be made to Robert on a sole Martinique basis and if Roberts reply is not "entirely unfavorable" Darlan will at once open direct correspondence with Robert. "In view of the apparent success of the Dakar negotiations," says a Radiogram to Washington, "I recommend that the United States consul general in Martinique should now make proposed approach to Robert. Darlan's next move will be to approach Admiral Godfroy (admiral of the French fleet units at Alexandria, Egypt) and he is very hopeful of successful results."

General Clark is tremendously pleased with the new turn of events and tonight, for the first time, he seems to be enjoying himself and completely relaxed as he chats in his apartment with General Eisenhower about anecdotes, home and acquaintances.

Admiral Darlan has sent a very touching letter to General Clark as a result of President Roosevelt's broadcast which Darlan interprets as hyper-critical of him. The letter reads:

"My dear General:

"Information coming from various parts tend to give credit to the opinion that I am but a lemon which the Americans will drop after it is crushed.

"In the line of conduct I have taken out of pure French patriotic sense in spite of heavy inconveniences which are to result for me from it, though it would have been extremely easy for me to let events develop without my intervention, I, as a person, do not count.

"I did what I did only because the American government took the solemn engagement to restore French sovereignty in its integrity as it existed in 1939 and because the armistice between Axis Powers and France was broken by the occupation of the whole of French Metropolitan territory, against which Marshal Petain has solemnly protested."

"I have acted neither through pride, nor ambition, nor intrigue, but because the place I held in my country made it my duty to act.

"When French sovereignty in its integrity is an accomplished fact--and I hope it will be in the least possible time--I firmly intend to go back to civilian life and to retire to end a life during which I have eagerly served my country. If this is the way I can interpret the declarations attributed to President Roosevelt, according to which an agreement with me can be but a temporary one, I completely agree. But I have the perhaps excessive pretention of thinking that under present circumstances it is around an association with those of such men as General Giraud, General Nogues,

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Governor General Boisson, Admiral Michellier, that Africans can unite for a loyal and confident cooperation with the armies, allies of French forces and the people,-- a union which forms an essential part of the United States' success in Africa.

"Things being thus, the work of reuniting all Frenchmen, which I am undertaking for a common aim, would be very difficult for me if France's allies were themselves to spread doubts among Frenchmen concerning the interest and the scope of that work.

"I hope I can trust the United States government will realize that, and, were it only in view of the result to be expected in the struggle into which French Africa, will not give Frenchmen the impression that the authority of the Chief who makes it struggle again is a diminished one.

"With kind regards, I am, very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Admiral Darlan"

General Clark is faced with a tough decision this morning. At a conference with General Oliver and Colonels Niven and Scott it develops that movement of the armored column from Oran to the Tunisian front is being held up because of railroad transportation difficulties. The armored units can be moved as far as Algiers by train but then there is a transport shortage complicated by British priorities. General Clark must do one of two things: hold back movement of half tracks or else let them proceed overland, wearing out their rubber tracks and making them less fit for battle. If additional transportation cannot be found and if the British priorities are super-urgent, General Clark decides he will move the half tracks overland, sacrificing their more efficient use later on. Once again, during this discussion, General Clark runs into the problem of "unripe" problems being brought to him. In this case it is that no one has thought to check the Air Force on its railroad requirements to move bombs up to the front. Says General Clark: "Let's get this thing coordinated. We get bogged down because you come to me with incomplete information." Later in the afternoon, Colonel Ross reports that he is getting revised schedules and increased transportation and that the armored vehicles might be able to be moved quite a distance beyond Algiers.

Weather interferes today with a planned aerial attack on Sardinia bases from which it is believed Axis bombers are starting their attacks on forward areas and Algiers. Fourteen bombers and 26 fighters were to have made the trip but weather over the area, including Algiers itself, is stormy today. A larger attack is planned for tomorrow on Bizerte.

General Clark has ordered another company of the 26th Infantry flown up to Tebessa. It is augmented with four 37mm anti-tank guns and 80 50 caliber anti-aircraft guns. It will relieve an equal number of American paratroopers--Raft's outfit that has done such yeoman service. Two trainloads of General Oliver's tanks are to be rushed to Souk Ahras. Motor elements of the armored outfit arrived in Algiers today and will push on to the east tomorrow. KMT3 convoy has arrived and troops are debarking. Arrival of this convoy, and the fact there is a full moon, is the prime reason for increased Axis bombing of Algiers. During last night's bombing, one ship, the Sythia, was hit by a torpedo. However, it remained afloat and was towed to dockside today for unloading.

In the late afternoon, General Eisenhower arrives from Gibraltar, via Oran, in a Flying Fortress. General Clark goes to the airport with quite an entourage--a jeepload of infantrymen, two armored scout cars and three automobiles, including his own. General Eisenhower makes the trip to Algiers without incident. He plans on making this his headquarters from now on.

About 8:50 PM, the Axis bombers return to Algiers again and the regular night symphony of ack-ack, bombs--and the accompanying cacophony of sounds--is on again. Last night, in addition to hitting the ship, the German bombers killed at least 14 persons, including five nuns, injured about 30, destroyed five houses and ruptured water mains.

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 24, 1942--The decision of French North Africa and Governor General Boisson to fall in at Darlan's side and range itself with the Allies is featured today on the radio and in the press. Admiral Darlan makes the announcement, saying that both Boisson and General Barrau, commander in chief of French ground, air and sea forces in West Africa, join the other "eminent men"--Giraud, Nogues and Governor Chatel--in the decision to fight the Axis and liberate France. The touchy and intricate situation is beginning to clarify and prove that General Clark's decision, to play along with Darlan because he is the only man who has sufficient following to help us, was right.]

