

# THE CITADEL

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

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NOTE

This is volume two of the WAR DIARY of ~~Major~~ General Mark W. Clark.

The first volume, covering the period June 28 to September 24, 1942, has been deposited in a safe at the Army War College, Washington, D.C. It is under the custody of Brigadier General Floyd Parks. Volume one will remain for safe-keeping with General Parks or his successor. It will be delivered to General Clark on call. In the event of General Clark's death, the book will remain unopened and in the War College safe until the conclusion of the war. It will then be turned over to Mrs. Mark W. Clark, Apartment 726, Kennedy-Warren Apartments, 3133 Connecticut Avenue., N.W., Washington, D.C.

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Classification canceled or  
changed to *unclassified*  
by authority of *EB Howard*

*Gen Mark W. Clark*  
*Col GSC*  
*Jan 16, 1950*

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WASHINGTON, SEPT. 25, 1942—Reporting to the War Department after his trans-Atlantic Stratoliner flight from London, General Clark immediately goes into a long conference with General Marshall to outline to the Chief of Staff of the United States Army the current status of TORCH.

The November 8 attack date is set. General Marshall is highly pleased with the way things are shaping up. General Clark gives him a detailed report of problems raised and progress being made in London. The Deputy Commander goes minutely over the plans of the Algiers and Oran Task Forces. From the bulging brief case that was so carefully protected on the trip over from London, the general pulls out paper after paper and pores over them with the top man of the U.S. Army. These papers include operational plans, cover plans, alternate plans for all three task forces, appreciation of the air and navy situations, surveys on political and civil affairs. The conference lasts 45 minutes with both Generals Marshall and Clark exchanging honest opinions on all phases of TORCH.

General Marshall is disturbed because Major General Hartle, now commanding the Vth Army Corps in Ireland, has been designated, temporarily at least, as commander of the Oran Task Force. General Marshall wants General Clark to command this force, saying he doesn't have enough confidence in Hartle. The Chief of Staff dictates a cable to General Eisenhower asking a revision in the Oran command but Generals Clark and Handy counsel him to write a letter that General Clark will deliver personally to General Eisenhower when he returns to London next week. The letter tells General Eisenhower that he will give him any officer in the United States to command the Oran force "if you can't see your way clear to let Clark command." This offer includes such officers as Lieutenant Generals Mc Nair and Devers. Putting a new man in, either as Deputy Commander or as head of the Oran force, involves great hazards at so late a date, General Clark explains, telling General Marshall that he would like to command the Oran force since it will be made up primarily of his II Army Corps.

Following his lengthy conference with General Marshall, General Clark is next called in to discuss TORCH with Secretary of War Stimson. The Secretary is worried about TORCH and is apprehensive concerning what effect it will have on ROUNDUP, the European invasion that Stimson believes must be executed. The Secretary confides that he doesn't feel that Prime Minister Churchill's judgment is sound. Mr. Stimson goes thoroughly into all angles of TORCH with General Clark. He is apprehensive about the "multitude of suppositions" in TORCH: that Spain will remain neutral, that the North African French will only put up token resistance, that Germany will not move into the Spanish airfields. Secretary Stimson offers to come over to the United Kingdom "to give my assistance if you think it will do any good." General Clark tells him he thinks such a visit would "stimulate the morale of the men." When General Clark, after giving the Secretary of War a complete review of TORCH, leaves the Secretary's office, Mr. Stimson shakes hands and says: "God bless you, my boy. We're all anxiously waiting."

The general next goes to the White House for a luncheon conference with Harry Hopkins. President Roosevelt is on a secret tour of the nation's defense industries and he will report to the president on General Clark's visit. Over a luncheon that lasts two hours, General Clark gives the President's personal representative a comprehensive view of TORCH. Hopkins is interested particularly in the air problem and says that President Roosevelt doesn't want European air operations torn down too seriously by diversion of aircraft to the North African theater. He wants to continue extensive bombing raids into Germany and the occupied European countries. Hopkins also shows great interest in convoys and the affect of TORCH on Russian convoys.

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The next man to get a full report on TORCH is Admiral Leahy, President Roosevelt's special Chief of Staff to coordinate military and naval affairs. Like Hopkins, Admiral Leahy will report on General Clark's visit to President Roosevelt when the Chief Executive returns from his nation-wide tour. After hearing the General's report, Admiral Leahy expresses himself as "well pleased."

Upon his return to his special office at the Operations Division of the War Department, General Clark goes into conference with General Handy, head of operations; General Patton, commander of the Casablanca force, and other high ranking officers directly connected with TORCH. With them he goes over special TORCH problems, reads cables from General Eisenhower, reports to the Commander-in-Chief in London, takes up a multitude of small but harassing problems that are causing apprehension. The special office is filled with men, coming to General Clark with problems and with ideas. The conferences last until evening. Then, General Clark, weary from the long plane trip and hardly any sleep, goes to his Washington apartment.

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WASHINGTON, SEPT. 26, 1942—General Marshall calls General Clark in for another long conference this morning. The two men go over TORCH again, discussing specific problems such as convoys, troop buildup, supply. They agree that TORCH is an extremely difficult operation but that it is going to be done successfully. After a rocky start, caused by changing dates and supply problems, plans for the operation are shaping up splendidly.

"If the President's conditions (little opposition from the French) are present," says General Clark, "we are going to get away with it. If not, there is going to be a bloody fight."

Lieutenant General Somervell, head of the SOS, is called in and the supply problem is canvassed thoroughly. General Clark explains that the great problem in the United Kingdom is that the SOS does not know what it has on hand. General Somervell says this resulted from the problem of switching so suddenly from BOLERO (U.K. supply convoys) to TORCH. The shortages are being made up by the use of five fast freighters that will land in the United Kingdom so loaded that they can fit right into the D plus 4 Mediterranean convoy. Other urgently needed items, such as the missing gun sites for the artillery weapons, are going to be flown over. The supply problem looks as though it has been licked but there will still be a few shortages. They won't be acute unless something happens to the follow-up convoys.

A major item that comes up for decision today is the passing of command from Navy to Army in the Western Task Force. General Clark discusses this frankly with Admiral King. The result is that General Patton's force will be under command of Admiral Hewitt of the U.S. Navy from the time it leaves the United States late in October until it reaches the West Coast of Africa and the assault starts. The command will go from Admiral Hewitt to General Patton at the point in the beach assault when the army commander tells the navy chief "I'm prepared to take over." The U.S. Navy will be prepared to bombard from the sea if necessary. Also, it will be alerted to the danger of attack from the French Fleet.

General Patton's force has set up a tremendous office in a little-used section

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of the Munitions Building. To gain entrance a visitor is double-checked at both ends of a corridor. Inside, in several rooms, things are humming: men clustered in conferences, men working on maps. General Patton's force is being staged. The 3rd Division, specially trained in amphibious work, has just arrived from Camp Roberts, Calif., and is being staged 50 miles outside Washington. The 3rd will spearhead the Western Task Force assault, carrying out the same role the 1st Division will have at Oran and the 168th Infantry combat team will have at Algiers. General Patton holds repeated conferences with General Clark. They go over the alternate plans Patton has in case the Casablanca region landing is impossible. They discuss change of command from navy to army, the use of naval bombardment, use of psychological warfare such as American flags and flares. Every phase of the Casablanca attack is gone into. General Patton wants to use parachute troops in his operation and General Clark agrees to take the matter up with General Doolittle when he returns to London.

General Clark lunches with Colonel Donovan and Robert Murphy at Donovan's home. The subject of 5th Column activities in Africa is gone into. The men discuss the feasibility of buying off French naval officers to circumvent a fight between the U.S. and French navies. All agree this is an excellent idea and plans are initiated to put it into effect. Murphy believes it can be done. Murphy asks permission to run demolition materials and arms into North Africa for 5th column purposes and General Clark is surprised that it hasn't already been done. Murphy reports that the French beach patrols are increasing and that as time goes on it will be ever more difficult to get undercover items ashore.

Murphy is given a list of installations and establishments to be either destroyed or secured prior to the assault. General Clark suggests Murphy draw up a diagrammatic chart of these points so that he will have no lists on his person in case anything happens. Murphy is to let General Clark know which installations he can take care of prior to the attack hour. The Donovan luncheon, at which the problems of political and civil sections is gone into, lasts two hours. Upon his return to his temporary office, General Clark again plunges into conferences, principally with Generals Handy and Patton and members of Patton's Western Task Force staff.

At 5:18 PM, General Clark departs from Bolling Field for West Point where he is to visit with his son, William, a plebe. Mrs. Clark and their daughter, Ann, also make the trip. Visibility is bad and the air is extremely bumpy. At West Point, the Clark's are met at Stewart Field by their army son. Following dinner with his family, the general meets some of his son's classmates. Once again—but only for a brief time—General Clark is a family man, not a military man. He stays overnight at West Point.

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WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 27, 1942—For the first time in three months, General Clark has a day off today. And that results only from the weather.

Because of rain and zero visibility, the general's plane is unable to take off from West Point for the return flight to Washington. So, he spends the morning visiting with his family and touring the military academy where he was schooled and where his son is being schooled. In the afternoon, the general, Mrs. Clark, Ann and General Larkin, who also went to the Point to visit his plebe-son, return to Washington by train.

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During his enforced absence, General Clark's temporary Washington office continues to operate with Colonel Slocum, secretary of the General Staff, handling incoming and outgoing cables and participating in more minor conferences.

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WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 28, 1942--Because of the urgency of problems arising in London, General Clark will begin the return flight tomorrow. Hence, his day is jammed with final conferences, most important of which is his appearance before the Combined Chiefs of Staff--the British and American group coordinating the war in Washington.

The meeting is held in the Public Health building, across Constitution Avenue from the War and Navy Departments. The conference is attended by such war planners as General Marshall, Sir John Dill, Admirals Leahy and King, British Admiral Cunningham. General Marshall, sitting in front of the United States and British flags and his own four-starred emblem, presides. The entire TORCH plan is reviewed with the outline plans discussed en toto. General Clark is called upon to review the operation as he and General Eisenhower see it. Admiral Leahy asks General Clark to go over the outline plan word by word and defend it. This results in it being accepted with only three minor revisions.

The conference lasts over two hours with General Clark bearing the brunt of the questioning. He explains, interprets, discusses. TORCH is gone into from end to end. When the gruelling meeting is over, planners of TORCH, in both London and Washington, understand each others points of view, the reasons for various discrepancies in viewpoints. This meeting is the crux of General Clark's Washington visit and when it is finished the general declares his visit has been "quite successful."

The Chiefs of Staff conference is followed by another visit to the White House in which General Clark gives Harry Hopkins a final report embodying the latest developments on TORCH. When the conference is over, Mr. Hopkins calls the President by telephone, explains to him that General Clark has given him two reports and asks Mr. Roosevelt if he wants the general to remain until the President returns to Washington.

"I'd like to see Clark," the president replies, "but it is urgent that he return to London at the earliest possible date. Tell him to go ahead. Also tell him it is not necessary for General Eisenhower to return on my account. General Marshall has indicated it is desirable to get Clark back to London as quickly as possible."

Hopkins explains to the President that it had been suggested General Clark might fly out by fast plane, join the President and return with him by train to Washington.

The President says this would only delay General Clark's return and that since the Deputy Commander has had long conferences with Hopkins and Admiral Leahy it will not be necessary.

"Give Clark my warm regards and my best wishes," says President Roosevelt.

Having his clearance from President Roosevelt to return to London, the

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general hurries back to the War Department for final conferences with General Patton, General Handy, General Hull and high officers in the Western Task Force and SOS. After a meeting lasting an hour and a half, General Clark closes his temporary office and goes to his apartment to pack.

Takeoff for the return flight to London is scheduled between 8:00 and 9:00 AM tomorrow.

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ENROUTE TO LONDON BY AIR, SEPTEMBER 29, 1942--Delay in getting the Boeing Stratoliner "Cherokee" ready for takeoff delays the start of the return flight until 12:47 PEWT. When it is obvious the takeoff will be delayed, General Clark returns to the War Department to take advantage of an extra hour and a half with Generals Patton and Handy.

Finally the big ship is loaded and ready and General Clark and his staff wave goodbye to well-wishers that include Mrs. Clark and Generals Handy and Hull. The passengers, in addition to General Clark, are: General Larkin, Colonels Slocum and Schneider (Air Corps), Lieut. Colonel Eason, Major Green (Aviation Signal Company), Captain Girard (Air Corps) and Lieutenant Beardwood.

The heavily-loaded plane circles Washington once after its takeoff from the National Airport and then heads out, passing over Baltimore, New York, West Point and up into New England. Most of the general's staff, exhausted from the four action-filled days in Washington, sleeps. The Stratoliner lands at Gander Lake, Newfoundland, at 8:33 PEWT, or 10:03, Newfoundland time. Gander Lake is a tremendous new air base carved out as the hopping off point for trans Atlantic flights. General Clark's party eats at the Officers' Mess, lounges, reads and plays ping-pong.

At 10:38 PEWT, the gigantic, four-motored plane, heavily-loaded with gasoline, lumbers down the long runway and heads out over the Atlantic under a three-quarter moon. Because of the load, three officers have to jam up in the nose of the ship so it can take off without danger. The ship is commanded by Captain Niswander. By midnight, all passengers are asleep and the Stratoliner is thundering steadily and well over the Atlantic.

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ENROUTE TO LONDON BY AIR, SEPTEMBER 30, 1942--By mid-morning the "Cherokee" is sailing in a virtual void--mist and clouds are below obscuring the sea; above it is so clear that the sky is pale blue. Most of the passengers cat-nap and read.

Shortly after noon (British Time), the weather clears and warships are sighted. They are in two and threes. Captain Niswander comes back to report that the Admiral Scheer, German pocket-battleship, is loose in the region over which we are flying. Niswander asks if he can do some reconnaissance. He explains that, in event he locates the raider, he can circle it and radio its position.

"Do you know how many planes she has on board or how much anti-aircraft?" asks General Clark. "This big plane would be like a lame duck on a mill pond for the Scheer. You'd better head right on toward Prestwick." As the plane drones on toward Scotland, more warships are sighted, including a cruiser that fires two shots as we pass over her. A few moments later the Cherokee passes

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over a ship towing targets. The warship is only getting gun practice!

At 3:20, British Time, the Stratoliner lands at Prestwick, Scotland. The general has already made arrangements to get to London and a C-47 transport is waiting on the big field. Baggage is transferred as rapidly as possible and at 4:19 PM, the two-motored transport takes off for London. She's loaded to the gills, having taken the freight off the Stratoliner. In addition to the trans-Atlantic party of eight, seven other persons who have been waiting at Prestwick for air transportation to London crowd aboard the plane.

After a routine flight down the Irish Sea and across England, the plane arrives over Hendon Airport. Royal Air Force authorities have radioed the plane that it can not land because of the late hour. General Clark has the radioman answer back that the plane is coming in despite the fact it is almost dark and the airport considers itself closed, because of the blackout, until daylight. The heavily laden ship, which General Clark has piloted part of the way from Scotland, lands at 6:48 PM.

General Clark is met by General Eisenhower and the two men leave immediately for London in General Eisenhower's car so they can discuss results of the Washington trip.

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*Plane crash Spain Oct 6*

LONDON, OCTOBER 1, 1942—Ready to plunge back into on-the-ground preparations for TORCH, General Clark is at his Norfolk House office at the regular 8:30 time this morning and he immediately calls in top men on his staff to give them a quick resume of the results of his Washington trip.

At 10:00 AM, General Eisenhower comes over to General Clark's office to continue the discussion started last night after the general's arrival. The decision concerning who will command the Oran Task Force must be settled and Major General Lloyd R. Fredenall, who has been at Jacksonville, Fla., commanding the II Army Corps, is decided upon. Later, General Marshall approves. During the discussion, Air Marshall Welsh is called in for consultation on the use of paratroops. The Britisher expresses concern over the use of the paratroop battalions at Oran. He points to the danger of the troop transports being shot down as they fly over Occupied France, enroute by the shortest route to Oran. So the security of the Oran operation won't be menaced, General Clark says he sees no reason why the men should jump prior to daylight; that they could jump up to one or two hours after daylight. In that way the attack would be underway at the time the troop transports cut over the fringe of Occupied France enroute to North Africa.

Admiral Ramsay comes in to go over the naval command situation with General Clark and, after reviewing an appreciation made by the U.S. Navy of the situation, agrees basically with the entire operation. The question of having naval aviation rehearse with land forces when they go through final assault maneuvers in Scotland from October 17 to 21 is brought up and Ramsay says regular carrier-based planes can be used but that for the rehearsal they will operate from land airdromes so as not to disturb final preparations aboard the aircraft carriers. Ramsay also asks for a directive letting the navy know what its responsibilities are. This will be done. All naval communications will be centralized through Admiral Cunningham and any special instructions will go out, once operations have started, through General Eisenhower.

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Air Commodore Sanders is called in to discuss the use of paratroops and he agrees that these vital fighting men should be used, if feasible, to "leapfrog" troops to the east for the drive on Tunisia. Various commanders are to be asked to put in bids on what uses they might have for the airborne troops and the final decision on their use will be in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief.

