

'Scorched Earth' Policy Practiced By Secret Army Organization

By ALAIN RAYMOND
United Press International
Algiers, Algeria (UPI)—Algeria today stands on the brink of nationhood. Its birth as a new state is likely to be a grim one, marked by a welter of bloodshed, fire and unparalleled destruction.

A new and even bloodier Congo may be in the making. On the morning of July 2—or soon afterwards—France will hand over independence to the rich North African territory she has ruled for 132 years.

At that moment an independent Moslem-ruled Algerian republic will rise from the ashes of seven and one-half years of bloody colonial war and take its place in the ranks of the world's free nations.

But there is likely to be little joy in the first hours and days—perhaps even weeks or months—of independence.

Thousands Flee

A panic flight of tens of thousands of Algeria's million-strong European population is under way. Men, women and children who were born and have lived all their lives here are fleeing from a feared massacre by the Moslems who outnumber them nine-to-one.

The terrorist Secret Army Organization (OAS), formed of European extremists, has proclaimed a "scorched earth" policy of fire and destruction that may cripple the young state economically for years to come.

The OAS has ordered that farms, public buildings, stores, warehouses, even crops standing in the fields should be destroyed rather than fall into Moslem hands.

Next Sunday, July 1, the peoples of Algeria must vote in a referendum to answer the question "Do you want independence and continued cooperation with France?"

Most of Algeria's Europeans, who numbered one million before the recent mass exodus, are expected to abstain. The great majority of

its 9 million Moslems are certain to vote "yes."

From the moment the final result of the voting is proclaimed—possibly on July 2, although the counting may take longer—French rule over this territory will cease.

Sovereignty and the responsibility for law and order will be handed over to the mixed Moslem-European provisional executive with headquarters at Rocher Noir, 30 miles east of Algiers.

Temporary Government

The provisional executive has been acting as a temporary government since early April.

Its first task after the referendum and proclamation of independence will be to organize countrywide general elections—probably on July 22—for a constituent assembly.

From that constituent assembly will emerge the first representative government of the new Republic of Algeria. It is expected to include many members of the present Nationalist government-in-exile, which will remain at its Tunis headquarters until after the elections.

The birth of Algeria as a free nation will ring down the curtain finally on the long-drawn-out conflict which bled France's economy of more than \$15 billion and cost the lives of 17,250 French soldiers, 141,000 Algerian rebels and an estimated 200,000 civilians.

The Algerian war began on All Saints Day, Nov. 1, 1954, when 30 bands of armed Moslem rebels struck simultaneously in different parts of the territory, killing hundreds in the first orgy of violence.

France rushed reinforcements here and for more than seven years maintained 500,000 men—the flower of her Army—in Algeria.

It was largely a vicious guerrilla war of sneak attacks by rebels on isolated farms and outposts or murders in quiet streets.

The rebels set up a government in neighboring, sympathetic Tunisia (which had just won freedom from France). Their forces in the field were believed never to have exceeded 10,000 men at a time. But another 30,000 to 40,000 were trained and equipped in Tunisia and Morocco.

De Gaulle Returns

In June 1958, Gen. Charles de Gaulle was swept back to power in France on a pledge to end the conflict, which brought the downfall of France's Fourth Republic.

But army generals and the

bulk of the Europeans in Algeria bitterly opposed independence and the end of French rule.

In January, 1960, armed Europeans took to the barricades in Algiers to try to block de Gaulle's move towards Algerian independence. The revolt failed, but in April, 1961, part of the French army in Algeria rebelled again against de Gaulle.

There was a serious bomb attempt to assassinate him in France last September.

But de Gaulle, convinced independence was the only solution, pushed relentlessly ahead.

A first round of peace talks between French and Moslem rebel delegations took place at Evian, on the French shore of the Lake of Geneva, in May, 1960. It failed.

But another round of negotiations early this year succeeded. On March 18, 1962, a cease fire agreement was signed at Evian. At noon the following day it went into effect, ending seven and one-half years of bloodshed.

Main Points

The principal terms of the settlement were:

The peoples of Algeria were granted the right to decide in the referendum vote to be held July 1 whether they want independence and continued cooperation with France.

The Moslem Nationalists gave sweeping guarantees for the security of the Europeans in Algeria.

France agreed to pull out her army progressively during the next year. But she won the right to maintain 80,000 troops here for the next three years, to hold certain bases for five years and to retain the big naval base at Mers-El-Kebir near Oran for 15 years.

The Algerians won sovereignty over the oil-rich Sahara. But it was agreed they and the French would exploit the mineral wealth jointly.

In return for Algerian agreement to continue cooperating with her, France promised to keep up massive economic aid without which the fledgling state could not hope to stand on its own feet.

French Approve

The agreement was approved by an overwhelming majority of the French people in a nationwide referendum April 8.

The seemingly insoluble

problem was the violent hostility of the Europeans against independence would mean an end to their racial domination what began 132 years ago.