At General Clark's invitation, Admiral Darlan comes to the Deputy Commander's office this morning to confer, for the second time, with General Eisenhower. The Commander-in-Chief wants to send a joint American-French mission to Dakar to confer with Boisson but Darlan persuades the Americans that it will be better to have Boisson come to Algiers first. He probably will arrive either Friday or Saturday. Darlan is told that his plan for drawing Admiral Robert at Martinique into the alliance has received the approval of Washington. The French admiral also proposes that something be done to aid French Somaliland which has been under blockade. Such a move, says Darlan, would have two results: it would give the Allies additional ports, and, it would get foodstuffs and supplies to the hardpressed populace. Darlan is asked to submit a memorandum that will be forwarded to both the War and State Departments.

The next problem that is brought up by Darlan concerns the French North Africa youth organization headed by Van Hecht. Darlan says he is worried about these independent groups. [Says General Clark: "Do you want them drafted in the army and broken up? They were friendly to our cause and they should not be put under commanders that might be prejudiced against them."] Darlan is instructed to talk with Giraud and Van Hecht to see what sort of a solution can be worked out.

A serious racial and business problem exists in French North Africa between the 7,000,000 Arabs and 150,000 Jews. The Jews, naturally, are jubilant about the Allied landing and the Arabs, although not anti-Allies, are reacting. They insist, in the medium of an Arab slogan, that: "Jews are a necessity you can't get along without," Darlan reports. They feel they have been exploited by the Jews in the past and they want to be assured that "Jews will not be allowed to run public affairs." Darlan is instructed to proceed with great care so as not to disturb racial masses. General Eisenhower suggests that Darlan assure the population that he will "conduct the affairs of North Africa on a liberal and enlightened basis and in accordance with principles on which the French Republic was founded." Darlan's first step will be to begin a process of the restoration of property and individual rights to suppressed minorities. This move will go forward "as fast as conditions of Arab prejudices and suspicions will permit." The government that Darlan will head as high commissioner is discussed and it is decided that in addition to a council of ministers, that will include Giraud, Michellier and heads of the territories, it will have a consultative body of private citizens to advise in all civic and economic problems.

With Darlan's consent, the ^{agreement} protocol signed yesterday is changed slightly so the wording throughout makes it read "the United States and her allies." The British asked for inclusion of the "and her allies" provisions. Darlan agrees, saying he had assumed that was the meaning. The French admiral then brings up the question of French merchant shipping. He wants to be sure that sufficient ships will be provided to supply French Africa; that the ships won't be diverted elsewhere. Darlan is told that shipping will be done by a system of allotments "and on any agreement involving shipping you will have the full right to have your views considered--you will get a fair and square deal." French coastal ships will continue to work in French African waters.

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General Eisenhower praises Darlan as the conference is closing. He tells him that every effort is being made to set up the admiral as the top man "and everything you have done proves that you are going down the line with us. "Because of your position in the Vichy government," says General Eisenhower who has seen the letter that Darlan wrote General Clark as a result of President Roosevelt's message, "you are unpopular in the United States. Nevertheless, I have told our governments to let us alone; that we know more about the existing situation. So, they have officially accepted everything we have done. [You are enough of a politician to know that we have troubles because of the right we are fighting for—free speech and a free press.] If you head an enlightened liberal government, [in action] the antipathy toward you will change." Darlan nods and appears pleased. [He bows toward General Clark, then General Eisenhower: "I like to do business with you," he smiles. You give good and clear opinions and you get things done."]

[Later, Air Marshal Welsh is called in because of General Eisenhower's "grave concern over the lack of adequate night air defenses." General Ike saw his first air raid and, for the first time in his life, faced enemy fire last night. The raid was quite heavy, with much dive bombing, and it lasted throughout the night. The bombing is slowing up unloading and causing loss of equipment and hindering the use of air fields. A Beau fighter squadron is being ordered to Algiers from the Middle East. It will have good night fighting equipment, including enemy plane finders. Welsh also asks that a torpedo bomber squadron be sent to Malta to operate against Axis shipping that is moving to Tunisia.]

General Anderson reports back from the front that he is not getting cooperation from many French civil officials in the eastern section who, he declares, seem to be pro-Axis. Darlan is sending his representatives to eastern Algeria to straighten out the situation. Generals Clark and Eisenhower feel that some arrests would buck up the populace who are pro-Ally but afraid to show themselves because of the stand of the officials. [The situation in the east is developing according to plan. Anderson is moving up his units for the feeler push. The line is virtually set in the north. It runs, roughly, from Dj Abiad on the north, through Dj Sebla-Medjez El Bag, to El Arcuz on the south of General Anderson's northern sector. In the southern sector under General Giraud's command, contact has been established only at principal roads, at Pichon, Sbeitla and Gafsa. The Germans and Italians appear to have about 10,000 combat troops.]

General Clark orders Colonel Hamblen to see about more orderly establishment of headquarters. Approximately 70 officers and 360 enlisted men are due to arrive Thursday by cruiser from Gibraltar and already the Hotel St. George is crowded. In mid-afternoon, KMS3 comes pulling into Algiers, once again crowding the harbor and making it a prime objective for Axis bombers. Generals Clark and Eisenhower go out to look at a villa and decide to move into it this afternoon. It sits near the crown of the ridge that overlooks the harbor.

The villa on the hill, lacking, for the present, both gas and water, is occupied tonight by Generals Clark and Eisenhower. Reason for the lack of water is that a bomb landed near the villa last night, rupturing the mains. General Clark is keeping his apartment-office in the St. George until his offices on the second floor are ready for occupancy. More officers arrive from Gibraltar today by plane and the St. George's accommodations are bulging. Because of heavy rain, there is no bombing tonight.