Colonel Caffey, who will command the 39th Regimental Combat Team that will participate in the Algiers assault alongside the 168th and the Rangers, arrives from the States and confers with General Clark. The 39th is enroute over by troop transport and will arrive next week. It will be placed immediately in the assault convoy. Caffey reports that amphibious maneuvers in the States brought out that the M-1 rifles, backbone weapon of the Infantry, get rusty and fail to fire if they are exposed to salt water spray. He says a light dressing of light motor oil prevents corrosion and non-firing so General Clark orders that this information be disseminated immediately to TORCH units.

Lieutenant Colonel Stirling comes in to get a report on General Clark's Washington trip so he can carry it back to the British Chiefs of Staff. Once again, the general covers the major points raised and the decisions made during his flying trip back to the States.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 2, 1942--Because General Eisenhower is out inspecting General Anderson's British troops, General Clark presides today over the tri-weekly meeting of TORCH planners in London. Briskly, hitting only the major items, General Clark reviews events that occurred while he was in Washington. He brings the big joint British-American staff up-to-date on TORCH developments in London and Washington, then asks the other officers to bring up their problems.

Admiral Ramsay asks that destroyers be allowed to go directly into the ports of Algiers and Oran to take frontal steps to prevent sabotage to port installations or the scuttling of vessels at the harbors' mouths. Such an operation would involve no army personnel. Ground troops will be going over the beaches and encircling the ports. General Clark declares he believes the destroyer move is a sound plan and says he will take it up with General Eisenhower in the hope of getting out such a directive.

General Rocks declares he is still have trouble with logistics--that there is a jam-up on the KMS4 and the KMF4 convoys. Because of it, he says the shipping will be inadequate to move in part of the 1st Armored Division and part of the 34th Division on D plus 27. He also reports that he will have a serious vehicle deficiency.

This crisis may be met by a move by the U.S. Navy to increase the number of cargo ships in the slow convoys to 45. General Somervell reported to General Clark in Washington that the navy had agreed to such enlargements and he believes the U.S. Navy will agree to 55-ship convoys--the number escorted by the British Navy--providing a request is made and the navy cleared of responsibility.

"H-hour"--the time of attack--for the Western Task Force has been modified to give General Patton greater latitude of decision. While the attack time of the Oran and Algiers forces is 1:00 A.M., November 8, Patton will attack on the

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time schedule most appropo with surf conditions, but, if possible, on the same day as the other two assault forces.

The fascinating subject of "Cover"—deliberately putting out mis-information to divert and confuse the enemy—comes up for complete discussion today. General Clark calls in Brigadier Mockler-Ferryman, Lieut. Col. Bevins, the British expert on TORCH cover, and General Gruenther. Bevins believes the plan to be disseminated to the enemy must be that we plan to attack Italy and Sicily. This may cause violent submarine activity in the Mediterranean but it appears to be the wisest cover if we are to hold the French fleet at its Mediterranean bases and keep Spain and Portugal relaxed. General Clark asks Bevins how he plans to get the information to the Axis and Bevins grins and says he has "channels." The trouble with his job, Bevins says, is that he must let truth leak out most of the time so the enemy "will believe in me—I've got to build up their faith in my underground sources." It comes out that General Alexander is going to start a huge offensive in the Middle East on October 24 to divert the enemy, particularly from making air reconnaissance during the period the assault convoys are moving into position.

Troops leaving both England and the United States will be told that they are going around the Cape of Good Hope and that they will get further information concerning their task after they pass that point. Original cover for the Casablanca force was to let it leak out that it was going to attack the Dodecanese Islands, Italian possessions at the far eastern end of the Mediterranean. Such cover, says Bevins, is not plausible since it would take the Patton force well into December to reach these islands. He suggests that the cover for this force be that it is going to relieve the British in the Middle East or else that it is joining the attack on Italy.

One report comes in today to disturb an otherwise smooth day. General Ryder reports that the equipment of the 39th combat team, which is arriving here next week from the States to join the Algiers assault force, is improperly stowed and will have to be reloaded. Also, none of the 39th's vehicles are waterproofed. General Clark calls in General Gale and orders that all possible vehicles be waterproofed as soon as the convoy arrives. Lack of waterproofing materials will be a limiting factor. Gale says reloading of the 39th equipment might menace the security of TORCH but he is laying plans to rope off that section of the Belfast docks where the loading will take place.

General Gale says the TORCH supply situation "looks alright" with the exception of getting backlog vehicles into Oran. The US-Mediterranean convoy, arriving at Oran on D plus 6, will relieve part of the vehicle shortage. The .40 mm ammunition for Anti-Aircraft guns is not sufficient and Gale reports that he has a promise for 90,000 rounds out of England's October production. This, he estimates, will be enough for the assault phases.

General Clark next goes into the Public Relations setup with Major Phillips. Fifteen correspondents will be in the field by D plus 4: four with the Eastern Task Force; six with the Center Task Force; three at Gibraltar headquarters, and two attached to the Air Force. The Western Task Force is bringing over three newsmen and two radiomen. In discussing radio broadcasters, Phillips said two American broadcasters and one Britisher will go with the Eastern Force. General Clark stresses the all-American aspect of the operation and says the first voice to broadcast out

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of North Africa must be that of an American. There will be no radioman with the Oran force because of the lack of radio facilities. However, recording equipment probably will go in with that assault force. Unless the Signal Corps provides photographers, one newsreel man will go with the Algiers force and two newsreel men and a still photographer with the Oran group.

Now that the execution of TORCH is just a fraction over a month away, things are going much more smoothly. The badly-snarled supply situation is straightening out as reports pile up on what is available in the United Kingdom. Ships are all ready to leave for the United Kingdom to make up shortages as far as possible. Certain critical items are being flown over by plane.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 3, 1942—General Mason-Macfarlane, civil and military governor of Gibraltar, slips into London incognito to give an up-to-the-minute report to Generals Eisenhower and Clark. The three generals are closeted secretly for an hour as Macfarlane reports on such facts as Spanish reaction to increase air and naval activity at the Mediterranean mouth fortress, capacity of the vital Gibraltar airdrome, arrangements for the berthing and unloading of naval and merchant ships, assembly of fighter planes being shipped down by crate, activities of agents in both North Africa and Gibraltar.

General Macfarlane gives Generals Clark and Eisenhower a comprehensive picture of how TORCH looks to an official who is sitting right across the Mediterranean from the coming theater of action. The governor is quite optimistic.

The supply situation continues to brighten. Colonel Lewis, artillery officer of the Oran Task Force, has made a detailed study of the 105 mm ammunition supply and the report he gives General Clark is very encouraging: 443,175 rounds are available. That is 120,000 rounds in excess of what is needed aboard the D and D plus convoys to Oran. General Larkin reports that nothing has developed since he returned from the United States to make the SOS picture look any different and General Hughes, returning from a tour of SOS depots, says he is optimistic. Larkin tells General Clark he is "satisfied we are going to meet the loading schedules." To make prospects even brighter, a fast ship is leaving the U.S. October 5 with 2,500 tons of ammunition to make up various shortages.

All this brings great relief to General Clark who has been extremely worried about logistical problems for the past six weeks. At conference after conference he has had to jack up SOS representatives. All the time he realized the SOS snarl was not the fault of one man. But he knew too that someone had to get extremely tough if anything was to be accomplished. That theory has worked.

Plans for transporting TORCH headquarters to Gibraltar prior to D-day have now congealed. Two B-17s, fixed to carry 10 passengers, will be used instead of transports. Two ships will go down five days before the assault date; four on D minus three and two on D minus one. Two of these ships will remain at Gibraltar for use of the headquarters staff after the attack is underway. Other personnel will go down by boat, arriving about D minus two. General Clark will fly down a month from tomorrow.

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Now that the major items have been disposed of--place, time and plan of attacks; troop and merchant convoys; logistics; political affairs; weapons and assault craft; naval and air strength--a host of more minor subjects arise daily. Bulked together, they are of infinite importance since every facet of the plan must work to perfection if the assault is to be preponderantly successful. These are the types of things General Clark concerns himself with primarily today:

Making arrangements so the Gibraltar-bound planes will have the general officers well dispersed in case of accident...Death to a few key men might doom the entire operation...British Navy planes must be marked with American insignia to carry the appearance of an all-American operation to the fullest possible degree...Liaison work is being done so American flyers will be able to recognize the silhouettes of British warships...The 62nd Transport Group, which will be used to leap-frog General Anderson's troops toward Tunisia, is coming in on schedule from the United States...The "Offensive Action" paper has been drafted to incorporate British and American views and General Clark advises Washington that it will be published Monday noon unless word is heard to the contrary... Use of the British Royal Marines comes up again and General Clark instructs General Lemnitzer to have Lord Louis Mountbatten begin making plans for its use in attacking Sardinia, probably about three months after the North African attack... Bids are coming in from all task force commanders as to what they think they will need in the way of air transports...The Commander-in-Chief will decide later to what tasks he will assign these paratroop or infantry carrying planes...The directive concerning use of Paratroops at Oran has gone in and it is agreed that this unit will attack at 1:00 AM, not dawn...General Ryder is having difficulty with General Anderson concerning turning over of his command to the British and over the status of civil administration...General Clark promises to straighten the matter up and, after conferences, assigns five more American to the Algiers Task Force civilian affairs group...The question of air cover for the Oran assault force comes up again and a request is made for six medium bombers to be based at Gibraltar ready to support the assault...General Clark promises to take it up with his air officers...Because it appears that it will be impossible for intelligence officers to get visas to go into Switzerland after TORCH begins, General Clark starts the wheels turning to get the State Department working on the visas immediately...The problem of getting a signal corps man into North Africa with Mr. Murphy so he can send messages to the attacking forces and guide in the Oran paratroops is causing concern...General Clark suggests the man might be smuggled in at a lonely beach...Having the man go in in civilian clothes appears too dangerous.

These are the kind of questions that come up, hour after hour. Each must be dealt with thoroughly because a slip in one minor item--say use of the radio--might cause untold complications.

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CHECKERS, ENGLAND, OCTOBER 14, 1942--Prime Minister Churchill summons Generals Clark and Eisenhower to his country estate this evening to go over the latest TORCH developments and get a face-to-face report from General Clark on his recent visit to Washington. There have been no changes in the date and plan for TORCH but the Prime Minister is eager to go over the details. He is still worried about the effect of TORCH on the Russian "PQ" convoys.

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The coup de etat of the evening is pulled by General Clark. For weeks he has been looking with longing eyes at the British Aircraft carrier now in the Indian Ocean. More fighter cover is needed for the Oran Task Force and the planes on the carrier would make up this deficiency.

Mr. Churchill is striding up and down the room, discussing the African operation. Occasionally he hops over the step to the fireplace hearth and stands with his back to the fire, warming and rubbing himself. Suddenly, he says: "Is there anything I can do for any of you." The time looks appropo and General Clark says: "Yes," Mr. Prime Minister. How about using that Indian Ocean carrier in TORCH?" Mr. Churchill's round face lights up; "Of course," he booms. "That carrier ain't no good all alone." He tells General Ismay to start the gears turning to get the carrier into the operation.

General Clark believes something will now break loose on the carrier situation: if the Indian Ocean carrier isn't released, at least an unused carrier in the Home Fleet will be assigned to the Oran Task Force.

The Prime Minister is still worried about moving the bulk of American forces out of the British Isles for use in TORCH. He wants more troops moved in from the States to assist in defense of the United Kingdom. He concurs with General Clark's suggestion that new divisions, those with only their basic training, come over and learn from the ground up with British artillery equipment. Because virtually all cargo ships will be used to support the TORCH forces, the Queen Mary will be the only ship available to bring troops over. This blocks the movement of American fighting equipment, but not fighting men, to the United Kingdom while TORCH is in the developing phase.

As usual, the Prime Minister keeps his guests up until a very late hour. For the first time General Clark really discovers the sagacity of getting people tired before facing them with a problem. The carrier request came as the Prime Minister was approaching closing time. The request was made psychologically and physically at precisely the right moment.

General Alexander is going to start a big push in the Middle East on October 24 as a cover for TORCH. Mr. Churchill discusses this move thoroughly with Generals Clark and Eisenhower. American forces will be included in the big attack since their employment will be a buildup for the all-American appearance of TORCH at Algiers, Oran and Casablanca.

Before leaving for Chequers, General Clark puts in a busy Sunday. He calls in General Lee for a general survey of the SOS situation. Lee estimates the SOS will be able to give 90 per cent performance in the TORCH operation. He explains the difficulties barring 100 per cent performance and General Clark tells Lee he understands perfectly. The more recent problems--movement of the five ships coming over especially to join the British Mediterranean convoy, lack of space for the 39th combat team cargo and similar 11th hour developments--are gone into. Lee says more space may be found for the 39th when its ships are re-loaded. He also thinks additional cargo space--about 50 deadweight tons per ship--may be found in the D-day vessels. He proposes to fill this space with field rations. As to ammunition,

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General Lee reports that 300,000 tons arrived in the U.K. last month and the SOS has a fairly good breakdown of the items. Loading of some ships for the TORCH assault force has started and the SOS chief says cooperation with the British in loading and unloading is excellent.

General Clark hopes to get away from conferences and paper work within a week or so in order to get into Scotland for a final look at the combat troops and for personal inspection of combat loading operations. He instructs General Lee to set up a special train from October 17 to 20th so he can get up to the Glasgow-River Clyde area. The Deputy Commander also hopes to get down to Shrivenham so he can look over the headquarters security force, now being staged there.

Other conferences held during the day concern passage of command from the naval commander at Oran to the Task Force Commander during D-day. The same principle will apply there as is being applied at Algiers: it will occur at the point in the landing where the Ground Commander feels he is able to control the situation ashore and tells the naval commander that he is ready to take over. Another problem that comes up is overloading of the Algiers Assault Force and General Ryder is going to re-examine his loading tables to see what non-combat units can be dropped off without crippling his force.

Initial units of the 29th Division arrived in the U.K. yesterday. The remainder will be arriving within a week. General Clark scouts the possibility of strengthening weak points in the assault with volunteers from this division.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 5, 1942--Generals Clark and Eisenhower arrive back in London from the Prime Minister's estate at 11 AM and go into immediate conference on developments occurring during their absence.

The Commander-in-Chiefs joint staff conference is held at Norfolk House and it gets briefer and briefer as the TORCH attack date nears and problem after problem gets a solution. General Eisenhower stresses the need for "constant vigilance" in protecting the security of TORCH. He declares that "extreme measures" should be taken to keep the attack date and the assault points secret. In a general review of decisions yet to be made, General Eisenhower says that he believes troops should attack with divisional insignia on their uniforms and trucks. He believes the positive values--morale, control of troops and vehicles--outweigh the risks involved--giving the enemy a chance to know just which organizations are attacking.

The question of the anti-submarine patrol for the Casablanca force comes up and the staff agrees it must become a U.S. responsibility as soon after the attack as possible. During the early phases, the sub-patrol work will be done by British Catalina flying boats ranging out all the way from Gibraltar. "If our navy won't do something about protecting itself, the army will have to," General Eisenhower comments. Air Marshal Welsh says the British can supply only light air cover from Gibraltar and both Admiral Ramsay and he believe it is imperative that the Casablanca force have some anti-submarine protection.

(General Eisenhower tells the high-ranking officer facing him around the conference table that there has been "no cataclysmic change in TORCH--it is going along with the same speed, the same expectations."

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The subject gone into most thoroughly is the anti-submarine patrol. Captain Wright of the U.S. Navy says the harbor of Algiers is not suitable as a seaplane base even after it is in control of American forces. He also adds that unless planes with sea-search equipment are used, the effectiveness of the aircraft in eliminating submarines will be reduced 33 percent.

Buildup of the new air force--the 8th--is discussed and General Doolittle suggests that for security reason it should be explained, when questions come up, that the 8th is being built to amplify work of the 12th Air Force which is already operating actively in the European theater.

General Anderson is still worried about his command, particularly his relationship to the American political and civil officers who will be stationed in the Algiers region to give the appearance of an all-American action. He wants a "clear-cut" directive so General Clark schedules a conference for late afternoon.

Admiral Ramsay introduces a plan calling for a special force to rush into the Algiers harbor, board the ships and prevent any scuttling or sabotage. This force, composed of about 300 men, preferably Americans, would try to land at dockside in two large destroyers. General Clark is going to ask for volunteers from the 29th Division for this hardy task.

The request that the U.S. Navy convoy cargo ships is conveyed of 55 vessels has been rejected at Washington. The Navy declines to provide protection for any convoy larger than 45 ships, saying it is impossible to protect more than that number with the escorts available.

Following the conference led by General Eisenhower, General Clark calls in various officers to work on problems raised at the Commander-in-Chief's meeting. After discussion with Air Marshal Welsh and General Doolittle on the anti-sub patrol at Casablanca, a cable to Washington is drafted stating the British flying boats will pick up the Patton convoy on D minus two and that from D minus one to D plus eight two Catalinas will be over the convoy during daylight hours as submarine protection. On D plus five the 12th Air Force will supplement this protection with limited-range visual submarine patrol by A20B planes. From D plus 14 the Army Air Force will provide moderate-range visual patrol with B25C aircraft. The cable points out this anti-submarine protection is inadequate and that the U.S. Navy should make further provisions. General Doolittle reports he has arranged to have 25 Spitfires with 90-gallon belly tanks ready at Gibraltar to back up the Oran attack in case anything happens to the carrier-borne fighters. If the British aircraft carrier, discussed with Prime Minister Churchill, is obtained, the Oran force will have about 50 carrier-based planes.

