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NOTE

This is volume three of the War Diary of Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark.

The first volume, covering the period June 28 to September 24, 1942, has been deposited, in care of Brigadier General Floyd Parks, at the Army War College, Washington, D.C.

The second volume, covering the period September 25, 1942, to January 6, 1943, is in the possession of First Lieutenant Jack B. Beardwood, aide-de-camp to General Clark.

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by authority of ~~SCAC~~

General Mark W. Clark
by J. B. Beardwood
CEC GSC
Jan 16, 1950

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ALGIERS-ORAN, JANUARY 6, 1943--General Clark, relinquishing his post as Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Force and turning from a highly successful job in the past to the difficult task of organizing an army and preparing it for some mission in the future, leaves Algiers at 8:23 AM for Oujda. His convoy is composed of his Packard, a jeep and an bullet proof Daimler. The general rides in the lead car with Colonel Sullivan, the Fifth Army Quartermaster. While the general's party is traveling the coast road because the Fifth Army Commander wants to re-visit the house where he met with French officials when he made his secret African rendezvous last October, the remainder of the Fifth Army group departing from Algiers today goes west by the inland route.

The general's convoy arrives at the rendezvous house, about 10 kilometers west of Cherchel, Algeria, at 10:40 AM. The house, the owner has reported previously to the general, has been under surveillance for the past two and a half months. When the convoy arrives, it pulls up on the highway near the house and General Clark sends his aide, Lieutenant Beardwood, up to see if anyone is home or on guard. The house, on a bluff overlooking the sea, is vacant, all the shutters being closed. The general must have made a wild dash when the police raided the house the second time. The wall over which he leaped is over four feet high and the bank down which the general plunged is rock and tree strewn and has a pitch of about 60 degrees. Unable to see the owner, General Clark orders the convoy to proceed.

Lunch is eaten at the side of the road, four kilometers west of Tenes. General Clark cooks his own soup over a canned heat fire. The convoy then pushes on. During mid-afternoon the general gets tired of being a passenger so he gets into the driver's seat of his Packard and the pace of the convoy increases. Oran is reached at 5:27 PM and the general and his party go directly to the Grand Hotel, now the headquarters of the Mediterranean Base Section since departure of the II Corps to the front. General Clark confers with General Larkin, commander of MBS, concerning cooperation between the Base Section and the Fifth Army. General Ryder, who has moved back to Oran to undertake its protection now that General Fredendall has moved out with his corps, also confers with General Clark who explains the new command and geographical jurisdiction now that the Fifth Army is activated. The general and his party remain overnight at the Grand Hotel.

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ORAN-OUJDA, JANUARY 7, 1943--At 7:42 AM General Clark's convoy pulls out on the last leg of the trip to Oujda and Fifth Army Headquarters. The twisting road over the mountains between Oran and Oujda is driven in a steady, cold rain. During the latter stage of the trip, the general's caravan passes convoys of United States trucks moving eastward from Casablanca and other parts of French Morocco. Some of the truck columns are parked along the road while the drivers eat or sleep. General Clark stops beside one of them and talks to the lieutenant leading the column. The general warns that the trucks must be dispersed farther apart since they are too close together in event of strafing or bombing by enemy planes.

The general arrives at his Fifth Army headquarters at 12:48 PM, going directly to his villa which is on one corner of the rambling grounds of a girl's school which is being turned into headquarters for the general's new command. The villa is a two-story salmon pink home. It has already been prepared for the general's occupancy. The general eats a late luncheon then goes

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to his office. It was formerly the office of the director of the school. The office, with a curved, windowed wall on one side, overlooks the dirt courtyard around which are low, white school buildings which contain other Fifth Army sections. After a brief meeting in his office with some of his section heads, General Clark makes a tour of headquarters. He visits the various offices and talks with officers and enlisted men. He flabbergasts enlisted men by going up to them, sticking out his hand and saying: "I'm Clark."

At 5:30 PM the general has principal members of his staff to his villa for a get-together. The general and 29 officers listen to President Roosevelt's message to Congress. Quiet and sober-faced, General Clark and his men sit and stand around the living room of the villa listening to the President's talk. When the broadcasts ends, General Clark proposes two toasts, the first to the President of the United States and the second: "To the Fifth Army, the new baby. May she play a vital role in the victory that the President has predicted." The officers all raise their glasses and drink solemnly. General Clark eats dinner at his new home.

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Oujda, FRENCH MOROCCO, JANUARY 8, 1943--Determined to get off on the right foot and build the Fifth Army on a sound foundation that will instill a vigorous esprit de corps and "a desire to participate," General Clark makes a reconnaissance of Oujda and its environs today to see how enlisted men are set up.

"I'm working on the same principle I worked on at Salisbury," says General Clark. "I want to get this thing started properly so the men will have the keenest desire to participate. They must have pride in themselves if they are to have pride in their army. We're starting here from scratch and we don't want any strikes on us before we start swinging."

General Clark finds that some colored troops are sleeping in pup tents in the mud. He also finds that there is no recreation for the men. As soon as he returns to headquarters, General Clark takes these steps: from the Mediterranean base section at Oran he orders motion picture projectors and film; the battalion of the 30th Infantry which is stationed in the vicinity of the Oujda airport is to get films and equipment from Casablanca; pyramidal tents, lumber and other construction supplies are ordered from Oran so the troops can move out of the mud and get into floored tents with double-deck bunks.

The venereal disease rate in this section is extremely high so the general orders that two houses of prostitution--rigidly inspected by medical officers--be set aside for the exclusive use of American troops. Sentries will be posted outside to keep all non-Americans out and sentries will be posted outside other houses to see that no American enter them. The general orders that prophylactic stations be established within the two American houses and that every man coming out have treatment whether he wants it or not.

The general telephones the G-1 section in Algiers and asks that magazines, newspapers and other day room items be sent down immediately. He calls in his G-1 and his Engineer Officers to get them going on personnel and construction matters. He also confers several times with General Nevins, his G-3 who is Acting Chief of Staff pending the arrival of General Gruenther who has gone to Casablanca before coming to Fifth Army Headquarters. The general's great desire is to keep his command tactical, not administrative.

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French officials of the Oujda region call on General Clark at 11:15 AM to formally welcome him. It is a group that the general has met on his two previous organizational visits to Oujda. The group is headed by General Beucler, French commander of the Oujda region. It includes the "chef de la region" and the mayor of Oujda. They profusely welcome the general and he, in turn, exchanges pleasantries with them.

Fifth Army officers are living in the school dormitory and in hotels around Oujda. General Clark also makes preparations for what little leisure they will have. An officers' club is to be fixed up in one of the school buildings. A theater for officers and enlisted men is being converted from a gymnasium. A 30-nurse hospital is ordered down from Oran. The weather at Oujda at this time of year is chilly and rainy. There are several bad colds. Colonel Howard, Fifth Army G-2, had to remain behind temporarily in Algiers because of the flu.

Announcement on the radio and in the press of formation of the Fifth Army under command of General Clark has brought varied propaganda repercussions. The reaction is most violent in Italy where the news is used to key up the Italians to look to their coasts against possible invasion. The Italians recall that General Clark paved the way for invasion of Africa and infer that such a move can happen again. The Germans say little. Apparently the story was widely played in the United States. The general receives a personal radiogram from his family and his mother congratulating him on his new command and sending him their best wishes and love.

The general believes that announcement of the formation of the Fifth Army will result in a demand in the United States for the new organization to get into action. "I think," explains the general, "that now that it is known in the States that there is a Fifth U.S. Army in Africa that the public will demand that it be given a sector. That will also be the desire of the War Department." Hence, the general believes that announcement of the army's formation might lead to its early use in battle. This, then, demands an all-out effort on every officer's and man's part to elevate himself and his organization to the highest possible standard in the shortest possible time.

In order to know his key officers better, General Clark plans on having one or two to his villa each evening for dinner. Tonight he has General Blesse, Medical Officer, and Major Ed Ball, an aide who is also working in the Air Section. The general is also going to re-institute his II Corps plan of writing birthday letters to each officer under his command. An unusual incident occurs tonight outside the general's villa. An attempt is made by someone to scale the fence around the villa. The three guards scare him before they can fire a shot. The guard's flashlights pick up two men, apparently French soldiers, across the street. The man attempting to scale the fence has on an Arabs cloak and hood. He runs around the corner of a nearby mud wall before the guard's can shoot. General Clark orders another guard in the region of the house and increased vigilance.

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Oujda, JANUARY 9, 1943--"Remember--our one purpose in life is to make this Fifth Army an effective fighting machine. All our efforts must be pointed toward that one goal!"

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Thus, General Clark sums up today his speech of welcome to the officers of the Fifth Army. Approximately 90 officers sit on benches in a bare gymnasium to hear the address of their commanding general. General Clark, a short coat over his field uniform, stands behind an unfinished wooden table to address the men. When he enters the room, all the officers stand and salute him.

"I have assembled you here this afternoon to give you some of my ideas so you can be guided in your work," says General Clark. "I want you to know what my ideas are about certain things and some of my peculiarities...I am mighty proud to command this new American baby, and I hope that you are proud to be with the only American army that is in active being outside of the continental United States. Don't worry for one minute for fear we are going to sit here in Oujda and not get into this fight. Just sit tight and put in every minute of every possible day in order that you will be ready to do the job which will come to us in a short time..."

"We are starting everything brand new in the Fifth Army. Our ideals and standards should be just as high as we can make them...Some of you may wonder why I selected Oujda for a center. I did it from a map, knowing conditions which I will give you in a few minutes. I found that it was centrally located, with a good airfield, good road, railroad and signal communications. It is in the center of my area of responsibility--the area extends from Orleansville to and including Casablanca. Another reason why I selected this place is because there are no politicians here. Those who are here will be taken care of by Colonel Saltzman, who will do all of the dirty work as far as I am concerned. Be courteous with the civilians and French military with whom you come in contact. When they show that they are not really cooperative, I will get tough with them, but give them the benefit of the doubt."

The commanding general then outlines the mission of the Fifth Army (already included in this diary) and continues: "We have got a job with many demands but our principal one is to get organized and to get your sections in shape so that we can move pronto. I am organizing this headquarters at a little over half of its authorized strength. We don't want to get so unwieldy that it will be difficult to move when the time comes. We are authorized in the T/O to set up 228 officers. We are going to organize with 154...We are supposed to have 508 enlisted men and we are starting out with 156. Bear in mind that each section chief is operating at reduced strength and using personnel so he can move out and function practicably in the field."

General Clark then declares that the heads of special staff sections--such as Quartermaster, Engineer, Signal, etc.--must travel throughout the Fifth Army area "so they can foresee difficulties that might arise." He demands prompt action on all requests made on the Army from either higher or lower echelons. He declares that he has "a peculiar way of doing business direct with subordinates. The general then discusses military courtesy, uniforms, plans for selecting a Fifth Army insignia, the need for cooperation within the army headquarters and with the First Armored Corps and the 6th Corps, two principal units at present under the Fifth Army. He declares he will not tolerate excessive drinking and that strict disciplinary measures will be taken to curb it. He tells of the dangers of venereal disease and explains the steps being taken to cut its inroads to the minimum. He orders that each officer and man in each section have half a day a week off and that he spend that time getting exercise so he will be in the best possible physical condition.

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"The one purpose we have," declares the general, "is to get ready just as fast as we can for the field. Each of us must concentrate on making the Fifth Army an efficient fighting machine just as rapidly as possible."

As he did when he took over the Ist Army Corps, General Clark asks that officers who have not met him come forward after his speech. They form a line and pass before him. He questions each one briefly.

This is the list of chiefs of general and special staff sections of the Fifth Army as it is organized by its commanding general, Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark:

Chief of Staff	Brig. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther
Secretary General Staff	Major Ira W. Porter
Asst Chief Staff, G-1	Lieut. Col. Francis A. Markoe
Asst Chief Staff, G-2	Colonel Edwin B. Howard
Asst Chief Staff, G-3	Brig. Gen. Arthur S. Nevins
Asst Chief Staff, G-4	Colonel Clarence L. Adcock
Adjutant General	Colonel Cheney L. Bertholf
Artillery	Colonel Thomas E. Lewis
Engineer	Colonel Frank O. Bowman
Chemical	Colonel Maurice E. Barker
Signal	Brig. Gen. Richard B. Moran
Air	Colonel Guy H. Gale
Medical	Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Blesse
Quartermaster	Colonel Joseph P. Sullivan
Civil Affairs	Colonel Charles K. Saltzman
Public Relations	Major Kenneth W. Clark
Provost Marshal	Colonel Charles R. Johnson
Headqtrs Commandant	Lieut. Col. C. Coburn Smith

General Clark plans on leaving Oujda tomorrow for a week to 10-day trip through the western region of the area he commands. First, he will go to Casablanca where he will join his Chief of Staff, General Gruenther, and confer with Major General Patton, commander of the Western Task Force and the I Armored Corps. There has been some enemy action already in the General's area of command. Twenty Axis parachutists were dropped at Nouvion, 50 miles east of Oran, apparently to carry on sabotage work. Some of them have been rounded up. It is reported that some of them were dressed in civilian clothes. On the Tunisian front there has been scattered activity. Between Beja and Mateur Allied troops took a hill, then lost it to the Germans. There have been skirmishes between patrols. Troops that will participate in the Southern Sector offensive are moving into the area. The enemy appears to be moving more German troops into this region to support the Italians. Enemy interest in the sector is indicated by steady patrol activity. As of today, General Patton's Western Task Force is inactivated and his I Armored Corps is reactivated. General Clark has Colonel Chapin and Major Meacham to his villa for dinner and afterward he goes to the new motion picture theater, the same gymnasium where he spoke in the afternoon, to find a fairly recent film being shown and the hall crowded with officers and men.

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*He advised me - told me to get over there 7
Secret Service wanted too much -*

Oujda AND CASABLANCA, JANUARY 10 through JANUARY 18, 1943--Because of the need for secrecy and General Clark's intense and fast-moving activity, the diary of the past week must be condensed into one long installment.

President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, General Marshall, Admiral King, members of the British cabinet and other dignitaries, including General Giraud, High Commissioner of French Africa, are meeting in Casablanca to determine two things: (1) the French governmental and military leadership for all French possessions in Africa, and (2) future conduct of the war against Germany, Italy and their satellites. General Clark made preparations for the arrival of the Allied leaders and participated in various conferences connected with both of the principal subjects under discussion.

Flying in a B-25, General Clark, unaccompanied by any officers, leaves Oujda at 8:48 AM January 10 for Casablanca. He plunges, on his arrival, into preparations for the arrival in Casablanca by stratoliner of President Roosevelt, General Marshall, Admiral King and members of their staffs. Extensive security precautions must be taken and the general confers with the secret service. Casablanca anti-aircraft protection must be increased. Housing must be found for all the dignitaries. A special air raid shelter is built for the president. Ramps must be built at important points so they President can be removed from the airplane, so he can reach the quarters that have been set aside for him. Since the President, Prime Minister and members of their parties are coming into the area commanded by General Clark, he must make all the preparations. He spends January 10, 11, 12, 13 and part of 14 at Casablanca conferring with General Patton, members of the secret service, supervising all preparations for the arrival of the President and the Prime Minister on their highly secret trip. During this time his headquarters at Oujda continues with Fifth Army organizational work. Troops of the 34th division are dispersed at key points throughout the eastern section of General Clark's command area and division headquarters are set up at Tlemcen, 90 miles west of Oran. On orders from General Clark, General Ryder and General Dawley, the latter commander of the VI Army Corps which is now coming overseas to come under General Clark's command and be stationed at Oran, come to Oujda. There is a possibility that the President may inspect American troops as far west as Algiers and make one of his principal calls at Oujda. Hence, the two major generals are alerted in case they have to make the necessary security and construction preparations.

General Clark gets back to his Oujda headquarters in mid-afternoon on January 14, flying in from Casablanca in the B-25. Once again he travels alone. He tells no one at headquarters what is going on since the greatest secrecy must be observed regarding the important pending conferences. Working 16 to 18 hours a day, the General keeps a rapid-fire schedule. This despite his having a touch of dysentery which causes great inconvenience. Finding that things are progressing smoothly, General Clark only remains at his new headquarters until January 17 when he gets a hurry-up call from General Marshall to come to Casablanca at once, President Roosevelt wants to talk to him.

General Eisenhower confers with General Clark at the Oujda airfield on the morning of January 15. General Clark informs the Allied Commander-in-Chief about preparations made at Casablanca and reports on how the Fifth Army is forming. After conferring more than an hour on the wind-swept airport, General Eisenhower continues on to Casablanca to report to President Roosevelt and General Marshall.

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During his absence at Casablanca, the general has received two interesting letters, one from Admiral Cunningham, Britain's most venerated sea-dog, and from General Eisenhower. Writes Cunningham:

"My dear Clark:

How nice of you to write to convey your best wishes for my birthday. Thank you very much indeed. I am indeed sorry I did not see you to wish you luck and say what I hope will be only an revoir. It is good of you to express your pleasure at our association. Believe me when I say that I have found it an exhilarating and joyous experience to be so closely associated with the American Army.

We owe you personally a debt of gratitude for the great trouble you have always taken to appreciate and meet our point of view. That the forces of two countries, who, though they have basically the same viewpoint, nevertheless have different ideas on military organisation, should have fused to happily and with so little friction is a very happy augury for the future.

All best wishes to the Fifth Army, under your command, when its chance comes it will, I know, give a fine account of itself. Perhaps some day we of the Royal Navy may be privileged to take part in some great enterprise with you. It is what we all hope.

My grateful thanks again and with all best wishes for the future.

Yours very sincerely,
(signed) Andrew Cunningham."

General Eisenhower's letter results from the Commander-in-Chief's submission of the bi-yearly efficiency report on General officers. Writes General Eisenhower:

#Dear General Clark:

In making out your current efficiency report, I am impressed by the feeling that it is impossible for me, on an official form, to express my real appreciation of your splendid work for the past several months.