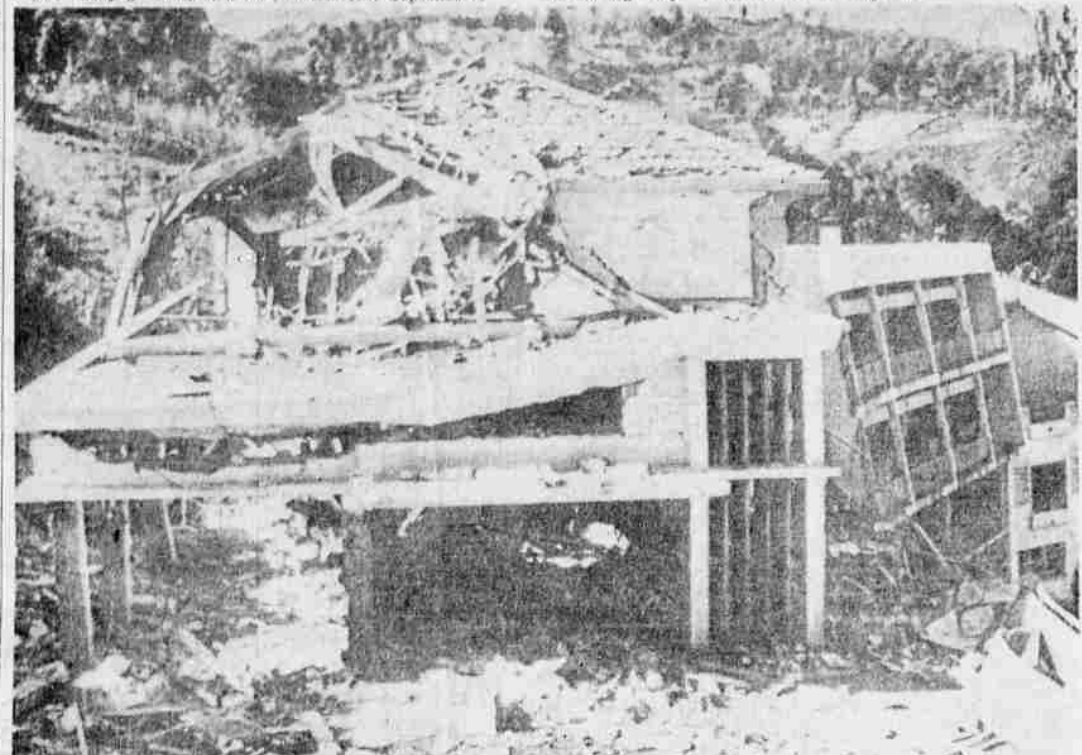
More than a year ago, extremists among the Europeans, aided by diehard French army deserters, formed a secret army organization (OAS) which has used every terrorist method in the book to try to block the peace settlement.

Even the recent captures of its two highest leaders, former Generals Raoul Salan and Edmond Jouhaud, by French authorities failed to put an end to the terrorist campaign.

Since the beginning of this year nearly 5,000 have been killed and more than 10,000 wounded by terrorists in Algeria.

When terrorism failed to halt independence, the OAS switched to a "scorched earth" campaign, destroying universities, schools, government buildings, warehouses and oil wells, with the pledge to leave nothing to the future Moslem masters of the country.

Since April, as independ-



BLOODY INDEPENDENCE—A new and even bloodier Congo may be in the making when Algeria becomes independent on July 2. A panic flight of tens of thousands of Algeria's million-strong European population is under way, while the terrorist Secret Army Organization (OAS), formed of European extremists, has proclaimed a "scorched earth" policy of fire and destruction that may cripple the young state economically for years to come. In this photo, taken April 3, Algiers' Beaufrazier Moslem hospital lies in ruins after one of the bloodiest attacks yet by the OAS. Terrorist raiders machine gunned the helpless patients in their beds before setting off a bomb that wrecked most of the building. (UPI)

Medford Boys Win Plymouth Contest

Two Medford High school boys, Jim Sevic and Clarence Lamp, were named winners of the 1962 Oregon Plymouth trouble-shooting contest recently, according to their sponsor, Dick Knight company.

Sevic is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Sevic, 26 Willamette ave., and Lamp is the son of Mrs. Edna Lamp, 111 Florence ave.

The two boys will attend a victory banquet in Portland in honor of the winners from four northwestern states, Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Oregon.

Monday, June 25, they will fly to Detroit, Mich., to take part in the national contest Tuesday.

Both boys were students in the automotive classes of the high school. They are being accompanied by their instructor, Lloyd Lyda.

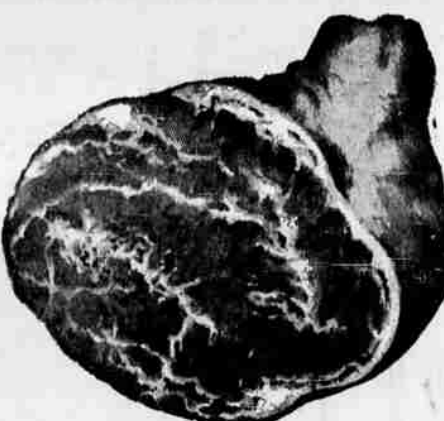
Men Wanted in GP Held in Arkansas

Searcy, Ark. (UPI)—Two Oregon men wanted by authorities at Grants Pass were being held in the county jail here Saturday.

They are L. Z. Rainwater, 37, and Marcus J. Mack, 31, both of Riddle. They are expected to be returned to Oregon next week. They waived extradition.

The men were arrested near here by Arkansas authorities.

Portland (UPI)—Appointment of a 10-member committee to advise on the development of the Waldo Lake area in the Willamette National Forest was announced Saturday by J. Herbert Stone, Oregon regional forester.



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