General Mason-Macfarlane, governor of Gibraltar, returns for a conference prior to his departure to the Rock. The route of paratroops over Spain the night before the Oran attack is discussed and Macfarlane believes it will be safe if the carriers fly at 10,000 feet. From England to the coast of Spain they will fly at a very low altitude to escape the radio detectors in France. Then they will climb up to escape the Spanish. They will hit the Spanish coast at 9:00 PM, four hours before they are scheduled to attack at Oran, provided an H-hour jump is decided upon.

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Although the Spanish will be jittery and probably will report presence of enemy planes overhead to Germany, Macfarlane does not believe any opposition will come from Spain. They have few night fighters. He does not think the Germans will fly over Spain to intercept the paratroops. In event a plane crashes, it probably won't be discovered until morning, well after the attack.

General Macfarlane reports that the capacity of the Gibraltar airport is 350 planes and he believes requirements can be met despite great congestion. He is satisfied with reports given him by General Clark on the personnel and naval buildup at Gibraltar. The two generals shake hands, say goodbye and General Clark says: "Well, I'll see you in Gib about a month from today!" "Right," says Macfarlane, and winks.

One of the most difficult problems for the high military men in TORCH is arranging political and civil affairs details. Since they are military men, these matters are somewhat foreign. General Clark calls a conference of all men involved in this type of work. American personnel of this type will have to be divided into three parts at Algiers--the "front men" for General Anderson's eastward bound force; the "front men" for British General Clark's Algiers base organization; and officers to give an American aspect to the assault of the 11th and 36th British Brigades.

The Civil Affairs people will deal with local ordinances, financial matters, hiring of French labor, relations with French police and civil officials and kindred non-military affairs. All dealings with the French will be, primarily, through American officers to bear out the American aspect of TORCH. General Anderson says two American civil affairs experts are not sufficient for his force so additional personnel will have to be found. The question of distributing packages of arms to the friendly French also comes up. Every precaution must be taken to see that these get into the right hands. This is a problem for the political section executives. Mr. Knox, a state department Algerian expert, says the youth of North Africa will be behind us no matter what happens. He adds that a great deal of the success of TORCH depends on last-minute negotiations that Mr. Murphy can conduct.

General Clark orders drafting of a comprehensive directive on political and civil affairs. The advisability of putting the political section under G-3 is discussed since this section involves, in many cases, military operations such as demolitions.

General Anderson grows increasingly difficult. He is now protesting again over the inclusion of 1100 U.S. vehicles in the Algiers convoy. General Clark calls in General Matejka and Colonel Ramsey to see what can be done to assuage Anderson. Matejka agrees to cut the number of vehicles 25 percent but says he is going to put up a fight to get these vehicles in the following convoys. Col. Ramsey points out that this means it will be D plus 60 before the Allied Force Headquarters in Algiers has proper transportation.

Admiral Ramsay returns to go over the Air Annex and declares the air force really has three tasks: support of ground troops, protection of ports, protection of naval vessels and convoys. The navy is worried about protection of the fleet.

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The air force, says Ramsay, can't serve two masters. General Clark makes it clear that there must be complete unity of command and decrees that the annex state flatly that the air forces are under the three Task Force Commanders initially and under the Commander-in-Chief of TORCH finally. The use of the planes will be determined by the Force Commanders and/or the Commander-in-Chief, depending on the situation.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 6, 1942—General Clark's psychology on getting another aircraft carrier out of Prime Minister Churchill worked!

Admiral Ramsay reports to the Deputy Commander-in-Chief that an auxiliary carrier has been obtained. It is not the one out of the Indian Ocean, but one that was being held back by the Home Fleet. It carries 11 planes and this will give the Oran Task Force approximately 50 fighter planes to support it in the assault. A squadron of Spitfires is also earmarked to fly to Oran at dawn, aid where they can, land on the Oran airport if taken or else put down as best they can when their fuel gives out. The thinness of the Oran air support has now been thickened.

Another major decision reached today is that the Oran paratroops will attack at H-hour--1 AM--instead of waiting until dawn. Major Yarborough reports this will give the paratroops three advantages: a greater element of surprise; the use of darkness to consolidate their positions and collect their fighting equipment, and a chance to demonstrate that the troops can set down in their section despite darkness. Yarborough, as are all of the paratroop officers, is eager for the paratroop chance. General Clark says that one of the brightest spots in planning for TORCH has been the eagerness for action of the paratroops. Such an attitude "shows initiative and is one of the finest things about all this planning which at times has had its very dark sides," General Clark tells Yarborough. Yarborough reports that British agents will light flares in the Oran airport area to help the paratroops down toward their objective. He is not worried about too great a loss of equipment in the dark and adds "anyway, we've got enough on us to fight for 24 hours."

General Fredenall is due soon to take over command of the II Corps, which is the Oran Task Force. General Hartle, who had been provisionally set up for the command, is returning to Ireland. When TORCH gets underway, Hartle will more or less command the TORCH base section in the United Kingdom. Thus, all hope has passed of General Clark commanding the Corps with which he originally came overseas. "I would have liked nothing better," says the Deputy Commander-in-Chief, "but General Ike wouldn't let me do both--be Deputy Commander to him and have the Corps as well. He thought that was too much for one man."

A plan to have the assault boats equipped with loud speakers through which French troops guarding the Oran and Algiers areas can be informed that Americans are making the landing and that no fight with the French is necessary because this is a move against the Axis is discussed. General Clark wants to get 500 loud-speakers for this use. General Matejka says the Signal Corps has none in the U.K. and the British are without them. If the plan appears feasible, efforts will be made to rush them over from the States. Perhaps megaphones will be used instead.

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Attempting to button up the operation calling for a direct assault on the Algiers and Oran harbors to prevent scuttling of or sabotage to ships, General Clark plans on using 400 Infantry volunteers from the 1st Armored Division at Oran and 300 Infantry volunteers from the 34th Division at Algiers. The British will provide about 40 naval technicians at Algiers and the U.S. Navy a similar number at Oran. This navy personnel will go into the engine rooms and holds of the ships to prevent wrecking of machinery or the opening of sea cocks.

Admiral Burroughs outlines the movement and assault plan at a special meeting called by General Clark. The troops will leave the United Kingdom aboard cruisers. They will be transferred to destroyers after arrival in the Assault Areas. One destroyer will drive into Oran harbor, the other into Algiers. Soldiers will seize and protect wharves and other harbor facilities. Naval personnel will board the ships. Plans are made to get the necessary troops ready for shipment in the D-day convoy. General Oliver, who attends the conference, reports that the 1st Armored Combat team that is participating in one of the Oran beach landings is now in the Liverpool area and will start loading about October 14. During the 16 days they will be aboard ship prior to sailing they will have time for rehearsals. This team has not had much opportunity to practice disembarkation of tanks. The Maracaibos will not be ready in time for the rehearsal.

One particularly heartening piece of news is delivered to General Clark by Admiral Ramsay who has received a cable from Admiral Cunningham. It says that agreement has been reached with the U.S. Navy by which Cunningham will command all naval forces in the operation. The U.S. Navy has been protesting against a British officer having command over U.S. warships. General Clark eagerly awaits confirmation of this news.

Bad news comes in the form of a list of passengers killed when a commercial clipper, enroute to England, crashed the day before yesterday at Botwood, Nfld. It resulted in death to two TORCH civil affairs section officers and serious injury to a third. Hasty search must now be made to replace this personnel. Another plane crash, which occurred in Spain during General Clark's visit to the United States, could have caused serious, almost fatal, TORCH repercussions. A plane flying to Gibraltar crashed in Spain. The pilot was killed. In his pocket was a secret envelope containing TORCH information being carried from General Clark to General Macfarlane. Thorough investigation showed the envelope was not opened. It was delivered to General Macfarlane intact!

Air Commodore Sanders reports to General Clark on the air build-up at Gibraltar. It will be necessary to place in operation four Spitfire squadrons and replacements for American and British losses soon after the operation opens. It has been agreed to have 107 planes, crated, go into Gibraltar on KMS1, arriving on D-2 or D-1. Fifty additional planes will arrive on D plus 3. These planes will be ready for flight on D plus 10. Staggering of aircraft arrivals at Gibraltar will eliminate exposure of too many aircraft during a likely period of bombardment. Commanding officers are counting on fairly heavy air losses during the early phases of TORCH, particularly among American pilots who have had little or no combat experience.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 7, 1942--"Each day I see more evidence that we are getting together--getting better organized. And each day I get a little more hopeful."

Thus, General Eisenhower closes today the regular tri-weekly Commander-in-Chief's conference. Because all important matters apparently are fairly well settled, the conference is short. Most of the questions that come up concern more or less minor matters.

Looking around the big, rectangular conference table around which sit the top men of TORCH--General Clark on his right, General Anderson and Admiral Ramsay across the table; all the army and navy officers who have been pouring all their energies into planning for the operation--General Eisenhower is obviously pleased "with the way things are getting buttoned up." He says "it is pleasing to see the stage things are reaching." One of the matters giving Generals Clark and Eisenhower particular pleasure is the apparent harmony concerning placing of the U.S. Naval forces at Casablanca under Admiral Cunningham. General Eisenhower remarks that "all our problems are being and must be settled by the fundamental rule of common sense."

General Clark outlines the latest accomplishments: the decision to use port seizure forces at Oran and Algiers; the decision to have paratroops attack at Oran at H-hour; reduction by 25 percent of the number of U.S. vehicles in the Algiers convoys; agreement, at least on this side of the Atlantic, of the use of anti-submarine planes at Casablanca.

One heartening report is made by General Eisenhower. He has just conferred with "a clandestine person whose name will have to remain secret." This source reports that the Italian people are ready for peace at any price. High Italian government officials, this man says, "at last realize they can't win even if the present side they are on wins." America's position, he continues, is getting more popular in Italy and the Italians are eager to avoid antagonizing us "deep in the grass roots." For that reason no Italian submarines are at present operating off the Atlantic seaboard."

"We might get a little quiet help from the Italians if things go right," General Eisenhower concludes.

Among the more minor matters that come up at the brief conference are the use of loudspeakers in the landing boats and the question of a proclamation that is to be delivered to the residents of North Africa. The latter has been drafted in the U.S. and is in its final form for distribution by radio or plane. General Lee reports that both the British and American supply people favor starting a Quartermaster school in England for British and American ground, air and naval personnel. At it, students would learn the difficulties encountered and mistakes made in supplying TORCH. "They would learn from the experience we are getting," declares General Gale. General Eisenhower favors such a school.

General Eisenhower asks each officer at the table if he has any questions or problems to bring up and for the first time none of the men has an urgent matter to present and the conference breaks up.

In the grim and tense business of getting ready for the opening of a Second

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Front, General Clark has a lighter, somewhat "romantic" task today. At first lieutenant in his II Corps wants to marry an American nurse stationed near the Longford Castle headquarters that has now become the rear echelon. While the lieutenant appears before the smiling, lanky general to state why he believes the three-month waiting period provided by regulations should be waived, the nurse, a new engagement ring on her left hand, waits anxiously in an outer office. The general will grant the couple permission to marry provided the proper papers are filled out. Only he, as the officer's commanding general, can grant that permission.

Alternate plans for the TORCH task forces are still being considered. General Clark calls in General Lemnitzer. Because of the chances of surf conditions interfering, particular attention is paid to secondary plans for the Western Task Force. Whether the entire Patton force can be moved into Gibraltar is a matter for naval consideration and British officials are inquiring into its feasibility. The Western force might move in full or part strength into the Oran-Nemours area to assist the Center Task Force. A major difficulty is that the full strength of the two forces can not be adequately supplied through existing harbor facilities in the Oran area. G-3 will have the final alternate plans ready for submission by Oct. 12. They will be cabled to General Patton.

Information is being assembled regarding suitable landing beaches in Southern Spain. For political and diplomatic ramifications of such a plan are extremely delicate but such a landing, dependent on many conditions, is a possibility. General Lemnitzer submits a paper dealing with possible action against Spanish Morocco by the Royal Marine Division or other British forces. This action would take place in event of an attempt to close the Straits by either Axis or Spanish forces. General Clark believes such a plan is impracticable. Believing it may have some merit, the Deputy Commander decides to go into it more thoroughly.

Organization of the U.S. SOS and British Line of Communications set-up once the North African theater is established is discussed with General Gale. The two generals agree that chiefs of the supply services should be on the theater staff rather than directly under the commanding general of SOS. It is important that the British First Army and the U.S. Fifth Army--which is to be created after TORCH is developed--be free of unnecessary administrative responsibility. The field forces must be free to move without the encumbrances of supply worries.

Waterproofing of 1,500 vehicles of the 1st Armored Division combat team is presenting difficulties. All vehicles must be moved to the ports for loading on October 10 and this does not allow sufficient time for waterproofing. Acting upon the problem immediately, General Clark calls in General Gale who investigates. The vehicles will be moved to the port in increments during the loading period, October 12 to 21, and waterproofing will be completed at the dockside by British and American personnel.

Dates of departure loom close on the calendar now. Loading of American troop and equipments will soon be started. The British now recommend that both Generals Clark and Eisenhower be at Gibraltar by November 4 since the leading convoy will enter the Straits at dusk of November 5. If weather conditions at that time are adverse, an important decision will have to be made.

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\*\*OCTOBER 8, 1942\*\*

One month from today TORCH begins!

One month from today, if all goes well, the Second Front will be opened. American troops will be pouring over the beaches in the Algiers, Oran and Casablanca areas. American paratroops will be battling for seizure of the Oran airdromes. Special American forces will be rushing the harbors of Oran and Algiers. American and British planes will be battling together for control of the air over North Africa. The American Navy probably will be fighting off the French Navy somewhere in the vicinity of Casablanca. Almost the entire British Home Fleet will be in the Mediterranean, escorting in the assault forces and probably bombarding Algiers and Oran from the sea. It will be facing the combined efforts of Italian and German submarines and warships and warplanes.

One month from today, if all goes well, terrific efforts will be made along political lines to turn the French from resistance to assistance. British troops will be readying themselves off Algiers for a drive ashore and a rapid push to beat the Germans into Tunisia. Allied Force Headquarters will be operating in Gibraltar, integrating the effort of three ground force assaults, three air units and two fleets; it will be directing the strategy of the fight.

One month from today American and British leaders will begin to know if the French in North Africa are going to resist; what the attitude of Spain is, and, if the Germans will use the North African attack and flight of Allied planes across Spain as a pretext to move into Spain for air operations, first against Gibraltar, later against the North African coast.

One month from today all the hopes and apprehensions of the past three months will be crystallized, probably within the short span of two or three days.

One month from today! So much in the way of plans and preparations has been packed into the past few months. And, so much remains to be done in the single, vital month that lies ahead.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 8, 1942--The two generals who will lead the two major American assault forces inside the Mediterranean are preparing to join their troops, now being alerted in the River Clyde area of Scotland. Both Generals Ryder, commander of the Algiers assault force, and General Allen, commander of the 1st Division that will spearhead the Oran attack, will leave London permanently over the weekend. A final rehearsal, a command post exercise to test the attacking troops and their equipment, will be held next week. Then the men will start loading for departure of the assault convoys.

General Allen will go north as soon as he receives a draft of his divisional field order. He is having difficulty obtaining signal equipment in time for his troops to use it before it is stowed aboard the ships. Because of the imminency of his departure, he confers frequently with Deputy Commander-in-Chief Clark.

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General Ryder is due to leave Sunday. He still has a few more details to take care of before he goes north to join his 168th combat team and other troops that will make the Algiers assault.

Generals Clark and Eisenhower will go to Scotland, probably on October 17, to witness the rehearsal exercises. About 20 officers will go, including Lord Louis Mountbatten, the commando organizer. Officer observers will stay with certain units throughout the exercises and will submit reports.

Preparing for the future, plans are already being drafted concerning what operations should be undertaken in event French North Africa, including Tunisia, is quickly secured. This planning is being done both by TORCH headquarters and members of the British War Cabinet. General Clark tells Colonel Sterling, secretary of the war cabinet, that such plans should include operations against Sicily, Sardinia and movements farther to the east in North Africa to hit Rommel from the rear. Reaction to the proposal that troops from Malta participate in TORCH by attacking Tunisia—an idea originally proposed by Prime Minister Churchill—is not receiving favorable reaction from the British. The Malta garrison is not well-trained in mobile warfare; it lacks transport; it could not supply itself for more than seven days after landing. It looks as though this sidelight phase of the operation may be abandoned.

General Browning, head of British paratroops, calls on General Clark who tells the Britisher that it now looks as if about 400 of his jumpers can go into the theater about D plus 2 or 3. The two generals discuss the possibility of bringing all of Browning's troops into the theater. Browning is eager for such an enlargement of the plan but the British are entirely dependent on the U.S. for air transports. One British brigade group is going by sea and will arrive at Algiers four days after the initial assault. It will carry a 100 percent reserve of equipment. This will enable six successive parachute battalion operations to be carried out toward the east in quick succession. General Clark orders that three C-47 squadrons be equipped with British type racks for dropping paratroop equipment so they can be ready to start Browning's men forward. General Clark stresses again and again "the great potential importance of paratroop-airborne operations in the North African theater." General Clark instructs General Craig to radio General Arnold, asking for the use of a squadron of DC-4's for a limited period. If these large transports can be obtained the difficult problem of moving air force ground personnel into the new theater will be solved.