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 25, 1942--The British First Army has started pushing its way cautiously forward in the north of Tunisia and, as yet, has not run into any serious opposition. The 78th division (British) command post has been pushed up to Medjez-El-Bab! This is almost unbelievable since the German outpost line was reported to have been there yesterday. Reports coming back from the now-developing front are sparse. There is no news from the southern front where the French, reinforced by American troops, are scheduled to merely hold and prevent a German flanking movement.

General Clark had planned on flying to the front today, landing at Constantine and then going overland from there, but the weather is extremely bad throughout the area and the flight is called off and tentatively scheduled for tomorrow. A small party, including General Eisenhower and Air Marshal Welsh, will make the trip up in Beau Fighters.

A general conference on air plans and problems is held. Our bombers blasted Bizerte yesterday, 45 Flying Fortresses participating. All of them returned, four slightly riddled with cannon fire. A drive to move more fighters closer to the front is decided on. General Doolittle and Air Marshal Welsh are instructed to get together "and apply the maximum air pressure." Small airfields in Eastern Algiers are to be improved as soon as possible so bombers, now extended to the limit to reach Sardinia, can go after Italy proper and other Axis-held points. General Craig is to be the air force officer at Allied Force Headquarters, working with General Doolittle and Welsh, then reporting to Generals Eisenhower and Clark. Extensive publicity is going to be given concerning our air raids on Bizerte, Tunis and other points so the residents of Algiers and French North Africa will know that the Axis is getting retribution-plus for bombing Algiers and that we are paving the way, with bombs, for an all-out ground attack.

Next comes the problem of shipping, and Commodore Morse (British Officer in charge of the port of Algiers) and civil affairs and shipping experts are called to General Clark's office. The plan is to move French shipping out of North African harbors as soon as possible to give more berthing facilities to Allied ships bringing in supplies. The shipping experts say five French ships are in condition to sail to the United States and two to the United Kingdom. To relieve congestion, the shipping experts toy with the idea of moving most of the French ships to Dakar. General Clark rejects the plan saying "they can't go to Dakar until we know where French West Africa stands; to date only an announcement of principle has been made." It is decided that the ships that are capable will be sent to Gibraltar, in "escrow," to relieve the ports. General Eisenhower declares that Darlan will agree "since he is playing ball with us and is sufficiently in our pockets. We've promised him a square deal and he'll get it. The French are to be allowed coastal shipping as long as it does not interfere with military water movements." One Special French vegetable oil carrying ship is to be allowed to go to Dakar and the minimum economic needs of French North Africa are going to be met to improve the lot of the natives and show them that our occupation is bringing advantages denied them under German-dominated control from Vichy.

General Clark next disposes of an urgent problem here in Algiers. Air raid officials have had itchy and nervous fingers with the result that the air raid sirens have wailed when there was no immediate danger. This has resulted in the stevedores dropping everything and scurrying for cover. A slow-down in the critical unloading of ships has resulted. General Clark instructs Colonel Slocum and the civil affairs officers to halt this time-wasting. This subject was brought up when Admiral Burroughs, commander of the Eastern Naval force, made a brief call to General Clark's office.

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With battle imminent in Tunisia, it is decided to issue a proclamation to French North Africa explaining the situation and declaring that "the military must have first priority." This is to obviate overcrowding of rail and wire communications and to provide a fulcrum to work against elements that are not cooperating as they should. This lack of cooperation seems strongest in eastern Algeria. The fear is that passive resistance will turn into active thwarting of our efforts should Anderson's drive to the east go wrong.

The situation regarding French West Africa will be settled later this week. Governor General Boisson and members of his staff are due in Algiers Friday for discussions with Generals Eisenhower and Clark and Admiral Darlan. [If the Dakar deal is cinched, General Clark believes it will stop some of the "beefing" still coming from London and Washington concerning the French North Africa-Darlan agreement.]

General Clark moves today to his Deputy Commander-in-Chief's office which is close to the Commander-in-Chief's, Chief of Staff's and Secretary of the General Staff's offices. The general has a bed rigged up in his room, behind curtains, so he can nap at the St. George Hotel on particularly crucial nights. The job of moving the staff, growing daily, into the hotel is terrific. It has been handled so badly that General Clark orders Colonel Hamblen to take charge and "make a comprehensive layout." An underground emergency headquarters, particularly for the Signal Section, is also ordered prepared.]

After Darlan and Boisson have worked out an understanding here regarding Dakar and French West Africa, a mixed group of French and Americans will go to the vital point to conclude the deal. The French insist on "dealing with Americans." The attitude toward the British is one of distrust. Establishment of a more direct air route from North Africa to the United States will also be discussed.

[Other developments during the day: orders go out to protect the lines of communications in French Morocco and Western Algeria...this results from a trip by Lieutenant Colonel Eddy to Tangiers during which he noted that only scattered French soldiers were guarding strategic bridges...Another part of the headquarters staff arrives...It includes Generals Gruenther and Lemnitzer...A cruiser load will arrive tomorrow and Admiral Cunningham is scheduled to come in by air...The first clipping from the United States concerning General Clark's secret mission, via submarine to North Africa, arrives with the new group and the play the story got was terrific.]

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 26, 1942--The day goes beautifully, both on the front and back here at headquarters. In fact, the advance in Tunisia goes so well that General Clark is a little apprehensive, fearing that "Anderson is moving too fast and is getting too extended." Already advance units are at Mateur, about 50 kilometers from Bizerte, and a tank outfit has reached Djedeida, only 22 kilometers from Tunis!