You have performed brilliantly as Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces and in accordance with my highest expectations, based on intimate acquaintanceship with you and with your record covering the past quarter of a century. Even beyond this, there have been certain instances in which your tact, breadth of vision and clear understanding of basic issues have astonished me.

At this critical time, I regret very much losing your services in your former capacity but, due to my anxiety to have the U.S. Fifth Army organized quickly and prepared for combat without delay, I feel that your greatest sphere of usefulness is as its Commander. I know you will do a grand job.

Most Sincerely,
(signed) Dwight D. Eisenhower."

To this formal letter, General Eisenhower attaches the following longhand note:

"Dear Wayne:

I made this commendation in semi-official form so that I could file a copy with your record.

(signed) D.E."

The Fifth Army Chief of Staff, General Gruenther, arrives at Oujda to take up his duties on the afternoon of January 15. The Chief of Staff has been at Casablanca for the past week integrating and putting into effect various plans for the Anglo-British-French conferences. General Lemnitzer, arrives at Oujda

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on January 13 to take up Acting Chief of Staff duties. General Nevins, who has been fulfilling that spot temporarily, moves over to head his own G-3 section. Despite his dysentery, General Clark spends all of January 15 and 16 in his Fifth Army Headquarters office. On January 15 two of the general's "submarine trip buddies," Captain Wright and Colonel Holmes phone from the airport to say they are passing through. The general has them come in for lunch and then he sends Captain Wright back to Casablanca to act as liaison officer from the army to Admiral King. Colonel Holmes flies the other direction--to Algiers. The general holds frequent conferences with Generals Gruenther and Lemnitzer to button up Fifth Army problems. Determined to get his Fifth Army morale started on the highest possible plane, the general instructs the special service officer and Red Cross officials attached to Fifth Army to get entertainment programs into effect immediately. On January 16 the general has two principal callers, General Maurot, head of all police in Algeria, and General Dawley, VI Corps commander. General Maurot gets the first official ceremony at Fifth Army Headquarters. When he arrives, he receives flourishes and inspects a special guard lined up in the courtyard near General Clark's office. Maurot's visit is one of courtesy. The visit of General Dawley is strictly business. In addition to explaining to the Corps commander the setup and mission of the Fifth Army, General Clark gives Dawley an insight into what is going on at Casablanca and alerts him to the fact that President Roosevelt might make an inspection tour of a greater part of the Fifth Army area. During the afternoon the general inspects the Fifth Army station hospital and comes away predicting it will be one of the most modern and best hospitals in North Africa. In the evening General Clark has General Blesse, the Medical Officer, and the head nurse and senior duty nurse to his villa for dinner. The first case of color trouble arises in the evening when a negro in a quartermaster company shoots and kills a sergeant in a signal company. The negro confesses and is to be tried by a general court martial.

An urgent call from General Marshall sends General Clark hurrying back to Casablanca on January 17. He departs from Oujda airport at 10:32 AM. Once more, he goes alone. Arriving at Casablanca, General Clark is met at the airport by General Marshall who tells him that President Roosevelt wants to talk to him about the North African political situation. President Roosevelt is lying on his bed when the lanky, black-haired lieutenant general enters the room. The President asks for a blow-by-blow account on political events that took place in Algiers following the general's arrival there on November 9. The general tells the whole story and President Roosevelt remarks that much of the information never got back to Washington. The President never knew, for instance, that General Clark had at one point placed Darlan' under protective custody and surrounded his house with a guard. The President indicates that he had been led to believe that Darlan had been dealt with timidly and he is pleased when he learns that General Clark dealt hard with the Admiral. The President tells the general that it had been his plan to establish a military government in French North Africa. Mr. Roosevelt then asks General Clark's opinion of General Giraud. The president says he has heard that Giraud is not too strong and that at times his attitude is not cooperative. General Clark tells the president that he believes he has been mis-informed. The young general tells the president that Giraud has to be treated tough and that when the law is laid down to him that he is cooperative. The general declares that in his estimation Giraud stands head and shoulders above the other Frenchmen who seek power in North Africa. He asks the President to see Giraud and judge the man for himself. The president agrees to do so and General Clark goes to get the French general while Mr. Roosevelt prepares to meet him. Together, the American and the French general go to Mr. Roosevelt's quarters.

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At first, the three men try to conduct their conversations in French. The president speaks the language but not well enough for the detailed discussions so an interpreter is called in. President Roosevelt explains what he has in mind: The plan calls for three top-ranking Frenchmen in Africa. Giraud to head the military with General DeGaulle as second-in-command and a third man, not yet determined, to head the political end. President Roosevelt vaguely mentions getting "someone" out of France or Switzerland. He grins at General Clark and asks him, jokingly, if he is ready to take another secret submarine trip. The plan also calls for all French African possessions--Martinique, French Equatorial Africa, Djibouti, etc.--to come under the one political head to form a more or less "solid front" French African empire. Giraud is delighted with the idea. He exchanges views with The president and General Clark. Giraud is to have discussions with Prime Minister Churchill and members of the British cabinet following his talk with President Roosevelt. The American delegation and the British are at odds over Giraud and DeGaulle. The president favors Giraud as the top military man while the British, who have been playing closely with DeGaulle, want to put the Fighting French leader in command. The matter is very touchy.

General Clark is to accompany ^{Giraud} ~~DeGaulle~~ to Prime Minister Churchill's if possible. The Roosevelt-Giraud talk lasts half an hour and it is a success. Upon leaving the President's quarters, General Clark accompanies General Giraud to the Prime Ministers. But upon reaching them Giraud is taken in tow by a British delegation and General Clark is quietly and diplomatically barred. It is what he had expected. During the rest of the afternoon he confers with General Marshall and the secret service concerning the President's desire to make troop inspections as far east as Algiers. The secret service opposes the plan and will so inform the president. General Clark confers well into the night with military and naval leaders who are discussing along what lines the war should now be conducted. No plan has jelled as yet. Incidentally, there are reports that the Southern Tunisian offensive planned by the II Corps is to be postponed.

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get in
Churchill
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talk

On the morning of January 18, General Clark, who spent an hour alone with the President yesterday, is called again to the President's study. The two men discuss Giraud and the President declares that he now shares General Clark's faith in Giraud's strength and ability. Attempts are being made to get DeGaulle to join the conference but the Fighting French leader is playing caggy. The President asks General Clark how he fared yesterday in his attempt to go with ^{Giraud} ~~DeGaulle~~ to the British conference. The general reports what happened and how embarrassing the incident was. The President replies that that is what he expected. The general then brings up the matter of the president's inspection of American troops and, in view of the secret service's stand, suggests that the President could see the same thing if he would visit troops in the Port Lyautey district. General Clark outlines what he has in mind. It calls for the President to ride through the troop areas in a jeep. The President is delighted with the idea and gives his approval. Following the discussion, the general, who has become an avid "short snorter" hound asks the President to sign his bill. This the President does, kidding the general and telling him that he must keep his signature secret lest he be pestered by other "short snorters." All in all, general Clark spends a total of two hours with the President on January 17 and 18, one hour and a half of this the President and the general were entirely by themselves. After lunching with several dignitaries, including Prime Minister, Churchill, General Clark takes off for Oujda again and arrives there at 4:46 PM on January 18. He confers immediately with General Gruenther regarding Fifth Army matters that have arisen during his brief absence.

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OUJDA, JANUARY 19, 1943—Ready to leave at a moment's notice for the west again if he is called, but not expecting a call until tomorrow, General Clark devotes his time to two matters: those dealing with the Fifth Army and ideas for the President's inspection trip to Fifth Army units. Every possible precaution must be taken. The general orders that fighter planes patrol the air over the various regions as the President passes through. He investigates also the military protocol of the President's visit, the rendering of honors, the matter of salutes and ruffles. He must make provisions for the press which is being allowed to accompany the President but not print anything until the President has returned safely to the United States.

The president will review troops in the vicinity of Lyautey. Unless he receives an earlier call, General Clark plans to fly to the region tomorrow to personally see that all is in readiness for the President's visit. Mr. Roosevelt is to lay a wreath on a cemetery containing bodies of American war dead of the African campaign.

Two British officers have arrived at headquarters to be attached to General Clark's staff. One is Captain John A. Grindle of the Royal Navy and the other is Lieut. Col. G.P.L. Weston. Both men are to cooperate in planning for Backbone II, the operation that is to take place against Spanish Morocco in event the Straits of Gibraltar are closed or the Germans enter Spain. The headquarters is building up now. During the afternoon, General Clark meets new officers who have arrived since he made his address of welcome to the Fifth Army. There are about 30 of them and they file into his office in bunches. He tells them, substantially, the same things he told officers upon his arrival—that the Fifth Army has a vital mission, that it is not going to sit idle in Oujda, that he expects high morale and an intense effort. He is introduced to each man and speaks briefly with each one.

The situation on the Tunisian front remains unchanged. Ground and air patrols are being made daily by each side. The axis is reported now to have approximately 65,000 troops in Tunisia. The Fifth Army is daily moving some of its units forward. The 1st Division is now enroute to the front. A few changes in disposition are being made in the Fifth Army area. An Invasion Training Center has been set up at Arzew Beach, just east of Oran and Brigadier General O'Daniel is commanding officer of this center which will prepare units for amphibious operations that the Fifth Army undoubtedly will engage in when the next major move is made. During the afternoon, General Clark, over his dysentery, goes for a hike in the plain country just outside Oujda. On the way he visits the Fifth Army Quartermaster and Finance Sections which are in a school two blocks away from the college that is the Headquarters of the Fifth Army.

General Clark is becoming increasingly restless and peripatetic. Following dinner with Colonels Howard and Lewis at his villa, he goes alone on an inspection tour of the security of his headquarters. He finds two loopholes in the plan and immediately issues corrective orders. He plans to leave early tomorrow for Port Lyautey.

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OUJDA-PORT LYAUTEY-CASABLANCA, JANUARY 20, 1943--Ground fog along the Atlantic Coast in the Port Lyautey region postpones General Clark's scheduled takeoff to the west for almost two hours this morning. As he waits for word that the weather has cleared, the general works nervously in his office, disposing of Fifth Army problems and jotting down notes in longhand on how he can improve the review the President is to make of American troops.

Clearance comes by mid-morning and the general's B-25 takes off at 9:57 AM for Port Lyautey. Once there, the general begins going over the ground step by step, checking minute item after minute item personally to be certain that all goes like clockwork tomorrow. The general finds that many details that should have been buttoned up are still dangling loose. One of General Clark's fundamental policies is to be thorough. "I've found," says the general, "that even though you issue orders you can't just assume that they will be carried out. You've got to satisfy yourself personally. In the current case I had given specific orders to five major generals and I found that certain slips had occurred. The men who get along in the army, the men that rise, are the men that are thorough. Campaigns are won or lost through thoroughness."

The general drives over the entire route in inverse order to the way in which President Roosevelt will travel it tomorrow. He checks every unit that is to be inspected. He makes sure that wreaths are ready for placing on the graves of American and French dead, he checks the mess that is to be served the president and finds, to his consternation, that a turkey dinner is planned. This is changed so the meal will consist of the ration normally scheduled for the day. If the President is going to see troops in the field and how they fare, it is General Clark's theory that the eating routine should not be varied or made unusual. At one spot the general finds that the President is to meet heroes of the Western Task Force at a spot only 30 yards from the Port Lyautey-Casablanca highway. The site of this ceremony is moved back 150 yards for security reasons. General Clark has to double-check the security of the route, not only ground security but protection from the air. General Clark goes over the lineup of cars, the procedure whereby commanding generals will meet the president and ride in a jeep with him as Mr. Roosevelt reviews the various divisions, arrangements for a tow truck to carry extra gas and mechanics in case of car trouble, making sure that a special jeep with a handrail is ready for the president, assuring that proper arrangements are made to get the President lifted into the jeep.

By night, General Clark has covered and checked the entire route from Port Lyautey to Casablanca. Upon his arrival there he suddenly realizes that he has made no provisions for colored troops to be included in the review. He calls in General Patton who says that he believes there is not sufficient time to make the arrangements. "It must be done," declares General Clark. "Do it personally even if you have to get on a horse and gallop 100 miles if necessary. General Clark confers well into the night. First, in a long conference with General Marshall, the Fifth Army Commander goes over tomorrow's trip mile by mile. He has had maps made showing how troops will be lined up, where the President will get out of the grey armored Damlier (General Clark's own car which has been driven over from Oujda) and into the special jeep. Then he goes into conference with the Secret Service to go over the review plan point by point. Guards will be posted around the entire area and pursuit planes will cover the region to be certain that there can be no attacks from the air. All is set for the review when the general turns in about 2:00 AM.

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CASABLANCA-PORT LYAUTEY-MEHDIA-OUJDA, JANUARY 21, 1943--Everything is set for President Roosevelt to leave on his inspection tour and the caravan pulls out for the drive northward at 9:20 AM. Two motorcycles lead the entourage, followed by a jeep in which rides a colonel thoroughly familiar with the route. Next comes the Damlier with only the President and General Clark riding in the back seat. Jeeps in front and behind the Damlier are filled with Secret Service men. All in all, the column includes 15 cars, despite General Clark's plan to hold the convoy to a minimum. Other cars contain Presidential Secretary McIntyre, Averill Harriman, Harry Hopkins, General Patton, President Roosevelt's naval and military aides and newspapermen and still and motion picture cameramen. The convoy has an air cover umbrella as it moves northward.

General Clark is questioned closely by the President who, the general finds, has a most inquiring mind. Because of conferences underway in Casablanca and because of the desire to hold the size of the convoy down, General Marshall and Admiral King and their staffs do not make the trip. Neither do any of the British officials, including Prime Minister Churchill. The convoy includes the special-fixture jeep into which the President will be transferred at the various points where he is to inspect troops. General Clark is with the president from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM without any break.

Upon reaching Rabat, the column turns off the main highway, the President is transferred to the special jeep and part of the review begins. Four flourishes are played for the President, General Harmon, commanding the 2nd Armored Division, is introduced to the President and gets into the jeep. The president sits in the front with the driver. In the back seat are a secret service man, General Clark and General Harmon. So questions can be answered, General Clark has the commanding officer of each unit reviewed ride in the jeep directly behind the President. All vehicles and men of the 2nd Armored are lined up, As the President's jeep drives by within a few feet of the front rank, each of the vehicles crews follow the jeep with their eyes. When the President has reviewed the 2nd Armored, General Harmon gets out of the jeep, General Anderson, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division is introduced to the President and takes Harmon's seat. The band plays four ruffles and flourishes and the President inspects from the jeep, the 3rd Division which is lined up in this order: 7th Infantry Regiment, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division Artillery, 10th Engineer battalion, 756 Tank Battalion, 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Quartermaster Battalion, two platoon of the 3rd Reconnaissance troop and the division artillery band. It is a snappy day for a review. A 40-mile an hour wind is blowing, standing the flags and division colors out smartly.

Crossing the Lyautey highway, the general next takes the President to noon mess (main dish ham) and to receive the heroes of the Western Task Force. The President is seated at a mess table and each of the heroes comes by to be introduced. Each man carries the citation he received. The President shakes hands and chats. It is obvious that the President is enjoying himself thoroughly. He eats with relish out of a regular enlisted man's mess kit. When the meal is over, the President calls General Clark to one side. "May I have my mess kit as a souvenir?" asks the President. "I'll have it put in the Smithsonian Institute." General Clark hurries away but the mess kits are already being washed and have been mixed up. "Give me any mess kit, canteen cup and service," says the general. He takes one back to the President and Mr. Roosevelt has it put aside so he can take it back to the United States.

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Following mess, the Presidential convoy moves out again. General Clark has been apprehensive lest the colored troops not be present for review but as the car swings off the highway, General Clark spots the troops lined up. "I've arranged for you to see some of the colored troops we have over here, Mr. President," says General Clark. He explains that the troops were not originally scheduled for the review and that their inclusion was a last-minute decision on his part. The President replies that he was glad the colored troops were not overlooked and he inspects them closer than any of the other units, having the jeep not only pass in front of the front line but between ranks and behind as well.

Next the 60th Regimental Combat team, which played a big role in the victory of the Western Task Force, is reviewed. General Eddy is introduced to the President by General Clark, the ruffles and flourishes are played and the President makes a thorough inspection. The troops are snappy and look in fighting trim. They are proud and erect. General Clark remarks later that this is one of the finest reviews he has ever seen. After the president inspects them from the jeep, the 60th RCT passes in review, bands playing, flags snapping in the brisk wind. The presidential party then goes to the fort near Medhia so the president can see the scene of some of the bitterest fighting in the African campaign. This fort was stormed and captured by the 60th. The President, questioning General Clark constantly, rides over the battlefield and then goes to the cemetery where American and French troops are buried. While a band plays and while the President watches from the jeep, General Clark and the president's naval aide carry a huge wreath up and place it at the base of the flagpole in the American cemetery. Then the President's jeep moves around the end of the cemetery to the section occupied by French dead. Here the wreath laying ceremony is repeated, with General Clark and the aide carrying up the wreath while the President watches.

The scene of this ceremony is one overlooking the Atlantic Ocean from a bluff. The fort and its site is an historic spot, dating back to the time before Christ. Following the wreath laying ceremony, the president's jeep is driven to a promontory overlooking the battlefield and a colonel commanding the assault describes to the president how the battle progressed. This ends the almost day-long review. The President declares it has been marvelous. He is delighted and enthused. The timing and performance has worked out to perfection. There have been no incidents. General Clark explains to the President that he is within a short distance of his plane and that he would like to fly back to Fifth Army Headquarters before dark because there is much work to be done. The President agrees to the proposal and thanks the Fifth Army Commander for the review.

