

# EISENHOWER STAFF NEARLY COMPLETE

Italian to Command Southern Front, the Only Important Position to Be Filled

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Special to The New York Times

PARIS, March 24—The day that Shape (Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers in Europe) will become an operational command moved closer this week when Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower named nine military leaders who will share with him the responsibility of planning and commanding the defense of Western Europe.

The long and ticklish negotiations necessary to evolve a Headquarters Command satisfactory to the twelve nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have already set back the date when General Eisenhower will be able officially to take over the command of the fewer than ten divisions now offered to him. Only the naming of commanders in the southern area stands in the way of his command becoming operational. This may prove difficult. The appointments of Field Mar-



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shal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein as Deputy Commander, Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders as Air Deputy and Admiral Sir Patrick Brind as Commander in Chief, Northern Europe, went a long way toward assuaging the hard feelings aroused in Britain as a result of the nomination of Admiral William M. Fechteler to command the North Atlantic ocean region. However, the appointments have also aroused the first signs of pique in France.

The influential daily Le Monde noted that "there is a definite preponderance of Britons" in the complex hierarchy of General Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters. Although General Alphonse-Pierre Juin has been named commander in chief of the vital Central Sector, the Paris newspaper said the importance of this title has been whittled away by the fact that he will not command the air forces there. Instead, these will be commanded by Lieut. Gen. Lauris Norstad, an American.

### French Public's Indifference

While the area put under the French general would undoubtedly be of the greatest importance in the event of hostilities, France will exercise only a limited responsibility in the formulation of the Allied strategy, Le Monde added. One reason for this state of affairs was to be found in a marked lack of French public interest in the composition of Supreme Headquarters.

Nevertheless, France's leaders are looking forward to the eventual composition of the southern sector. Command of ground forces in that area has already been promised to an Italian general.

It is presumed the air and naval commanders in the southern area, as well as the ground forces chief, will be in the category of being "directly responsible to General Eisenhower." The French are reported interested in obtaining at least one of these two posts.

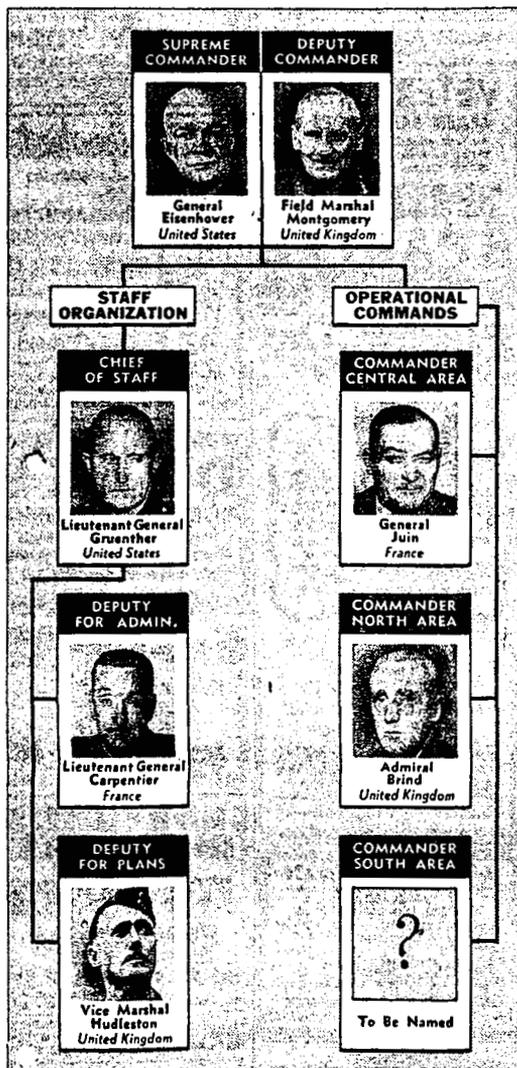
However, the formation of the Southern Command is further complicated by the planning going on for the establishment of an over-all Mediterranean Command. The relationship of such a command, which would possibly include Greece and Turkey and other non-treaty countries, to General Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters is proving difficult to establish, since basic strategic concepts must be resolved, as well as the problem whether an American or a British admiral should command there.

Thus far, these military leaders have no divisions to send into battle. They have only the promises of divisions, totaling an estimated 160,000 ground troops, that will be put at the immediate disposal of Supreme Headquarters when it enters the operational phase. The interallied training and indoctrination of these troops should be under way soon.

Then the bigger job—that of recruiting, training and equipping 1,250,000 more men to form about thirty-eight divisions, will begin.

SHAP

## GENERAL EISENHOWER'S 'TEAM'



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Admiral Brind is in over-all command in Northern Europe, but General Juin commands only the ground forces in the central sector.