

The men who fired the guns were naked to the waist, deafened, and a bit groggy from the rapid firing, but they were smiling. I heard one petty officer say, "I can't believe it, but this is it." During that night 400 guns fired together on objectives that had been carefully spotted during days of apparent inaction.

In the evening we saw the tanks of the First Regiment of "Fusiliers Marins" go by on the road, that ran alongside the gun emplacements. Most of the men wore their red pompon caps, a few had British helmets. A small French flag with the cross of Lorraine waved on the tanks. The men were going to take their positions on the Garigliano. They crossed over on the Tiger bridge and occupied a kind of no-man's-land of boggy and mined ground. From there they carried out reconnaissance operations.

The first impact of the battle was terrific for the light tank squadron commanded by Naval Lieutenant X. Only a man who took part in this action in the first 1800 yds. of the Garigliano bend, to the right of the Tiger bridge, has the right to tell this story. Some tanks bogged down, others burst into flames under the combined fire of mortars, heavy machine guns, and anti-tank guns.

The squadron of light tanks was cited "à l'ordre de l'Armée" and will have Garigliano written on its flag. The squadron Commander received the Légion d'Honneur from General de Gaulle. This Commander was

always the first in scouting missions, he never had a moment's rest and was always the first in line with his Sherman tanks. In one of these tanks we met the Commander of the regiment, a Lieutenant Commander.

(Commissioner of Information, Alger, May 30, 1944)

II—FRENCH FRONT

The latest news from France shows that, in spite of drastic measures of repression, such as arrests and executions, the total destruction of villages "that are supplying the Maquis," and its losses, Resistance is holding out firmly. Resistance meets the German attacks by planned withdrawal operations, passing through the holes of the net which the Gestapo has spread throughout France, in order to save its strength for more important fighting. Sabotage operations, commanded by military necessity, are being continued, as well as defensive battles waged by patriots who have been betrayed by Militia spies or ambushed by German troops. Meanwhile, the organization of the French Forces of the Interior is in progress.

A Communiqué from the Underground Paper "l'Ardèche Combattante"

The following is a notice that was posted in the square of each Commune of the Ardèche department, announcing that an agreement had been signed between the Secret Army and the Guerrillas and Partisans. The notice reads as follows:

Naples: American, British and French flags are hoisted together.



"The Secret Army and the Guerrillas and Partisans have concluded a national agreement and now form the 'French Forces of the Interior'. The Secret Army is formed of the United Resistance Movements¹ and of elements of the dissolved Armistice Army. The Guerrillas and Partisans are under the orders of the National Front², (and not, as the enemy claims, of the Communist Party, which, incidentally, is a perfectly honorable and patriotic movement). The agreement was concluded in the Ardèche department in a confident and brotherly spirit.

(A) Basic elements must remain apart; (B) a single departmental staff will distribute arms, centralize information, draw up plans, and appoint missions to the twin organizations."

(*French Information Services, London, May 20, 1944*)

Fighting Has Broken Out Again in Savoie

After a period of relative calm, following the battle of the Glières plateau, the Germans have resumed their offensive against the Maquis. At the end of April, the situation has again become serious. A few days ago, Allied aircraft successfully and accurately dropped arms by parachute, which members of Resistance groups succeeded in collecting without German interference. But the police are now undertaking vast house-to-house searches, in the hopes of finding hidden arms. These large-scale police investigations explain the state of nervous tension in which the inhabitants are living. On April 27, 1944, Darnand gave new instructions regarding public order in the reserved zones. Mass roundups for checking the papers of Frenchmen and foreigners have been started. For obvious reasons, many people do not have special passes permitting them to circulate in the reserved zones. The prescribed time limit expired, and many persons were arrested on the night of April 28, 1944. Many foreigners and Jews who were hiding in the reserved zones, made desperate efforts to escape before it was too late. Reinforcements of Militia and regular Gardes Mobiles arrived in Annemasse on the morning of April 28, 1944. This town is practically in a state of siege. The Wehrmacht, its auxiliary services, and the French police force have been alerted since April 28. German soldiers and French policemen now wear their field uniforms and carry loaded weapons. Their relations with the French populations who rightly or wrongly are counting on an Allied landing, have suddenly become strained. There is every indication that the Germans are beginning to take the first safety measures that had been planned in the event of an invasion.