[Most of the action today is at Djedeida. Two conflicting reports come in. The air force reports that it sent both fighters and bombers over the Tunisian town in the morning "destroying all German planes on the airdrome and the wireless station." Then comes a report from the armored column which says its guns destroyed 40 German planes. "One thing looks certain," says General Clark. "We just plain smacked hell out of the Boche up there." All is quiet in the southern sector. General Anderson's advance started the night of November 24-25. Anderson's plan was to make Tebourbe and Mateur his objectives, then drive northeastward for Bizerte. General Clark believes Tunis should be knocked out first, in view of developments, and that then the squeeze toward the northeast corner of Tunis, driving out the Germans and Italians.]

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Fearing that Anderson might find himself in a bad position because of his possible over-extension, General Clark orders greater speed in bringing up General Oliver's armored outfit to aid the Allied drive. Also, 26 tanks are ordered up from the Casablanca area.

Near Sbeitla, farther to the south of Anderson's advance, P-38s from Youks Les Bains airport did ground strafing, claiming the destruction of 20 vehicles in an armored column, and the destruction of two of four officers' sedans on the road near Gabes.

To aid the attack and give the Allies complete air superiority, air officials arrive at Algiers from Malta and the Middle East. General Brereton, commanding U.S. air units in the Middle East; Air Marshal Tedder, head of the R.A.F. in the Middle East, and Air Vice Marshal Park from Malta confer with Generals Clark and Eisenhower and British and American air officers here. Forces from Malta and the Middle East are to participate in the air attack on Tunisia. The plan is for the planes from Malta and the Middle East to concentrate on ports, particularly Tunis and Bizerte, while the air force from here will drive on Axis-held airdromes and aid in the ground advance. The air officers are left together to work out the details. The Axis forces in Tunis are to "be smacked from two sides" by the Allied air units.

General Giraud comes in to confer with Generals Clark and Eisenhower and he is tremendously pleased with the way things are going. Giraud's urgent and repeated plea to General Clark for air superiority has been met—in force and in a hurry! Relations with Giraud are excellent and they are ever-improving with Darlan. The touching letter that Darlan wrote General Clark has been sent to both Washington and London and today Prime Minister Churchill, who, apparently, was the most upset by the Darlan deal, radios back that Darlan is on the "bandwagon" and tells Generals Clark and Eisenhower to "pat him on the back for me." Darlan now feels he should confer with Degaulle representatives but General Clark tells him to postpone any such meeting "until a more appropo time." Darlan is now concentrating his efforts on two objectives: getting Admiral Godfroy to turn over that part of the French fleet at Alexandria, and, lining up the visit, scheduled now for Saturday, of Governor General Boisson of French West Africa.

General Clark is informed by Darlan that General Boisson and General Barran, the latter commander in chief of armed forces in French West Africa, have agreed, on the basis of reports brought back to them at Dakar by the three emissaries Boisson sent to Algiers, that they will place themselves at Darlan's disposition. "As a better comprehension of the true situation in North Africa becomes apparent to the French West African authorities," says General Clark, "I am convinced that we can obtain our objectives by friendly negotiation. Darlan points out that the adhesion of French West Africa is of great importance to our common effort. It includes a vast reservoir of manpower; it is the source of a large production of lubricants and colonial products; their is stationed at Dakar an important element of the French navy, including the Richelieu which Darlan suggests be sent to the United States for completion in an American shipyard. The armed forces include 75,000 men and six groups of aviation."

EDSON D. RAFT

Lieutenant Colonel Raft has flown back from the southern Tunisian front and he gives General Clark an inspiring picture of the American action there. He tells how the paratroopers drove into Gafsa, were driven out, re-assembled and then drove the Germans out. He tells how mobile 75s destroyed German tanks and of the courage and resourcefulness of this American unit so far removed from everyone else. Raft has French troops under his command, giving him a total of about 2,500 men. He has

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*This was our only
flash protection -
Raft bold & aggressive*

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been directing the movement of both American and French troops, instructing a French general on how to deploy his men! The paratroopers are going to be drawn back and replaced by American infantry, reinforced. But Raft, who has done a terrific job, asks, and is granted, the right to stay in the Gafsa area with a Tank Destroyer Battalion. Raft reports that the French are fighting with him in great spirit. To illustrate the feeling of French civilians in the frontal area, Raft says that when his outfit came back and recaptured Gafsa one girl came up, hugged him and said: "Are you married? If you aren't, I want to marry you!" Jack Thompson, a reporter who went up with the paratroopers also returns and says that Raft "is like God to those people up there." Before Raft leaves General Clark's office, he has been promoted to a full colonelcy, the silver eagles being pinned over his dusty silver leaves. Raft is wearing several French regimental insignias, handed over to him by the enthused French soldiers.

The French shipping problem, gone into so extensively yesterday, is shaping up well. General Clark says the French "are showing a most cooperative attitude and are clearly desirous of getting their ships into service as rapidly as possible." The following accord has been reached: 1--The High Commisariat for French Africa retains and holds under its own management the tonnage required for (1) the transport of troops requested by General Giraud between French West Africa and French North Africa upon approval of the Commanding General, Allied forces; (2) the maintenance of indispensable economic traffic between French West Africa and French North Africa; (3) North African coastal shipping will be maintained on as feasible a schedule as practicable; (4) the desination of certain ships now in French North African harbors is agreed to but certain ones to proceed to Dakar "only upon clarification of the situation there."