A host of things are decided today that make the success of TORCH look more optimistic. The SOE and Secret Operations Branch of the OSS are transferred from the political section to the plans and training section since they are concerned with military operations, including destruction of military installations, removal of enemy personnel, etc. The British Navy informs General Clark that it can obtain the necessary naval personnel to effect the direct harbor attack at Oran. General Clark starts the ball rolling toward organization of the American Fifth Army which will be created after the African theater is established. General Clark already has in mind selection of many of the key staff men for this new Army. Arrangements are made to place the chiefs of various supply services under the theater staff, instead of under the commanding general, SOS. Unofficial word is received that the Prime Minister has approved the "Offensive Action Paper." The British Joint Intelligence committee makes a survey that is quite encouraging concerning the security of TORCH.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 9, 1942--One of the five fast vessels rushing equipment shortages to the United Kingdom so they can fit straight in to the KMS2 convoy has had to return to the United States because of difficulties. The news brings consternation but a check shows that the ship, the Thomas Pickney, is carrying cargo that can be replaced from that coming over aboard other vessels that left the U.S. on October 3. They are expected to arrive in time for the KMS2 convoy. The Pickney's load includes gasoline and oil for ground and air forces, bombs and ammunition, maintenance supplies and some air corps technical equipment.

General Fredenall, who is to take over command of the Oran Task Force and the II Corps, arrives from the States and goes into immediate conference with General Clark. Fredenall had read the outline plans so General Clark talks over with the new commander some features of the Center Task Force operation. The command and staff organization of the Allied Force is explained. Fredenall will move into his II Corps headquarters in Norfolk House tomorrow.

The Commander-in-Chief's regular staff conference is held at noon and it is briefer than ever. General Eisenhower reports that he was asked by General Marshall to give him a terse comment on the over-all aspect of TORCH and he replied "circumstances could hardly be better." The Commander-in-Chief announces that because of the vagaries of weather he intends to go into Gibraltar four days ahead of D-day. He says the "Defensive Action" paper is all buttoned up and approved; that alternate plans for attacks against Sardinia and Libya if TORCH develops successfully are now being prepared. Thirty sets of loudspeakers with half-mile range have been obtained: 20 for the Algiers force and 10 for the Oran attackers. These will be used to shoot information to the French as the assault boats go shoreward. Provisions must be made to send along at least 30 Americans who speak French. They will be in the initial assault boats.

The best news announced by General Eisenhower is that two squadrons (24 planes) of Navy PBVs will be available at Casablanca for anti-submarine patrol in that area. They will come into Casablanca on D-day and be assigned to the coastal frontier. The question of plane markings has been settled. All the planes, bombers, fighters, transports, carrier-borne, will be marked with the U.S. insignia, with the exception of the Spitfires assisting the Algiers force.

The need for security is again stressed and General Eisenhower points out the troops who will participate in TORCH "have been exhibiting surprising accuracy in knowing where they are going." He says more cover will have to be spread in another direction. The Commander-in-Chief insists that all affected officers keep up with the latest "shadings" on cover plans. He expresses satisfaction at the Joint Intelligence Committee's report on conditions in Africa and the Mediterranean. The report indicates the enemy knows very little of TORCH.

Through each of the Commander's conferences, General Clark sits at General Eisenhower's right, filling him in on things he has overlooked, expanding on the Commander's remarks when he is asked to. The team-work between Generals Clark and Eisenhower is magnificent. Each man supplements the other and seems to know what is on the other's mind.

The problem of coordinating transportation for TORCH has come up and the Commander and his deputy, following a luncheon with Admiral Ramsay, hold a long

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conference at Grosvenor Square. British and American opinion over here was that shipping and communications in the Mediterranean should be coordinated to assure full use of all facilities and to prevent any confusion. The suggestion from London to Washington was that a nine-member British-American board be set up, to function in Gibraltar for the first three months, then to move forward into the theater. It would be known as the North African Shipping Board. General Marshall cables back that he thinks a nine-member board will be too unwieldy and recommends that a Chief of Transportation be set up under the Commander-in-Chief. This shipping problem is now foremost among the many problems to be settled. It has been, among other things, one matter that has been giving General Clark a few sleepless nights.

Another problem of great concern to General Clark is keeping the Straits of Gibraltar open in event Spain enters the war. He has begun to propose a plan whereby British troops, including the much discussed Royal Marines, will be on the alert in the United Kingdom, ready to sail for an attack on Spanish Morocco. If the need arose, these troops, under General Clark's plan, would rush into the region just as soon as the troopships taking the initial assault forces to the Mediterranean could be re-loaded. Control of the Straits is of the most vital importance because this might be the only route through which TORCH troops could be supplied.

Plans for the final rehearsals in Scotland prior to the embarkation of troops for battle are now complete. The assault forces will go through their mock war in the River Clyde region on October 19 and 20. General Clark goes over the final training plans and situation maps with General Lemnitzer.

Preparations for establishment of a Fifth Army in Africa are going forward. The feeling among other officers is that General Clark will head this army but he says nothing, indicates nothing. In all probability, after the theater is opened and the operation is well underway, General Eisenhower will return to London to devote all his energies on the European Theater of Operations, perhaps making preparations for the opening of a European front. Colonel Sawbridge, head of Allied Force Headquarters personnel section, is instructed to cable Washington the personnel requirements for Fifth Army Headquarters. They should be ready for shipment to the theater by November 15. Requests are being made for the entire army headquarters, less heads of sections and principal assistants, together with army troops initially required.

As additional cover for TORCH, it will be allowed to discreetly slip out that General Eisenhower is returning to the United States for conferences. G-2 has suggested that the War Department send a cable directing General Eisenhower to fly back to Washington. This will provide good cover for the operation; particularly for the Commander-in-Chief's departure to Gibraltar.

Two other matters come up today to cause discomfort: The scheduled arrival of units of the 12th Air Force is not being met and General Clark asks General Doolittle for "frequent reports so we won't be under any misapprehensions concerning the strength of our air support. General Anderson, who rises every so often to become a ticklish problem, has protested because he was not consulted before a cut was made in the number of officers and enlisted men of his command who are to be transported by air to Gibraltar. An adjustment is being made.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 10, 1942—Generals Clark and Eisenhower are going to put up a fight for retention of the North African Shipping Board. General Clark holds a conference with General Gale, Colonels Philippe, Hamblen and Stokes and the consensus is that the military cannot satisfactorily control the necessary Mediterranean shipping without assistance from civilian experts. General Gale feels if the proposed board of nine is not set up it will be necessary for the British side to establish, independently, a body similar to that proposed by the Anglo-American planners in London.

General Clark informs General Eisenhower that he "believes" we must explain this matter to Washington more fully and adhere to our original recommendation, except for the possible elimination of the civilian chairman." He orders that a cable along these lines be prepared for dispatch to Washington.

Two heartening reports are made to General Clark today. General Gale says the logistics problem is straightening itself out nicely and that he has no new administrative problems. "Everything," Gale tells the Deputy Commander-in-Chief, "is progressing well." General Ryder, preparing to leave to join his Eastern Task Force troops and ready them for sailing, reports to General Clark that he is "optimistic about the success of my operation. I expect resistance at the beaches and it is not unlikely that Germans may be met but the task appears to be in hand." General Ryder is well pleased with the 39th Regimental Combat Team and predicts it will "give a good account of itself." This outfit is being made ready for assault loading at Belfast. Ryder also reports that U.S. officers who have been designated to give an American appearance and command to the British 11th Brigade Group that will participate in the Algiers assault have joined their command. Officers for the other participating British brigade, the 36th, are being selected.

General Clark approves today the application of Elliott Roosevelt, son of the president, to take an active part in TORCH. General Doolittle tells the general that Roosevelt, a lieutenant colonel commanding the 3rd Photographic Reconnaissance Group, has requested such permission and General Spaatz is agreeable. The squadrons of Roosevelt's unit will operate initially on semi-independent missions. Later, the group probably can operate directly under the group commander.

Another officer is pulling out in preparation for TORCH and as the days go by the population of Norfolk House will drop materially. This officer is Colonel Bentley of Transport Aircraft. He is going to Gibraltar tonight to instruct navigators of the squadrons that will transport American and British paratroops. The transports that will be used to carry British troopers are being designated so special racks for British equipment can be installed.

Regarding flight of aircraft to the African theater, General Doolittle reports to General Clark that he feels it is all right for transports to fly over Spanish territory but that it is inadvisable for fighters to do so, particularly in daylight. The fighters would fly a longer route and be staged at Gibraltar to avoid possible interception over Spain that might give the Axis a chance to intervene. Doolittle is to take the problem up with Sanders since it appears that the British air commanders are being given complete latitude as to the routes they will fly to the theater.

The 12th Air Force, being organized for the African theater, is having organ-

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izational difficulties. The fighters and heavy bombers are in generally good shape for active operations but the light and medium bombers are not up to strength. General Clark orders that he be given a bi-weekly report and status chart to keep him up-to-date on important changes in preparations of the new air force.

Alternate plans for General Ryder's Algiers assault force are being prepared. The possibility of landing on beaches inside Algiers harbor, within range of three-inch coast defense guns, is being considered. Ryder concurs in the plans but says naval bombardment of the gun positions may cause great damage to Algiers. General Clark says that in his opinion a naval bombardment would be undertaken only if the fire of the coastal batteries is effective and he doubts if it will be effective before dawn. During darkness, Ryder's assault forces may be able to silence the guns from the land side.

Plans for landing British troops in Spanish Morocco in case it is necessary are discussed. Admiral Ramsay is in agreement but believes certain minor adjustments must be made. The final plan must have the approval of the Admiralty and the War Office. Regarding naval matters, Admiral Ramsay reports he is studying Admiral King's directive to the Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet concerning the task of the Western Naval Task Force. No word has yet been received as to the plan for refueling the Casablanca naval force, under Admiral Hewitt, at Gibraltar in case that is necessary. Admiral Bieri, who has just arrived from the U.S., reports it might be possible to refuel this fleet by increments. Settlement of this problem, says General Clark, "is one of the most important which has yet to be made firm in our planning."

Another matter that has yet to be decided is explanation, to the French, of the arrival of British troops in strength after the Algiers attack is completed. Mr. Mack is instructed by General Clark to prepare this. Arrangements are complete for the dropping of leaflets at Algiers, Oran and Casablanca. If additional leaflets are to be dropped explaining the arrival of British troops, additional aircraft will have to be set up.

Brigadier Whiteley, who has been Deputy Chief of Staff of the Allied Force headquarters, is being relieved of duty because of illness. This fine officer is going to make quite a hole in the staff. General Gale is trying to find a replacement as soon as possible.

In the evening, General Clark entertains 18 guests, old friends and members of his 1917 West Point class, at his flat in Hays Mews. High officers are sometimes criticized for entertaining in times like these but if the critics could see how an informal party relaxes a man under great pressure hour after hour and day after day they would criticize no longer. For a few hours, General Clark is able to forget the tremendous responsibilities of his job, and, forgetting, freshen himself for tomorrow when he must plunge once more into round after round of important conferences and the pressure of making one crucial decision after another.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 11, 1942--A brief summary of the message President Roosevelt will deliver to the French of North Africa at a well-timed point on D-day is received today from Washington. The present plan calls for the President to deliver it himself, in French. The transcriptions will be broadcast in French from the special, powerful short wave station now being set up in England. The summary:

"Our nations are friends in the best sense of the word and because the continuation of that friendship is desirable I want very simply to tell you of compelling reasons forcing me to take action. We have accurate information of Axis intentions to occupy your area at an early date. Our action is essential in the interest of defense of both North and South America. The sole purpose is to prevent occupation by the Axis and with the hope that the areas concerned will not be devastated by war. Full assurance is given that moves are in no shape, manner or form directed against the government or people of your country or its possessions in the area of special operations. It is believed that your country wishes to avoid Nazi invasion. It has nothing to fear from the United Nations."

General Clark, in a long conference with General Gruenther and Colonel Holmes, reviews today the entire subject of proclamations, leaflets and broadcasts. All agree that the President's broadcast should be in French and in his own voice. The first transcription should be run at H-hour and continue throughout the day and longer if necessary. General Patton has requested that the broadcast be timed with his attack but it does not appear feasible since attacks at Oran and Algiers probably will start hours before the Casablanca assault and news of the Mediterranean landings will certainly be transmitted to Casablanca. Under these circumstances, General Clark believes no loss of surprise will result because of the broadcasts.

The Presidential proclamation also will be dropped in leaflet form and posted in the occupied areas as soon as practicable. This leaflet--in addition to another announcing American intentions and bearing pictures of the U.S. flag and President Roosevelt--will be dropped throughout the areas of assault. Another leaflet, which will explain arrival of British troops in the theater, is now being prepared. It will be dropped when the British troops start landing.

Mr. Murphy, Holmes reports, is certainly back in Africa by this time. He is probably at Algiers. Murphy has a directive making him the personal representative of President Roosevelt until General Eisenhower's arrival in the theater. Murphy is authorized to make his contacts with key people in North Africa as once. It is possible to communicate with him through a special state department code.

The question of having Mr. Mack, head of the political section, go into the theater is discussed and Holmes believes it would be a serious mistake since French reaction to a British political chief would be bad. Holmes declares that Murphy, Colonel Matthews and himself can handle the political situation on the ground to better advantage and that Mr. Mack should remain in London to take care of the many political questions that will have to be settled at this end. Because of the delicacy of this matter, General Clark suggests that it be taken up with the Prime Minister at the next conference he holds with Generals Clark and Eisenhower.

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Another difficulty with General Anderson is arising. Anderson proposes to commission a Mr. Rabino as a Brigadier in the British Army and take him along as his financial advisor. Colonel Holmes thinks "there is more to this than meets the eye." He suggests that if Rabino, a foreign exchange expert, goes into the theater that he be assigned to the theater staff, not Anderson. The problem of moving Anderson's nine officers and three enlisted men to Gibraltar by air is being unsnarled. The British General is now asking that they be transported on, as soon as possible to Algiers from Gibraltar. General Clark says it is possible that Anderson will be allowed use of one of the two Bl7s which are being stationed at Gibraltar for use of the headquarters staff.

Lieut. Col. Raft, commander of the 503rd Parachute Battalion which will make the Oran jump, reports on progress being made to prepare the parachute force for participation in the operation. Raft says there has been lost motion in the training program and he is not satisfied with the ability of the navigators assigned to the troop transports. However, Raft is still exceedingly jubilant about his task and is confident the mission can be carried out successfully. He reports that British paratroops are having difficulty jumping with British parachutes from U.S. transports. He thinks it will be necessary, in operations, for the British jumpers to be equipped with American chutes.

General Clark receives today a copy of the orders relieving him of command of the II Corps so he can devote his full time to the tremendous job of Deputy Commander-in-Chief.

Literally hundreds of incoming and outgoing messages are flowing over General Clark's desk every day now. With the big problems settled, most of the cables concern more minor things. Some of them are astounding in that they show to just what infinitesimal ends preparations must be made. What about flea powder for the assault and follow-up forces? Eighty seven railroad locomotives and hundreds of flat cars, tankers, boxcars have been set up for use in the African theater in 1942. One hundred more locomotives will be shipped over in 1942. What about pigeons to carry messages in case of radio difficulties? Beach guides at every point where American troops will assault must be arranged for. Think of the care with which these guides must be selected! They will show the attackers the best routes to airfields, oil dumps, communications centers, ground and air gun emplacements. One wrongly-picked guide could upset the security of the entire landing. Code names and phrases have been worked out for every important man, both American and French, in the operation.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 12, 1942—Several knotty problems come up for discussion today at the Commander-in-Chief's regular staff conference: what to do about Spanish Morocco if Spain or the Axis attempts to close the Straits of Gibraltar; how to refuel the Western Naval Task Force at Gibraltar, if necessary; what should be done if, for instance, the Algiers force is able to attack on D-day and the Oran force isn't; how to time President Roosevelt's broadcast if weather delays the attack; the delicate treatment that must be devoted to civil rights and what must be done about seizure of French arms, and, reports that German planes and men are being concentrated, apparently for use in North Africa.

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There is a new face at the conference table today. General Fredenall, who has assumed command of the II Corps and the Oran Task Force, sits in for the first time. Missing from the conference is General Ryder who has gone to Scotland to join his Algiers Task Force.

General Eisenhower opens the conference with the Spain-Spanish Morocco problem. "If this thing goes sour," he says, "a decision must come from the highest level (President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill) on what we can do. There would be no possibility of us doing something before D plus 25. Two British divisions might help us out. I have written General Ismay telling him what we hope to do. I'm asking the British to earmark the Royal Marines, one old infantry regiment and an armored brigade for use in Spanish Morocco if necessary. The earliest date this force could start moving from the United Kingdom to the Mediterranean is D plus 16."