(*LA SUISSE, Annemasse, April 29, 1944*)

1. The United Resistance Movement is a union of the "Combat," "Franc-Tireur" and "Liberation" organizations. Since February, 1944, the "Défense de la France" and "Résistance" have joined also to form the National Liberation Movement.

2. The National Front is a movement which includes patriots belonging to all political parties, ranging from Communists to Rightist Catholics and which groups all sections of French public opinion. The directing committee of the National Front is composed of a Communist majority, but the movement is not affiliated to the Communist Party. The military organization of the National Front — the Guerrillas and Partisans — is very strong.

300 Persons Are Massacred in Dordogne

(A.F.I.) — The repression operations began on March 26, 1944. Reliable sources of information report that in Brantôme, the Germans shot 26 patriots who were brought from the Limoges prison to the market square. In Sainte Marie de Chignac, 23 patriots were executed in similar circumstances. In the Montreuil and Peyrat regions, the Germans beat civilians to death with their rifle butts, and burned them in their houses. In Riberac, eight people were executed, and more bodies have been found on the outskirts of the town. In Villars, three innocent passers-by who had not obeyed German orders quickly enough were killed.

When the population stubbornly refused to furnish any information about Resistance, they burned and completely destroyed the houses of the Commune of Rouffignac, and a quarter of the town of Terrasson. A tiny village, lying between Les Eyzies and Perigeux, was the scene of particularly bloody events. A woman who was paid by the Gestapo, entered a farmhouse on a pretense of buying food, and succeeded in obtaining information about a farmer who was hiding two men from the Underground. She returned the next day, accompanied by six Gestapo agents, who arrested the farmer and the two resisters. However, the farmhand managed to escape and give the alarm to a Resistance group which was in possession of a mill, not far away. The Maquis men, armed with machine guns, surprised the Germans before they had time to leave, took them all prisoners, and hanged them and the woman in a near-by forest. When the Nazis learned this, they sent a "punitive column" of 200 men, who encircled the village and burned it. Fortunately, the inhabitants had been warned and escaped in time. The Resistance had also foreseen this action and had concentrated troops. While the German column was burning the village, the patriots attacked on two sides. According to the latest reports, not one German escaped, while Resistance only lost a few men.

(*FRANCE, May 6, 1944*)

132 Death Sentences Are Passed by the German Courts-Martial

(A.F.I.) Geneva, May 14, 1944 — The German courts-martial stationed in France have received orders to judge quickly and without any pity. The courts-martial of Poitiers, Quimper and Limoges alone have passed sentences on 61 men from the Resistance. The executions took place immediately after sentences were passed. After a hasty trial, the Poitiers court-martial condemned to death 33 young Frenchmen, who were accused of belonging to a Communist organization, and of having committed many acts of sabotage. 23 other patriots were executed in Quimper. They were accused of sabotaging the Wehrmacht's means of communication. The court-martial passed a death sentence on three other resisters, who were also accused of belonging to a "Communist organization."

(*FRANCE, May 15, 1944*)

A Maquis Truck Convoy Escapes German Ambush

(A.F.I.) — On a foggy evening a Maquis truck preceded by a car rolled along a road in France. Would the small convoy be able to reach its destination safely? Suddenly a whistle shrilled from somewhere, and a German car coming from the opposite direction barred the road. More German soldiers rushed up, and it was too late to turn back. The enemy surrounded the French truck and began firing. The Maquis men fired back, and although the convoy leader was wounded, he managed to break through with his car. The Germans thought they were victorious, when one of the patriots who had remained in the truck grabbed a machine gun and began firing at the Nazis, who fell under a hail of bullets. The patriot took advantage of the enemy's confusion and succeeded in rejoining his comrades. The Germans were infuriated and turned on the wounded Maquis men, beating them to death with their rifle butts. The Germans had 32 killed and the Maquis seven.

(FRANCE, May 15, 1944)

An American Aviator with the French Guerrillas

On March 4, 1944, a squad of Guerrillas, obeying orders they had received, attacked a truck belonging to regular Gardes Mobiles that was going to Brive. The twelve patriots barred the road with a steel cable. They had two light machine guns, and one was placed on the rising ground overlooking the road. Suddenly, a fairly large German detachment appeared. The column was composed of 12 combat cars, six armored cars, and several open cars carrying from eight to ten men, and in the rear a 37 mm. gun. The guerrillas were surprised by the unexpected arrival of this small army, but as they were unwilling to lose such a good opportunity for inflicting losses on the invader, they opened fire. Although it was a very unequal battle, the patriots fought on with fury. Two machine gunners, who fired round after round of cartridges inflicted heavy casualties upon the German ranks, but the armored cars took their fighting positions and killed the machine gunners. The other patriots continued firing but began to withdraw.