These are other developments during the day: It has been determined that the Axis is dropping "Booby bombs" over the Algiers area. These are flashlights, pencils, wallets and other devices that explode when picked up. They have also been dropping puncture triangles on airport runways...General Wavell asks from India that key officers who planned TORCH be sent to him so they can contribute their experience to the planning of an invasion to regain Burma...Once again the weather is bad, raining heavily most of the day, and there is no bombing...The general's trip to the front is again postponed and he begins scouting the possibility of driving up to the front...Tonight, the cruiser from Gibraltar begins unloading and more officers and enlisted men flock to the St. George Hotel headquarters...General Clark is fairly comfortably set up in his villa now...Colonel Slocum has been instructed to begin laying groundwork for activation of the 5th American army...General Clark is to have command of this but General Eisenhower now indicates that his Deputy Commander-in-Chief is indispensable...Nothing is definite yet, however.

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 27, 1942--The Germans have entered Toulon and reports reaching Allied Force headquarters are that the French fleet is being scuttled. Of his own volition, Admiral Darlan sends the following message in the clear to the fleet, then dispatches the original to General Clark:

"Once again the Germans break their word and occupy Toulon. I urge the high seas fleet to leave and make for Oran where they will be received as friends by the Allies!"

added
But Darlan's plea, and the unceasing efforts of General Clark to get the French fleet seem in vain. Late tonight, fragmentary reports indicate the French sent to

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the bottom, with colors flying, what ships there were at Toulon. The Allies will not get it, but, neither with Germany who needs it much worse. For us, it may not be so ill a wind. These may be the results: France has lost the last card she could play against the Germans—holding out the fleet as bait for amnesty; our chances of getting remnants of the French fleet in Alexandria, Dakar and Martinique are increased greatly; units of the British fleet that have been tied up watching the French fleet least it move, will now be freed for other duty; German occupation of the last unoccupied remnant of Metropolitan France will react against the Axis and, in the eyes of those who have been frowning upon the North African alliance, the stand and stature of Darlan will increase, making the lot of General Clark that much easier.

This morning, Admiral Darlan, who has been informed of Prime Minister Churchill's revised attitude toward him and who has also been told that treatment for his infantile paralysis stricken son will be administered at Rabat, French Morocco, sends the following note to General Clark:

"My dear General:

"I think you most heartily for your great kindness in placing the necessary means at my disposition to transport my sick son to Rabat.

"I should be grateful if you would thank Colonel Holmes for the great services he has rendered me on this occasion.

"Would you be good enough to transmit to the Governor of Gibraltar my sincere thanks for the proposal you transmitted to me to have my son taken to Gibraltar.

"Please accept, my dear General, the expression of my high consideration and sincere wishes.

(signed) F. Darlan."

The difference between the British and American attitudes toward Darlan is starkly illustrated by a cable received by Mr. Mack, foreign affairs liaison officer from the British to Allied Force Headquarters, from the British Foreign office. Mack is instructed as follows: "there is no need for you to pay a formal call on Darlan, though there is equally no reason why you should avoid meeting him. You will also no doubt maintain informal relations with French officials as may be necessary. Consul General will conduct official business with French authorities. He need not pay a formal call on Darlan, though if Darlan wishes to see him he should respond..." Compare this with the free and easy relations between General Clark and Darlan!

Reports from the front are obscure. Because of continued bad weather that makes flying impossible, Generals Clark and Eisenhower decide to leave at 0900 tomorrow by armored car for the front so they can observe first-hand the conditions. This is the most comprehensive report that comes back today: "Attack on ^Duzerte expected 28 November with possible use of parachutists. No report on exact situation around Mateur and Djideida. General situation obscure but resistance not believed severe. Mark Six tanks (German) estimated as 12 to 20 encountered last night vicinity of Djideida. Tanks mount 88 mm gun. Germans executed demolitions of bridge at Taboura. 36th Brigade exact progress unknown. Has encountered enemy tanks."

The air attack against Axis-held positions of Tunisia is on from both sides. Bombers and fighters from Algeria are supporting the Allied advance and bombing airports. The first report comes in from the Allied air force operating from the Middle East and Malta. The Tunis docks were bombed last night with 53,000 pounds of high explosives. Hits were scored on petrol dumps, buildings, railway instal-

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The generals go east-southeast via Setif and Constantine, heading for Guelma where General Anderson's command post is reported to be. The trip is through brown, barren country. The roads are good. Just before entering Constantine, a six-year-old Arab boy darts out in front of one of the reconnaissance cars and is killed. It gets dark when the column is 60 kilometers east of Guelma and the last two hours of the trip are driven in a complete blackout. The road, humpbacked and of well-worn macadam, is slick with dew. All the cars in the convoy are skidding and finally one of the heavy armored recons slides into the ditch, injuring three men. The two men most seriously injured are put in the baggage truck and the convoy cautiously creeps into Guelma. In the town, the generals are guided to the home of a Mr. Spring, American consul who has come to Guelma from Tunis with the entry of the Germans. Having eaten small lunches while driving, the group eats dinner.

General Anderson has moved his command post to Souk Ahras, farther east, so the generals decide to spend the night with Spring and continue in the morning. A British medical major takes the two injured men to a hospital and then leaves for the ditched recon to look after the less seriously injured men. General Eisenhower obtains a bed but General Clark and Colonel Slocum throw their bedding rolls on cots downstairs. The guards bivouac around outside the house.

During the trip to Guelma, little military activity was seen. Enroute a few convoys were passed, including part of the 6th Armored Infantry (American), part of General Oliver's force which General Clark ordered up to aid General Anderson. This unit, because of enemy air reconnaissance, is on a night march and its discipline and appearance is excellent.

While the two top generals are making their way to the front, there are important developments at Algiers. Governor General Boissons arrives from French West Africa, and Governor General Nogues is coming from French Morocco. Meanwhile, arrangements are being made to set up the mission that will visit Dakar following the conferences here.