The Commander-in-Chief then brings out that General Patton has sent over a "dangerous document" in which he advocates violent action against Spanish Morocco in case he is prevented from landing on the Casablanca coast. If such a document should fall into the hands of Spain or the Axis, Eisenhower says, it would be fatal to the operation since the Axis would use it as a fulcrum to pry Spain into the war or else as a pretext for moving into Spain for an attack on Gibraltar and North Africa. Such a document, he continues, is at odds with what President Roosevelt is telling the French people in his broadcast and it is also directly opposed to the North African proclamation, signed by General Eisenhower, that is going to be dropped on the beaches and posted after the landing. "We must guard to the utmost against such documents," says General Eisenhower. "No one must go ashore with any documents making reference to possible attacks on Spanish Morocco or Spain or papers that are at variance with President Roosevelt's message or the proclamation."

The second problem--refueling of the Western Naval Task Force--results in a more optimistic discussion. Admiral Ramsay reports that despite difficulties it looks as though Admiral Cunningham has favorable hopes of refueling the American fleet at Gibraltar. Commodore Dick says he believes the ships can be refueled 30 at a time; hence, by increments, the fleet could get its vital oil.

The question of what to do if weather conditions prevent one of the Mediterranean Task Forces from landing while the other is free to go in, is disposed of in clear terms. "We'll have to get ashore where we can," says General Eisenhower. "There can be no waiting for simultaneous attack. By daylight they are going to know that we are lying offshore so we'll have to strike wherever we can. There's always a possibility, you know, that the situation we foresee will be reversed: that the Casablanca force will be able to land and neither the Oran or Algiers forces will have the right conditions."

The problem of timing President Roosevelt's broadcast to the North African French is brought up next. General Clark assured Admiral Ramsay, the inquirer, that the signal system is set up for the most rapid transmission of messages from the theater to London. Transcription tables will be turning and the message ready for broadcast when the signal is given. Once the troops start going over the sides to get in their assault boats, word can be flashed north for the broadcast to start. One of the chief worries is how the agents ashore--principally Mr. Murphy--will be able to get in touch with both the Task Force Commanders and TORCH

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headquarters. General Clark has gone over this problem time and time again with General Matejka and the last stages of coordinating signals have been entered.

The question of seizure of French weapons is brought up by General Anderson. He believes it is imperative that as many French weapons as possible be seized during the assault phase, no matter what the French promise to do. General Eisenhower believes the French should be told to "stack your arms," but he instructs General Clark to draw up specific conceptions of what should be done regarding French weapons. This discussion leads to the delicate problems of requisitioning property in the theater and dealing with French civil officials. After long discussion of the points involved, a more specific directive is asked.

The Axis activity cable that has caused anxiety came from Washington. It said: "Reports indicate many German planes, motor vehicles and stores of gas and oil are being moved to Oran, Casablanca and Algiers from Italy and Sicily. Special German air formations are being trained in Italy ready to move on short notice." Brigadier Mockler-Ferryman declares British Intelligence has no reports to substantiate this message. He says that agents in the TORCH theater are getting jittery and that they undoubtedly will magnify things until D-day. "You can expect more such scares," he adds. Another report, totally unconfirmed, is that the Germans are massing 100,000 troops on the border on Tunisia.

A decision is made that troop transports can fly over Spain at night but that no combat planes are to cross Spanish soil. Mr. Mack says Foreign Minister Eden has agreed to the transport crossings.

A final "verbal view" of TORCH is ordered for next Friday morning. General Clark is to make preparations for a two-hour C-in-C meeting at which each Commander, Task Force, Air, Naval, etc., will give a narrative account, in front of maps, of what his mission, his troop disposition and other salient goals are. "This," says General Eisenhower, "will give us a horizontal orientation of the entire problem. Each of us will know what the other man is planning to do." General Clark is to allot the time for each man and make all arrangements for the final conference. It will be the next to last major step before troops and Task Force commanders sail. The final exercise will be a field maneuver in Scotland in which all TORCH troops, except parachute, will participate. Generals Clark and Eisenhower will witness this exercise.

Only four of the scores of important papers that have been prepared by the Plans and Training section of Allied Force Headquarters remain unfinished and they are being rushed to completion. General Clark checks them over today with General Lemnitzer. They are: A mistice Terms, detailed SOE instructions for Mr. Murphy, an operation memorandum on communiques and a plan for landing, if necessary, part of the Western Task Force in the Nemours area, near Oran. Four alternative plans have been set up for the Patton force. 1--the entire force will go into Gibraltar; 2--force a landing at Nemours; 3--invade Southern Spain, and, 4--attack Spanish Morocco. These are in the order of preference.

Admiral Bieri of the U.S. Navy confers with General Clark concerning naval command. He says that "all concerned" now understand that the Commander-in-Chief can command the Western Naval Task Force either directly or through Admiral Cunningham. Naval officers in charge of shore installations will be under the Task Force Commanders; but, in naval matters, they may deal directly with Admiral Cunningham.

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Special naval operations in the harbors of Oran and Algiers are also brought up. Bieri is critical of the whole project but General Clark placates him when he explains this is a "Trojan Horse" operation, rather than an assault. The destroyers will go into the two harbors in the hours of darkness, run alongside the principal docks and place soldier-guards and naval technicians aboard the tied-up vessels to prevent sabotage which, if successful, could make the harbor useless at a critical time. If the destroyers are fired on by coastal batteries, they are to retire.

Another naval problem that has arisen is apparent friction between Admirals Ramsay and Bennett concerning division of responsibility at Oran and concerning the manner in which Ramsay has issued instructions to Bennett. General Clark, striving to keep harmony in the household at a time when pressure is on and tempers are likely to be short, arranges to straighten the matter out.

Following the C-in-C conference, General Anderson confers with General Clark. The British commander is informed that Allied Headquarters will furnish him air transportation from Gibraltar to Algiers. General Clark also explains that 39 planes, capable of carrying 800 jumpers, will be available to move British paratroops into the theater. He impresses on Anderson that all air transports in the theater are under headquarters control and will not be sub-allotted to Task Force Commanders in advance. These vital aircraft will be on call, ready to furnish transport for paratroops or airborne troops according to needs. The Deputy Commander also informs General Browning that 39 C-47s of the 64th Air Carrier Group are being equipped so they can move his British paratroops to the theater when the time comes.

General Clark next takes up the problem of writing leaflets that will explain the presence of British troops in an operation that started as All-American. Mr. Mack believes it will be wise to impress on the North African French that there is close U.S.-British collaboration in the TORCH venture.

A report on the availability of the tank-carrying Maracaibos is made by General Oliver. These craft must be ready for loading by sundown October 17 in order to be ready to sail October 21. One Maracaibo, the Bachaquero, now under repair on the Clyde, may not be ready in time unless it is given a priority. General Clark arranges this through Lord Louis Mountbatten. A check has also been made on the M-4 and M-4A tank situation in the United Kingdom. Seventy four are here and 26 more are scheduled to arrive. These are to be turned over to General Oliver's 1st Armored Division. The M-3s now at Tidworth should go to the GHQ battalions, General Clark believes.

Other matters disposed of today by General Clark include selection of a Judge Advocate General for the Allied Forces; (He is Colonel Richmond.) plans to head the three propaganda agencies, OSS, OWI and PWE, under Colonel Holmes who will integrate preparation of broadcasts and psychological warfare; and plans for the airplane transportation of headquarters personnel to Gibraltar just before D-day. An air-courier service between Gibraltar and the Task Forces and between Gibraltar and London is also being arranged.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 13, 1942--The highlight of General Clark's very-busy day is dinner and a conference with Prime Minister Churchill at Number 10 Downing Street. Very little is said directly about TORCH but a contributory action--the big attack that General Alexander is starting in the Middle East on October 24 as a partial cover for TORCH--is gone into thoroughly.

General Jan Smuts, the 72-year-old South African leader, has just flown in from Cairo to report to the Prime Minister on LIGHTFOOT, the offensive operation General Alexander is planning, and find out the latest information on TORCH. The British will make an all-out attack on the Germans on October 24. The Germans have dug into the sand and rock in more or less permanent position. The plan calls for a frontal assault patterned after the First World War strategy, first, a creeping artillery barrage; second, an infantry assault, that should lead to, three, creation of a hole wide enough for armored units to get through and fan out. General Smuts says the attack is all set; that the British have air and tank superiority over the German Afrika Korps. Smuts reports that the new leadership, Alexander, is fine and that it has had an electrifying effect on British troops in the Middle East.

Every effort is going to be made in LIGHTFOOT to stress the participation of American troops. The Prime Minister discusses this with Generals Clark and Eisenhower. In reality, the case will be misrepresented because American participation will be very minor, mostly bombers. However, all concerned agree that it is essential that North Africa feel that Americans are participating in all operations. It will be a good buildup for the American TORCH landings and also good cover for TORCH.

The Prime Minister reads several highly secret documents captured from the Afrika Korps recently. Marshall Rommel is suffering from ulcers and has returned to Germany. The Germans are frantic for more ammunition and food. From the documents it appears that the German supply situation is in bad shape. General Clark asks the Prime Minister if it isn't possible that these documents were "planted" but Mr. Churchill says he's certain the papers are authentic. Other officers at the conference include Sir Alan Brooke, commander of the Imperial General Staff; Admiral Cunningham, the naval commander of TORCH, and Brigadier General Smith, chief of staff of TORCH.

The question of who will take over command in case anything happens to General Eisenhower or if he returns to England comes up. General Brooke says this has never been questioned: "The command goes to General Clark." It appears that General Anderson has raised the question on the basis of seniority and has taken the matter up with Mr. Churchill. Discussion of the command was designed to clarify the Prime Minister on the matter. The question is cleared once and for all. The Deputy Commander will take over command; Anderson's jurisdiction is only in the Algiers region and he is under orders of TORCH headquarters. General Clark would sign his orders in the name of the Commander-in-Chief. It also appears that General Anderson intends to send back battle reports direct to Mr. Churchill. It is pointed out that this may give rise to the issuance of separate communiques. Allied Force headquarters is hoping to send the Prime Minister complete reports for his information but not for use in communiques.

Before going to the Prime Minister's Official Residence with Generals Eisen-

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hower and Smith, General Clark's day is filled with conferences. The most vital one concerns a British-U.S. naval matter. It hinges around the wording of the directive governing command relations of the TORCH naval commander with the U.S. Navy. Admiral Bieri says the provision concerning command of subsequent North African convoys was inserted deliberately to insure that U.S. Navy vessels would not be diverted from the convoy duties by orders originating with British Admiral Cunningham. Bieri points out that U.S. naval vessels escorting the D-day convoy will be required for the same duty with subsequent convoys. It is important that these vessels get back to the United States as soon as possible so they can start across with another convoy. After Admiral Bieri leaves, General Clark calls in Commodore Dick who reports that Admiral Cunningham feels that the paragraph referring to his control over command of subsequent convoys should be removed from the directive. Dick reports Admiral Cunningham has no intention of diverting U.S. naval escorts. As a result of these two conferences, General Clark cables Washington recommending deletion of the controversial paragraph. The two U.S. Navy PBV squadrons for anti-submarine air patrol are set. They will be based at Casablanca and be under command of the senior naval officer in the port. But, operationally, they will be controlled by the Commander-in-Chief in Gibraltar.

All naval directives are now prepared and are ready for issue as soon as Admiral Cunningham clears them. The directive for the Commander of the Western Naval Task Force must go forward without unnecessary delay since that force is scheduled to sail from the United States October 24. The proposed armistice terms have been approved and they left today for Washington by special courier.

Two new officers, both British, report in today. One is Brigadier C.S. Sugden who is replacing Brigadier Whiteley as a Deputy Chief of Staff of Allied Headquarters. Sugden has recently been with troops and prior to that he put in 18 months with the Operations-Planning Group at the British War Office. The second man is Brigadier Wildman-Lushington, chief of staff to Lord Louis Mountbatten. He is going to Gibraltar with TORCH headquarters and will spend the coming week getting oriented in the G-3 section.

A disconcerting memorandum was turned in late tonight by Colonel Hamblen. Three British ships with a capacity of 13,000 troops have been sunk. All of them were set to be included in KMF3 convoy. One was the Duchess of Bedford, one of the vessels in the trans-Atlantic convoy that brought headquarters of the II Corps over last July. Hamblen reports that there are no reserve ships to move into the convoy. This loss will have to be met somehow, possibly by overloading of other ships in the convoy or else use of a larger vessel, such as the Empress of Scotland.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 14, 1942--Boxes and barracks, crates and chests start moving out of Norfolk House in an almost steady stream today. Two and a half ton trucks back their broad butts up to the curb and enlisted men stow away equipment that is starting the long journey to the North African theater. The exodus of officers and men to the ports of loading has started. Officers come into General Clark's office to say goodbye and, usually, the farewell salutation is "See you in Oran" or "Meet you in Algiers"... "Goodbye and good luck."

The imminency of the huge operation is starkly apparent today at the Commander-in-Chief's regular conference. The room is crowded as the largest group to

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date sits in on the discussion. The final key man on the TORCH staff has arrived. He is Admiral Cunningham of the British Navy who will head TORCH naval operations. He has just arrived from Washington where he was a key man on the Combined Chiefs of Staff board. Admiral Cunningham will be at Gibraltar headquarters to advise Commander-in-Chief Eisenhower and Deputy Commander Clark during the critical approach and landing phases of TORCH.

All arrangements have been made for two major TORCH matters: the complete "verbal view" conference Friday in which each commander will review what plans he is to execute; and, the Monday and Tuesday maneuvers of all TORCH troops in Scotland.

Field Marshal Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, will attend the Friday conference. General Eisenhower impresses on all commanders that either they or a qualified representative must be at the meeting to present a comprehensive review of the part men under their command will play in TORCH. General Clark has the conference details all worked out. After a brief discussion of the Armistice Terms paper that has already been completed and of wording of various North African proclamations, General Eisenhower asks "if any of the rest of you have anything to throw into the pot." He nods to Admiral Cunningham but the Naval Commander reports that "things are running smoothly."

"Anything bothering you?" General Eisenhower asks the question all around the table. All he gets are shakes of the head and "No, sir." The C-in-C turns to General Gale, head of supply. "Surely," says Eisenhower, "you have something that's bothering you." Gale shakes his head. "The ships are being loaded. We're having our little troubles up there on the ground but none of them is big enough to bring up here." Air Marshal Welsh then reports that air problems are being solved and adds that disposition of the two U.S. Navy PBY squadrons at Casablanca for anti-submarine patrol is satisfactory. Admiral Ramsay reports that Admiral Cunningham and he are leaving on a final inspection tour of TORCH naval units.

The maneuvers in Scotland are then discussed. The problem will start at 2:00 AM Monday and continue until sometime late Tuesday. A special train is taking high-ranking TORCH planners north. It will leave Sunday morning and return Tuesday. Generals Eisenhower and Clark must return as they have another conference Tuesday night with the Prime Minister. General Lemnitzer has the entire maneuver problem in final form.

Because none of the conferees has vital matters to bring up, the Commander-in-Chief's conference lasts only seven minutes.

Attempting to solve the difficulty caused by the loss yesterday of three British troop vessels scheduled to sail in KMF 3, General Clark takes up the problem with General Gruenther. The loss of these three ships through enemy action has reduced the available personnel lift below requirements. This shortage, General Clark says, can be met in part from British sources. He orders preparation of a cable in which a request for one U.S. Vessel, with a capacity of 3,500 men, is made. Another shipping problem has arisen: the British are asking for 25 additional cargo ships per month from the U.S. The Ministry of War Transport wants Washington to re-examine the capacity of the U.S. to carry out what the MWT regards as an earlier agreement. Generals Clark and Gale and Colonel Stokes discuss the

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drafting of a cable to adjust the British and U.S. difference of opinion.

The War Department has again expressed disapproval of the London group's plan for the North African Shipping Board. The final decision is left to General Eisenhower so Generals Clark, Gale and Admiral Ramsay are going to try and work out the best shipping board solution.

Prime Minister Churchill now believes that American Naval vessels should be with the British Fleet in the Mediterranean. He suggests three ships, preferably cruisers. If this were done, there would be naval ships flying the American flag in the Mediterranean Naval Task Force and bear out once more the "American angle" of TORCH. The British would substitute three of their ships in the Western Naval Task Force. General Clark takes up the matter with Admirals Bieri and Bennett, both of the U.S. Navy. Admiral Bieri says such a substitution could have been made earlier but such a change now would be serious since the use and disposition of U.S. naval vessels has been decided. General Clark suggests the use of three U.S. destroyers. The matter will be presented to Admiral King in Washington.

Monetary arrangements for the North African theater have been made. American dollars with a special yellow seal and British pounds stamped with "British Military Authority" will be used. This will prevent Germans from flooding the country with regular British and American money and will give additional control to prevent black marketing. The American dollar will be traded in at 75 francs to the dollar and 300 francs to the pound. The political section of Allied Force headquarters is being eliminated. For the most part it has been incorporated into the G-3 section since much of its work involves operations. Mr. Murphy is going to head civil affairs with Colonel Matthews as his deputy. Mr. Mack will be used as an advisor to both General Eisenhower and Mr. Murphy in matters pertaining to political and civil affairs. Mack, after a conference with General Clark, is going to have the title of "British Civil Liaison Officer." It appeals to him as "being sufficiently vague to cover any functions" with General Clark or General Eisenhower might want to assign him to.