For local purposes and for the French press, it is to be announced that all the excitement in the area--the blocked off roads, the guards, the protective plans--was caused by a review held in honor of the commander of the new Fifth American Army, Lieutenant General Clark. It will not be announced that President Roosevelt has been in Africa until he returns safely to Washington.

Favored by a strong tailwind, the general's B-25 arrives back at Oujda at 4:26 PM. He returns immediately to his office to confer with General Gruenther and to prepare for uninterrupted concentration on Fifth Army affairs. In all probability he will inspect various units under his command. The President is scheduled to start the return flight to the States tomorrow. Still in the balance is future conduct of the war. "Satin" has been postponed and the Southern Sector is fairly quiet.

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OUDJA, JANUARY 22, 1943--Axis troops in the center of the Tunisian line have started an offensive and they advance 20 miles down two vallies in the Pont du Fahs-Bou Arada region. The opposition is French and it is falling back. The British First Army is being re-grouped near Bou Arada for a move southward on the German-Italians north flank. American units in the Southern Sector are being moved to reinforce Sbeitla and Maktar. Tactically, General Clark has nothing to do with the Southern Sector since his units that have been sent up there come, tactically, under Allied Force Headquarters and II Corps. However, he watches the situation closely.

Major General Ryder, 34th Division commander who now has his headquarters at Tlemcen, comes to Fifth Army headquarters for a conference with General Clark. Part of the 135th Infantry, of the 34th, is moving to Arzew to start training at the Invasion Training Center that has been set up under General O'Daniel. Other units are also to move in to take training. Part of the Fifth Army's order is to prepare one infantry division and one armored division for use in amphibious warfare. General O'Daniel has already set this important Fifth Army Training center up. Generals Clark and Ryder discuss Fifth Army problems during a conference prior to lunch and during lunch when General Ryder is the guest of the Fifth Army commander at his villa on the fringe of the school grounds.

Other conferences during the day involve two lengthy ones with General Gruenther regarding officer assignments and troop training and buildup. The general is to inspect all troops in the Oujda area tomorrow. The Fifth Army Finance Officer, Colonel Lindner, arrives and confers with General Clark. Colonel Robinson has arrived and is made Fifth Army Anti-Aircraft officer. General Clark, bent on getting the Fifth Army discipline off to a good start, calls in an Air Corps captain who has been found guilty of intoxication and puts him on the carpet.

After the hectic days at Casablanca and in the Port Lyautey region, today is a mild day for the general as he works on details of synchronizing organization of his new command. In the evening he has two army nurses and Major Meacham and Lieutenant Beardwood at his villa for dinner.

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OUDJA, JANUARY 23, 1943--The Axis push in the center of the Tunisian line has been shoved from a standstill to retreat through the use of American troops rushed in to come under French Command. To counteract the drive, three American battalions—one of Armored Infantry, one Field Artillery and one Medium Tank—are moved in to help the harrassed French. Before the day is over the Germans and Italians have been driven back ten miles. Things are developing fast in Tripolitana where the British Eighth Army has Rommel on the run. The British are on the outskirts of Tripoli. More and more it looks as though Rommel is backing up toward Tunisia to make a juncture with General Kesserling's Tunisian force for a last stand in North Africa.

General Clark makes a thorough inspection tour today of Fifth Army units in the Oujda area. Nothing escapes his attention as he has commanding officers of the various units show him through quarters, kitchens and offices. He makes innumerable recommendations concerning military courtesy, quarters arrangements;

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Safety factors, including sandbags, slit trenches and reinforcement of old buildings in which troops are quartered or supplies are stored; troops in pup tents are to be quartered in pyramidal tents; insufficient bread is being received so General Clark notes that bakery platoon must be brought to Oujda from Oran. He checks the venereal disease rate and finds it good with the white troops but a trifle high among colored soldiers.

There are now about 7,000 U.S. troops in Oujda and its immediate environs. The General visits Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the 71st and 251st Signal Companies, the 343rd Engineers, Company L of the 22nd Quartermasters (colored), the 52nd Station Hospital barracks, the Quartermaster Depot, the 443rd Anti-Aircraft Detachment and quarters and kitchens within his own headquarters enclosure. He orders that Major Jackson be made Post Commandant of the Old Oujda Airport where a majority of the troops is quartered. The general looks at shower rooms, latrines, storerooms. He personally checks the guns and crews of two anti-aircraft guns in the vicinity of Fifth Army headquarters.

General Larkin, commander of the Mediterranean Base Section at Oran, arrives at noon with his Chief of Staff, Colonel Leavy. Following lunch, Generals Clark, Larkin and Gruenther confer lengthily on Fifth Army supply problems. The port of Nemours, on the coast almost due north of Oujda, is to be opened so certain portions of the supplies can be trucked in from the closer port and so the region won't be cut off from the main eastern supply base at Oran in case the railroad or the roads to Oran are bombed or sabotaged. General Larkin is also told to dispatch the bakery platoon to Oujda. General Larkin remains overnight since he is to hold further conferences with General Gruenther and Colonel Adcock, the Fifth Army G-4.

General Clark works at his office until quite late in the evening. The colored soldier who confessed the murder of the white sergeant is to be tried at a General Courts Martial and there is mounting feeling among the colored troops. Fifty soldiers in Company L, 22nd Quartermasters, have signed a petition asking that the case be investigated further before the trial starts on Monday. The men sent their petition direct to headquarters, not going through channels and failing to let their commanding officer know. General Clark is wary of a colored-white race feeling arriving and he confers with General Gruenther; Colonel Johnson, the provost marshal, and Captain Burns, C.O. of the colored outfit. The courts martial is to go on as scheduled on Monday. Preliminary hearings showed that the colored soldier got his rifle after a white soldier ordered him out of a bar. The colored soldier then came back and shot the wrong man. From experience in the States and in England, the general has found just how carefully the colored soldier problem must be handled.

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Oujda, JANUARY 24, 1943--Generals Giraud and DeGaulle have agreed to join forces! This is the welcome news that comes through late this afternoon from Casablanca. Giraud and DeGaulle have been in conference and they have composed their differences. This will be of inestimable benefit in solidifying French sentiment in North Africa and it will strengthen the hand of French military leadership since behind it now will be the two leading Frenchmen not in Axis hands--Giraud and DeGaulle. General Clark is delighted with the news. Minister Murphy is flying here tomorrow from Casablanca to report to General Clark on details of the political conferences down there.

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General Clark straightens out during the morning the mechanics of his relationships with General Nogues, governor general of French Morocco, concerning liaison with the French and the Fifth U.S. Army and conduct of civil affairs. General Nogues has written asking how his military and civil officials should be distributed to work in greatest cooperation with General Clark whose command area includes most of French Morocco. In a conference with General Gruenther and Colonel Saltzman, civil affairs officer, it is decided by General Clark that the French Moroccan military mission be split three ways: part of it being sent to Oujda, another part being attached to General Patton's I Armored Corps, and the third working with General Wilson's Mediterranean Base Section. Any negotiations between General Clark and General Nogues will be handled through Colonel Saltzman's office directly with Nogues' headquarters at Rabat. General Clark will send a liaison office to Rabat to work in conjunction with Nogues' staff on military and civil matters. One of General Clark's many jobs as commander of the Fifth Army is to build up the supply of modern arms for the French North African army. Prior to establishment of the Fifth Army and movement of General Clark into French Morocco, Nogues was working exclusively with General Patton.

In the afternoon, in company with Generals Lemnitzer and Nevins and Colonels Adcock and Bertholf, General Clark drives to Nemours, on the Mediterranean coast to reconnaissance the roads over which supplies from Nemours to Oujda will flow. The trip northward is made via Marnia and Nedroma. The road is narrow and twisting and will be fit for only one way truck traffic. Nemours harbor is small but four or five ships could berth there. The return trip is by way of Martimprey. Part of this road is capable of two-way truck traffic but, from Nemours to Martimprey, it is narrow, hence one-way traffic will have to be put in effect once the port of Nemours becomes a supply area. The drive is made in a heavy rain. After checking in at his office and hearing the good news concerning Giraud and DeGaulle, the general goes to his villa and has the group that accompanied him on his trip for dinner.

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Oujda, JANUARY 25, 1943—Bob Murphy, United States Minister to North Africa, arrives for conferences with General Clark and the word he brings from Casablanca concerning relations between Giraud and DeGaulle is not as cheering as first incomplete reports.

DeGaulle finally agreed to meet in Casablanca with Giraud but the barrier that arose was the question of command. General Clark's observation, after listening to Murphy's report is that DeGaulle "acted like a spoiled child." The leader of the Fighting French felt like he was being made a "second fiddle" to Giraud. After President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill has intervened, the two Frenchmen agreed to issue a joint announcement along the lines that they had conferred and that they both had one aim: winning of the war and restitution of France. That is as far as the honeymoon of Giraud and DeGaulle has gone. Establishment of the Giraud-DeGaulle team as directors of the French military is at least temporarily delayed because DeGaulle won't take what he terms a secondary position.

Main reason for Murphy's visit is to work out details of French-American civil affairs liaison in French Morocco. Murphy is accompanied to Fifth Army Headquarters by Frederick P. Culbert, U.S. consul at Casablanca and the State

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Department official who rode back to Washington with General Clark last September. The plan reached by General Clark, General Gruenther and Colonel Saltzman yesterday is discussed and approved. Saltzman is to go to Rabat tomorrow for discussions with General Nogues to facilitate Franco-American cooperation in both the military and civil affairs fields.

Peyrouton has succeeded Chatel as Governor General of Algeria, thus effecting a recommendation of General Clark that Chatel be relieved, primarily for lack of capacity to fill the job. Chatel is now going to Lisbon to work with the Red Cross.

General Eddy's 9th Division is ordered out of the Rabat-Sale-Port Lyautey region today for movement to the front. Rommel is fast backing up toward the Tunisian-Tripolitanian front and it looks like the major North African battle will occur somewhere in the Satin region. The 9th Division has been part of the Fifth Army. It will now pass to control of AFHQ and move into the Constantine area.

An Air Artillery Observation base, under the Fifth Army, has been established at Sidi Bel Abbes, home of the Foreign Legion, and General Clark plans to fly there tomorrow in one of the little Piper Cub planes such as is being used to observe artillery fire. He also plans to fly to Chanzy so he can observe both from the air and ground this new method of observation. The tiny planes are designed to dash up, observe, then dash down before enemy planes can get them. They land at a very low speed (38 miles an hour) and can put down almost anywhere.

An Officers' Club is opened this evening near the Fifth Army Headquarters mess and General Clark, accompanied by Mr. Murphy and Mr. Culbert, formally opens it. Afterward he has Murphy and Culbert and a few of his staff officers to his villa for dinner. Murphy remains in the General's villa overnight.

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OIJDA, JANUARY 26, 1943—With Rommel on the run and with the back fringe of his retreating Afrika Korps almost to the Tunisian border, matters are coming to a head in the North African theater. In all probability the showdown in going to come in the Southern Sector where the "Satin" force has been concentrated.

An afternoon phone call changes all of General Clark's plans for tomorrow. Instead of going to Sidi Bel Abbes and Chanzy to see the Air Observation School and Field Artillery firing, he will leave for Algiers tomorrow as soon as it is light. General Eisenhower has called him there for conferences which will no doubt cover the immediate operation crystallizing in the Southern Sector and long-range war plans agreed upon at Casablanca.

The 34th Division, which moved from Algiers to Tlemcen in conjunction with activation of the Fifth Army, has now been alerted for movement to the front. This will put almost all the striking force of the Fifth Army in the forward area. General Clark, after receiving the call from General Eisenhower, confers with General Gruenther. General Nevins, Fifth Army G-3, will accompany General Clark to Algiers tomorrow.

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During the afternoon, General Clark takes advantage of sunny weather to get out of his office for a hike in the country outside Oujda. These hikes have become his method of letting off steam. Murphy and Culbert left this morning for Algiers and the general's day has been spent solely with matters concerning the Fifth Army--further organization, supply of equipment to the French, status of French units manning coast defense batteries.

Tonight announcement is made of the visit of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill to Casablanca. It is reported that "they have reached a complete agreement on the offensive campaign. Their prime objective was to draw as much weight as possible off the Russian Army by engaging the enemy as heavily as possible. General Giraud and General DeGaulle also met at Casablanca and announced their agreement, and in a joint official statement they said, 'We have met, we have talked, and we have registered our entire agreement on the ends to be achieved, which are the liberation of France and triumph of human liberties by the total defeat of the enemy. This end will be attained by the union in war, of all Frenchmen fighting side by side with all their Allies.' Stalin was invited to take part in the conference but was unable to leave Russia because of the offensive which he is directing. Prime Minister Churchill said it was the most important conference he had ever attended. President Roosevelt said that the elimination of German, and Japanese power is our aim, and this means, 'unconditional surrender by Germany, Italy and Japan!' The President explained that this does not mean the destruction of the Axis countries and people, but the destruction of their philosophy of hate and fear and their subjugation of other people. The President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain have been in conference since January 14."

General Clark dines alone tonight and retires early because of his scheduled early departure tomorrow.

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OUJDA-ALGIERS, JANUARY 27, 1943--Flying in his B-25, General Clark leaves for General Eisenhower's headquarters at Algiers at 9:18 AM. Upon arrival there after a routine flight, he goes directly to Allied Force Headquarters for a preliminary conference with General Eisenhower.

Rommel is fast backing toward a last-stand in Southern Tunisia. Already some of his troops are occupying the Mareth line, a set of fortifications built in Southern Tunisia by the French prior to 1939-40. Eventually, command over the British Army that has fought its way forward from Egypt, through Libya and almost through Tripolitania, and the British-American-French forces in Tunisia must be under one head so that there can be concerted action to drive the Axis out of Africa. A meeting in the near future between the American and British leaders--Alexander, Montgomery, Anderson, Eisenhower, Clark and others--must be held. Also, the tactical plan along which the battle must proceed will have to be crystallized. These are the things that Generals Clark and Eisenhower discuss. Details will be disclosed later in the diary.

General Clark remains overnight in Algiers.

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ALGIERS-OUJDA, JANUARY 28, 1943--Following an early-morning conference with General Eisenhower and returning to his Fifth Army Headquarters knowing that he is liable to be called back to Algiers at any time, General Clark takes off from Maison Blanche airdrome at 8:48 AM for Oujda. After bucking a slight headwind, the B-25 puts down at Oujda at 10:54 AM.

General Patton, commanding the I Armored Corps at Casablanca, is enroute to Oujda for conferences with General Clark and his plane lands half an hour later. At headquarters, General Clark explains to General Patton the recent developments and the results of his conference with General Eisenhower. Patton is instructed to be ready to go to Algiers at a moment's notice. General Clark is to call Patton as soon as General Eisenhower issues the summons for the conference. General Clark is accompanied back from Algiers by Brigadier General Kreuger, Air Corps, and Patton, Gruenther and Kreuger lunch with General Clark at his villa.

The chances of Backbone having to be executed grow slimmer and slimmer. With the 34th Division already enroute to the front, General Clark orders today that the VI Corps, under General Dawley, take over Backbone II planning problems from General Ryder's division. Dawley is to move his headquarters out of Oran into the Tlemcen district. Oran is already the headquarters of the Mediterranean Base Section, under General Larkin, and having two commands in the same city might cause complications. During the afternoon, General Art Wilson, commander of the Atlantic Base Section at Casablanca, visits General Clark and the Fifth Army Commander discusses with the ABS chief supply problems as they effect units in the western half of his command area. General Clark also has a conference with Major Yarborough, the young paratroop officer who worked on Torch invasion planning, and the general agrees to send the promising officer back to the States for a larger command with either paratroops or an airborne division.

It has now been agreed that the dollar-franc exchange rate will be lowered from 75 to 50 francs to the dollar. General Clark has his finance officer, Colonel Linder in to discuss mechanics of the change. Officers and men are to be paid for the month of January at the rate of 75 francs to the dollar. All back pay and allowances up to February 1 will also be paid at the old exchange.

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OUJDA, JANUARY 29, 1943--General Eisenhower makes a hurry-up telephone call today that he is coming to Oujda to visit Fifth Army Headquarters and confer with General Clark but, after General Clark has gone to the airport to greet him, word comes through that the flight has been cancelled because one of the engines of General Eisenhower's B-17s is not functioning properly.

General Clark has two important conferences today. The first is with General Doolittle and it concerns use of the XIIth Air Support Command, which is attached to the Fifth Army. General Clark points out the need of perfecting ground-air support technique and cautions General Doolittle that there mustn't be too much "robbing of units" in the Fifth Army area. General Clark stresses one of his strongest conviction of modern battle--the necessity for perfect teamwork between air and ground forces. The second important conference is with General Gruenther and the two British liaison officers attached to the Fifth Army--Captain Grindle of the Royal Navy and Lieut. Colonel Weston, sent down

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as contact man between General Morgan's Northern (Backbone) Task Force and General Clark. Grindle and Weston are flying to Gibraltar tomorrow for conferences with General Mason-Macfarlane, governor of Gibraltar. Although the need for executing Backbone appear less and less likely, General Clark declares: "Execution of this move is in our lap. Despite the fact it doesn't look like Backbone will be necessary, we must be ready. I don't think we are going to have to put this plan into effect but we can't sit around and, if the need arises, have nothing but our bare hands to fight it with. We are still drafting up plans to meet the various contingencies. Movement of front line troops out of our area only complicates our problem." Among other things that are to be discussed with General Mason-Macfarlane are the training of Gibraltar troops in North Africa so they will have room to maneuver and the use of Gibraltar commandos and troops in conjunction with General Morgan's force in event it is used to attack Spanish Morocco.