The following message is received today from Secretary of War Stimson: "Want to convey my admiration and appreciation of your (cable to General Eisenhower) masterly conduct of the campaign thus far as well as my best wishes for your success in Tunisia. I know it will be a tough pull but I am confident that you will thoroughly succeed." Another congratulatory message has been received from the Inter-American defense board in Washington. It says: "The Inter-American Defense Board, realizing the beneficial results of the campaign in North Africa on the security of the Western Hemisphere, wishes to express respect for and admiration of the Commanders of the Allied Force in North Africa and sends its commendations to the Chiefs of the American Armed Forces for the brilliant planning, preparation and execution of one of the most splendid campaigns in the history of the world."

This is the military situation as of tonight: Bone was under continuous bombing from midnight to 0530. One destroyer badly holed. Off Djidjelli, one petrol carrier sunk. At Tebourba 14 out of 17 German tanks were destroyed when they attempted a counter-attack. At Djedeida, the 11th Brigade is "clearing up the town" but lost four tanks by enemy fire in outskirts. Bombers called to attack enemy column retiring from Djedeida but column gone when planes arrived so they bombed Bizerte shipping. Bridges at Tebourba and Djedeida destroyed but repairable. It appears that half the enemy is retiring toward Tunis and the other half toward Sousse. Many stores and materials abandoned or burnt by enemy. Axis air effort on reduced over-all scale but operating in large formations. The Germans are fighting a stubborn retreat but our progress is steady.

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SOUK AHRAS-ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 29, 1942--The American generals arrive at General Anderson's command post in mid-morning. It is at Laverdure, about six miles west of Souk Ahras. The three generals immediately go into conference at the British general's simple and rustic headquarters.

Enroute to the command post, the generals encountered Colonel Darryl Zanuck who reported to them that we did not control the air and that there was dissatisfaction by both British and Americans. Anderson reports that he is satisfied with the air situation; that arrival of more Allied air units has counteracted the dive bombing and strafing the troops were subjected to during earlier stages of the drive to the east. He then outlines in detail the disposition of troops under his command and reports that he "is pleased with the way things are going." It is decided to move more air and line of communications troops to the front. Communications between the First Army and Allied Force Headquarters has been far from satisfactory. The military situation is that the Axis forces are fighting a rearguard action but that our drive for Tunis and Bizerte is steady.

Because of the arrival in Algiers of General Boisson and the importance of pending conferences concerning the status of Dakar and French West Africa, it is decided to turn around and proceed back to Algiers as rapidly as possible. General Eisenhower is a bit under the weather, having developed a bad cold. The conference with General Anderson lasts only an hour. During that time, Colonel Slocum has been talking with Anderson's staff.

The 380 mile drive back to Algiers is started at 1100. In order to move rapidly, the slower armored reconnaissance cars are left behind, to proceed at their safest speed. The armored staff car and two jeeps head for home, pausing only a few times. The final 180 miles are covered after dark but to make time blackout is disregarded. As the cars speed through small Arab towns, jittery air raid precaution officials blow their whistles and wave their arms. The cars keep going with everyone shouting: "Americaines." The protest of the gendarmes amount to naught. It is close to midnight when the party returns. Some members have bad sun and windburns. On the return trip the generals' small convoy passed mile after mile of half-tracks and trucks moving to the front. These were part of General Oliver's command, the tanks having gone up by rail. Their road discipline is good.

Back at Algiers, the following cable has been sent from Secretary of State Hull to General Eisenhower: "The planning and launching of the North African campaign constitutes one of the most brilliant chapters in our military history and I extend to you and to the army personnel participating my sincere congratulations on a job well done. This highly successful operation is a real contribution toward final victory."

This is the military situation for the day: 35 B-17s bombed Bizerte airdrome and docks successfully. Ten enemy aircraft destroyed, two probables, seven damaged. We lost two planes. No fighter support because of mud. 17 British Bisleys attacked Bizerte airdrome successfully last night without loss. Bone was attacked heavily during the night with "losses suffered by both sides." British parachutists were dropped from 44 B-47s near Pont Du Fahs, 35 miles southwest of Tunis at 1100 today. The planes reported a successful drop but what happened after the chutists hit the ground is not known. On the basis of a message sent back by Generals Eisenhower and Clark the north quay of Bizerte harbor will be bombed tomorrow. Information from Anderson is meager. The 36th Infantry brigade was scheduled to reach a point about 10 miles northwest of Mateur early today. The 11th Brigade is believed moving from Teboura toward Mateur. Our tank losses have been relatively light. The remainder of the U.S. armored force has reached Souk Ahras by road. Colonel Raff reported by

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telephone this afternoon that there are no enemy forces between Kairoaun and Tebessa. The airdrome at Gafsa will be ready for use in two days.

Governor Boisson holds a preliminary conference today with Admiral Darlan and Mr. Murphy. The French West African governor indicates that he will "cooperate fully" with Darlan and the Allied forces. He is prepared, he says, to enter into an agreement which will give us the facilities of French North Africa that we desire. The general tenor of the conversation was that French West Africa will be in the war with us "en bloc."

Two new moves are on the griddle. One calls for an invasion of Spanish Morocco if conditions require it. The situation concerning this hot spot is far from good. The Spanish there are making repeated protests about planes flying over Tangiers and indicating they might be looking for a pretext to move into the Sebou river region. Undoubtedly they are being agitated by Axis agents. The second move is a drive against Sardinia. It is requested that "planning and preparations be pressed so that no time will be lost when the decision is made."