A proposed plan to have General Anderson's Eastern Force assault Spanish Morocco appears impossible. Generals Gale and Lemnitzer report to General Clark they are convinced such an operation, which was to have been used only in event hostile reaction in that area, is impossible logistically because it could not be supported through the port of Ceuta if the Axis air force is based on air fields in Southern Spain. General Clark directs that work on this alternative plan continue but that the view advanced will be given full consideration before any decision is reached that will put the plan into effect.

General Gruenther recommends use of the Geneva Red Cross in the field and General Clark agrees. Both generals favor meticulous adherence to the provisions of the Geneva Conference in the field and General Clark says this same principle should apply to any instructions issued concerning treatment of war prisoners.

A story concerning the Prime Minister seeps out today. During a recent conference, the subject of General Eisenhower's new dog came up. General Brooke asked what name the dog had been given and General Clark, knowing that the animal was far from housebroken, said: "Ike calls him Paderewski." General Brooke, naturally, asked why and General Clark replied: "He's the pianist of the lot." Everyone laughed but the Prime Minister. Paderewski..pianist. Mr. Churchill shook his head. He never did get the joke.

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Today is General Eisenhower's birthday so in the evening his closest friends throw a birthday party for him at "General Ike's" retreat outside London. The piece de resistance of a hilarious evening is, according to General Clark, an American piece of roast beef, flown over from the U.S. by one of General Eisenhower's acquaintances. Most of General Eisenhower's gifts are items useful for field wear.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 15, 1942--One of the 11th hour worries of TORCH is disposed of today when Admiral Cunningham informs General Clark that the Western Naval Task Force can be re-fueled at Gibraltar. This news allows General Clark to call in Generals Gruenther and Lemnitzer and proceed further with discussion of alternative plans since some of these hinged on the possibility of re-fueling this force.

Methods of mis-leading the Axis to aid TORCH are gone over with Brigadier Mockler-Ferryman, Colonel Bevin and Major Phillips. This calls for news to "leak out" that General Eisenhower is returning to the United States. This "cover" visit would come just at the time TORCH is starting. Bevin proposes that General Eisenhower "accept" an Armistice Day speaking engagement in the U.S. This could be announced or allowed to seep out through diplomatic channels. General Clark goes over the plan and clears a cable asking Washington to coordinate any such plan.

The touchy subject of closing the political section and making Mr. Mack a liaison officer is gone into again. General Clark is meticulous in treating subjects that involve relations between British and American personnel. Mr. Mack assures the Deputy Commander-in-Chief that the arrangement as outlined yesterday is perfectly satisfactory to the British Foreign Office. It has taken diplomatic handling on several occasions to handle personnel matters. This type of work--adjusting points of difference between British and American officers, settling questions of seniority and command--has been handled with the greatest care by General Clark.

The question of American medical personnel for Algiers is adjusted by General Clark after Colonel Corby, senior U.S. medical officer of Allied Force Headquarters, points out that no U.S. medical officers are set up to arrive in Algiers until KM4. The general investigates and finds that no medical officers, British or American, will go into Algiers until the KM4 convoy. General Clark, to remedy this, rules that as the need for medical staff officers is found to exist at Algiers prior to the scheduled arrival date, they will be sent in by air. Of course, the assault forces are being accompanied by medical personnel; but none of it is directly from headquarters.

An even larger group of officers and men leave London today for Scotland, either to participate in directing the special pre-TORCH maneuvers, or else to supervise loading of ships, now underway chiefly along the River Clyde.

General Clark, preparing for a long stay in the war zone where good dental facilities may not be available, has his teeth checked over and has one filling. He is also being bothered by a sore--probably ringworm--under his left arm. The only two times he leaves the office today, except for luncheon, is to make quick trips to the dentist and the medical dispensary. Because time is growing short and he will not be in London much longer, General Clark is having British officer lunch with him at his flat. Today it was General Gale and Major Carver, an assistant secretary at the British War Office.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 16, 1942—"We are now passing from the abstract to the concrete phase. Our troop and cargo ships are starting to load. Already some naval units are at sea and can be considered as actively participating in TORCH. Our planning, for the most part, is done. I want to stress one thing: we must always be aggressive. If any man, from squad leader on up, is ever in doubt about making a decision, he can't go far wrong if he always does the AGGRESSIVE thing!"

In a concise but complete talk, General Eisenhower closes today a three and a half hour TORCH resume conference during which 12 force and/or section leaders outline the part they have played or will play in TORCH. Fifty-four officers crowd the map-filled conference room. As man after man gets up to detail naval plans, assault plans, air plans, administrative plans, etc., the officers, all key men in the opening of the Second Front, listen intently. There is no discussion as each man finishes his outline; only a quick change of map boards before the next officer outlines the assignment of forces under his control. The most important TORCH conference to date is closed by General Eisenhower's brief but hard hitting resume.

The conference's tone is pitched by Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa who is the only "outside" officer at the meeting. The venerable warrior, occasionally pulling his Van Dyke beard with his old and dry-skin hands, speaks quietly and impressively:

"I don't have to stress to you the profound importance of this operation to the Allied cause. On it hinges a turning point in the war. If you are successful--and I know you will be successful--you will give heart and courage and hope to the Allied nations and to the occupied and oppressed peoples of the world." Talking so quietly at times that the men in the crowded room have to learn forward to catch what he is saying, the Field Marshal declares that "despite what the United States has done and is doing in the Pacific, this is your great effort and the entire world will be watching. Its execution will bring apprehension and fear to the Axis; hope and courage to those who are allied, either openly or secretly, because of pressure and control, with us." When Smuts sits down, there is not a sound. General Eisenhower, sitting at the center of the conference table between Field Marshal Smuts and General Clark, calls on Admiral Ramsay to outline the Naval Plan.

Through use of charts, Admiral Ramsay shows the movement of warships and convoys to the African Theater. The British naval contribution to TORCH is tremendous. He tells what naval vessels are already underway and lists the ports at which others are preparing for the trip to the Mediterranean. With pin flags he shows the positions of the convoys on various days before D-day, how they all reach the Straits of Gibraltar on D minus two so the TORCH warships and troopships and supply vessels will enter the hazardous area just as darkness falls. Visually, the conferees can see the fast and slow convoys advance, enter the Mediterranean, fient, re-group and then head for their beach areas. "For the navy," says Ramsay, "the war has already started. At this moment we have fighting ships enroute to Gibraltar." The British Admiral details how submarines will lead the combat loaded vessels to within five miles of the coast so the men can start loading in the assault boats. Submarines will also form a patrolling "wall" toward the Eastern end of the Mediterranean, going in as far as between Italy and Sicily. Ramsay, having the pin flags moved relentlessly forward until they are concentrated before

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Algiers, Oran and Casablanca, explains each move. He also covers final stages of the arrival of the Western Naval Task, the All-American Naval force.

Details of the assaults of the Eastern, Center and Western land forces are next explained, respectively, by Lieutenant General Anderson, Major General Fredendall and Brigadier General Lemnitzer. Anderson stresses the drive he must make to the east "to beat the Boche into Tunisia." The capture of Algiers is up to the Eastern Assault Force force that will be led by Major General Ryder. From there on, Anderson will pick it up, driving toward Tunisia with the greatest possible speed. Anderson's plan is to move most rapidly along the coast so he can capture Bougie, Philippeville and Bone then move on Tunis. He asks that every possible aid be given him--principally motor and air transportation.

The assault plan for each of the forces is the same, landings will be made on three beaches at each point. The forces will then encircle the city, concentrating first on capture of the airdromes and the ports. General Fredendall explains minutely the plan for the Oran assault. As he talks, Brigadier General Rocks, points out details on a huge map. The principal assault will be on Arzu beach. Two of the forces will drive for the principal airport at which the American paratroops will already have dropped. The paratroopers have enough supplies to hold out for 48 hours. "We'll relieve them and have control of the airport by that time," Fredendall predicts. The plan is outlined down to the last detail, including such items as where road blocks will be placed, how a vital ridge is to be controlled.

General Lemnitzer, the TORCH G-3, outlines the Western Task Force job since all officers of that force are in the United States preparing to sail direct to Africa. Seizure of two airports is the main task here. One important feature of its attack is the use of a sea train. The main assault, in the Sale-Rabat-Port Lyautey area, will be made by the 3rd Division. Lemnitzer outlines what bridges must be secured, what strength is anticipated.

The two head air officers--Air Marshal Welsh who will head the Eastern Air Force operating at Algiers, and Brigadier General Doolittle who will head the all-American Air Force operating at both Oran and in the Casablanca area--are the next to outline their planes. Both stress one thing: quick seizure of airports is essential so carrier-based aircraft can be relieved and harder-hitting ground based planes can enter the combat. At the start, Algiers, being closer to the Italian and German Air Forces, will have the strongest force. Both forces, at the start, will be made up predominately of fighter planes with a few dive bombers and regular bombers. The air strength buildup will come after the major ports have been secured and smaller ports enlarged to accomdate bigger planes.

General Gale then goes over the administrative plans. The shipping situation is extremely tight and loss of any ships before TORCH gets underway will mean a shift in plans, Gale says. He goes through the entire plan of supply buildup. By D plus 45 the plan calls for the forces to have 30 days of supplies; by D plus 90, 60 days of supplies. Eventually, it is planned that the British troops will be supplied from the United Kingdom and the U.S. troops from the United States. Since the latter supply line is longer, shortages for the American troops will be made up from the United Kingdom.

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Highly-involved alternative plans, predicated to meet several possible TORCH situations involving weather, political moves, etc., are outlined by General Lemnitzer. The greatest number of alternatives has been set up for the Western Task Force which is likely to run into weather that will prevent a West Coast landing. The major factors controlling landing of this force will be weather and what attitude is taken by Spain. The Patton force may lie off-shore and wait for better surf conditions, it may move on and land at Gibraltar, it may be ordered to attack Spanish Morocco, or, even attack southern Spain. As to the Eastern Force, it too may have to attack Spanish Morocco. And, as General Eisenhower later points out, if everything goes "completely sour we may have to call the whole thing off."

Four men--Colonel Holmes, Mr. Mack, Mr. Matthews and General Lemnitzer--outline the complicated political, civil and subversive activities that have already been made or that are going to be made. All of them stress the "politico-military" nature of TORCH; how political maneuvering can influence the military picture. Mack predicts that the French Navy and coastal defenses will resist strongly; that the French army resistance will be "light," and that the French air force probably will put up very little fight. Matthews discourse on civil affairs concern the technicalities of monetary standards, preparation of "soft and hard" proclamations depending on the attitude of the North African French, use of an American "front" for civil contacts.

During the entire presentation, there is not one word of discussion. As the maps are changed, the men silently mull over what they have just heard. Occasionally, Generals Eisenhower and Clark whisper to each other. Many of the officers make notes. When the entire plan has been outlined, General Eisenhower walks to the front of the cloth-covered conference table, stands in front of the pin and flag studded map boards and says:

"Our planning is now nearly completed and we are arriving at the supervisory stage. In this presentation two things have been repeatedly stressed: our first objectives are--airports and seaports. These are most vital to the success of the operation and commanders must be guided by this when seeking objectives.

"You have seen how exceedingly flexible our plans are. That flexibility must be kept in the minds of all commanders. They must be imbued with the spirit of the offensive. They must keep in communication with the next senior commander, from platoon up, but when independent action is demanded and when there is no time to await orders, bold offensive action must be the rule."

General Eisenhower then praised his staff, saying he had been astounded and greatly pleased by the way the British and Americans had worked into TORCH cooperatively and with a minimum of friction despite a difference in staff structure. He tells them he's not only pleased with them but that he is proud of them and he believes the staff structure is perfect. As the meeting closes, a feeling is left that a new phase of TORCH has started, that the 11th hour has come and that plans and preparations are complete.

Later, General Clark remarks that he, who, as Deputy Commander-in-Chief, has had every paper cross his desk and who has sat in on every conference, is "astounded by the scope and immensity of this thing. It's size and its importance is staggering!"

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During the afternoon General Clark holds two important conferences. He calls in Major Schofield, commander of the 60th Troop Carrier Group that will carry American paratroops to Oran. General Clark tells him that it has been decided that 36 transports will be used for the job and that these planes will revert to control of the 12th Air Force when the paratroops have jumped. Schofield is confident his mission can be accomplished successfully. He adds that he believes he can land his group "without material loss" shortly after the paratroops have leaped through the transport doors. General Clark also calls in General Doolittle to impress on him that dispatching of planes from the United Kingdom to the African theater after TORCH develops must go through and approved by Allied Force headquarters. Doolittle is an individualist and a check-rein must always be kept on him.

Colonel Duncan, who commands the group of B-17s that will fly headquarters officers to Gibraltar, is brought in to see General Clark. Duncan recommends a daylight flight starting at 1000 from southwest Cornwall. The flight down of six bombers would be in formation, for added security, and would arrive shortly before dark of the same day, tentatively set for D minus 6. Four of the Flying Fortresses will return the following day to England while two, with outstanding combat crews, will remain at Gibraltar for headquarters use or else for combat missions if required. Duncan is apprehensive least the arrival of the headquarters staff at the R.A.F. field in Cornwall would result in too much publicity. General Clark assures him steps will be taken to conceal identities. The insignia of Generals Clark and Eisenhower and other top-ranking officers will be concealed.

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LONDON, OCTOBER 17, 1942--General Clark is going to Africa immediately to confer with high French leaders, probably General Giraud and General Mast, and, possibly Admiral Darlan!

This sensational development comes overnight and it may change the entire aspect of TORCH. If negotiations go right, our troops may enter North Africa without opposition, or, with opposition from only the French fleet and the coastal batteries. Everything hinges on the Clark-French conferences. Chronologically, this is what happens during the day:

Early this morning a cable is received from Washington. Mr. Murphy, who is now back in Algiers, has conferred with French Army leaders, has told them an American landing in French North Africa is planned and, after explaining all we want is to get at the Axis and that we have no designs against the French, asks the leaders if they would like to confer concerning entrance of American troops into their area. They say they would so Murphy got in touch with Washington which, in turn, cabled London.

Arrival of the cable results in a three and a half hour conference between Generals Eisenhower and Clark and other high-ranking officers of the TORCH staff. The cable from Washington states that a "senior general officer" should conduct the ticklist negotiations. General Clark volunteers and General Eisenhower tells him that the tremendous and difficult job is in his hands. With whom General Clark will negotiate is not known yet. Darlan, commander-in-chief of the French armed forces, may fly from Vichy to Algiers for the conference. General Giraud, head of French ground forces in Africa, is already there. The third man, who probably will

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be present at the rendezvous whether the chief conferee is Darlan or Giraud, or both, is Major General Mast, chief of staff of the French 19th Army Corps and the key man in developing French collaboration with the United States. He is also a key man in organizing French military and political collaboration in French Africa. General Clark is to have wide latitude in dealing with the French. Because Darlan has changed his colors so many times, there is mistrust and General Clark is to deal with Giraud if he is in doubt. The entire dealing will take extreme diplomacy. If Darlan and Giraud oppose each other, General Clark is to deal with Giraud. However, Darlan has control of the French navy and the potency of this force must be reckoned with, hence, Darlan must be handled with extreme care. All these, and kindred matters, are gone into minutely during the long conference that lasts throughout the morning. Similar urgent conferences are being held in Washington, with President Roosevelt, Admiral Leahy and General Marshall participating, and in London, between the Prime Minister and his political and military advisors.

When General Clark busts back into his Norfolk House office he starts generating action. Murphy's cable stipulated that the conferring U.S. general should be accompanied by one man thoroughly familiar with details of the operation, one supply man, one navy man and one political expert who can speak French fluently. General Clark decides to take General Lemnitzer, head of the Allied Force plans section; Colonel Hamblen, the shipping and supply expert; Captain Wright of the U. S. Navy who has been a navy liaison man since TORCH was started, and Colonel Holmes, a former state department career officer who now heads the civil-political branches of TORCH. These four men confer with General Clark until late afternoon, planning their strategy, their hazardous entrance to Algeria and how they will rendezvous with Murphy, Mast, Giraud and possibly Darlan.

*Colon* The five officers will fly to Gibraltar in two Flying Fortresses. Then, they probably will go to the Algerian coast in a British submarine. From this they will go ashore at night in a small boat and rendezvous at some spot not-yet-designated with Murphy and the party he is bringing. This entire development has a bizarre touch that out-Oppenheim's Oppenheim! Highly secret cables are passing between London and Washington by late afternoon when General Clark hurries to Number 10 Downing Street for a hastily-called meeting of Mr. Churchill's cabinet. At this meeting, the Prime Minister, Generals Eisenhower and Clark and the British cabinet and military and naval leaders go over the entire plan. Every man sees this conference as an opportunity to execute TORCH with a minimum loss. Newspapers today report growing unrest in France and the entire conference and operation may come at a very propitious time. The lives of thousands upon thousands of soldiers, the continued use of scores of British and American warships and hundreds upon hundreds of planes, the success of TORCH and the future conduct of the war, the start of the downfall of the Nazis and the Fascists--all these things and myriads of inter-related subjects could well hinge on this Algerian rendezvous that General Clark is going to make.

As the Prime Minister's conference breaks up, Mr. Churchill turns to General Clark and says slowly: "You can always keep in mind, Clark, that we'll back you up in whatever you do." Solemnly, the British Prime Minister then shakes hand with the lanky, black-haired American general who has suddenly been placed in one of the most crucial spots of the war.