The court record on the Ricks murder case goes to the general today for review. To confidants he reviews his reactions to this black-white case. He is disappointed with the verdict--life imprisonment at hard labor. He feels that it was a case of "clear, cold-blooded murder--premeditated." However, Ricks was provided with a clever defense counsel, "the best in North Africa," and "we gave him every break." "I debated a long time," says the general, "on whether I should censure the court but I found that I could not under military law. The verdict had to be unanimous and although the court found Ricks guilty, not all of them believed he should be executed. The death sentence would have been tough on Ricks and I would have liked to have seen it because it would have had a salutary effect, not only on American troops, but also on the natives and French who do not value life as highly as we do. The case was full of dynamite because of the black and white problem. We went to great lengths to see that a full record of the case was compiled and that the court was made up of people without color prejudices. It was a good court but it disappointed me a little." General Clark certifies life imprisonment at hard labor for Ricks and orders the transcript sent along to Allied Force Headquarters.

Other matters that come up during the day concern recreation for Fifth Army troops and the general has a long conference with American Red Cross representatives who have been assigned to his army. The general is fanatic about seeing that the enlisted man has diversion for the hours when he is off duty. Good recreation keeps a soldier happier and more fit for battle. Colonel Saltzman returns from a civil affairs tour to the west and reports back that General Nogues, governor-general of French Morocco, will be coming to Oujda February 1 to pay a formal call on General Clark and to inspect French troops. The general initiates plans for a joint American-French review.

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Oujda, JANUARY 30, 1943--Conferences with French officials occupy the general throughout the morning. First comes the new Chef de la Region, M. Bouyssi, General Nogues civil representative in the Oujda district. Bouyssi succeeds M. Caillat, the little monocolored Frenchman that General Clark felt was weak and on whom there had been reports that he had pro-Axis leanings.

The second caller is French Brigadier General Boisseau, commander of the ~~Ora~~ military district. Boisseau is accompanied by General Dawley,

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commander of the VI Army Corps whose headquarters is being moved into the district. Use of French troops in guarding lines of communications and in manning coastal batteries is discussed between the French general and the two American generals.

Brigadier General Caffey, commanding the 39th Infantry Regiment of the 34th Division, visits Fifth Army headquarters for final discussions with various officers. Caffey is leaving immediately for the Tunisian front since the 34th Division, under General Ryder, is being moved into the Southern Sector. Work of the Fifth Army is concentrated now on issuing orders and seeing that many of its units move toward the front. A steady stream of orders pass out to units, down even to companies, to be alerted for prompt movement eastward.

General Clark has now had four airplanes attached to him so he and his officers can move to various points in French North Africa with alacrity. In addition to the B-25 which the general has been using so much of late, there is a Flying Fortress and two C-53s, the work-horse cargo carriers that are now doing such a tremendous job in moving men and materiel throughout the theater. In the afternoon the general goes for a long hike with his G-1, Colonel Markoe.

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Oujda, JANUARY 31, 1943--Another officer commanding a French sub-division in General Clark's Fifth Army area comes today to confer with the Army Commander. He is Brigadier General Richards, commanding the Tlemcen district. General Clark goes over the problem of French units guarding lines of communications. Richards district extends to the border of Spanish Morocco, hence, his troops must be particularly on the alert.

The day has a Spanish-Spanish Morocco tinge. Colonel Hohenthal, United States military attache in Madrid, reports in to General Clark for consultation. Hohenthal is of the opinion that Spain has but one objective--to remain neutral. He does not look for trouble and he feels that Germany will exert pressure without avail on Spain and that the Axis is already too extended to make any military move against Spain. Hohenthal's report coincides with confidential information being sent to North Africa by Allied ambassadors and ministers in Spain. The likelihood of Backbone going into execution grows less and less but General Clark, despite the loss of thousands of troops earmarked for Backbone, keeps pushing on preparation of plans for moving into Spanish Morocco if the need arises. Plans are constantly being changed because of the shift of fighting troops to Tunisia. General Clark remarks that if the troop movement eastward continues at its present tempo, "we'll have to go into Spanish Morocco with truck drivers, nurses and staff officers."

Continuing his reconnaissance of the country surrounding Oujda, General Clark drives to Berguent, a town on the fringe of the desert, 50 miles south of Oujda. Enroute he passes one of the largest coal mines in the region and the mine that is supplying much of the coal being used by railroads in the eastern half of French Morocco. The country that the general passes through is partially desert and for the first time camels are seen. There are also partridges and other game birds and the general's finger itches to get on a shotgun trigger. In the evening, General Clark attends a party in honor of his G-3, General Nivens who is going to Allied Force Headquarters to do special planning work. A new Fifth Army G-3 is now being considered.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 1, 1943--This compact French Moroccan town has its first military review today as General Clark and General Nogues, Governor General of French Morocco, inspect troops along the Rue de France and then watch American and French soldiers pass by in review.

General Nogues, making his initial call at General Clark's Fifth Army headquarters, arrives at the Oujda airport and is taken to the American general's headquarters at the girls' school. General Clark meets Nogues at the gate and they inspect jointly two platoons of Company C of the 30th Infantry. An American army band plays the ruffles and flourishes for Nogues and the martial music as General Nogues looks over the American troops. The two generals then go to the Fifth Army Commander's office and confer about mutual problems for half an hour before going to the downtown section.

Arriving at the city square, the French and American generals are paid honors and, after the two national anthems are played, they pass, side by side, before American and French troops lined up along four blocks. The curbs are lined with school children waving French and American flags, with Arabs in all manner of dress, with French civilians and American officers and men. As the two generals walk before the troops there are cries of "Vive la France" and "Vive Les Etats Unis." They are shouts of "Vive le general Clark" and several shouts for DeGaulle. After walking in front of the troops, Generals Clark and Nogues go to the reviewing stand in front of the city hall. There American and French officers and Arab leaders are gathered to watch the review with the two generals. Following the American colors and the American band comes the 1st battalion of the 30th Infantry which is located in the Oujda area. Then comes the colorfully garbed band of the 5th Marocains, dressed in brilliant red knickers and with many of the bandsmen playing high-toned native woodwinds. The regiment's standard includes strands of human hair. Following the French band comes the 5th Marocains, composed mostly of native North African troops carrying rifles with long, slender bayonets. The rear of the parade is brought up by some troops of the Foreign Legion. This outfit, with the traditional Foreign Legion hat from which a white sun-veil trails down the back, includes men from almost every country--swarthy men, fair men, men with beards. They are a colorful lot, marching in a slow, measured cadence.

After the troops have passed in review, Generals Clark and Nogues walk back through cheering crowds to the offices of the Chef de la Region. The crowd claps and shouts. Nogues walks along looking neither to left or right. General Clark salutes occasionally and looks in all directions. The two generals are followed up the street by members of their staffs. Almost the entire afternoon is spent at a luncheon given in General Nogues' honor. Like all French luncheons, the eating process is long and heavy and leaves the guests feeling lethargic.

One touchy problem is brought to the General today. At Casablanca, a CIO worker has been belligerent with army and navy authorities. He has been found guilty and a sentence at hard labor has been recommended. Because of the union nature of the case, General Clark discusses it with the Judge Advocate of the I Armored Corps who has come to Fifth Army headquarters with the papers. General Clark is following one policy with regard to any actions impeding military matters or reflecting on the U.S. Army: be tough and set, from the start, an example that will discourage further breaches of conduct.

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OUJDA-SIDI BEL ABBES-CHANZY-BEDEAU-OUJDA, FEBRUARY 2, 1943--Making his first use of a Field Artillery Observation plane--little Piper Cub "puddle jumpers"--General Clark flies today to Sidi Bel Abbes, home of the Foreign Legion and the spot where the Field Artillery pilots are training for action at the front. The general has had his "puddle jumper" rigged up with a loud speaker, so, before leaving Oujda, he circles headquarters and issues instructions from air to ground. Flying at about 400 feet, the general tells his aides that he will circle headquarters on his return and order his car to go to the airport. As the little plane turns and heads east for Sidi Bel Abbes, the general shouts down: "Mighty fine looking headquarters you have there!" The loudspeaker, which could be used to issue orders to units in the field, is easily heard.

After visiting the Artillery Observation training center at Sidi Bel Abbes, the general flies to Chanzy and the headquarters of the 13th Field Artillery. He is impressed by the morale and work of the officers and men despite the fact they are training under rather adverse conditions. From Chanzy he goes to Bedeau where batteries are having firing practice. He watches the firing from both the air and ground. Following regular firing, General Clark asks for demonstration of time fuse-air burst fire. This calls for the shell to burst 30 to 50 feet above the ground so it can spray its shrapnel into trenches. During the entire demonstration, the artillery fire has been whining over the General's head. One of the time fuse-air burst shells falls dangerously close to the general and his party. Everyone but the general hits the dirt; he ducks one shoulder and leans away. Later, he tells how in that one brief moment of fire his mind flashed back to 24 years ago to France and the time he was wounded by Shrapnel.

Following the demonstration, General Clark flies back to Chanzy for a conference with General Crane at the 13th Field Artillery Brigade headquarters, then heads for Oujda in the Piper Cub. Over headquarters, the plane drops down and the general bawls out that he wants his car sent to the Old Airport (which had been named, without the general's knowledge, Clark Field--a name that the general quickly declared taboo). The voice from the air causes so much consternation at headquarters that two other cars are sent out in addition to the general's own Packard!

In the evening, General Clark and high-ranking members of his staff are dinner guests of the Pasha of Oujda, Moslem leader of the district. The dinner is at the Pasha's ornate home, deep inside the "Medina," native quarter of Oujda. The guests sit cross-legged on hassocks before low tables. The general sits at one low-table with six other guests. The Pasha does not eat; he circulates among the guests while they feast. However, his favorite son is seated at the general's table. The menu is prodigious. First item is a huge pigeon pie--cooked in a dish as big as a dishpan. One pie is put on each of the tables and the guests, eating in Arab fashion without cutlery, dip their fingers into their section of the mutually-munched pie and knuckle down to eating. The courses that follow are almost unbelievable: a whole roast mutton, glazed and well-done, from which the guests pluck choice pieces; baked turkey with delicious nut dressing; baked chicken stuffed with olives and seasoned with Arab condiments; broiled mutton and vegetables; meat balls immersed in a delicious sauce that is so hot that it burns the general's fingers when he dips his hand in; then comes "cous-cous," a favorite Arab dish that is made up of mutton, baked chicken, and all kinds of vegetables underneath a mound of moist ground meal; then follows bowls

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of fruit; trays of delicious cakes made with honey; Arab mint tea, and pasteries made like gazelle horns and sea shells. No liquor is served at the meal; only water. Between courses Arab servants bring around bowls of water and hand towels so they guests can wash their greasy fingers. Food that is left over is taken out so the Pasha's wives (plural) and Arab leaders hovering about can eat. This is the most unusual dinner that the general has ever attended. The Pasha doesn't speak French too well so a three cornered conversation goes on: Arabic to French to English; English to French to Arabic.

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OUJDA-ALGIERS-OUJDA, FEBRUARY 3, 1943--General Clark waits impatiently--working in his office--until he hears that General Patton, who will accompany him to Algiers, has taken off from Casablanca. Then he dashes to Oujda airport and as soon as General Patton lands, the two American general's climb into General Clark's Flying Fortress and take off at 10:15 AM for Algiers.

General Clark spends only an hour and a half at Algiers, conferring with General Eisenhower at both the Allied Force Headquarters in the St. George Hotel and at General Ike's villa. General Montgomery is coming to Algiers for tactical conferences as it becomes more and more obvious that the showdown with the Axis is going to come, probably, in Southern Tunisia. General Clark says nothing about details of the conference.

He returns to Oujda at 4:51 PM, confers briefly at the field with General Patton who continues on to Casablanca and then returns to his headquarters. The Fifth Army's new G-3, Colonel Malcolm Kammerer--has reported in for duty, replacing General Nevins. Another interesting development is that Backbone, the operation calling for Fifth Army and British action should the Germans go into Spain or Spanish Morocco or should any attempt be made to close the Straits of Gibraltar, will be considered passe as of March 1. The chances of any such move look less and less and General Morgan's force, preparing in the United Kingdom for Backbone, must be released for another job. The 9th U.S. Division, located in the Rabat-Port Lyautey region and one of the units scheduled for use in case of Backbone's execution, is to move to the front by March 1. The Fifth Army's mission of being ready to execute Backbone looks less and less likely. Lieut. Col. Weston, British officer sent to General Clark as a liaison link between the Fifth Army and General Morgan's force, is going to return to England.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 4, 1943--Plans discussed at Casablanca by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, Generals Marshall, Eisenhower, Clark and other American and British officials are now beginning to congeal into action. Important conferences are being planned at Algiers and they will include discussions between military leaders in North Africa and the Middle East. These two fighting groups must eventually be pooled under one military command. General Clark begins laying plans for returning to Algiers and continuing on for a tour of the front line area. General Clark limits his discussions concerning future plans to conferences with General Gruenther, his Chief of Staff. Details will be recorded in the diary as they unfold.

Colonel Malcolm Kammerer, who used to be with General Clark in the II

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Army Corps in England, is name G-3 section head, succeeding General Nivens. He arrives at headquarters today to confer immediately with General Gruenther concerning Backbone and the Invasion Training Center which is beginning to operate at Arzew, just east of Oran. Backbone plans that had been drawn up for the 34th Division are to be turned over to the VI Army Corps. General Clark today adds Captain Reagan Houston to his aide staff, releasing Major Meacham to the Civil Affairs section. General Clark's day is filled primarily with conferences with section heads and coordinating orders for movement of troops to the front. A large force is being built up in the Southern Sector. The British Eighth Army is well past Tripoli now and the Afrika Korps is installing itself along the Mareth Line. The Germans and Italians are being compressed into an ever smaller area along the coast of Tunisia. The Tunisian front remains basically the same, American-French-British forces having regained the Ousseltia Valley where the Axis pushed forward 20 miles in mid-January. Air activity continues on a heavy scale now that the weather has improved. Sfax and Gabes are now being bombed with the same regularity and severity as Tunis and Bizerte in the north.

The Fifth Army has its first American road show tonight with Martha Raye as the featured performer. General Clark attends the hour-long show at the Paris theater and later accompanies the motion picture star to the Officers' Club at headquarters.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 5, 1943--General Clark, for some unexplained reason, cancels today his planned trip to the front. It appears now that a huge planning conference will be held in Algiers. General Clark says nothing but messages indicate that such a meeting--with Generals Alexander and Montgomery attending--is in the wind. General Clark's day is fairly quiet and, because of a sore throat, he returns to his villa in late afternoon.

The major conference of the day is held with Colonels Kammerer and Beam. The latter heads the XIIth Air Support Command which is part of the Fifth Army. Coordination of air and ground units in event Backbone must be executed and the use of air support in training operations at Arzew are gone into thoroughly.

In the evening, General Clark attends a dinner at the home of General Beucler, commander of French troops in the Oujda district.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 6, 1943--The North African Theater of Operations, United States Army (NATOUSA) is organized today with General Eisenhower in command. He relinquishes the European Theater of Operations (ETOUSA) to Lieutenant General Andrews.

General Clark explains that the European theater is now to become primarily an air activity theater with increasing bombing activity over Germany. Hence, an Air Corps general has been put in charge. NATOUSA becomes the primary theater of war as far as operations against Germany and Italy are concerned. General Clark's Fifth Army now comes under NATOUSA.

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During the morning, General Clark, following several invitations, goes horseback riding with General Beucler. For the first time, the commanding general of the Fifth Army appears at headquarters in riding britches and boots. He rides for an hour with the French officer who is an expert horseman. The general, who has not ridden for some time, returns to his office slightly on the sore side.

Brigadier General Moses, G-4 of the War Department, arrives from Washington on a tour of the North African theater. He confers and lunches with General Clark who, following luncheon, calls his supply and quartermaster sections together for an afternoon-long meeting with General Moses on problems that have arisen in Africa. Moses gets a full report on how the supply situation is working in General Clark's army, how particular local problems of supply have been met and where the greatest difficulties lie for an army in an actual theater of operations. Moses leaves in late afternoon.

General Clark's desire of having more and better recreation for his enlisted men is fulfilled tonight when an army orchestra, ordered by the general and organized here in the past two days, plays for an enlisted men's dance at the Red Cross club. General Clark attends and leads the grand march. Instead of withdrawing to the sidelines, he dances most of the evening. It has been difficult to find partners for the enlisted men since there are few French girls in Oujda that speak English. The dance is crowded and the stag line is long. General Clark mingles with the enlisted men, talking to them, finding out what they are thinking and the problems that they face.

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Oujda, FEBRUARY 7, 1943--Major General Matt Eddy, commander of the Ninth United States Infantry Division, drives to Oujda today from his headquarters in the Rabat area for conferences with General Clark. Eddy's division has been alerted for movement to the Tunisian front on March 1 and the problems arising with that move are gone into. The Ninth Division holds a key spot in current plans for Backbone and General Clark cautions Eddy that he must be prepared to execute his plans "right until the moment you begin moving out. We can't relax our vigilance or our training."

General Clark, because of the cold that has been bothering him for several days, cancels a scheduled trip to the Berkane region northwest of Oujda. Instead, he goes to the infirmary, has his throat painted and goes to his villa for the afternoon. The general plans a two-day visit to the Invasion Training Center tomorrow and Tuesday and he does not want to have to cancel it since the Center is now in the midst of organization and it is imperative that General Clark see the arrangements before troops begin moving in to start specialized training in amphibious operations. The general plans on flying to La Senia airport at Oran and then going by car to the Invasion Training Center.

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OUJDA-ARZEW-PORT AUX POULES, FEBRUARY 8, 1943--The Fifth Army's Invasion Training Center, where part of the American troops in North Africa will be put through a grueling two-week course that will prepare them further for amphibious landings, is ~~the~~ inspected closely today by General Clark. One of the Fifth Army's missions is to prepare at least two divisions for amphibious warfare and General Clark goes to the Arzew area to determine how organization of the Invasion Training Center, under command of Brigadier General O'Daniel, is proceeding.

