

De Gaulle's Emotional Side Imagines France Dedicated To Exalted Destiny

Editor's Note: France elects Gen. Charles de Gaulle president on Sunday with the greatest presidential powers in the history of the French Republic. This is the first of two dispatches by a veteran reporter on French affairs providing a closeup study of De Gaulle as he prepares to take formal leadership.

By ARTHUR HIGBEE
Paris—(UPI)—"All my life I have thought of France in a certain way. This is inspired by sentiment as much as by reason. The emotional side of me tends to imagine France, like the princess in the fairy stories or the Madonna in the frescoes, as dedicated to an exalted and exceptional destiny."

So begins volume I of the memoirs of Gen. Charles de Gaulle. It continues, "instinctively I have the feeling that providence has created her ei-

ther for complete successes or for exemplary misfortunes... To my mind, France cannot be France without greatness." This is the testament of De Gaulle. The testament of a man who has done deeds to match his words.

A Lonely Prophet
It is a coincidence the name Charles de Gaulle means Charles of France, recalling to his countrymen Charlemagne, who unified Europe a thousand years ago, and Charles Martel, who drove the Moors from French soil.

It is a happenstance that De Gaulle is tall in stature and aloof in temperament in a country where neither characteristic is especially common.

But it is De Gaulle's own doing that he was wounded three times in the First World War before capture, from which he tried to escape five times; that he was the lonely prophet of mobile, armored warfare in the Maginot line-mesmerized France of the 1930s; that he was the only French general and the only member of the French cabinet to refuse surrender in 1940; that he is that rarest of statesmen: one who voluntarily retired at the pinnacle of his power and was called back years later to rule again.

Of Norman Stock
Charles Andre Joseph Marie de Gaulle was born Nov. 22, 1890, in the Flemish city Lille. His family was of Norman stock.

His father was Henri de Gaulle, a reserve officer. His mother was the former Jeanne Maillot, of a family with a strong military tradition, a strain of Scots (MacCartan) and Irish Fleming blood and a tendency to grow tall.

Long-nosed, long-limbed Charles de Gaulle entered the French military academy of St. Cyr in August, 1909. Given his choice of regiments upon graduation, he picked the 33rd infantry.

The commanding officer was Colonel Philippe Pétain, later to lead his countrymen to victory at the Battle of Verdun in the First World War and to preside over them in disgrace as the chief of the Vichy government in the second war.

"My first colonel - Pétain - showed me the meaning of the gift and the art of com-

mand," De Gaulle has written.

In May, 1919, De Gaulle married Yvonne Vendroux. They had three children - Philippe, now a lieutenant commander in the French navy; Elizabeth, the wife of an army officer, and Anne, who died as a child.

In 1921 De Gaulle was a graduate student at the Ecole de Guerre, France's military staff college.

At that time the French general staff was steeped in the Maginot line concept of a defensive war.

Toward the end of his studies Captain De Gaulle, commander of the "Blue Army" in maneuvers, put to the test the spearhead-offensive tactics that he was beginning to develop and routed the "White Army" which was using the tactics of massive defense.

The victory started a furious debate which raged all the way up to the chief of staff - Pétain. The marshal summoned De Gaulle, listened to his arguments, and said, "De Gaulle is right."

But he let the matter drop there - perhaps the first official act of omission that led to the defeat of France in 1940. Goes To England

On May 15, 1940 - the day after the German armies knifed through the Maginot Line and began rolling into France - De Gaulle was given command of the newly organized 4th Armored Division.

De Gaulle's division launched the only successful large-scale French counter-attack in that dismal campaign, at Abbeville, on May 28.

On June 6 De Gaulle was summoned to Paris by the new premier, Paul Reynaud, to become undersecretary of state for national defense. But the battle of France was already lost.

On June 17 Renaud resigned and Pétain was asked to form a government: "That meant certain capitulation. My decision was taken at once. I would leave as soon as morning came."

The following day De Gaulle flew from Bordeaux to London in a British aircraft. It would be four years before he would win his way back to France.

"I seemed to myself, alone as I was and deprived of everything, like a man on the shore of an ocean, proposing to swim across."

Next: The post-war years.



ON TRIAL—Industrialist Bernard Goldfine enters the Federal District Court in Boston, where he pleaded innocent to charges of criminal contempt for failing to surrender business records to the Internal Revenue Service. His plea was heard by Judge Charles E. Wyzanski.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Elizabeth G. - My husband and I are having a big controversy about what to tell our children about certain financial problems we are now having.

Several months ago my husband went into a rash venture which now seems on the verge of collapse. As I see it now, unless some miracle happens within the next few months, we are going to lose everything including our home.

The children, who are 8, 10, 12, and 14, are used to having the best of everything and I think we'd better start getting them accustomed to the idea that they'll have to do without a lot of things. Even now, we should be economizing much more than we are. My husband thinks we should say nothing unless we have to. I would rather not break it on them suddenly.

Michael G. - Liz always thinks in the blackest possible terms. She has seen

doom twice before and yet I've been able to pull myself out of it. I may yet be able to do the miraculous. Why upset the children when it may not be necessary?

I feel that a sense of security is the most important thing in the world to kids. They should feel that their Dad can take care of everything. They'll have enough of their own troubles when they grow up.

Another factor Liz doesn't consider is what this thing does to my morals. I realize I've made a mess of this particular venture. It doesn't do me any good to let my children know that I am incompetent. It won't make much difference in the long run if we spend more than we should now.

The Council - We agree that a sense of security is a very fine thing for children, but we doubt whether lies or evasions will help them to get it.

Children ought to know, in a general way, what their family's circumstances are. They don't need to worry through every twist and turn of the dial of fortune, but if drastic changes are in the offing it wouldn't hurt to let them know. It is often beneficial and highly stimulating to children to know that they share their parents' problems in adversity and can make some contribution toward improving things.

We so feel, however, that Elizabeth and Michael ought to face their own problems in a more mature manner before presenting them to the children. Elizabeth's ways of seeing things in "the blackest possible terms" and Michael's view of himself as "incompetent" should not be transmitted to the children. These are not facts but emotional overtones. The children should know only the facts - that there have been business problems and that they may have to adjust to a comedown in their standard of living.

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