Back at the office, General Clark sets up arrangements for his transportation

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to Algeria. If the weather is clear, the planes will take off sometime tonight. With the four men who are to accompany him, General Clark pores over incoming and outgoing cables. Replies to Washington must be drafted with infinite care since one word in a cable discussing how negotiations are to be handled may change the entire thought of the message. With Captain Wright, General Clark goes over the submarine set-up.

why? It is almost dark when General Clark returns to his Hays Mews flat. Bags must be packed. Each man in the party is taking both military and civilian clothes. Five carbines and 400 rounds of 30 caliber ammunition is obtained so each man will be armed. French North African francs and gold pieces are secured by the finance department. General Clark is taking not only enough money for the personal use of the five men, but also enough to buy off leaders if necessary and to buy their way out in case they fall into a trap. In the space of a few hours these eventualities must be prepared for.

High strung and preoccupied by the hazardous mission he is to undertake, General Clark is unable to relax at his flat so he drives to General Eisenhower's country place to carry on further discussions. Later in the evening, the Air Corps reports that a takeoff during the night will be impossible; that the flight from London to Gibraltar probably won't start until late tomorrow, or, possibly, Monday morning.

This is the gist of Murphy's cable:

When he returned to Algiers, the head of French intelligence, asked for a secret interview. It took place at an isolated spot. The French had been instructed by Darlan to contact Murphy upon his return from the U.S. Both German and Japanese sources have reported to the French that the U.S. is planning early military operations against Dakar and/or Casablanca. The Germans have urged the French to take "every precaution" against this and the French feel this may constitute a pretext for Axis occupation of French North Africa. The French general staff is convinced of "imminent" Axis aggression in the region. "The Germans," cables Murphy, "appear determined to settle the Western Mediterranean issue during the coming weeks, and will have the use of Spanish mainland and Spanish Morocco for this purpose. Gibraltar is under constant surveillance...In French opinion definite action is not a question of weeks but days." Murphy reports the French political situation is "extremely delicate and a collapse may be expected in as little as ten days."

"Accordingly," Murphy continues, "Darlan is faced with a decision...It appears he will be willing to come to Africa and bring with him the French fleet if he, as commander-in-chief of the French armed forces can be assured of U.S. ability and willingness to supply large scale aid, both material and economic. With such an indication, there is strong possibility that Darlan could cooperate, in which case the military and naval forces in French Africa will undoubtedly obey his command."

The French intelligence officers were sent to Murphy "for the sole purpose of advising me that I may possibly receive a message from Darlan in Algiers. There is no question that the situation in French North Africa is moving fast. Information indicates the Axis have massed about 100,000 troops along the Tunisian frontier..." Murphy requests immediate advice "as to limits I may go in replying to Darlan's representative who desires to know: 1--Are we willing to cooperate with Darlan? and

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2--If so, will we be able to do so quickly and on a large scale here and/or in Europe?" Murphy recommends "that we encourage Darlan on the basis of securing his eventual cooperation with Giraud...Darlan is expected here next week."

Murphy says that General Mast has told him that General Giraud "desires that he be dealt with instead of Darlan, who he feels cannot be trusted, but is extremely desirous of climbing on the band wagon." Mast says the army is loyal to and will be commanded by Giraud instead of Darlan; also, that the navy in French North Africa would go along with the army. After his talk with Mast, Murphy transmits Mast's request for "immediate dispatch of five American officers from Eisenhower's staff to meet a similar number of French officers on October 21, at a point 150 kilometers west of Algiers. One of these officers is to be a general officer..Their arrival should be by submarine at night, for a stay of 48 hours in a private house."

Mast suggests the possibility of incorporating in TORCH the occupation of some part of unoccupied France by the French army if they can be supplied by the United States. Generals Clark and Eisenhower went into this proposal today and although it appears impossible for the U.S. to supply it, a plan is proposed whereby three shiploads of supplies would be shipped by the British. Cables General Marshall regarding the party lead by General Clark: "From information available here, it would seem advisable to dispatch the group of officers from your staff by submarine if possible as this may result in confirming to your satisfaction the French proposals."

The question of command in French North Africa naturally comes up and Mast insists that it is political and must be settled in advance. Conferees here think the top Frenchman, probably Giraud, could be made a Deputy Commander-in-Chief. Says Murphy by cable: "Mast asserts we can gain entry practically without firing a shot through Giraud's command. Mast also stated that Giraud insists that embassy at Vichy, legation at Berne and other possible contacts be issued instructions that negotiations with Giraud will be routed through other channels, since Giraud wishes to continue his contacts with the U.S. through Mast in Algiers for reasons of safety." To get Giraud from France to North Africa, it is suggested that an American submarine pick Giraud and his party at night on the French Mediterranean coast.

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POLBROOK, ENGLAND, OCTOBER 18, 1942--General Clark and his four key officers are ready for departure to the Algerian rendezvous. They arrive at this American bomber base, 73 miles northwest of London, at dusk, prepared to take off whenever the weather is right.

*why?* The rendezvous is to take place 15 miles west of Cherchel, Algeria, about 150 kilometers west of Algiers. The cable localizing the rendezvous is fantastic. General Clark will meet the party being brought to the rendezvous by Murphy at an isolated house back from the beach. The submarine that will carry General Clark from Gibraltar to the Algerian coast will approach the shore by a beam thrown by a light that cannot be seen from the landside. General Clark and his party will go ashore in small boats if the weather is practicable. If not, the rendezvous might be held aboard the submarine of a French warship. Prime Minister Churchill has arranged it so General Clark can have two Sunderland Flying Boats at his disposal if he needs them.

General Clark spends the morning at his London office, mostly in conference with General Lemnitzer, Captain Wright and Colonels Hamblen and Holmes. Again and again

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WLO they go over the plans and huddle on the wording of cablegrams. General Eisenhower departed at 8:30 AM for Scotland and the TORCH troop maneuvers. Nothing was changed in the northern trip plans so only a few officers know that General Clark did not go; that, instead, he is going on a highly secret mission. By 1:00 PM everything is cleaned up and the general goes to his flat to finish his scanty packing, write his wife a letter to be delivered only in case he does not return? and arrange final personal details of his departure. Cables have been received from Washington saying that "Agree" (the code word for General Clark) is to proceed with his mission. His instructions are brief, the approach and conference with the French being left largely to his discretion. Time and time again as he does last-minute things before leaving, General Clark remarks: "This is fantastic—really fantastic!"

General Clark and his party depart from London in two automobiles at 3:42 PM and arrive at Polbrook just before dark. Because his identity should remain secret, the general takes along lieutenant colonel's silver leaves which he will be wearing upon his arrival at Gibraltar. The party is taken to Air Corps Officers' barracks for quartering until departure time, expected sometime during the night. The weather is still cloudy. For security reasons, the general and his party eat at a small, more private mess hall. The two planes are ready on the field, merely awaiting weather clearance. General Clark and Colonel Hamblen will travel together in the "Red Gremlin" with Colonel Tibbits as pilot. General Lemnitzer, Captain Wright and Colonel Holmes will travel in the second plane, the "Boomerang."

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BY FLYING FORTRESS TO GIBRALTAR, OCTOBER 19, 1942—The two Flying Fortresses take off from Polebrook at 7:10 AM. Prior to start of the flight, General Clark lays down a policy of action. If General Clark's plane is forced back, must land at sea or otherwise delayed, General Lemnitzer, riding in the other plane, will continue on the mission. Under no circumstance is either plane to land in Spain or Portugal. General Lemnitzer is carrying a weighted tube containing all the highly secret documents necessary in this fantastic mission.

The two planes, carrying full combat crews in addition to the special passengers, nose into an overcast at 600 feet and fly in it for half an hour before they come out above the cloud strata. After flying above the clouds for three hours, the weather becomes clear and noon and the two planes are over the sea. The "Red Gremlin," carrying General Clark, leads the "Boomerang." Only one ship is seen, a small sailing vessel somewhere off Portugal. The planes sight land at 1:30 PM and it remains in sight until about 5:15 when the peninsula of Gibraltar comes into view. As the planes circle Gibraltar, Spitfires come up to look the Flying Fortresses over. Captain W.S. Connors, piloting the "Boomerang," goes in first, landing at 5:50 PM. General Clark's plane lands at 5:56 PM. On the trip down the officers rode in the radio compartments and bombardiers' seats. As usual, General Clark spends quite some time in the co-pilot's seat. Both planes need the full length of the Gibraltar airport runways. The party is met by Colonels Willis and Gaylord of the U.S. Army Air Force and the aide to General Mason-MacFarlane, governor of Gibraltar.

The party goes immediately to Governor's House and, after cleaning up, the general meets with Governor MacFarlane and his advisors. No word has been received from Mr. Murphy concerning the details of the rendezvous. General Clark, eager to push on with the mission, is disappointed. The entire group, General Clark's

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party, General MacFarlane and his group and U.S. SOE and OSS officials, go into conference, discussing all angles of the hazardous mission to North Africa. Lieutenant Jewel, skipper of the P-219, the British submarine that will take the Clark party to its sea-edge rendezvous, is present. Discussion centers around whether to proceed according to plan or whether to await word from Murphy. It is decided to put to sea!

The group goes by automobiles to the berth of HMS Maidstone, submarine depot ship, for dinner. The following message is dispatched to Murphy, via Lieutenant Colonel Eddy in Tangiers:

"To Eddy (most immediate). a. Reference Murphy's recent messages to War Department, Washington, please advise Murphy most immediately that X and four staff officers as requested by him intend to rendezvous at point fixed on night Wednesday 21 October. b. Reception party should therefore be at rendezvous for 2100 hours GMT and be prepared remain there till dawn 22nd. c. In event weather prevents landing on night 21-22 request Murphy arrange alternative plan to conduct conference aboard submarine at time and place to be determined by Murphy and be communicated to X (General Clark) via Gibraltar. d. If neither plan operates on night 21-22 landing party will attempt landing on night 22-23..."

After dinner aboard the Maidstone with various British and American officials, General Clark's party boards the P-219 with Lieutenant Jewell. The ship gets away immediately, at 10:15 PM Gibraltar Time. The party turns in early.

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ABOARD SUBMARINE IN MEDITERRANEAN, OCTOBER 20, 1942--The P-219 sails on the surface. Preparing for the ordeals that lie ahead, General Clark and his four officers sleep until 8:30 AM. In turns, members of the party go on deck. The sea is smooth, the weather fine. The P-219 steers a zig-zag course to prevent hostile submarines from firing torpedoes at it.

At 3:15 PM a conference is held to discuss plans for boat rehearsals and landings. Three Commando officers, familiar with the little Falbot boats that General Clark and his party will go ashore in, are aboard the submarine. General Clark and his officers, the commandos and the ship's officers participate in the conference. The general plan concerning use of arms (carbines and Tommy guns), action ashore, reconnaissance and signals is gone over. The submarine will go as close in-shore as possible and survey the beach with the periscope. Not a word has been received from Gibraltar by the P-219. Apparently nothing has been heard from Murphy. General Clark and his officers are eagerly awaiting word. To pass the time, they play bridge in the cramped submarine.

At 9:30 PM, Lieutenant Jewell stops the submarine and the officers who are going ashore rehearse, in the middle of the Mediterranean, disembarkation from the rolling submarine. Colonel Holmes and Captain Livingstone launch their Falbot first. They paddle noiselessly away into the night. From a distance of several hundred yards they try out the infra-red signal light, sending a message from the Falbot to the submarine. The light cannot be seen by the naked eye but with the proper kind of unocular it is visible. This signal is to be used later when the party gets on the beach. It works perfectly and Holmes and Livingstone return to the sub.

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General Lemnitzer and Lieutenant Foote make the next trip. Although this is practice, it isn't a "dry run." The second Falbot takes a little water as General Lemnitzer fends it off the gun platform during a high swell. Both men get wet but stay in the canvas boat. Colonel Hamblen and Captain Wright test their Falboat out satisfactorily. General Clark and Captain Courtney go last. They make their launching smoothly. Courtney is an expert on these boats and has instructed the group repeatedly on the correct way to get into the precarious little boats.

With the mid-Mediterranean "over-the-side" exercises, completed, the group goes below and the P-219 pushes on again. Soon the men are asleep, the sub moving steadily through a smooth, slightly moon-dappled sea. At 6:20 AM the Klaxons sound and the submarine, now nearing the North African shore, dives. There is still no word from Gibraltar. What the hell? General Clark and three of his officers play bridge during the morning as the submarine noses slowly along under the Mediterranean. The air gets rather warm and oxygen-less. The men, particularly the army men, feel dopey. The submarine, by afternoon, is off the rendezvous point. Lieutenant Jewell takes the vessel up so the party can look at the rendezvous house through the periscope. There is no sign of life! The house is a chateau-type. The sub is a mile and a half off-shore. The sea is still smooth and the weather fine and warm. The depth gauge shows 32 feet submergence. General Clark and the other officers peek through the periscope. First it is angled up so the sky can be scanned for planes, then it is swung around the horizon for ships, finally, it is concentrated on the rendezvous house. After a few seconds of peeking, the sub drops a little, then the periscope breaks water again and another quick peek is taken. The crew makes sketches of the beach. 21

Unable to sight any unusual activity, the submarine, still well under water, sneaks away to sea again. It goes out ten miles, the Lieutenant Jewell turns it around at 4:30 PM and proceeds slowly toward shore. The periscope is put up every few minutes for observation. A late lunch of canned tongue, beets, bread and fresh tomatoes is eaten. Then the group that will go ashore shaves for the first time since Monday morning. The army men, with stubbly beards, almost look like the P-219 crew which sports a lot of fine growths. Preparing to go ashore and anticipating a message from Murphy, the musette bags are re-packed for landing.

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The following message finally is sent to the submarine from Gibraltar: "Most secret and personal. From Flag Officer Commanding North Atlantic Station. Information received that meeting cannot take place on board submarine on surface vessel but must take place as previously arranged. Your parties were originally expected night October 20-21 up to 0500GMT. If not contacted then you would be expected on night 23rd. My part two follows: Part Two: The interested parties have been informed to expect you night 21-22 as well and that if no contact made to expect you might 22-23. You should assume therefore that you are expected tonight and tomorrow night."

General Clark gathers his men in the restricted confines of the submarine and outlines the following plan for trouble ashore. On safe arrival ashore, the party will turn off the white toward-the-sea light that is to guide them in. They will start it re-flashing early Thursday morning if they wish to re-embark. The submarine will stand off from the beach, directly in front of the house, all night of the 21-22 and 22-23. If no radio communication is established and no word received from shore, the submarine will take a station five miles off Fountaine de Genie at daylight Saturday until Sunday morning. If still no word is received, it will return to Gibraltar.

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General Lemnitzer redistributes the gold so that each of the three Commandos has 2,000 francs, three \$10 and three \$5 gold pieces. General Clark and his four staff officers carry large amounts of gold. The submarine again approaches the shore line, going in within two miles but still no signal light appears! There is now considerable doubt and apprehension about the rendezvous. The group considers whether to land despite the absence of a signal light but this is finally rejected. After waiting offshore until 10:30 PM, the submarine is turned about and heads seaward again. General Clark turns in, believing there will be no landing tonight (Wednesday). About 11:30 AM he is awakened by ship's officer who tell him that a light is now showing at the rendezvous point and that the submarine has turned again and is headed for shore. There is much activity as the eight shore-bound officers dress, prepare their kits and get the boats on deck through the torpedoe hatch. By midnight, the submarine has stopped and the men and their four boats are ready to debark.

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SECRET RENDEZVOUS, NEAR CHERCHEL, ALGERIA, OCTOBER 21<sup>22</sup> 1942--The P-219 has stopped two miles from the Algerian shore. Captain Livingstone and Colonel Holmes launch their Falbot successfully despite heavy swells. They paddle 50 yards away from the submarine and wait. General Lemnitzer and Lieutenant Foot are next. Just after they clamber into the Falbot, a swell forces the little boat under the hydroplane and the two officers narrowly avert capsizing. They paddle out and wait with Livingstone and Holmes. Captain Wright and Colonel Hamblen then embark without difficulty. General Clark gets into the Falbot without difficulty but Captain Courtney, who has instructed everyone on how to get into a Falbot without difficulty, gets tangled up with the boat and hydroplane and the Falbot capsizes.

General Clark orders Colonel Hamblen to return to the submarine and the Deputy Commander-in-Chief boards Captain Wright's Falbot. Courtney, chagrined and soaking wet, is fuming on the sub when the three-Falbot armada starts shoreward. The sea is quite smooth and the going is easy. As the boats approach the beach, Livingstone and Holmes go ahead to reconnoiter. The Falbots containing General Clark and Wright and Lemnitzer and Foot wait silently 200 yards offshore. From the darkness over the hissing surf comes the signal--the letter K flashed on a flashlight--that Livingstone and Holmes are ashore and all is well. General Clark and Captain Wright then beach their boat, followed by General Lemnitzer and Lieut. Foot. Meanwhile, Courtney has repaired the other Falbot which was damaged slightly when it capsized. With Hamblen as his passenger, the Commando officer comes dashing ashore, arriving only a few moments after the third boat.