Accompanied by Captain Grindle, British navy liaison officer to the Fifth Army; Colonel Sullivan, Fifth Army Quartermaster, and Lieutenant Beardwood, General Clark takes off for La Senia (Oran) airport at 1014 AM. The Flying Fortress lands at 1051 after a smooth flight and the general's party leaves immediately for General O'Daniel's headquarters at Port Aux Poules, a beach resort eight miles east of Arzew. There, General Clark is met by General Dawley, commander of the VI Corps, and General O'Daniel. Following luncheon at General O'Daniel's villa overlooking the sea, General Clark and his party and special staff officers who are attending school at the Invasion Training Center go to Arzew, board LCMs (Landing Craft Motor) and go out into the Gulf of Arzew to watch amphibious jeeps launched. Far out in the bay, the steel ramps of the LSMs are let down and the jeeps roll on their wheels off the ramps, nose into the water and become steady little boats capable of carrying four men and some equipment. Three of the sea-going jeeps circle the LSMs and two of them scramble back on board again. The steam-operated ramp on the LSM on which General Clark is riding fails to work properly and the cable breaks when the motor can't be stopped. The jeep has to go ashore through the surf. General Clark observes that hand-operated ramp winches would be more practicable since jam-ups are less likely and the steam winches are noisy and under combat conditions would be a give-away on the craft's position when landing under cover of darkness.

From the Gulf of Arzew the party drives to a training section five miles west of Arzew. Here bluffs and hills rise sharply from the sea, making it possible to fire live ammunition from the landing craft. From a nearby cliff, General Clark and the officers watch an LCM move toward the beach firing an 81 mm mortar that attempts first to lay the shells on the beach (to wipe out any opposition that might be there) and then back on the hills to harass enemy troops that might be coming down the draws. Because of the rough sea, it is difficult to be accurate because of the bounce of the pitching craft. Despite the waves, the mortar is fairly accurate. Following demonstration with the 81 mm weapon, the same LCM comes ashore firing a 37 mm anti-tank gun mounted in the landing craft's bow. Once again the pitching of the waves makes accuracy difficult but the gun fires shells quite close to its surfline targets. General Clark has a ringside seat for the firing demonstrations.

Following the firing exhibition, another landing craft moves close ashore with an engineer demolition crew. A tank barrier has been erected at the surf line and six men have been ordered to destroy a section of it so tanks could get through. A large rubber boat is launched from the landing craft and the men go ashore through the surf with their demolition materials. The boat pitches and tosses and the men debark from it in the surf at waist level. While two hold the boat, the other four attach "Bangalore Torpedoes" to the tank barrier. These torpedoes are long lengths of pipe filled with time-fuse explosives. After placing their charges, the men decide they can not get back through the surf with their boat and drag it around into a protected cove. General Clark goes down to the waterline later to compare the surf with that he had to go through in a Falbot

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when he made his submarine trip to Africa last October. The waves are not nearly so high. After a five minute wait, the charge attached to four sections of the tank barrier goes off with a roar, sending chunks of metal and barbed wire high into the air. A huge gap is torn in the barrier that was imbedded in concrete. The demolition crew then goes to another section of the beach to blow, with saddle-type charges of TNT, three huge blocks of concrete erected as tank traps.

Following this exhibition, the general and his party return to the port of Arzew to inspect an LCT (Landing Craft Tank) and to go aboard the Queen Emma, a British combat loader that has been loaned to the Invasion Training Center for a month. Enroute back to General O'Daniel's headquarters, a mock-up invasion training area is inspected. Here the various types of landing craft have been sketched out on the ground and from them troops can go through dry runs on how to debark from all types of landing craft. One of the mock-ups is of an LCI (Landing Craft Infantry) which is capable of carrying approximately 400 soldiers 12,000 miles for an assault. There are a few of this type craft in the African theater but at present they are at ports in the forward area.

General O'Daniel's headquarters is located in beach homes at the summer resort of Port Aux Poules. General Clark visits them and inspects the bivouac area in the hills behind where 10,000 troops at a time could be accommodated. This area is not yet being used since the full-scale Invasion Training Center program is not yet underway. At present, staff officers from the Fifth Army, divisions and regiments are watching training cadres work. Following that recommendations will be made and cadres for training infantry and armored units will be set up to instruct outfits that will come in later for training. In addition to making recommendations, the staff officers now at the Training Center will return to their units, build mock-ups and instructs their troops in loading and landing fundamentals before they ever reach the center for actual work on the ground. One Infantry Combat Team and one Armored Combat Command will be trained during each 10 day to two-week period. General Clark is pleased with the progress that has been made in getting this all-important Fifth Army job underway. However, he makes certain recommendations and stresses the necessity for air-ground cooperation in amphibious landings and takes steps to move up personnel and equipment from his XIIth Air Support Command.

General Clark has dinner at General O'Daniel's villa and remains there overnight.

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PORT AUX POULES-OUJDA, FEBRUARY 9, 1943--A demonstration/the work done by beach parties in an amphibious landing is made this morning before General Clark and the staff officers attending the Invasion Training Center. Standing on a dune overlooking a broad stretch of beach between Arzew and Port Aux Poules, General Clark watches the rudiments of an invasion landing acted out before him. Offshore lie landing craft. At 9:30 the LCM containing the beachmaster chugs in to the beach, lets down its ramp and the beachmaster and two communications men come ashore to reconnoissance the beach, make sure they have hit the correct point and signal back for the next wave to hit the beach.

The landing craft are superb. They are brought in through the surf and virtually to the surf line. Down come the ramps; put pour the troops, then the landing craft, powered by 500 horsepower motors, back away and put out to sea (in a full landing, back to the combat loader) for another load of men or materiel. The second wave includes initial elements of the shore party plus an

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amphibious jeep that, after running down the ramp, circles out behind the breaking waves to measure the depth of the water and mark obstacles or sand bars. The third LSM contains a deisel-powered bull dozer (because deisel engines need less water-proofing than gasoline operated machines) that comes ashore to scrape out a road over which tanks and trucks could move over the sand to the harder earth and roads back from the beach. The bulldozer also pulls three sledges loaded with chicken wire and steel-barred mats. While the bulldozer scrapes the roadway, the beach party, which has grown by now with the addition of road-laying crews, slit trench diggers and security troops, lays down the mats parallel to the beach so the vehicles that are already moving ashore can find a solid base on which to move. The road being scraped by the bulldozer is also laid with these mats. A full compliment of troops is not used for the demonstration but it proves with what timing and precision the shore parties must work. General Clark goes down onto the beach to inspect the work and to confer with General Wolfe, commanding the Engineer Amphibious Brigade that is attached to the Invasion Training Center. General Clark discusses engineer strength and assignment with General Wolfe in an attempt to determine just what the ratio of the shore party should be to each Regimental Combat Team.

Satisfied that the Invasion Training Center is located in a fine area and off to a good start, General Clark and his party drive to La Senia airport and take off at 12:03 PM for Oujda in the general's Flying Fortress. He arrives at Angad airport, Oujda at 12:35. Following lunch he confers with his Chief of Staff, General Gruenther, concerning Fifth Army problems arising during his brief absence and concerning improvements that must be made at the Invasion Training Center. General Clark notes that more adequate clothing must be obtained for the beach parties since their coveralls and leggings are not practicable for the work. Rubberized and possibly zippered clothing must be secured.

Lieutenant General Mason-MacFarlane, governor of Gibraltar, is to fly to Oujda tomorrow to confer with General Clark. Colonel Louis Ford has been named Ordnance Officer of the Fifth Army. The nomination of General Clark's Chief of Staff, General Gruenther, has gone to the Senate for a major generalcy. In the evening, Generals Clark, Gruenther, Lemnitzer and Colonel Saltzman are dinner guests of M. and Mme. Husson. Husson is secretary general to the Chef de la Region.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 10, 1943--General Mason-Macfarlane arrives at General Clark's headquarters this evening and the most important part of the Fifth Army's Commander's packed day is getting all information possible on operation Backbone so he can discuss its ramifications with the round-shouldered governor of Gibraltar.

Calling in his Chief of Staff and heads of those sections most concerned with the Spanish Moroccan project, General Clark goes over the plans in detail. Because of the varying number of ways the affair could break, the G-3 section is preparing five different sets of plans to meet five possible contingencies: start of hostilities before March 1 and use of General Morgan's Northern Task Force; start of hostilities after March 1 and, consequently, no use of General Morgan's force; fighting the campaign with a strong American force; fighting with an American force further weakened by movement of troops to the Tunisian front, and waging the campaign almost exclusively with French troops supported by special American units.

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"The worst thing that could happen," says General Clark, "is that this thing would break on us within the next 18 days. Nobody thinks it is going to happen and it has been decided to shoot the works in Tunis with everything we can lay our hands on. We are keeping a minimum of troops back here in the area where we would have to jump off if the Spanish situation broke and the Straits of Gibraltar were threatened. If we had to order the Northern Task Force to go into operation it would take 47 days before they could make their landing in the Tangiers region. We can call on that force until March 1. After that date, the shipping being held for that force must be released and Morgan's force prepared for another operation. Despite all these things and the growing belief that we will never have to execute Backbone, we mustn't take the attitude that the plans are in the air. We could find ourselves in a hell of a shape. We've got to push, push, push on this thing and be ready for anything."

General Clark is told that the plans of the I Armored Corps are due tomorrow and that those of the VI Corps will be in by February 15. After a discussion of air-ground cooperation, Colonel Beam declares that he would like to have as soon as possible a list of the air objectives in the order of their importance. The XIIth Air Support Command of the Fifth Army has power to draw from the XIth Air Force the units that the Fifth Army requires for an operation. Colonel Adcock reports that the supply problem does not present great difficulties and that Casablanca would be the main supply base for Backbone.

The principal matter that must be taken up with General Mason-Macfarlane is the gearing of operations from Gibraltar with those of the force that would strike northward by land and with General Morgan's force that, if called upon before March 1, would come by sea from the United Kingdom. Certain Spanish coastal guns must be put out of action by Commandos operating from Gibraltar. A plan has also been conceived whereby Commandos would land in the Tangiers region, secretly hidden overnight and then go into operation from the landside to silence guns a few hours before Morgan's force would hit the beaches.

General Clark returns the Chef de la Region's courtesy call today, calling on M. Bouyssi at his regional headquarters. The American general and the French civil official discuss local sanitation and where cooler quarters can be found for American troops when the sweltering summer months come. Summer bivouac areas are now being reconnoitered in the Tlemcen district, in the mountains between Oran and Oujda. Pictures of General Clark and his section heads are taken today and, immediately thereafter, the general has his portrait taken in his office sitting before the three flags now ranged in a group behind his desk--the American flag, the Fifth Army flag and the general's standard of rank, the three white stars of a lieutenant general on a background of red. General Mason-Macfarlane does not arrive at the Oujda airport until 6 PM. General Clark is there to greet him. A band and a platoon of well-groomed soldiers pay the governor honors before he gets into General Clark's car and rides to his villa for dinner and the night.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 11, 1943--Suffering from a combination cold and a touch of something akin to ptomaine poisoning, General Clark remains at his villa under care of a doctor and nurse today. Throughout the night he is quite ill and Col. Bruce orders him to remain in bed for the next day or two.

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Because of the general's illness, General Mason-Macfarlane confers with General Gruenther and then, just as he is leaving Oujda, the governor of Gibraltar, calls on General Clark who is in bed. Soon after General Mason-Mac takes off, Rear Admiral Hall of the U.S. Navy arrives. He confers briefly with the general at his villa and then has the bulk of his discussions with General Gruenther. Hall is to do special naval planning in connection with future operations.

It is announced tonight that all Allied troops in Africa--the two British Armies, American troops and the French forces--have been put under the supreme command of General Eisenhower who is being promoted to a full general. This is to be the new setup under which the drive will be made to throw the Axis out of the little fringe of Tripolitania and the coastal region of Tunisia where the German-Italian forces are now hemmed. General Eisenhower, commander-in-chief; General Harold Alexander, who has been commanding the army of the Middle East, as deputy commander-in-chief; commander-for-air, Air Marshall Teddar; naval commander, Admiral Cunningham; commander of the Middle Eastern Force, succeeding Alexander, General Henry Maitland Wilson; commander of the British First Army and all French troops, General Anderson. The announcement of the supreme command for North Africa is made by Prime Minister Churchill in a speech to the House of Commons. Staff officers from the army of the Middle East are now arriving in Algiers for a council of war that will start Saturday. This was the conference that General Clark was to have attended but illness will now prevent him doing so. It is likely that the council, after meeting in Algiers, will fly to Tripoli for further conferences prior to the big push aimed at driving Rommel and Von Arnim and their armies out of Africa.

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Oujda, FEBRUARY 12, 1943--General Clark is much improved today. The war horse is pawing his foot again and in mid-afternoon he issues orders that a plane is to be ready to fly him to the war conferences early Monday morning. Although he remains in bed all day he keeps in contact with his office and in the late afternoon has several officers, including Generals Gruenther and Moran, in.

The general's Flying Fortress is to leave Oujda tomorrow for the Algiers conference. It will carry Generals Patton, who is flying up from Casablanca, and Lee, head of the Service of Supply who is in the African theater from the United Kingdom; Colonels Lewis and Beam, artillery and air support section heads of the Fifth Army, and Captain Grindle, British naval liaison officer to the Fifth Army. Oujda will turn into a Mecca tomorrow as four generals--Major Generals Patton and Lee and Brigadier Generals Larkin and Wilson--fly here for conferences with General Clark. By nightfall, General Clark is quite chipper again and is planning on returning to his office at least briefly tomorrow.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 13, 1943--Oujda becomes like Mecca today as four generals call on General Clark. The Fifth Army Commander, still weak from his illness, goes to his office in mid-morning. He decides that he will not go east for the special conference that American and British officers will attend next week in Tripoli. Generals Patton and Lee and Colonels Lewis and Beam will attend the conference and report back to General Clark. This conference is going to outline the lessons that the British Eighth Army learned while it was fighting Rommel's forces in Libya and Tripolitania.

Conferences concerning conduct of the war against the Axis in Africa are now being held in Constantine where General Alexander, deputy commander-in-chief under General Eisenhower, is establishing his new headquarters.

Generals Patton and Lee, who were to have flown to Tripoli with General Clark, confer with the Fifth Army commander on the pending conference. Two other points, in addition to the conference discussion, are disposed of at the Clark-Patton-Lee meeting. There have been reports that Brigadier General Wilbur has had an unauthorized interview with El Glaoui, the Pasha of Marrakech. Patton declares that this is not true and General Clark agrees to straighten the record on it. Patton also asks that not all tanks be taken away from his Western Morocco region for use at the front. He requests that he be allowed to retain 15 of them. Lee, head of SOS, ETOUSA, is going to the Tripoli conference to learn of supply problems that the British Army faced in its 1100 mile drive.

Following their conference with General Clark, Patton, Lee, Lewis and Beam, accompanied by Captain Grindle, the British Navy officer who is going to Algiers to undertake special planning work, take off in the general's Flying Fortress.

The two other generals conferring today with General Clark are Brigadier Generals Larkin and Wilson, heads of MBS and ABS, respectively. A Service of Supply for NATOUSA is being organized and it is probable that Larkin will head it. The question of Larkin's successor at Oran is discussed and in all likelihood the post will go to Larkin's Chief of Staff, Colonel Edmund H. Leavy. General Wilson discusses a personal matter with General Clark. He wants the general's advice on whether he should take a job with NATOUSA at Algiers or remain as head of the Atlantic Base Section. General Clark tells him to stay at MBS and that he will try to get command of a division for Wilson.

General Clark returns to his villa at 4 PM and, after resting, spends the evening with Lieut. Col. Bruce and Major Ball. Patrol activity only, coupled with air bombardment, is occurring along the front. The only unusual activity was a raid on the Gafsa area by U.S. Rangers who captured or killed 35 Italians while losing only one of their men. Rain has again mired down the northern sector. Both sides are building up troops in the areas immediately behind the lines and the showdown fight is coming to a head now that the Allied command has been settled and the French North Africa forces are correlating plans with the British Eighth Army.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 14, 1943--General Lemnitzer, General Clark's Deputy Chief of Staff, relinquishes his position today so he can move to the Constantine area to take active command of the 34th Coast Artillery Brigade (anti-aircraft).

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General Lemnitzer will be succeeded by Colonel Adcock who has been Fifth Army G-4. Adcock's successor has not yet been selected.

General Clark goes to his office on the regular schedule this morning and he is feeling himself again. During the morning he confers with Generals Gruenther and Lemnitzer and Colonels Adcock and Robinson (Fifth Army Anti-Aircraft officer) concerning anti-aircraft protection of the Oujda area, movement of the 34th Brigade to Constantine and the change in staff necessitated by Lemnitzer's departure. A great part of the morning, however, is taken to dispose of papers that piled up during his illness. He calls in various officers for consultation.

In the afternoon, General Clark, accompanied by Col. Bruce and Captain Roberts and two nurses that the general takes along so they can get out of Oujda and see the surrounding country, makes a reconnaissance of the deep gorge connecting Tafouralt and Berkane, both northwest of Oujda. The trip, through rugged, beautiful country and over narrow, twisting roads, takes the greater part of the afternoon. In the evening the general attends a farewell party for General Lemnitzer. The husky, quiet officer who is leaving has been close to General Clark since days back at the Army War College. Lemnitzer is a member of the close-knit five-man expedition that came to Africa last October to pave the way for the successful execution of TORCH. General Clark hates to see "Lem" go but the big Brigadier has been chaffing to get into the field with troops.

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The following cable has been sent to General Eisenhower concerning his promotion to a full generalcy and his taking command of the entire African theater: "The officers and men of the Fifth Army rejoice in the news of your well deserved promotion to the grade of General. They join me in extending sincerest congratulations. We are proud to have the opportunity of serving under your able leadership.

