

Fisticuffs Mark Rebel Backers At Paris Meet

PARIS (AP)—Flying chairs and fisticuffs marked the reappearance of Gen. Lionel Max Chassin, the retired air force officer who went underground in France to support the Algerian revolt of May 13.

Chassin reappeared in Paris Thursday to announce formation of a French Committee of Public Safety to oppose Communism. He said it was patterned after the Algerian committee and would serve as a single new group in France around which all anti-Communists could rally.

The announcement came at what was termed a news conference. The conference was packed with admitted paratroopers in civilian clothes and plenty of other healthy-looking supporters of Chassin.

Felled by Chair
A young man in the audience greeted Chassin's announcement by shouting: "Fascism!" Someone hurled a chair. The bespectacled young man was felled by blows from all around and then dragged to the door and thrown out.

Outside, some people shouted: "Fascism shall not pass." The Communist battle cry. A Chassin supporter opened the window and shouted back: "Thorez to the gallows," meaning French Communist party boss Maurice Thorez.

Chassin said his new group was known as the "Popular Movement of May 13." He said large numbers of people of all shades of opinion were members.

Patriotic Movements
Chassin claimed he had been preparing patriotic movements secretly all over France long before the army and right-wing revolt in Algeria.

He said his purpose was to rebuild France with Gen. Charles de Gaulle, without political parties and men of the present "system." Present at the meeting was Pierre Lagailarde, student leader in Algeria who is a member of the Public Safety Committee there and who led the insurgent mob into the government building May 13.

The bearded Lagailarde disclosed serious rifts in the Algerian committee. He attacked Leon Delbecq, one of the political powers on the present committee, as a Johnny-come-lately to the movement.

Algiers Same Armed Camp Of WWII Days

By **KELMAN MORIN**
ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—Letter to a former GI:
Well, Mac, it's a lot of years since 1943 when you were walking around here in Uncle Sam's summer tans, watching the MPs with one eye and the French girls with the other.

But you'd feel right at home in Algiers today.

The town is swarming with soldiers again, jeeps go scurrying up the Rue Michelet. Army staff cars, horns blowing, take precedence in traffic. And you haven't seen so many tommyguns since the schemozzle you had with the Germans at Hill 609.

Of course the troops here now are French. But so much of their equipment is American that you'd think the entire 1st Division was in town from El Biar on a three-day pass.

Maison Blanche, the airport, looks just the same except that it has a shiny new terminal building. How many Americans passed through there when you were here? A half million? A million? It's just as busy now, with military traffic as it was before the invasion of Sicily.

New Highway

There is a fancy new two-way highway from the airport to Algiers and some new buildings on the road that you might not recognize.

But the Arab kids on the streets, still panhandling, say, "Hey, Joe."

They ask for money now, not chewing gum or candy. And the pickings are not as good as they used to be.

Remember the St. George, the big white building high up on the hill where Ike and the rest of the brass had their headquarters? It's a hotel now.

They have put brass plaques on the doors where Eisenhower, Gen. Jumbo Wilson and the others had their offices and living quarters. These are the apartments that the guests of importance are given.

Of course, you never went into the Casbah like some of the other GIs.

Place Hasn't Changed

But it hasn't changed, either. The difference now is that the patrols that go through there are French Zouaves. They're not looking for guys that went over the hill. They carry tommyguns and they're ready for real trouble with the Arab rebels.

They accept no excuses, like the one given by the American GI who was picked up by an American MP patrol. He said, "Sergeant, you get into this place and you just can't find your way out." The French girls still wear those billowing pleated skirts that swish so agreeably in the breeze, and Algiers is an armed camp again, just as it was when you were here.

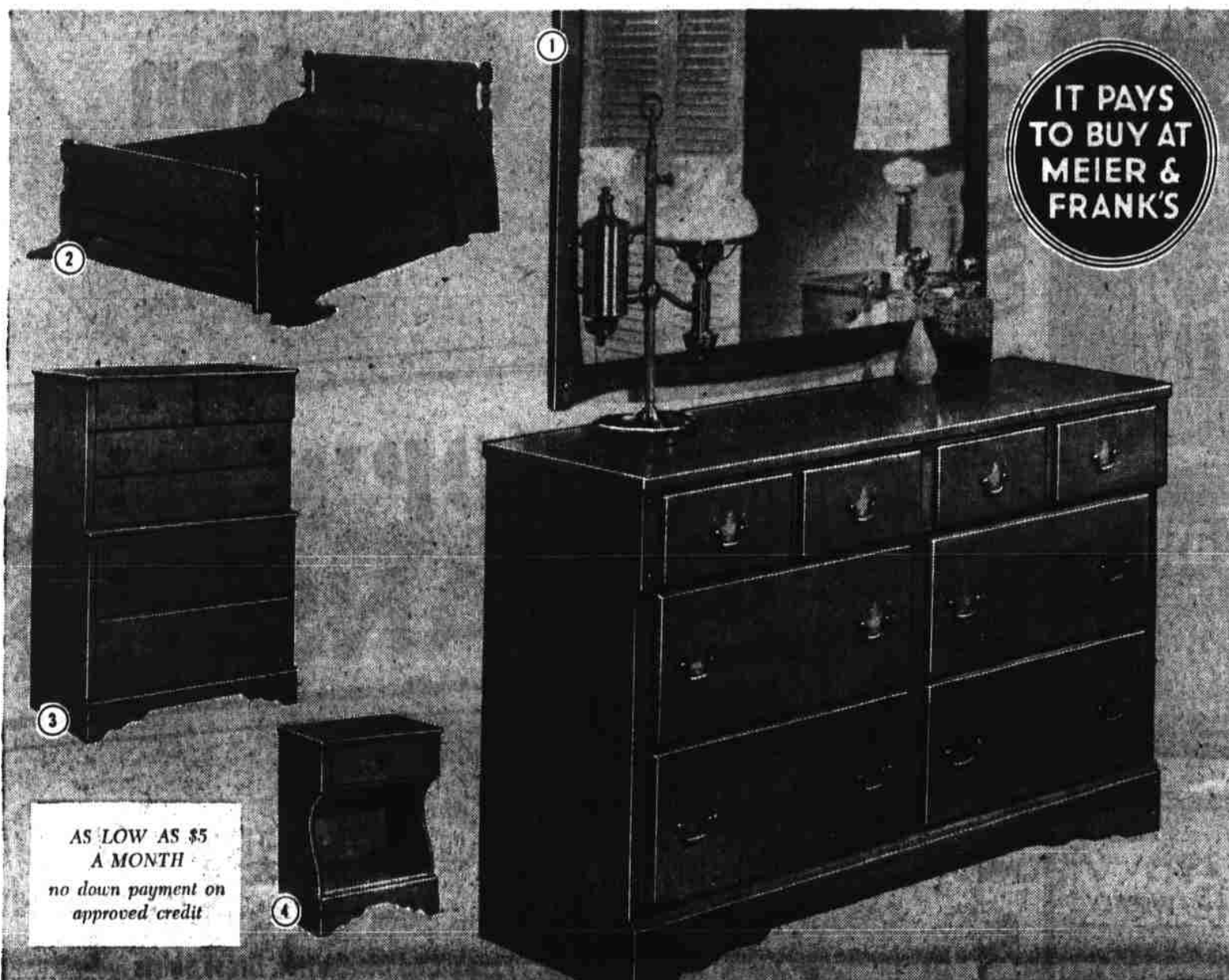
It'd make you young again just to see it this way. Too bad you can't.

Yours truly, Pat.

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