General Clark's party is met on the beach by Mr. Murphy and his assistant, Mr. Knight. They are accompanied by several French officers, some in uniform, some in civilian clothes. After a brief conference at the water's edge, it is decided that the American contingent could not confer and depart before daylight so the submarine is called by radio and Lieutenant Jewell is instructed to bring the P-219 back about 8:00 PM Thursday evening. The group then gathers its gear together and heads for the rendezvous house. They carry the boats about 200 yards along the beach and up a steep path to the chateau which is located about 200 feet above the beach. The boats and gear are hidden in the house. The Americans and Frenchmen have about one hour of general discussion but there is no official talk since General Mast and his staff will not arrive until about 6:00 AM. Hence, everyone turns in for a few hours rest.

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The rendezvous house is located on a bluff overlooking the sea. It is large and rambling and well-suited for a secret meeting place. It is well isolated. Nearby are woods. There is ample space for the large group that will confer. The rooms and bedding are very dirty and the indications are that the place has not been occupied for some time. It is owned by a French patriot. He has told his two Arab servants that they will not be needed; that he will let them know when they are to return.

At 6:00 AM General Clark and his party and the French officers who were on the beach are awakened by Mr. Murphy. Shortly thereafter, General Mast and Colonel Jousse arrive and Generals Clark and Lemnitzer meet them in a reception room and the discussion begins. Mast makes a good impression on General Clark. He impresses him as "a man who can be relied upon." Mast, right-hand man of General Giraud who is still in Unoccupied France, says he "wants an opportunity to go along with the Allies." Above all things, Mast seems sincere. He proves that sincerity by turning over to General Clark valuable intelligence concerning disposition of French forces, not only in the Algerian region which Mast commands, but throughout French North Africa. The general's impression is that General Mast is absolutely sincere, capable and completely engaged in setting-up a French government in North Africa under General Giraud. Mast willingly presents all his plans in complete detail, revealing maps and supporting papers. He gives the concrete impression that he can be trusted completely and will do everything within his power to assist our entry into North Africa. The general French North Africa attack plan suggested by Mast parallels that of TORCH so closely that General Lemnitzer remarks that it looks as though he might have read a copy of TORCH outline plan.

General Mast speaks English except when he gets to highly technical discussion. Then he is interpreted by either Mr. Murphy or Colonel Holmes. Mast freely admits that he can do little without the help of the United States. He says he has sufficient men, but no arms. He is short on ammunition, modern planes, armored vehicles. He has practically no gasoline. In fact, he says he has nothing to prevent Axis occupation of the area regardless of the odds. He paints a pitiful picture of how helpless he is without United States help. He makes no sweeping boasts about what he and his troops can do. At times he seems to be on the verge of tears, particularly when discussing the sparse means he has available to protect French North Africa.

When the conference with General Mast and his staff started, it was decided that both sides would lay all their cards on the table, that there would be no holding back of information, no lies. The parties all agreed. Says General Clark later, that's when I started "lying like hell." Mast asked how big an American effort could be made. Without batting an eye, General Clark declares that "half a million American troops can come in" and adds the strength of the air force would be "about ~~2000 planes~~ <sup>2000 planes</sup>." The Deputy Commander-in-Chief also adds that "there is plenty of U.S. Navy ready to go in this thing." Mast is greatly impressed. He suggests that General Giraud be brought to North Africa from Unoccupied France in an American submarine. None of the French realize the imminency of TORCH; they know some sort of operation is planned by the United States but apparently nothing definite has leaked to them. Mast's great fear is attack by the Germans. If such an attack comes, says Mast, "we will fight immediately, no matter what we have to fight with."

Although Admiral Darlan, head of all French forces, has arrived in Africa, he is not invited to or informed of the conference. Giraud and Darlan have different views. Neither Giraud or Mast would participate in negotiations involving Darlan.

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Mast says he can promise the support of the French army in North Africa; that it will implicitly follow the orders of Giraud and himself. He says an American landing in North Africa will have little reaction from the French army and air force. The French navy, however, will resist, says Mast, but the resistance won't last long.

When General Clark explains that the entire basis of the proposed American landing in North Africa is to launch a drive to the east to fight the Germans, Mast is enthusiastic. He suggests that there should be a landing at Bone. This might be done by paratroops. Mast says he believes the American paratroops could land intact by plane at the Oran airport, then push off the next day and drop over Bone. He says the French civil organizations there will act in concert with the American troops. From Bone, Mast believes that about 3,000 troops could rush into Tunis to a localized area that they could hold until reinforcements arrive. General Clark asks how the paratroops could land unmolested at Oran. Mast's air officer, who has already given the American officers detailed reports on the dispersion of French air forces and minute facts concerning airports, says French troops in the Oran area "will pat them on the back and be glad to see." What about getting the airport lights on so we can land, queries General Clark. "I'll turn them on myself," replies the French air officer. An unopposed paratroop landing would save ten days—the amount of time it would take to re-pack the chutes and re-equip the men.

As Mast outlines how he thinks a North African landing should be made, General Clark and his men are astounded by how closely Mast's plan parallels their own. It is identical except it omits the Casablanca attack. Mast says a frontal attack at Casablanca would be suicidal. He turns over to General Clark detailed plans showing how the French navy plans to block harbors.

Mast says the North African French officials must know four days ahead of the landing date if they are to make the necessary arrangements for the American troops to come in with a minimum of opposition. Not knowing some of the TORCH troops are already at sea, Mast says Giraud must be brought over when convenient. He says that he can issue instructions to the French army in North Africa which he says is loyal to him. He asks that his army be furnished with equipment as soon as possible so it can aid in the fighting. General Clark promises to obtain as much equipment as possible.

Mast asks that General Giraud be given command of all troops, American as well as French, in North Africa and after long discussion General Clark says he believes this command can be given at the appropriate time. Mast wanted the command of American troops to pass to Giraud as soon as American feet hit the North African beaches. General Clark is convinced by Mast that General Giraud will come to North Africa immediately. Giraud must be informed of the operation by November 4. An American submarine for the secret Mediterranean crossing is out of the question but General Clark believes he can get one without difficulty from the British. Mast and General Clark draft a letter to Giraud. A reply is expected by October 27. The question of relations with General Juin, commander of certain French ground forces in North Africa, is brought up by General Clark. Says General Mast: "P-f-ft, I'll handle him, just like that!" And he makes a breaking motion with his hands.

Use of British troops in the operation is brought up. Mast wants the North African landing to be All-American. General Clark tells him that is impossible; that because of American commitments in other theaters, there would have to be some

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British naval and air units. Mast indicates the French would be disappointed if the British made the proposed Bone landing.

One of the gravest questions concerning Giraud, Mast says, is sacrificing the rest of Unoccupied France to the Germans if the French cooperate with the Allies in North Africa. Giraud believes the Germans are preparing to occupy the remainder of France no matter what happens. Giraud wants to hold a bridgehead in Southern France through which French forces resisting an Axis advance into Unoccupied France could be supplied by the United Nations.

Mast is worried about Spanish Morocco. He says he has three French divisions along the southern border in case Spain seizes the opportunity to attempt a push southward from Spanish Morocco.

General Mast presents a copy of a letter he has prepared for Mr. Murphy to send to General Giraud. It is satisfactory, General Clark says, except for the final paragraph pertaining to command. The group works over General Mast's letter. Murphy makes the translation from French to English. The approved letter, which is to go to General Giraud immediately by messenger, reads:

"My dear General:

"Referring to statements made on several occasions by President Roosevelt and the obligations already assured by the American Government as well as the British Government, I am able to assure you that the restoration of France in its complete independence, in all its grandeur and the extent it possessed before the war, in Europe as well as overseas, is one of the war aims of the United Nations.

"It is understood that French Sovereignty will be reestablished, as soon as possible, in all the territories, continental and colonial, over which the French flag flew in 1939.

"The Government of the United States considers the French nation as an ally and will treat it as such.

"I wish to add that in case of military operations in French territory (either in metropolitan France or in the colonies) in all cases where French collaboration will be available, American authorities will not intervene in any of the affairs which are only in the province of the national administration or which concern the exercise of French sovereignty.

"Insofar as command is concerned the United States Government has no other thought or desire but that military command in the area be placed in French hands at the earliest practicable date. However, during the initial phase of the operation--that is, the landing and the establishment of necessary bases--it is considered essential that the command be not changed while the operation is in progress. During this period we shall bend every effort to provide French Forces with modern arms and equipment. While French Forces are being thus equipped and organized, the command machinery can be perfected so as to permit French assumption of the supreme command at the appropriate time. Immediately following the landing it would facilitate direction of the operation if a French General Officer was appointed as a Deputy to the Commander-in-Chief.

(signed) Robert D. Murphy"

The Deputy Commander (French) post probably would go to Giraud. Later, Giraud would have his position enlarged. Mast is satisfied with the revision of his draft of the letter to Giraud.

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The papers turned over to General Clark by General Mast and his Chief of Staff, Colonel Germain Jousse, are minute in detail: defense plans, disposition of troops, location of air units and gasoline stores, what airports are useless in rainy weather, harbor defense and blockade plans. After a five hour discussion, General Mast leaves at 11 AM so he can return to his post in Algiers. So more *chry 5th Col. Jousse* detailed discussion can be carried on, the French general leaves behind his naval and air officers and a special operations officer. The discussion is halted at 11:30 AM so everyone can get out into the sunshine and dry their wet clothing. The group then lunches, Fourteen people sitting down to a meal consisting of chicken (Arab style), beans, French bread and wine. The meal is cooked and served by French Patriot members.

Following lunch detailed discussion of plans begins between American and French officers. The plan presented by General Mast is gone over in minute detail. Colonel Jousse ~~does~~ most of the talking and explaining with Colonel Holmes and Mr. Knight acting as interpreters. After the tactical plan is discussed, General Clark and his four staff officers go over the naval and air plans, special operations plans and logistical details. In each case, the French had prepared their detailed plans in writing. These were freely turned over to General Clark. The discussion continued until late afternoon when the meeting was abruptly ended by the owner of the chateau dashing in to declare that the French police were approaching the house. Apparently, the Arab servants had gone to the police to report "queer goings on" in the isolated house.

News of the police turned the meeting into turmoil. Colonel Jousse grabs up his maps and, in a few seconds has showed himself a "quick change artist"--he has changed from military to civilian clothes! Everyone is rushing around the room picking up papers and personal effects. It looks like a disturbed anthill! American and French officers are rushing through the house in all directions, gathering up everything and anything that might disclose their presence there. General Clark and the other officers keep their uniforms on. They have civilian clothes with them but by putting them on they would technically become spies. General Lemnitzer takes off his military slacks and attempts to get into a pair of oilskins. While trying to struggle into the oilskins, Lemnitzer loses his pants. Someone has scooped them up on the run and disappeared with them! Murphy rushes in and suggests that some money might be necessary to buy off the police. General Lemnitzer, who is keeper of the secret papers and chancellor of the quite sizable exchequer on the trip, dips into his musette bag to get Murphy 5,000 Algerian francs. In his haste to get the money in Murphy's hands, he drops several gold pieces on the floor and is unable, because of the lack of time, to recover all of them.

By now, it is apparent that the conferees cannot possibly get the boats down to the beach before the police arrive. One boat, which had already been taken out of the house, is quickly replaced inside. In the haste, one end of the Falbot is dropped and it looks as though it might be unfit for the return trip to the submarine!

The officers decide that it will be best to hide out in the wine cellar until the police could be held off, bribed or otherwise disposed of. The entire group, with the exception of the owner of the rendezvous house, files down to the dirty, odiferous and very small cellar. Each man is armed with either a carbine or a tommygun and all the kit he can carry. No sooner are they in the cellar than the police arrive. As they huddle there in the semi-gloom, they hear the chateau owner

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and the police arguing excitedly in French. Their running feet patter on the floor overhead. The officers attempt to keep as quiet as possible. Captain Courtney is seized with a spell of coughing. He chokes and sputters and seems about to strangle.

"General," gasps Courtney to General Clark, "I'm afraid I will choke."

"I'm afraid you WON'T," whispers back General Clark!

7. Someone finds a bottle of wine which is consumed quickly. The minutes drag by. The men hold their breaths and hang on to their weapons. After about an hour, Murphy reports that he has sent the two French lieutenants, the beach patrol officers who met the American group on the beach, to take care of the police. He urges that the group remain in the cellar 15 more minutes then come upstairs. When the time is up, General Clark and his men file upstairs and everyone prepares to get away--but hastily.

All the Frenchman have gone. General Clark later remarks at the speed with which the Frenchmen moved. "When we heard that the French police were on their way," recounts the General, "it was as though someone had tossed 50 loaded skunks on the conference table. That little air officer was buzzing around like a machine. I'm sure he went into the courtyard and just plain took off!"

The hazardous and bizarre conference is over! The Frenchman have spread to the four winds. General subjects have been disposed of but several small matters remained to be taken care of. In the last few minutes of the conference, General Clark learned that the North African French don't quite trust DeGaulle but that they might be willing to bring him in after the North African campaign has developed; that Darlan has an appointment with Murphy on October 28 but the general believes Darlan "should be told nothing;" that the French believe any resistance at Algiers "won't last more than three hours;" that the French North African army needs all kinds of equipment. In General Clark's estimation, the secret rendezvous conference has been a success!

The raid by the French police came about 6:00 PM and it is dark now. All during the day there has been a brisk on-shore wind and as the American officers prepare to depart they realize that the surf is putting up a steady roar. They are apprehensive lest they be unable to get through it in the fragile boats. After making a last search of the house for articles that might have been mislaid in the late afternoon scramble, the officers start for the beach. General Lemmitzer almost gets left because he is looking for his lost pants and the lost gold. He can find neither. The officers have a difficult time getting their four Falbots down the steep and narrow path to the beach. The group is virtually exhausted when it reaches the beach. After a brief conference on surf conditions, it is decided to attempt to take the Falbots through the six to seven foot high surf. General Clark and Captain Livingstone are going to make the attempt!

Soon the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the great Allied offensive is walking on the beach wearing nothing but his shirt, socks and shorts. Over this scanty clothing, General Clark and Captain Livingstone wear their "Mae West" lifebelts. Their boat is shoved to the water's edge and, after waiting for a lull in the waves, the two men dash out through the surf. It is about 9:00 PM. A few feet from shore the Falbot is caught by an eight-foot wave and capsizes. General Clark, Captain Livingstone and all their equipment go tumbling through the churning water. The rest of the group fears they have been lost and that the Falbot is broken. Choking with sand and water, the two men roll up on the beach. The boat is

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recovered, intact. General Clark, looking like a half-drowned water spaniel, loses his trousers, shoes and other gear that had been either tied or placed loose in the bottom on the Falbot. The group drags its boats and gear back into a clump of trees. A conference follows and it is decided that any further attempts to get the boats through the surf tonight will be useless and dangerous. General Clark goes back up the hill to the house to find dry clothes. Unable to find a towel with which to dry himself, he gropes in a closet and comes up with a fine French linen table cloth. It makes a fine towel! Colonel Holmes offers the general an "extra" pair of pants. They are General Lemnitzer's, the ones he lost in the police raid scramble! Holmes explains he "just picked them up somewhere." General Clark finally gets into dry make-shift clothes. Down on the beach, everything has been dragged back in the bushes and the remainder of the group is huddled in hiding, waiting.

The P-219, which has been previously signalled to come in as close to shore as possible, is within a mile of the beach. With the special light, Lieutenant Jewell is instructed to put to sea again until the surf quiets or until it is apparent General Clark's group will have to wait another day. The French civilians aiding the American in getting away are now frantic. They are scared since capture under the circumstances would mean their lives. They urge the Clark party to leave.

In the meantime, the French police return to the mysterious chateau. General Clark is there alone. Rather than retire again to the stuffy wine cellar, he gets out of a window, jumps over a wall and sprints for the beach, in his stocking feet! The sprint is through the woods, over rocky paths and down a sandbank. He joins the rest of his group and they settle down to wait and plan.

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ON THE BEACH NEAR CHERCHEL, ALGERIA, OCTOBER 23, 1942—General Clark decides to try and buy a trawler or any kind of power boat to get his party to the submarine but all efforts fail. Someone produces another bottle of wine and the tired, bedraggled group disposes of it in their little cul-de-sac. At intervals, officers go to the beach to inspect the surf. It seems to be quieting.

About 1:30 AM everyone but General Lemnitzer and the three Commandos, who remain to guard the boats and equipment, return to the chateau for food and rest. It is decided to wait until about 4:00 AM, the last possible minute if the Falbots are to reach the submarine before dawn, before making the final decision on whether to attempt to get away today. While waiting on guard, General Lemnitzer notices that the surf is quieting. During the period from 1:30 to 4:00 AM, there are several false alarms—there are mysterious Arabs in the vicinity, the police are returning again. All prove groundless but they are nerve wracking. At 4:00 AM General Clark and the rest of the party return to the beach hideaway. The situation is surveyed. During his guard period, General Lemnitzer found a spot along the beach where the surf seemed especially placid. It is finally decided to make another embarkation attempt, despite the cost: it seems hopeless that the group can launch four boats successfully without losing some personnel and a lot of equipment. However, indications are that the place is exceedingly "hot" and General Clark and his party, if they remain, may at any moment be seized by the police who might return in greater strength.

All equipment that is not absolutely necessary is jettisoned. This includes the tommyguns, carbines and radio. The boats must be as light as possible. General Clark and Captain Wright are to make the first attempt. It is decided that four

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