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ALGIERS, NOVEMBER 30, 1942--Three problems--increased air activity over the eastern front, preparations for the conference with Governor General Boisson and the ever-more delicate situation in Spanish Morocco--occupy General Clark throughout the day. General Eisenhower is ill with a cold at his villa so the Deputy Commander's day is more hectic than usual.

On the basis of discussions with General Anderson, the following air operations for the next 48 hours are decided upon following a conference in General Clark's office with Air Marshal Welsh, Major General (just promoted) Doolittle, Air Vice Marshal Sanders, General Craig and others. Eighteen Bisleys will crack Bizerte airdrome tonight. Tomorrow 18 Flying Fortresses, accompanied by 18 P-38 Fighters, will attack Tunis airdrome. Eight B-25s, on their first mission and to be accompanied by 12 P-38s from Youks, will bomb Gabes. At night, 18 Bisleys will bomb the airdrome at Tunis. The day after tomorrow, 18 B-17s and 18 fighters, will go after Bizerte airdrome again. Eight B-26s will bomb Tunis airdrome accompanied by 12 fighters. Again 18 Bisleys will attack Bizerte Wednesday night.

It is also decided to ask for the services of Air Marshal Tedder from the Middle East. The theory is that Tedder, with a great deal of practical experience, can aid the air drive tremendously during the coming critical two weeks in Tunis. Welsh doesn't seem to have the drive or the practical experience necessary. Tedder, who was here for conferences last week, has returned to the Middle East.

Regarding the situation in regard to French West Africa, Darlan, Boisson and Nogues are now in meetings at which they are straightening out their individual differences. In the words of General Clark: "We are letting them have their own cat and dog fight among themselves. Both Boisson and Nogues have demands that they must work out with Darlan. Tomorrow, Darlan, Boisson and Nogues will have a preliminary meeting with Mr. Murphy and Colonel Holmes. When the time is ripe, we will go into conference to conclude the deal." The matters of principle are to be discussed here with all specific arrangements left for consummation in Dakar with a special mission that has been dispatched from Washington. It is hoped that a general statement of position can be secured from Boisson before he returns to Dakar. The specific agreement would be consummated at the capital of French West Africa. General Clark feels it would be unwise to send Boisson back to Dakar "without attempting to reduce the common understanding to writing..."

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A score of radios come in today concerning the increasingly tense situation in Spanish Morocco. Almost any move can be expected in the Sebou and frontier areas. The British consul general at Tangiers reports that "the fact that the areas have not yet been occupied by American troops is arousing comment among Spanish circles at Tangier x x x inclined to interpret this as tacit acknowledgement of Spanish claim to Sebou region." The region is full of enemy agents who are inciting the Moorish leaders. Repeated protests are coming in concerning flights of American planes over Spanish Morocco. All these cascading facts disturb General Clark. He calls General Patton at Casablanca and orders him to come to Algiers tomorrow for conference. A move might have to be made at a moment's notice. One cable explains the situation: "Indications that Spanish Moroccan Army may be planning sudden move south of Sebou River have been further emphasized by objection of high commissioners to U.S. Charge d'Affaires, Tangier, over flights of American planes across Spanish territory. Token occupation by American troops of French Moroccan territory north of Sebou river recommended by military attache Tangier to prevent a possible Spanish occupation that area. Considerable discussion reported among Spaniards over advisability their occupations this territory..."

The rapid advance into Tunis has slowed down. The report from the front says: "Ground operation remained on a reduced scale today and will continue to do so until present scale of enemy air effort can be reduced. (This step was taken today by General Clark. He also sent Welsh to the front to confer with Anderson). I (Anderson) have agreed with Welsh to the steps required to achieve this end in air and plans being prepared with object destroying enemy aircraft on ground and denying them use certain airfields. 11th Infantry Brigade in contact with enemy on western outskirts of Djedeida and on southwest slopes of steep escarpment which divides main valley Djedeida and Mateur. They require short period in which rest and reorganize before they fit to continue offensive. Same applies to 36 Infantry Brigade who failed capture very pronounced feature commanding valley through which they must advance toward Mateur. Blade force remains in central reserve and provides offensive patrols one of which today destroyed two enemy tanks. The U.S. tank unit is concentrating in the general area south of line Medje to El Bab-Beja. The 56th Reconnaissance Regiment and parachute battalion are operating offensively over wide area north of general line Oudna-Massicault both of which occupied by enemy. Air activity on reduced scale throughout day. Successful bombing raid carried out against enemy occupying Djedeida. Our fighter squadrons reinforced to limited extent."

General Clark's entire afternoon is filled with catching up on the hundreds of cables that have come in during his two day absence at the front. He's literally buried under papers throughout the day. At one point he exclaims: "The hell this isn't a paper war and who said our communications weren't working. Just look at this stuff!"

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ALGIERS, DECEMBER 1, 1942—General Clark is decorated by General Eisenhower today with the Distinguished Service Medal!

The decoration ceremony is held, in bright Mediterranean morning sunlight, on a second story porch of the St. George Hotel. The citation is read by Colonel Davis of AG and then General Eisenhower pins the medal on his Deputy Commander's tunic. The event is photographed by both still and motion picture cameras. High ranking officers, including the four other officers who accompanied General Clark on the submarine-rendezvous trip and who are to receive their Legion of Merit decorations soon, stand behind in a semi-circle centered on a color guard and the U.S. flag.