Clark."

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Oujda, FEBRUARY 15, 1943--Today is a day of diverse activity for General Clark as he addresses Military Police officers who have just arrived in Oujda with an MP company, confers with Colonel Carruth who has come over to make an engineering inspection for the Army Ground Forces, decides to finally let the French in partially on Backbone plans, releases prisoners from the guard house and inspects virtually all installations in the Oujda area.

The general tells the MP officers that they and their men must set a high disciplinary standard for the Fifth Army headquarters area. "Your MPs," says the general, "must set a high standard for courtesy. They must not be a gestapo. Morale and the entire feeling and appearance of an area rests to a great extent on the conduct of the military police. I want your men and your camp to be models that other troops will try and emulate. To give the MPs and esprit de corps, the general has ordered that they will wear pure white helmets, white leggings and white gloves. The men are already on posts all over town and they look splendid. The general gives the MP officers advice on how to police the area. A 10 PM curfew has been set for Oujda.

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Col Carruth, Engineer of the 2nd Army, comes to General Clark's Office with Colonel Adcock, the new Deputy Chief of Staff of the Fifth Army. He is making a survey of conditions and problems in Arica and he confers lengthily with General Clark and Adcock.

Believing that the time is ripe and that the French should be brought in on Backbone plans as far as possible, General Clark sends a radio to General Eisenhower asking confirmation of his decision to bring the matter up with French General Juin who is to call at Fifth Army headquarters on February 20. French units would be used primarily to guard lines of communication should the advance into Spanish Morocco be necessary. If insufficient American troops were available should Backbone go into effect, special French units would join the U.S. troops on the front lines.

A proposal that General Clark made in Algiers last December is beginning to bear fruit. General Gomez of Brazil is to come to North Africa in response to the general's idea that Latin American countries put a token force in this theater. Mexican army officials are also planning a reconnaissance trip. Formation of Service of Supply, NATOUSA, is announced today and Brigadier General Larkin is to command with Colonel Ford as his Chief of Staff. Ford is being released as Ordnance Officer of the Fifth Army and Colonel Urban Niblo, who was General Clark's Ordnance Officer when he commanded the II Army Corps in England is to be the new Fifth Army Ordnance chief. Succeeding Larkin as commanding general of the Mediterranean Base Section is Colonel Ed Heavey. Another development of the day is that movement of the 9th Infantry Division, commanding by General Eddy and which is part of the Fifth Army, has completed movement from the Port Lyautay area to the Oran-Tlemcen region.

During the afternoon General Clark makes a thorough inspection of all troops and areas in the Oujda region. He is accompanied by Lieut. Colonel Smith, headquarters commandant. The Fifth Army commander makes innumerable recommendations--oiling of roads that are already becoming dusty as the days become hotter and drier, landscaping improvements for various areas, taking over for use by the MP company of certain small houses just being completed, obtaining more sandbags for the slit trenches that have been dug in case of air raids.

Checking on the guard house in the headquarters company area, General Clark goes over the confinement records of four men and orders that they be brought to his office. He interviews each one separately and then orders that the remainder of their sentences be suspended. "It is my belief," says the general, "that a confined man is useless and that unless his crime is too great he should be released so he can do his part. Confinement of men on more or less minor offenses means a great loss of man hours and every man hour is important in an active theater." In the evening, following his practice of having his headquarters officers to his villa informally, General Clark has Colonels Barker and Micklewaite, his Chemical and Judge Advocate officers, to his home for dinner. The general plans to fly to Guercif tomorrow in a Piper Cub to inspect 30th Infantry regiment units in that area.

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OUJDA-GUERCIF-TAOURIRT-OUJDA, FEBRUARY 16, 1943--General Clark's Chief of Staff, General Gruenther, becomes a Major General; the Commanding General of the Fifth Army visits units of the 30th Infantry regiment in the Guercif-Taourirt region; the Germans make an 18-mile deep break-through in front of Sbeitla but by nightfall they have been driven back eight miles. These are the major happenings of the day.

Following early morning conferences with Mr. Schott, new U.S. consul to Oran, and with Colonel Ford who is going to Algiers to undertake his new job, General Clark takes off from the old Oujda airport at 9:23 AM in a Piper Cub artillery observation plane. He arrives at Guercif in an hour and 20 minutes and is met by Colonel Rogers, commander of the 30th. With Colonel Rogers and Lieut. Col. Bernard, commanding the battalion in the Guercif area, General Clark tours the battalion area in a jeep. One case of typhus has been reported in the Guercif area and medical officers are working on the case and planning a de-lousing program for fear the highly communicable disease will spread to American troops. Brigadier General Simone, commander of French troops in the Guercif sub-division area, and two of his staff officers also accompany the Fifth Army general on his inspection tour. General Clark finds that the American troops are well set up except for entertainment and he decides to order a projector and film to Guercif as soon as he returns to Oujda.

General Clark is the luncheon guest of Colonel Rogers and French officials of the region, including General Simone, are also invited. Following luncheon, the Fifth Army commander reviews a small detachment of French troops. At 1:10 PM, the general takes off for Taourirt and lands there at 1:45. Another battalion of the 30th, less one company that is in training at the Invasion Training Center, is encamped around Taourirt and Col. Dahlman, commander of this battalion, conducts General Clark on a tour of the bivouac areas. The general then takes off for Oujda in the "puddle jumper" plane and arrives there at 4:42 PM.

The German break-through was made in the center of the Southern Sector by about 30 tanks. Some of our artillery positions were overrun. Reconnaissance shows about 70 tanks in reserve and the Germans, apparently in a feinting movement, have about 70 vehicles moving toward Gafsa. By nightfall, American troops in the region have the situation under control and they have driven the Axis forces back eight miles.

Notification comes through that General Gruenther's promotion to a major generalcy has been approved by the senate so General Clark has a small congratulatory party at his villa at 6:00 PM. While many of the Fifth Army Staff officers look on, General Clark pins the second star on his Chief of Staff saying: "It's a real pleasure to put this on you, Al, and I hope I will be putting stars on some of these other officers before long." The general then has Colonel Howard and Majors Balls and Meacham for dinner.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 17, 1943--The Axis has launched a sizable drive in the southern sector, bulging their front to include Gafsa. For the first time since the Tunisian campaign started, the line is radically changed as the Germans and Italians send tanks, motorized equipment and dive bombers against American troops around Gafsa. The enemy is also occupying Sidi Bou Zid, northeast of Gafsa, threatening Sbeitla and the strategic Thelepte airfield near Feriana.

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This development causes General Clark great concern, particularly in view of predictions he made over two months ago and because of his request--declined by the War Department--to take command of the southern sector and strike before the Axis could get troops into position or before Rommel could back his way into Tunisia to join his harrassed forces with those of Von Arnim.

"For a long time," the general says, "I had predicted that Rommel would attempt to make a juncture with Axis forces in Tunisia. I began to worry about it early last December while Rommel was retreating before the British Eighth Army in Libya. It was constantly and habitually assumed by G-2 at Allied Force Headquarters in Algiers that Rommel was incapable of making such a long retreat and an effective fusing of his forces with those in Tunisia. I couldn't understand why Mockler-Ferryman (G-2, AFHQ) figured this was impossible and he said Rommel lacked sufficient transportation and gasoline.

"What was apparent to me and what I predicted has happened. Rommel has joined his forces and the fight now is going to be long and hard.

"You will also recall my lone campaign to get American troops out of the northern sector, where they were under British command, and into the southern sector under a consolidated American command. This was finally done and I proposed that our units be gathered under one command and made ready to drive a wedge into the Gabes-Sfax area to prevent just the thing that has happened. I asked to take that command. After much discussion with "Ike" (General Eisenhower) he made such a request to the War Department. It was turned down because the command was not big enough for an Army and because of the job that might have to be done along the Spanish Morocco border. As a result, as you will recall, the II Corps was assigned to the task and General Fredendall took over the planning of "Satin," the proposed southern sector drive.

"Logistics experts said the road and railroad in the southern region wouldn't support the plan I had in mind. They said all that could be supported was the 1st Armored Division and one regimental combat team plus some service units; that that was all the Constantine-Tebessa railroad could stand. I told Ike I could put five times that number of troops in there and support them. I had gone to the region. I had studied the situation. I knew it could be done. Now it has been done.

"The force assembled under the II Army Corps was to have started a drive on Gabes by January 20. It was all set to go and then it was called off. This decision, I understand, was reached at a conference held between Generals Alexander and Eisenhower. Alexander, I am told, urged that the attack be delayed so a drive by the American force and the Eighth Army could be coordinated. While we were getting set for this, Rommel did what I predicted he would--he got his forces out of Tripolitania and into Southern Tunisia and he consolidated his position.

"The Germans now have taken Gafsa. They are attacking to take all the high ground and they are getting the key terrain. They have pushed in at Faid and Sidi Bou Zid. They have a strong defensive line and they have a key airport at Gafsa that can be a formidable threat to our flank. We will push them out but we are going to have to do it the hard way and at a great cost in lives and equipment.

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"If we had attacked on January 20 we could have pushed our forces--if we had used everything at hand--all the way to Gabes. Then we could have blocked the Gabes corridor and prevented Rommel from joining his forces with those in Tunisia; could have prevented the very thing that is happening now.

"We had many artillery positions overrun yesterday and we lost a lot of men and guns. The result is that the 9th Division Artillery is now being moved to the front under forced march. Dive bombing at the front has been particularly heavy and we have to find the solution to that if we are to take the initiative."

Weather interferes with the general's planned schedule today. There is a slight coating of snow on the ground at dawn and during the day there is a fine, cold, penetrating rain. John Jay Mc Cloy, an assistant Secretary of War, was scheduled to arrive at Fifth Army headquarters during the afternoon but all planes, both incoming and outgoing, are grounded. One of the general's callers is Colonel Henderson of the 4th Motorized Division who is touring North Africa as an Army Ground Force observer. The main conference of the day is with General Gruenther, Colonel Adcock and Col. Robinson (Fifth Army Anti-Aircraft officer). With General Clark they go over revised Backbone plans. Because of the movement of the 9th Division and the likelihood of further troops being drawn out of the Fifth Army area, French troops will have to play a more important role in the operation if it has to be executed. General Clark places a long distance call to Major General Harmon, commanding the 2nd Armored Division, and orders him here from the Rabat region for conference tomorrow. In late afternoon General Dawley arrives at Fifth Army headquarters and confers with General Clark before heading back to his new VI Corps headquarters between Tlemcen and Oran.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 18, 1943--The Axis drive in the Southern Sector continues on a large scale and by night we have lost Sbeitla, Feriana and the splendid natural airport at Thelepte, and Kasserine. American troops, who were to have anchored in a defense line in the low range of hills running roughly from Feriana and the south, through Sbeitla, and then toward Pichon, are unable to dig in so they back up to the higher range running behind Kasserine.

Early morning reports are that we have lost 108 tanks but a revised report later in the day sets the figure at about 150. This is a tremendous loss and General Clark is extremely worried. The only compensation is that the British Eighth Army is moving forward toward the Tunisian-Tripolitanian border, having taken Ben Gardane, in Tunisia, and driving toward Medinine. Rommel apparently is getting elbow room in Southern Tunisia, withdrawing his troops northward for a probable stand against the British Eighth Army in the Gabes corridor, a 15 mile wide area flanked by the sea on the east and a tremendous marsh area on the west.

In mid-afternoon reports come in that British-operated Sherman tanks have been thrown in with the 1st Armored Division. French troops are also being mixed in. The 34th Division is half attached to the II Corps and half with the French. The situation is pretty snarled.

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General Clark is "very much worried" about the situation in Southern Tunisia, "particularly about this inter-mingling of units." He declares that it can "well foretell disaster." "It has always been the theory--and I have hammered and preached it--that our units must be kept intact so they can fight as they have been trained to fight, as a coordinated team. When we mix up our units and when we keep them fighting as battalions or even smaller, they are not capable of self-sustainment or of coordinated action. There is a very close comparison between one of our fighting units and a football team. You can't throw in a British "tackle" or a French "end" and expect him to know the signals or even play the game the way you play it. Inter-mingling of units could be fateful."

Because of the situation at the front, General Juin cancels his scheduled conference here Saturday with General Clark. Weather conditions--heavy and continuous rain--cancel two other planned conferences of the general: one with Assistant Secretary of War Mc Cloy and the other with Major General Harmon. Work of the Fifth Army during this front line crisis is concentrated on alerting units under its control for rapid movement to the front. Replacements in men and materiel must be rushed up. Artillery of the 9th Division is already underway and the demand today is for more self-propelled 105 mm howitzers.

Unless some unforeseen thing rises, General Clark now plans to leave Oujda on February 23 on a trip that will take him to conferences with General Nogues and the Sultan of Morocco at Rabat, with Generals Patton and Wilson at Casablanca and on to Marrakech to look over the possibility of making that his headquarters for a proposed command post exercise.

Outline plans for Backbone are buttoned up today as General Clark goes over the draft with General Gruenther and Colonels Adcock and Robinson. Another conference is held with Colonel Howard, Fifth Army G-2, concerning counter intelligence corps work and Lieut. Col. Parsons, head of CIC for the Fifth Army, and four of his officers, two in uniform and two in civilian clothes, talk this phase of intelligence work over with the general. General Clark receives good personal news today, being informed by letter that his old boss at Army Ground Forces in Washington--General McNair--is coming to Africa on an inspection trip. In the evening the general relaxes by playing ping pong with members of his staff and then has Col. Sullivan, his Quartermaster, as his dinner guest.

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Oujda, FEBRUARY 19, 1943--The situation at the front improves today but it still is cause for great concern. The Axis is consolidating its position and we are digging in along the arc of hills behind Feriana-Kasserine-Sbeitla. The enemy tries two feelers; fails in both. One is an attack in the Pichon area but it is repulsed. The second is a drive by 20 to 30 German tanks against the pass leading from Kasserine to Tebessa but the Germans are driven off.

General Clark spends much anxious time going over the situation reports and consulting the large maps on his office walls. The defensive position taken by the American-French-British troops is strong. However, the southwest end of the line is in flat plain country and Rommel, if he doesn't have to leave too much behind to protect the Gabes corridor from the advance of the Eighth Army may try to encircle the southwest end of the line. General Clark

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believes that the Eighth Army "will save the day." It is on the move toward the corridor and a tremendous battle undoubtedly will take place there. The general situation is still very dangerous. General Clark receives a report from the II Corps on men and materiel losses and they are high, particularly in the vital Medium tanks.

In late afternoon, despite continued bad weather, General Patton, Vice Admiral Kirk and General Clark's three Fifth Army officers--Colonels Lewis, Beam and Kammerer return from Tripoli where they attended the conference on lessons learned in fighting Rommel's Afrika Korps. General Clark confers with General Patton and Admiral Kirk and then dines with them at General Gruenther's villa. Patton and Kirk remain overnight at General Clark's villa.

The Spanish Consul in Oujda, the Marquis of Orelleana Vieja, calls on General Clark and as a result the consul, who is going to Spanish Morocco, is going to arrange a meeting somewhere near the French-Spanish Morocco border between General Clark and General Orgaz, top-ranking General in Spanish Morocco.

The general also prepares today for two eventualities--his going to the front and the possibility that at least part of the summer will be spent in this region. Regarding the first, he is having an armored scout car rigged up with special seats and guns so he can go right to the front lines if necessary; on the second, he orders a reconnaissance made of the mountainous area between Oran and Oujda so that troops can be moved to a cooler region if necessary.

It is of interest to record in this record that of the 85 graduates of General Clark's class at West Point (1917) who have remained in the army to date, at least 32 are now general officers. At least 21, and probably more since all the "makes" are not up to date, are brigadier generals; 10 are major general, and one, General Clark, is a lieutenant general. It is also unusual that General Clark, youngest man in his class, was the second member of the 1917 group to become a brigadier general; the first to become a major general; and the only one, to date, who is a lieutenant general. At the Point, General Clark finished in approximately the middle of his class.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 20, 1943--The Assistant Secretary of War, John J. Mc Cloy, arrives at Fifth Army Headquarters today and, after lunching with General Clark at his villa, he reviews, in company with General Clark, two platoons of infantry that have been drawn up as a guard of honor in the school courtyard just outside General Clark's office. Rain, which has been falling for the past three days, is pelting down but Mr. Mc Cloy makes a very thorough inspection.

Following a long conference in the commanding general's office, during which Mr. Mc Cloy introduces members of the staff that accompanied him to North Africa on a survey trip for Secretary of War, General Clark and the Assistant Secretary of War go to a seminar at which officers recapitulate what they learned at the Eighth Army conference in Tripoli.

Colonel Kammerer, General Clark's G-3, gives an over-all view of the conference to which the Fifth Army officers flew in a Flying Fortress. He says the reaction of the Italians in Tripolitania to British entry has been passive; that German efforts to block the harbor were only partially successful and that 3,000 tons of cargo are being unloaded at Tripoli daily. General

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Montgomery impressed the American officers and Kammerer outlines the British general's theories. (Note how many coincide with those of General Clark). 1--There must be a concentration of effort in any operation...never break units down to less than a division; 2--In executing offensives always keep the enemy moving...never let him slow you down between his strong points; 3--Cooperation between ground and air units is vital...air power tops the list in explaining the success of driving Rommel 1,400 miles in 13 weeks; 4--Morale: troops must have confidence in all subordinates and they must know that it is our theory never to extend a force beyond its capabilities; 5--I am against all paper work...give oral orders only unless a written order is absolutely necessary; 6--Operate with a firm base, or, in other words, a good reservesince it inspires the confidence that is necessary among front line troops; 7--Replacements: don't send them in by dribbles...I never substitute less than an entire brigade...pull the old outfit back and put the replacements in behind the lines; 8--Every army should be composed of 50 percent infantry troops who "know how to kill in the moonlight;" 9--Mines are a weapon rather than an obstacle...we will find the road to Berlin saturated with mines.