Among the Guerrillas was an American aviator, who had been forced down in France, and who was traveling from Maquis to Maquis in order to reach Spain. He had asked to take part in the raid. He fiercely resisted the Germans and showed exemplary courage. He was surrounded by German soldiers but kept on firing until his ammunition was spent, and he was finally taken prisoner. Out of the twelve Maquis fighting men, three were killed, including the leader. Four others, one of whom was wounded, were taken prisoners with the American aviator.

(French Information Services, London, May 18, 1944)

A Canadian Pilot Is Killed

In 1943, while returning with his squadron from a raid over Germany, a Canadian pilot was forced down in Northern France. He bravely set out on foot for Spain to try to rejoin his unit. During a stop in the Puy-de-Dôme, he met men who belonged to a Maquis group. He took a swift decision: their fight was his fight. "I'll stay with you," he told them simply, "I am happy to be fighting for France in France." The Canadian aviator accomplished many dangerous missions. One foggy night, he was returning to camp in a truck, accompanied by another man, when he happened to pass a group of German soldiers, whose train had just been derailed as a result of patriot action. Suddenly shots rang out and Pierre, the Canadian aviator, who had been riddled with bullets, died before his comrade's eyes. The remaining patriot began firing back at the Germans, and taking advantage of the darkness, he succeeded in escaping. The Germans, who thought they were encircled, began firing at one another. Fifteen Germans were killed.

(FRANCE, May 18, 1944)

Acts of Sabotage Are Continuing

Official Vichy statistics show that nearly 3,000 acts of sabotage were committed in France during the month of April. 800 acts of sabotage were committed in the second week, approximately the same number in the third week and nearly 1,500 acts of sabotage — of which 200 were directed against rail-roads — were committed in the last week of April.

A group of patriots recently damaged the Loominé (Morbihan) ironworks, so that work was stopped for several weeks. Seven time bombs which had been set in work-shops exploded, entirely destroying ten essential machines. There were many casualties.

(French Information Services, London, May 16, 1944)

Jacques Médéric, French Patriot, Dies on the Field of Honor

The following is the text of a communiqué issued from Alger by the French Committee of National Liberation.

Médéric, delegate from the Metropolitan Resistance, who returned to France in order to continue the struggle side-by-side with his fighting comrades, died facing the enemy, under heroic circumstances which may not be revealed."

Since the publication of this news, further information has been received and some of the circumstances of his death may now be revealed, especially the dramatic conversation between Médéric and the two police superintendents who questioned him — Dufour of the Grande Carrières Section, and David, a specialist for Anti-Gaullist and Anti-Communist repression.

When Médéric was brought before Dufour and saw that he could no longer conceal his identity, he proudly declared, "Yes, I am Médéric, a deputy to the Con-



Men of the Maquis using modern equipment dropped to them by parachute.

sultative Assembly in Alger. Do your duty as Frenchmen." Unfortunately this pathetic appeal did not touch their conscience. Superintendent Dufour who preferred to serve German interests rather than those of his own country, handed Médéric over to the head of the "anti-terrorist brigade." When Superintendent David who had recognized him asked, "Well, are you going to talk?" Médéric remained silent for a while. "Well?" insisted the Superintendent, "Yes," said Médéric, "I am going to speak and what I have to say is this: 'See how a Frenchman can die.'" As David replied, "This is not a question of dying," Médéric, who had succeeded in swallowing poison, collapsed at his feet, saying "Vive la France!"

Médéric, who entered the Resistance as early as June

1940, represented the Northern Zone movement — or "Libération" group — in the Consultative Assembly. He had been appointed vice-president of the National Defense Committee, and vice-president of the Overseas France Committee. Since the middle of 1942 the Gestapo had set a price on his head; one million francs were offered as a reward for his capture.

Jacques Médéric's death adds another page to the glorious history of French Resistance. The French Committee of National Liberation, the Provisional Consultative Assembly, the members of the Resistance movements, all the Frenchmen of Overseas France and those living abroad, mourn as a personal loss the heroic death of the engineer Médéric, who died on the field of honor.

(French Information Services, London, May 30, 1944)