

PLANS &

September 12, 1946

Mr. Hanson Baldwin,
New York Times
New York City, N. Y.



Dear Mr. Baldwin:

As General Eisenhower directed I have examined all available records in an effort to determine the recorded time of General Eisenhower's directive to Marshal Montgomery assigning him responsibility for the North flank in the Ardennes Battle.

For your information my examination of available records reveals that:-

1. While no recording of the telephone conversation with the Field Marshal either on the 19th or 20th can be found, other official messages indicate that the oral directive was transmitted to him late on the 19th of December as indicated to you by General Eisenhower.

2. A message dated 20 December at 1252 hours included the statement that "Field Marshal Montgomery has been placed in charge of the Northern flank".

3. The confirmatory directive to all Army Group Commanders setting forth the boundaries, missions and assignment of forces included the statement "This directive is in confirmation of verbal instructions already issued" and was dated 20 December at 1836 hours.

4. General Eisenhower's report of 20 January covering progress of operations since 28 October includes the statement - "On 19 December *** I realized that it would be impracticable for one Commander to handle the American Forces both North and South of the large salient that was being created. *** I therefore fixed a boundary running east and west through the breach in our lines and placed all forces North of it *** under the operational command of C-in-C Northern Group of Armies and ***".

The timing of these official messages, while not as conclusive as you might like, does, it appears to me, confirm General Eisenhower's

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recollections that his decision was made and transmitted to
Marshal Montgomery late on the evening of the 19th.

Please let me know if I can be of further help to you in
clearing up this matter.

Cordially,



H. R. BULL
Major General, U. S. A.