During the Tripoli conference, which lasted three days, various units showed by map and sandtable what they did in various operations. They showed, to officers from the Fifth Army, NATOUSA, British First Army, AFHQ and subordinate units the lessons they learned in one of the fastest military drives in history.

Following Kammerer's talk, Colonel Beam, Fifth Army's XIIth Air Support Command chief, explains how the Royal Air Force operated in conjunction with the desert drive. Three weeks prior to October 23, when the offensive started, the air force concentrated on wrecking axis supplies. They bombed ports; they shot up motor convoys and trains. Then, three days prior to the attack, the air force, concentrating its punch, made terrific drives--sometimes with up to 1,000 sorties in a day--against Axis airdromes with the result that by October 23 there was little German air opposition. The final day before the attack no Axis planes were allowed to cross into the territory where everything was being assembled for the 9:40 PM zero hour. Planes also kept up night patrols over the enemy areas with the result that the Afrika Korps got little sleep in the 72 hours prior to the attack. The Eighth Army drive proved that air strength will not replace ground strength but that it extends, widens and adds punch to the offensive effort. Once the drive was underway, ground troops prepared rude airdromes and then engineers came up to improve on them. Montgomery followed one air-ground rule. He would not let his troops advance beyond their air cover. When his air units moved forward, then his ground forces could move again. Also, he never tried a mission that his air and ground forces couldn't accomplish as a team. With effective air-ground contact, Montgomery made the final decisions on what missions the air would undertake. "There can't be two captains on one team," explains Beam. "Montgomery commanded both air and ground as he had to. Another air-ground theory of the Eighth Army is mass your aviation where it will do the most good. Don't dissipate it in a lot of little missions.

The crucial phase of the Eighth Army attack--that of cracking the El Alamein line between the Quattara Depression on the South and the Mediterranean on the North--is explained by Lt. Col. Hansborough of the Fifth Army Artillery Section. Artillery had to punch the hole through the strongly fortified, strongly held line so that infantry and armored units could pour

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through to develop the situation and start backing the Axis force up. The Eighth Army had 408 25-pounders and 48 medium guns for the artillery operations on the Northern Flank where the attack was to be made. At 9:40 PM all the guns opened up with a concentration of fire on spots that had been selected and ranged through reports from patrols and through use of aerial photographs. After this concentration of fire, a rolling barrage covering 4,000 yards was started. There was one gun for each 27 yards of front. Because the terrain was without landmarks, the artillery was also used to guide troops, concentrations of fire being laid down at points where the troops were to start their advance and where they were to send it. Bofor guns, shooting their familiar orange balls, were used as "sidelines" so the troops knew where their flanks were. On the first 24 hours of the attack, from 9:40 PM October 23 to 9:40 PM October 24, the artillery laid down a total of 3,328 tons of shells. This did not include bombs dropped by planes on special objectives. During the next week during mop-up and consolidation of position, the artillery fire was lighter but during the 24 hours of November 2/3, when the final break through was made, 2,184 tons of shells were fired by the artillery. This operation proved several theories of the Eighth Army. 1--The importance of the centralized control of artillery; in this case, through each Corps Commander; 2--concentration of fire on specific targets by divisions and regiments; 3--that the reports of patrols cannot be depended upon unless they are verified by aerial photography; 4--the advantages of using time fuzes to inflict heavy casualties in enemy trenches.

Following the reports by the three officers, General Clark addresses the packed assembly room. "Reports of this kind," says the general, "will help to get us better prepared to take our place at the battlefield when the time comes. This attack by the Eighth Army was timed with the opening of our North African attack on November 8. I remember being at Chequers visiting the Prime Minister with General Eisenhower when Mr. Churchill received word from General Alexander that he could not open the Middle East drive until October 23/24. The Prime Minister didn't want to wait that long but General Eisenhower and I said we thought that timing was about right. We felt that the offensive would be rolling about right about the time we came ashore in Africa and that it would influence considerably the feeling of neutral countries.

"How well I remember the first time I saw General Montgomery. General Eisenhower and I had gone to the United Kingdom on a special tour last June and we went to an army training problem that General Montgomery was conducting. We were in his headquarters and, when General Eisenhower lighted a cigarette, I noted a change in Montgomery's manner. I was told later that that was the first time a junior officer had ever smoked in Montgomery's presence. Later I heard this story about Montgomery and smoking. A lieutenant colonel was riding with Montgomery in his car and pulled out a cigarette. Tapping it on his case, the colonel turned to Montgomery and said: "Do you mind if I smoke, sir." Montgomery looked at him coldly and said; "Certainly not..." The colonel lighted a match and almost had it to the tip of the cigarette when Montgomery shouted: "BUT NOT IN HERE!!"

Turning to Mr. Mc Cloy who is sitting in the front row of the assembly room, General Clark explains that his Fifth Army is six weeks old today, that it is being built up and developed so it can be ready for action on any front. Mc Cloy then responds that he is in North Africa "to glean information so I can go back and give you further support."

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The seminar lasts almost two hours. General Clark then asks section heads and principal officers to his villa where a reception is held in honor of Mr. Mc Cloy. Afterward Mc Cloy is General Clark's dinner guest and remains overnight at the general's villa. In the evening they talk over details of the negotiations General Clark conducted with Admiral Darlan and Mc Cloy requests a full report for the War Department records covering from the time the General first met with Darlan in Algiers until the Admiral's assassination on Christmas Eve, 1942. Mr. Mc Cloy and the general also go over the situation on the Southern Front. We are holding now along the line given yesterday.

General Clark receives a personal letter from General Eisenhower today and it says, in part: "...You can't realize how deeply I appreciated the message of the Fifth Army (concerning his promotion to full general) and even more how happy I was to receive your pencil written note..."

"There are things I have told you several times verbally and which I now want to put in writing in an effort to make sure that you can never let any doubt enter your mind on this particular score. It is that never for one second have you lost an atom of the great confidence I have always placed in you, nor has there ever been any diminution in the deep feeling of friendship I have held for you for so many years.

"You will never know how close I came within the past few days when the pressure on me was very, very drastic indeed to call upon you once more to come and help out when I found it impossible to be in three distinct places at once. There is no one on whom I depend more nor to whom I look with greater confidence to render great services to our cause in this war.

"I earnestly hope that you will take this letter literally and without any mental reservations. Nothing would be a greater tragedy to me than to come to believe that the close feeling of partnership with you, that I have so long depended upon, could be weakened in any slightest respect.

As Ever,
(signed) Ike.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 21, 1943--Following a reconnaissance of Fifth Army headquarters with General Clark, Mr. Mc Cloy and his party depart for Oran and an inspection of the Mediterranean Base Section, leaving Oujda in mid-morning.

On the Central-Southern front the Axis has tried to push again but only one slight penetration is made--slightly up the Kasserine pass, just northwest of Kasserine. The situation is still grave but reinforcements of men and guns are arriving at the front and things don't look too pessimistic. Part of the 168th Regimental Combat Team is isolated just east of Sidi Bou Zid, completely cut off from the rest of the Allied Forces. This force, led by Colonel Drake, is reportedly running short on water, food and ammunition. It is 35 miles inside the German lines! General Clark spends much time in front of the maps and charts in his room, figuring moves, checking on the supply of troops. He is peripatetic throughout the day, going over to the Chief of Staff's office, checking in at various G-sections. In the afternoon he goes for a long hike with General Blesse, Fifth Army Medical officer. In the evening he dines at his villa with Generals Gruenther, Blesse and Moran.

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OUJDA, FEBRUARY 22, 1943--The snarled situation on the Tunisian front, with the Germans having now made a tremendous bulge in the central-south section of the line until it includes Gafsa, Sbeitla, Kasserine and now threatening Tabessa itself, worries General Clark incessantly.

"I am much disturbed, and have been for some time," explains the General, "about the situation at the front. It is absolutely apparent that there is a horrible mixture of American, British and French units in all three corps of the British First Army. It now begins to look like a war of detachments. American troops are all mixed in with soldiers of the British and French armies. This is absolutely contrary to our tactical doctrines, to the very foundation on which our army is built.

"We teach and we depend upon divisions as the smallest independent unit of combined arms, the smallest unit capable of fighting an independent action. All our training has been to fight each division as a team. It has always been stressed that it should not be used raggedly and haphazardly in piecemeal attacks, in piecemeal commitments to action. On the Tunisian front now we have separate regiments in which the American, British and French are all mixed up.

"By this action, I feel that we may have lost all opportunity for offensive action and it is my increasing belief that there will only be one result: there will be one hell of a bloody struggle before we throw the Germans and Italians out of Tunisia.

"As this thing develops I see that Rommel is going to be able to block for some time the advance of the British Eighth Army from the south. With all our troops mixed up in the central region, with the losses we have incurred in materiel and men, we will be unable for some time to launch an offensive with the power needed to clear Tunisia.

"General Eisenhower is going to have to move more troops to the front. With the situation as precarious as it is up there, he can't afford to leave troops back here in French Morocco and Western Algeria. He's got to decide whether the Spanish Moroccan situation back here is going to blow up or whether he must move almost all he's got up to Tunisia. Ike has got to take a chance and he's going to do it. I believe the 3rd Division and other fighting units back here will be moved up. Such a move will make further planning on the Spanish Moroccan situation useless. The status of the Fifth Army as a planning and training unit, and its employment against Spanish Morocco if necessary, won't mean anything. It will be worthless.

"Things couldn't be in a worse mess than they are now. I feel, and I have always felt, that the command setup and the haphazard use of troops on the Tunisian front has never been right. I've said so often, preached it so often--the American Army represented on the Tunisian front must contain only American troops under American command!"

General Clark explains that his new Ordnance Officer, Colonel Niblo, who reports in today from the front where he was Ordnance Officer with the II Corps, has told him that the 168th Regimental Combat Team (American) was cut off without ammunition, food or water near Sidi Bou Zid and that he (Niblo) personally heard General Fredendall issue orders for the 168th to surrender. This combat team, which should be a distinct fighting unit, had a lot of hit and miss units attached to it, Niblo reports.

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General Clark is staggered by the "surrender" order. "I will never issue orders to surrender," declares the Fifth Army Commander.

Newspaper clippings that the general has received show that inaccurate reporting back in the States has, in at least one instance, placed General Clark's Fifth American Army "within 300 miles of General Montgomery" of the British Eighth Army. This disturbs the general greatly since it leads to the impression that he is directing fighting on the Central Tunisian front.

"After having asked to command that sector," General Clark says, "I have always felt a little bitter that our Fifth Army front and sphere of action couldn't be a positive thing; that we couldn't be up front." General Clark believes that one of the reasons for General Eisenhower's letter of two days ago was that the Commander-in-Chief knew how General Clark must feel, being back here organizing an army--seeing more and more army units detached and moved to the front--and not getting any of it into action under his command.

A new command system has been set up and it gives General Alexander tactical command at the front. The Britisher is directing from a newly organized 18th Army Group headquarters at Constantine. Of the long list of officers in this new command setup, only three are American: General Eisenhower as Commander-in-Chief; General Spaatz, holding a down-the-list air command, and General Fredendall, commanding the II Corps. The setup is very predominately British.

The Axis makes slightly deeper penetrations today, taking Kasserine Pass and fanning out into the valley. There has been some fighting around Thala. The 9th U. S. Division has set up its command post near Tebessa and it is scheduled to relieve the 1st Division. General Clark has many conferences during the day, most of them concerned with the movement of troops to the front. The number of troops directly under the Fifth Army is decreasing each day.

General Clark is scheduled to leave early tomorrow on a three or four day trip to the West. First he will go to Rabat to confer with General Nogues and meet the Sultan of Morocco; then he will go to Casablanca for conferences with Generals Patton and Wilson, then he will fly south to Marrakech to look over the site for possible use in conducting a Command Post Exercise next week.

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Oujda-Rabat-Casablanca, February 23, 1943--General Clark departs from Oujda at 9:00 AM in his Flying Fortress for an inspection and good will tour that has been arranged by his Civil Affairs section and the staff of French General Nogues. On the first leg of the trip he is accompanied by Generals Gruenther and Beucler, Colonels Saltzman and Herckel, Major Ball and Sergeant Chaney.

At 16:45, General Clark is met at Sale airport by a guard of honor consisting of 13 scout cars and motorcycle escorts of the 82nd Reconnaissance Battalion and a band, all from the Second Armored Division. Lined up to receive the General are: American generals Patton, Keyes, Campbell, Kingman and Wilbur; French General Nogues; his Commandant of Troops, General Lascroux;

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the head of his Military Cabinet, Colonel Fiette; Deleque, ~~V. de la~~ Residence Meyer; the Permanent Secretary of National Defense, Commandant Moraillon, and Captain Blanckaert, Nogues' aide. After greetings are exchanged, ruffles and flourishes are given by the band, the Star Spangled Banner and Marseilles played, and the guard of honor inspected by General Clark accompanied by Generals Patton and Nogues.

The entire party then proceeds to Rabat and the residence of the Resident General Nogues of French Morocco. As the convoy passes the square, a guard of mounted Spahis is picked up, lending a colorful contrast to the drab paint of the armored scout cars. At the entrance to the residence a Moroccan drum and bugle corps greets the party as it proceeds up the broad stairs to the main entrance.

The stairs and approach to the main hall are lined with native troops in flowing red uniforms, turbans and bright sashes, all with muskets at present arms. General Clark is received by General Nogues in the drawing room of the residence where he and various members of the party confer informally. General Clark is concerned with frequent references made to the seriousness of the Spanish situation.

At 11:00 the party leaves the residence for the Sultan's Palace and enroute drives past amazing contrasts of modern buildings and ancient ruins, evidence of the civilization existing here long before the time of Christ. Outside the wall which surrounds the Sultan's Palace and courtyard are guards of native troops which lined the approach to the Moroccan Gateway. Inside the wall is a large quadrangle or mechouar, an open field approximately 1/2 mile square, with the slaves' quarters on one side and a private mosque where the Sultan goes to pray each Friday and a private school for his children with the impressive background of the Sultan's Palace dominating the scene on the other.

As General Nogues and General Clark approach the entrance to the palace, the way is flanked by guards of mounted Spahis in their colorful red, white and blue uniforms on splendid Arabian horses grouped according to color - brown, black and dapple gray. Nearest to the entrance are the Sultan's Own Guard, Noir Lancers, presenting the most colorful appearance of all with their beautiful horses and lances decorated with streamers of red, white and green, indicating their organization. The entire personnel of this guard are either slaves or descendants of slaves of the Sultan. Each has a large silver ring in his right ear.

In front of the gate is standing Si Mammeri, Chef de Protocol, or the Sultan's Secretary of State, in white robe smiling, friendly, ready to receive the two Generals. Just in front of the Secretary the two Generals salute as the Sultan's Own Guard Noir band plays first the Star Spangled Banner, then the Marseillaise and finally the Moroccan National Anthem. Si Mammeri then greets the Generals and their accompanying officers and conducts them through an interior court yard lined with servants of the palace dressed in their finest regalia. A large door is entered, and the party is conducted through oriental splendor, over beautiful carpets and past vast, elaborate pieces of furniture and finally upstairs to the presence of the Sultan.

The throne room is not large, but is a beautiful example of Moroccan architecture, with columns, Moorish arches and delicate Mosaics remindful of illustrations from childhood books of the "Arabian Nights". The Sultan, Sidi Mohamed Ben Moulay Youssef, stands to receive his guests in front of the throne. He is a medium, small, timid-appearing man, half smiling, about 35 years old, looking for all the world like an East Side New York second-hand clothes dealer badly in need of a

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shave and dressed up for a Halloween party. General Clark towers above him.

After all the officers have been received, the principal officers are seated on the left of the Sultan in large gilt chairs brilliantly upholstered. General Clark is first, then General Nogues, General Gruenther, General Lascroux and nine other ranking officers of the combined staffs. The lesser officers stand behind these chairs, facing towards the Sultan. Across the room, facing the visitors, are the members of the Sultan's cabinet. The Viziers, like the Counsellors, are on hand, all barefooted as they are not permitted to wear shoes in the presence of His Majesty.

Si Mammeri stands before the Sultan, facing General Clark, and will act as the Sultan's interpreter. General Clark calls for Colonel Saltzman to interpret for him. Si Mammeri appears to be about 65 years old, suave, courteous and smiling - an ideal interpreter with Colonel Saltzman an able counterpart.

General Clark expresses his appreciation for the splendid reception, for the honors given him and for the friendly reception the American troops have received in Morocco. He pays particular tribute to the Pacha of Oujde who he says he values as a good friend. He hopes for a furtherance of the friendly relationship between the Fifth Army and the Moroccans. The Sultan, smiling faintly, a nervous twitch to his shoulders and head while talking, the tips of his fingers first together then with hands clasped and in a pleasant mood, contrasted to his usual rather sullen attitude, replies, "The Americans have followed the path to the Moroccans hearts, and since that path has been followed, there can be no difficulties." General Clark pays tribute to General Nogues and to the high cooperation he has received from him and his staff. The Sultan speaks, and suave old Si Mammeri interprets, that the Sultan is aware of the firm bonds of friendship which have long existed between the French and the Americans and feels that soon, with the Moroccans, they will form an unbreakable trimvirate. It develops later that the Sultan had actually inferred that he held the Americans in higher esteem than the French, but his Secretary was too diplomatic to convey his exact words to the General in the presence of General Nogues and his staff.

