

Algiers, Tuesday, October 5, 1943 -- The last time I dictated for the diary was September 25 at Amilcar. On less than a half hour's notice I was aboard a plane with Beetle en route to Algiers to be Ike's representative to meet the Secretary of the Navy, Colonel Knox. He arrived in Algiers Monday morning and was the house guest of Admiral Hall. I attended dinner there that evening and the next evening accompanied the Secretary and his party aboard H.M.S. Euryalius for Bizerte. Unfavorable weather for flying meant taking to the cruiser which the Secretary regarded with a somewhat skeptical eye, because while on a recent trip to Scapa Flow he had become violently seasick. The Mediterranean was still rolling from a heavy storm.

We changed from the cruiser to the Secretary's C-47 at Bizerte, flew to Palermo where the party was met by Admiral Hewitt whose command ship, the Ancon, was in the harbor, and by General Patton. We proceeded that evening to the Gulf of Salerno, Admiral Hewitt, the Secretary and his aide, Captain "Pop" Perry aboard the U.S.S. Nicholson, and Captains Leland Lovette, von Heimburg of Admiral Hall's staff, and I, aboard the U.S.S. Mayo.

Both the destroyers had been recalled from Salerno where they had aided in the landings and since had been on escort and patrol duty. The Mayo had "smelled" a sub en route to Palermo and had dropped all its depth charges but had no proof of a kill. However, an American <sup>mine sweeper</sup> ~~destroyer~~, the Skill, had been torpedoed and sunk in Salerno Bay the previous day. Not a very healthy place to take the Secretary.

The Secretary's party went ashore at Salerno where we were met by General Wayne Clark who took us to his 5th Army Headquarters and for a visit to Battipaglio where the Secretary could see the effect of naval gunfire as well as of bombings. The town was well beaten up. Later the Secretary told me his only regret was that General Clark had not taken him closer to the front. The X Corps had just broken



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through the defiles and occupied high ground and were passing to the northward of Vesuvius, while Rangers and Commandoes were following the coast road toward Naples south and <sup>west</sup> east of Vesuvius.

We lunched aboard the British command ship "Hileary" formerly in service on the Amazon river, one of the few remaining coal burners.

Went to the Isle of Capri on PT boats and spent a couple of pleasant hours. The island seems untouched by war. Like all American tourists I bought liberally of the usual wares. We were guests of Admiral Morse, R.N., formerly port commander at Algiers. His billet was the Villa of Edda Ciano, daughter of Mussolini. It was said that she and her children spend their summers at this villa. It was magnificent, particularly her bedroom which had a bed 8 ft. wide. Her bath was tiled with modern copies of old Roman porcelain showing all of the fish of the sea. I thought it hidefous but the remainder of the house and its furnishings was most attractive.

Captain von Heimburg and I separated from the party and engaged a driver with horse and buggy to take us the mile or so to the port. The destroyers put us in at Palermo Friday morning, October 1. The Secretary's C-47 took us to El Aouina where I had arranged for the Secretary and party to lunch with Ike. I was burning with desire to tell Ike the big, if disappointing news disclosed to me by Col. Knox: it was true General Marshall had been named supreme commander and it was "probable" that Ike would be recalled to Washington to be Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army.

I had expected to stay at Amilcar but as Ike had General Alexander and side, Sir Rupert Clark as house guests, he had given away my room. So he suggested I continue with the Secretary's party back to Algiers to make certain that all courtesies were rendered him. I got the Secretary off en route to America at 8 o'clock Saturday morning with an Army fife and drum corps playing everything

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except "Anchors Aweigh" and they would have played this if they had the necessary instruments.

The Secretary had a press conference shortly after his return to Algiers in which he spoke highly of the benefits of cooperation and coordination in the Allied Command but I don't think there was enough new in it to impress the newspapermen. I also arranged for Army Pictorial Service to develop the film of the sailor-photographer who accompanied the party and for radio-transmission to U.S. The Secretary said during the press conference he had heard the sound of battle while at Salerno but I am afraid I missed those sounds. While flying from Tunis to Algiers we saw a burning vessel off Philippeville which I later learned had been torpedoed.

As Donald Nelson, the War Production chief was arriving with a special letter from the President to Ike, my next orders were to render honors to him and to arrange for his meeting with Ike. It worked out that Ike returned from Amilcar Monday forenoon, October 4th and Donald Nelson, as well as his travelling companion, Jim Landis, one-time Security Exchange Commissioner, Dean of the Law School at Harvard and Civilian Defense Administrator.

Nelson was optimistic of an early end of the war. He said information given him in England showed that morale of German civilians was very low because of the concentrated bombings of their cities and industrial plants. He said there had been one stretch of six days of good weather during which Germany got hell from the air. There was so much turmoil within the country that if weather had permitted continuation of the bombings two more days the Germans would have given in. Both Ike and I counselled that this was over-optimistic; that our troops are in contact with the German soldiers and we will be the first to know when morale really has cracked, although it is possible the German home front may become very wobbly. However, judging from all the information we have taken from prisoners,

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the Germans are still living in a world of their own created by their propoganda. Nelson was en route to Moscow to confer on production matters. Landis is going to Cairo to be the American opposite number to Minister Robert Casey.

Lord Louis was passing through en route to his new theater with directive to fight the Japs in Burma and Sumatra and other places in that area which will require some study of the map.

He had spent Sunday evening with Ike at Amilcar after a hectic series of misadventures by arriving at the wrong airdrome, causing Ike to drive three and a half hours from one place to another trying to locate his guest.