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There's quite a dramatic story behind this morning's decoration ceremony--a story that few know and a story stretching back 23 years. After General Clark was wounded in France during the first World War and following his release from the base hospital, he was sent to the G-4 section of the First Army. General De Witt was his section head. General Clark was in charge of supplying troops in the Argonne section. He had to select railheads, round up the supplies and see that they moved on schedule to the active sector. Just before the war ended, General DeWitt recommended Clark to be a major, at the age of 21. He also wrote a letter recommending Clark for the Distinguished Service Medal, saying he "knew of no one more deserving." When the Second Army was formed, General Bullard asked for Clark to be executive officer of the G-4 section but he stayed with DeWitt. The substitute sent in General Clark's place got the D.S.M. and General Clark knew "from comparison of my work that I was entitled to the Distinguished Service Medal."

The story then leaps the years to 1935 when General DeWitt, then in the Philippines, wrote the War Department to the effect that he had had lots of time to reflect on Clark's work and that one of his great regrets was that his recommendation of the D.S.M. for the young officer had never been consummated. Again, he wrote Clark a marvelous recommendation and citation. The recommendation went before the board many times but there was no action. During the "lean years" of the 1930s, many D.S.M.'s were awarded for administrative jobs and, again, General Clark was recommended, this time by his Corps commander. Clark felt that he didn't want a D.S.M. in that fashion .

Again the story bounds ahead--this time to the office of General Marshall just before General Clark went overseas last July. After saying goodbye and just as he started to leave, General Clark was stopped by General Marshall. "Your work as Chief of Staff of the Army Ground Forces has been outstanding," General Marshall said. Your planning of the army buildup alone is a feat entitling you to the Distinguished Service Medal. I have recommended you on more than one occasion but for reasons I can't give you at the present time, the decoration has not been made.

This story runs through the General's mind as he stands in the warm sunlight being decorated by the award he has coveted--and which he has earned--for so long. It took almost a quarter of a century until there, finally, it hangs on his chest!

The Spanish Morocco situation demands almost all of General Clark's attention today. It begins to look as though he will go to Oran to take charge of it and to form the Fifth Army, first army of this war to be formed outside the limits of the United States. Following discussion with General Clark and various key personnel, including political experts of the U.S. and Great Britain, General Eisenhower sends the following cable to General Marshall:

"Indication of increased Axis subversive activity in the region of Spanish Morocco and evidence of some Axis concentrations along the Pyrenees border have convinced me that complete coordination of preparation in that region must be achieved at once. To accomplish the necessary coordination, I intend, as U.S. Theater commander, immediately to establish the U.S. Fifth Army with Lieutenant General Clark in command. He will actually establish his headquarters at Oran as soon as current activity here will permit but, in the meantime, will take active charge of coordinating dispositions and preparations in the central and western areas. This will compel his early relief as Deputy C-in-C but I feel that this can be done on my own authority as Allied C-in-C and without reference to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Request radio confirmation."

General Patton arrives from Casablanca shortly after noon and General Clark

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spends most of the remainder of the day in conference with the Commander of the Western Task Force. Since a large number of troops have been drawn from the Oran region to give added strength to General Anderson's force fighting in Tunisia, any units that might be used to occupy the Sebou River region or take action against any Spanish Moroccan moved must come from General Patton's command. He recommends use of the Third Division. General Patton is staying over until tomorrow.

Mr. Murphy and Colonel Holmes meet today with High Commissioner Darlan and Governor Generals Boisson and Nogues. They report back that the Frenchmen are getting their differences settled and that Boisson does not want to return to Dakar without some kind of a written statement from the American officials. Murphy says Boisson is ready "to go along with us."

The situation at the front: British, American and French troops are driving a wedge between Tunis and Bizerte to separate the Axis force. Our troops are about 15 miles from Tunis and about 22 from Bizerte. They are forging ahead but the rapid advance is slowing down because the Axis troops are now getting concentrated in a tight corner. British and American paratroops have been dropped about 30 miles south of Tunis to thwart either reinforcements coming up or else to heckle a retreat. Air activity continues over the entire Tunisian area with bombings and fighter sorties against ground troops. Daylight bombing raids were made against Bizerte, Sousse and Gabes. Our forward units are maintaining strong pressure on the enemy's position in the vicinity of Mateur and Djedeida. In Southeastern Tunisia numerous patrols, including French, have damaged enemy installations.

(Note: Henceforth, this diary will not deal with matters in such detail. The general's days are filled with innumerable conferences on every conceivable kind of subject. To conserve time and space, only the highlights will be hit.)

Late tonight General Clark is informed that Washington has approved his heading, at the earliest possible date, the Fifth United States Army! He will go to Oran, probably, at the earliest practicable date.

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ALGIERS, DECEMBER 2, 1942—"Authority is granted you to activate Fifth Army headquarters designating Lieutenant General Clark as the Army Commander."

This is the message that is received from General Marshall and the message that will start General Clark on a new tangent with a new command. He begins laying the groundwork. He has already decided on his key officers: Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Al Gruenther; G-1, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Markoe; G-2, Colonel Eddie Howard; G-3, Colonel Art Nivens; G-4, Colonel "Addie" Adcock; Air Officer, Colonel Guy Gale; Adjutant General, Colonel Cheney Bertholf; Headquarters Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel C.C. (Smitty) Smith. The general, in order to concentrate on training and tactics and avoid being buried in paper work, plans on a streamlined headquarters.

General Clark wants to have his headquarters several kilometers west of Oran so he can be near an airfield and away from interruptions that would impede him in Oran proper. At Oran, he plans to have a base section under General Larkin to handle most of the paper work. Colonel Smith is flying to Oran tomorrow to meet Colonel Nivens and search for a site for Army headquarters. The general orders the above key personnel--plus Colonel Tommy Lewis who, probably, will be the Artillery Officer--to report to him here from Oran. It probably will be ten days before the general starts formation of headquarters.

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