As the audience ends, the Sultan motions for the interpreter to bring him the decoration which he is to confer upon General Clark. The Sultan steps down from his dais and the General steps before him. He leans far over as the little Sultan slips the sash over his shoulder and to pin on the medallion of the Grand Croix Louissam Alaouite which is the highest order and before whose members lions quake and foxes crawl in their holes. The visitors then pass by the Sultan, shaking his hand. Each backs from the room, stopping, standing at attention and bowing stiffly three times. The Viziers follow, replace their shoes at the top of the stairs, and accompany the visitors to the grounds of the palace. As the party leaves the doorway to the palace and starts across the inner court yard, led by General Clark, General Nogues and Si Mammeri, it is greeted by the thrilling strains of the Sultan's own Black Guard Lancers Band playing "The Yanks Are Coming." The party then proceeds back through the streets of Rabat to the Residence of the Resident General. It is preceded and followed by a mounted Spahi guard riding stiffly at attention.

Once again at the palace of the Resident General, the party proceeds past the welcoming band through the ranks of the native guards and into the foyer, where they are received by the General and Madame Nogues. After the informal reception, the guests gather in the beautiful patio which opens out onto a balcony overlooking the formal garden. U. S. Counsellor-General Doolittle of Rabat joins the group here.

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After cocktails, the guests are conducted to the banquet hall. Each of the forty guests is seated at his place in accordance to rank, with General Clark on the right of Madame Nogues and in the center of the table facing the salon. A delicious luncheon is served by native servants in the standard time of forty-five minutes, which is always the procedure at the palace. Afterwards, coffee and liquers are served upstairs and in Madame Nogues' living room which, from the balcony, overlooks the beautiful white city of Rabat with its minarets and mosques standing out in bold relief with the background of the blue Atlantic. It is related that the residence was built by Marshal Lyautey in 1924 and remains practically the same as it was during his regime. General Clark has numerous short conferences with various French officials, many of whom refer again to the seriousness of the Spanish situation. Apparently they are much more concerned about this than about the progress of the battle in Tunisia.

After the party leaves the residence at 2:00 P.M., an extensive tour is made of the modern city of Rabat. The tour ends in the old city, the Casbah des Oudaias, which dates from the early part of the 11th century. The party is met at the gate to the Casbah by the Pasha of Rabat Si Abderrhaman Mohamed Bargache and various Arabian notables. Another colorful Spahi guard flanks the entrance to a building set in the corner of the wall. Servants stand at the entrance with trays of dates and small bowls of sour milk in which fingers are dipped before taking the fruit.

After shaking hands with the assembly of Arabian notables, General Clark is conducted over heavy oriental rugs, which are laid especially for the occasion, and up into a tower which overlooks the historic river, Boure Greg, which separates the military city of Rabat and the seafaring town of Sale. On the right is the ancient Islamic College, which was the old Naval Academy of the Barbaric pirates.

After enjoying the view, the party goes through an ancient garden into the Cafe des Oudaias and out into a patio overlooking the river. Here was a small modernized Berber orchestra to greet the guests and play until it is time to leave. The various guests sit around the little courtyard relaxed in the warm sun and drink the ever-present Arabian mint tea, which is served on all occasions. After a few minutes, General Clark takes leave of General Nogues and, accompanied by General Lascroux and a few other staff officers, proceeds to the airport at Sale.

Once again, in the B-17 General Clark with Colonel Saltzman, Major Ball and Sergeant Chaney proceeds to Casablanca. General Gruenther returns to Oujda. At Casablanca the party is met by cars and taken to the villa shared by General Patton, General Keyes and other staff officers. Dinner is served informally and, after a short conference between General Clark and General Patton, the various members of the party proceed to bed.

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Casablanca-Marrakech, February 24, 1943 - After breakfast General Clark, Colonel Saltzman and Major Ball drive to visit the headquarters of the Atlantic Base Section. General Wilson is away, but General Clark talks with Colonel Tate and Colonel Barth concerning conditions in the Casablanca area and the progress of supplies and facilities for handling them. The General then returns by car to General Patton's villa, passing on the way the Anfa Hotel and the various villas which recently became historic by the meeting of Roosevelt and Churchill in Casablanca. General Clark proceeds to the 199th TD Battalion bivouac area. Lt. Col. Maxwell A. Tincher, commanding, is interviewed concerning his motor carriage 3" gun M-10 equipment which has just arrived and will soon be seeing action on the

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Tunisian front. A demonstration is made of its maneuverability, and the General thoroughly inspects the vehicle, its armament and gets first hand information concerning its operation.

General Clark then returns to the villa where he picks up Colonel Barth who will accompany him on an inspection of the docks and of the French battleship, Jean Bart. At the ship, the General is met by Admiral Barthes who accompanies him aboard where Admiral Ronarch receives him. The customary pipes are blown and ruffles and flourishes sounded. A complete tour of the ship is made. It is learned that the ship was struck by six shells and three or four bombs in the engagement which took place on the first day of our North African Operation. The General asks Admiral Ronarch if he fired back during the battle, and the Admiral replied, "Yes, with everything I had." The General inquires whether he was successful in hitting anything. The Admiral says he was not. General Clark replies: "That is too bad! You have my sympathy." The Admiral smiles wistfully and volubly expresses his thanks. After the inspection, the General returns to the villa where he meets Mr. Culbert and Colonel Saltzman and confers with them concerning civil and political affairs in North Africa. The General is emphatic that he does not want any situations to develop without his knowledge. He wants each problem listed, studied and analyzed --the problem of prisoners in the hands of the French, free masonry, the Jewish question, and all matters of that kind which are possible sources of trouble. He talks of the Spanish situation and relates his surprise that most of the concern of the French officers concerns possible trouble from there. He emphasizes again and again that he wants to be completely informed about all of these various situations so there won't be any danger of their blowing up unexpectedly.

After lunch the General and his party leave for the airport. Taking off at 2:20 again in the B-17, the party arrives at Marrakech airport at 3:00. As the plane circles the field, it is apparent that a large guard of honor is awaiting the general's arrival. Damaged hangar roofs and huge scrap piles filled with wreckage of French airplanes is evidence of the effectiveness of the six Navy dive bombers in action on November 8 and 9. The plane lands, and, after taxiing a few minutes, stops at what the pilot presumes is the proper place. The General and his party get out of the plane and find, to their amazement, that the pilot has been led up to an inconspicuous spot behind the hangar and far away from the reception party. The officers scramble back aboard the ship, the engines are started and the plane taxis over and down a lane made by French airplanes and to the proper place in front of the officers assembled to receive the General.

The imposing array of welcoming officers is headed by General Martin, Chef de la Region of Marrakech, his Adjutant, General le Diberder; the commandant of the field and various other staff officers. The guard of honor consists of a battalion of regular French troops, a company of Spahi guards and the regular guards of the airfield. After reviewing the guard, General Clark and General Martin proceed to a reviewing stand. The entire guard of honor marches by, led by the Spahi Band dressed in their traditional costumes of red, blue and white. After the review, the party drives into Marrakech.

The streets are lined with literally thousands of Arabs from the city and country who have come to pay honor to the American general and General Nogues who has rejoined the party. The main street is flanked by Spahis, Senegalese, Chasseurs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and school children, all of whom have turned out for the great occasion. In the most advantageous places, and in great numbers along both sides of the street, are "dolls" which consist of the finest dresses and clothing, brilliant shawls and capes draped over bamboo poles in the rough semblance of a

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human figure. Some actually have faces painted on clothes which protrude above the shoulders of the garments. These "dolls" are held high in the air by the slaves of the wealthy Arabs who in this way have their wives, who are never permitted to appear in public, represented. The richer the clothing, the more powerful and influential is the Arab whose wives are so represented.

At the gate of the ancient Casbah, the party dismounts and walks down through the Souks, or shopping area, which is a mass of small streets, narrow passages, lined on each side with little shops from which smiling Arabs display their wares. Everything imaginable is on display spices, herbs, meats in various forms of freshness and decay, jewels, silverware, tapestries, leather goods, rugs, pottery and everything for which Moroccan shops are famous. In the center of the Casbah, the General and his party are greeted by the Head of the famous University of Marrakech, and the party is conducted into its interior. There is a large courtyard with an intricately carved square frieze which runs around the upper portion of the wall, which is said to be over 400 years old. From this university, which is called Medersa Ben Youssef, come the lawyers, notaries, clerks, teachers whose entire learning is based on the Koran.

The party then retraces its steps through the Souk el Khemis and into the native square which is packed solid with Arabs assembled for the occasion. Native bands are playing weird music on instruments resembling small kettles, tom toms and long brass trumpets. General Clark, General Martin, the Mayor of the City and other officials go into a hotel and up through some winding stairs to the roof of the building, where they can look down on the seething mass of humanity below. The native orchestras continue their weird noises with renewed vigor. A snake charmer comes forward. A juggler starts his performance, and a little farther down the cleared space a magician produces and causes to disappear an amazing quantity of eggs. Dancers start a wild barbaric step to the cadence of the strange music. As the orchestras grow louder and the crowds show interest, the snake charmer becomes almost frantic in his endeavors to attract attention, opening the mouth of the large snake he rakes the fangs across his forehead, causing blood to stream down over his eyes. He crams his mouth with grass and pours forth a dense smoke, kisses his pets and places their heads in his mouth. It is explained that by long association with these snakes and frequent bites from them, he has become immunized against their venom. After watching this incredible scene for some time, the party drives away from the square of Dejema el Fnah, which attracts visitors in normal times from all over the world, and goes to the Casino - a large building almost finished before the war began but that has not been completed. General Clark inspects it thoroughly, as a possible rest and recreation building for American soldiers.

The group then return through the Mellah, or Jewish city, where there are many smiling faces and "V for Victory" signs displayed to the Americans. In a few moments the cars arrive at the Bahia, the Resident General's palace while he is in Marrakech. It is one of his five in Morocco. The party is conducted through courtyards and passages of this residence. It is noted that the outer courtyard is always common and unimpressive because the Koran teaches that wealth and luxury must be concealed. The General and Mrs. Nogues receive General Clark in the foyer and lead the way to the roof, on which tea is served in the brilliant African sun. Overlooking the entire city, a scene unfolds which could never be forgotten. The white buildings, graceful minarets, the dominating Mosque of Koutoubia which has two sisters, one in Rabat and the other in Seville, Spain, with the high snow-covered mountains of the greater Atlas range in the background. After a few

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pleasant moments visiting with the Nogues, the General and his accompany officers, together with those of General Nogues' staff, leave.

General Clark, Colonel Saltzman, Major Knight and Major Ball go by car to the Villa Saadia, also known as Taylor Villa, where Kenneth Pendar, U.S. vice-consul resides when in Marrakech. Here they meet Minister Murphy, personal representative of President Roosevelt, and John O'Boyle, lend-lease representative, who is leaving for Washington tomorrow. After resting, the General and his party and Mr. Pendar, drive to the palace of the Pasha of Marrakech, the fabulous Si el Hadj Thami Glaoui. At the Pasha's they are joined by General Nogues, Madame Nogues and various French officers. The Pash is waiting to receive his guests in the inner courtyard. After greeting each in turn, he directs them to a small room where cocktails are served from an American bar. He then leads them to the room in which the diffa will be served. The guests are seated on couches on the floor in circles around low tables made of beautifully carved wood. The Pasha, General Clark, General and Madame Nogues are seated at the right of the room, with the rest in small groups extending over to the left wall. As soon as the guests are seated, black slaves in beautifully embroidered white costumes bring in the food. First is a bowl of soup which is eaten with carved wooden spoons. The rest of the courses, except one, must be eaten with three fingers of the right hand alone. Mutton, vegetables, pastries, fowl, fish, curried sweets and fruits are served in an amazing and overwhelming series. As soon as the lengthy meal is completed, the Pasha rises and conducts his guests to another room. As coffee and liqueurs are served, a strange noise begins outside in the patio which, we are told, means the Pasha's dancing girls are approaching.

The dancing girls appear clothed in heavy robes, highly decorated and embroidered. They are also bedecked with bracelets, rings and other ornaments. A man saws away on the stringed instrument, while one girl seated on the floor beats a strange rhythm on an iron plate which gives a metallic clanging sound. The rest of the girls sing while one, the prima donna, does her dance. The singing and music sound like a combination of female tobacco auctioneers with a background of a fire engine on the way to a three-alarm fire. The dancing seems to be a combination of palsy, St. Vitus dance and a mild form of the latest jitterbugging. Two groups of girls danced and sang - one being the Berbers or Sheriats from the hills around Marrakech, and the other, Arabians from the plains. The songs and dances are supposed to be allegorical to traditions of the tribes of these people, but they were so old no one knows their true meaning. After the dances are completed the guests thank the Pasha. General Clark and his party return to Pendar's villa.

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MARRAKECH-TIZNET-AGADIR-MARRAKECH, FEBRUARY 25, 1943--General Clark, accompanied by his own officers and General Nogues, takes off at 9:30 AM in a C-47 for a flight southward. After a beautiful flight that includes vistas of sea and mountains, the C-47, slightly more than an hour out of Marrakech, lands at Tiznet.

General Clark gets out of the plane, which has taxied up in front of the guard of honor, and with General Nogues, is greeted by General Chatras, Commandant of the Sub-Division of Agadir, which includes Tiznet. Much to his surprise, he is met by an old friend Colonel John Thomas Taylor, former Secretary of the American Legion. Hearing that the General was on his way to Tiznet, Colonel Taylor has delayed his departure so that he can be present on his arrival and has distributed small paper American flags which school children along the streets are waving.

Both infantry and mounted troops form the honor guard. After honors have been played and an inspection is made by the two Generals, they review troops. First come the Ifrand dressed in black uniforms, then the Goulimiens dressed in white followed by Tiznet troops in black and white striped robes, and finally the Gouins dressed in khaki, from the mountains. With the infantry reviewed, the cavalry, lined up at the far end of the airport, charges at a gallop across the field in front of the reviewing officers. First came the Spahis riding at full gallop with sabres drawn, then mounted Senegalese troops, the horse Gouins and last of all the Partisans who are not regular soldiers but simply join up for a special occasion and a few days' pay. The party then proceeds towards the walls of the town.

Tiznet is the only city in North Africa which is entirely contained within its walls. It is typically Arabian, and the entire European population consists of a bare 400 people. The General is taken on an inspection trip of the water supply, a quick tour of the city and a walk through the Souk. In a small shop he admires a native ornament, and on a signal from General Nogues, his aide purchases it.

The General then is driven to the residence of Colonel Chevroton for luncheon. After coffee and liqueurs have been served, the dancing girls enter the room accompanied by their strange music which never ceases or varies its queer cadence. One of the girls steps forward and in a sing-song voice recites what is supposed to be a fable. Various native tunes are then played and finally comes very distinctly the chorus of "We are the Guys from the Navy" mixed in with the same old rhythm and background of the Arabian music. Each dancer is then introduced to the assembled guests, and after shaking hands with each, kisses her own hand as evidence of the honor done her. The dance then resumes with two experts giving special attention to the two ranking generals. The dance consists mainly of a series of amazing belly bumps which it is hard to believe can be so effectively done without ropes and pulleys. At the end of the entertainment, the guests are driven to the airport.

After a 30 minute flight, the C-47 lands at Agadir. The ship taxis up before the inevitable guard of honor, and General Clark and General Nogues are met by the local commander, General Chatras, his staff and the staff of the French Aviation School operating on the field; also, a few American officers who are here at the rest center and a few RAF pilots from the anti-submarine patrol squadron which is operating from this field. After the customary honors, the party is

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driven into town and on the way passes literally acres of donkeys and scrubby little mountain horses which have been left here by their masters who are in town to see and render homage to the great American and French Generals who are visiting. At the edge of town the local Pasha, Si Lassen Tamri, with his advisers, greets the General. It is an impressive sight, with the great hill in the background on which reposes the walled Casbah, the fortification built in the 17th century by the Portugese and in the foreground the wide boulevard of the town, lined with the colorful native crowds.

After greetings have been exchanged, the entire party proceeds to the reviewing stands which consists of chairs placed on brilliantly colored oriental carpets. General Clark, General Nogues, General Chatras and the Pasha stand facing the brilliant blue sea, while the troops pass by in review. As the General takes his position, there are many cries from the crowd of "Vive L'Americain", and "V for Victory" signs waved by enthusiastic onlookers. First in the review comes a band accompanied by Senegalese Bugle and Drum Corps. Then come the staff officers of the post, Spahis, Senegalese, Legionnaires and native troops in a dazzling procession of color.

After the review, the party is driven up a winding road to the fortified Casbah. General Clark examines an old gun, relic of the days of the Barbary pirates, which is in sharp contrast to the modern anti-tank guns he has inspected earlier on the trip. Plans are shown him of the harbor and a brief description is given him of the developments they hope to make in the future. At the present time it is only large enough to accommodate a destroyer and a few small fishing craft. An air corps major explains his mission in Agadir, which is to establish a rest camp for the air corps. The party then descends to the residence of General and Madame Chatras, for tea.

The General and his party return to the airport and take off in the G-53 for Marrakech. Enroute, the plane passes over the high Atlas mountains, some of the peaks towering up into the clouds 9,000 to 10,000 feet and high above the flight of the plane which is following a pass between two ranges. At altitudes as high as 7,000 and 8,000 feet up in the mountains, cliff dwelling tribes of Berbers are seen, from whence come the rugs and silverware which are seen on display in the shops of the Souks. In 45 minutes the plane lands again at Marrakech.

The entire party, including General Nogues and his interpreter is driven to Pendar's villa where cocktails are served. At 8:30, General Clark, Colonel Saltzman, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Pendar, Major Knight and Major Ball and Captain Noble arrive at the Hotel de la Mamounia for the dinner which is given for General Clark by General and Madame Nogues.

During and after the dinner, the General has an opportunity to get further information concerning various situations in this territory. His officers confer with various French officials present, and one subject discussed is the establishment of French-American Clubs, operated by French civilians, for the entertainment of American troops. Shortly after the dinner, the General and his party return to Pendar's villa.

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