When Ike mentioned to Lord Louis that Secretary Knox had told him of General Marshall's appointment and had indicated that Ike would be recalled to Washington, Lord Louis then "let down his hair". He said he had been cautioned by the Prime Minister not to raise with Ike the question of the new command set-up but since the American Secretary of the Navy had already disclosed it, he could tell his story. This was to the effect that Harry Hopkins had insisted that General Marshall be the supreme commander for the cross channel operation even after it had been tacitly agreed that Sir Alan Brooke, the C.I.G.S. would be "it" and had in fact worked two or three months on the plan. Nevertheless the British had acceded through Harry Hopkins influence on the President, although they felt badly hurt. Sensing this situation Hopkins had offered the Allied Command in the Mediterranean to the British --apparently having in mind that Ike would be complimented by some other offer, presumably that of Chief of Staff.

Ike would much prefer to stay in the Mediterranean and pursue the Germans in Italy hoping to engage their twenty divisions in a major "Battle of the Po" about Christmas when we will have moved past Rome and created a buildup preparatory to the major battle. Lord Louis had said that in order not to make Ike's change of

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command appear degrading it was to be announced shortly after some outstanding victory. It could have happened after Naples but now, according to Lord Louis, would be upon capture of Rome.

Ike has absolutely no official information as to his future. Today he sent Beetle back to Washington with General Spaatz to consult on official matters but naturally hoped that Beetle would find the lay of the land. We received yesterday clippings from America reflecting the tempest which was raised when the Army and Navy Journal said that General Marshall was being kicked upstairs because of powerful interests. Just what is meant by the latter we can't figure, although the stories indicate a suspicion that Harry Hopkins and a New Deal clique are seeking to have appointed a new Chief of Staff who will utilize the War Department with its 12 billion dollars in contracts to aid in the President's election next year. This is the "opposition press" talking but such distraction makes no contribution to the winning of the war.

We have tried to figure just what the President will do with Ike under the new set up. The job of Chief of Staff does not appeal to Ike and he believes he would be a failure in it because he is not a politician. I have told him he would be either the best or the worst Chief of Staff the Army ever had. His forthrightness and abomination of politics could make him so respected even by politicians that he would be a great success. On the other hand he does not have the patience and diplomacy which made General Marshall such a success in it. Ike would prefer most of all to remain Allied Commander in the Mediterranean and to exploit our victory because there is a real probability that with bombing from our forward airfields and coordinated efforts in this area we can contribute immeasurably to an early end of the war. He wants to remain a field commander. He has suggested to Beetle that if the question is raised at home -- and Beetle is not to raise it -- Beetle is to express his opinion that if Ike is to be supplanted

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by a Britisher in this Allied Command, then he would much prefer to have command of an American group of armies under General Marshall in the cross channel push.

Meantime our Intelligence indicates that with the Russians keeping red hot after the Germans, our victory in the Mediterranean and the heavy bombing of German cities, the Germans may be forced to withdraw from France, in which event the cross channel attack would be merely to occupy France and to pursue the enemy into Germany. In other words, the great plum which General Marshall has been given may not be as attractive as it seems, particularly if the war is practically won before General Marshall gets on the job in Europe.

On Wednesday, September 29 Ike and staff conferred with Badoglio and party aboard H.M.S. Nelson in Valletta Harbor at Malta. Ike specified Malta as the meeting place because he wanted the Italians to see the damage they had caused. Bob Murphy kept notes on the meeting which I am inserting in the diary.

General MacFarlane cabled a summary of an interview given the press by Badoglio in Italy on October 2.

"Following is summary press interview Badoglio somewhere in Italy today. Badoglio began express pleasure his first interview press coincided Anglo-American victory Naples. Said delighted Italy who was traditionally friend Britain America once again on right road. Recalled British Americans fighting alongside Italians against Germans last war and expressed conviction their cooperation now would produce same result.

"Replying question how did Mussolini fall, Badoglio confirmed this was brought about by action Fascist Grand Council at meeting July 24. Vote inviting Mussolini resign was sponsored by Grandi, Ciano, Bottaiad carried by 19 votes to 5 after violent debate. Mussolini reported result next day to King who ordered Badoglio to take over government. Mussolini was taken into protective custody for his own safety and wrote letter thanking Badoglio.

"Badoglio likened fall Fascism to that of over-ripe pear. Said during last few months anti-Fascist talk became open and nothing done prevent it. Nobody put up fight to save Fascism and not one Fascist badge seen day after Mussolini's fall. Greatest rejoicing streets Rome and all Italian cities. About same time rumor circulated Rome, Hitler assassinated, whereupon German soldiers went mad with joy embracing population and tearing down Hitler's picture. German reaction fall Mussolini was send many divisions Italy and requisition petrol coalstocks. Possible their intention said Badoglio was



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clearly to throttle Italy.

"Regarding last meeting Hitler, Mussolini, Badoglio said Mussolini's intention tell Hitler Italy could not continue war but Hitler talked two hours without stop and Mussolini lacked courage interrupt.

"Mussolini now in Germany, wrote recently to sister saying he was taking to religion.

"Replying question how he and Royal Family left Rome, Badoglio said party left morning September 9 several motor cars without attempt concealment passing German armored division on road as Italian German troops then fighting outskirts Rome. Party embarked on Italian cruiser at Italian port and were taken to Southern Italy.

"In conclusion Badoglio stated that as soon as government returned Rome he intended give it widest political basis. Badoglio added he intended to retain 3 Bervie (?) Ministers at present with him, namely General Ambrosio, Admiral De Roorten and General Sandalli.

"Badoglio dressed loose fitting khaki colonial uniform with 4 stars; 4 brown ribbons, received journalists terrace villa. His simplicity, friendliness and willingness answer questions made excellent impression."

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