

January 5th, 1944

The following short newspaper articles explain the organizational structure of the Resistance Movement in France and the dangers its members encountered on a daily basis. Most members were arrested or killed, but quickly replaced by new volunteers.

ה-5 לינואר 1944

הכתבות הבאות מתארות את המבנה הארגוני של תנועת המחתרת הצרפתית, ואת הסכנות בהם נתקלו חברי המחתרת על בסיס יום יומי. רוב חברי המחתרת נעצרו או נרצחו, אך במהרה הוחלפו במתנדבים חדשים.

RESISTANCE IN FRANCE

A First-Hand Account

From our Diplomatic Correspondent

LONDON, TUESDAY.

An authoritative and first-hand description of the Resistance Movement in Metropolitan France was given to your correspondent to-day by one of its leaders who was in France until recently. He was active with his comrades in the occupied zone (now, since the occupation of the whole of France by the Germans, called the northern zone). He is the last of an original group of fifty. All the rest of the group have during the past three years of its existence been caught by the Germans, though the places of those who have gone to prison or before the firing-squad have always been taken by new volunteers.

There are two fundamental things about the Resistance Movement. It is a highly organised quasi-military body. It is non-political, all parties and classes being among its members. At the secret congress of the Resistance Movement—which was held in a house with shuttered windows, in an area secretly cordoned off by hidden armed men—16 groups took part, and they included representatives of all parties from the Communists on the Left to the Marine Conservatives on the Right, with the Socialist and also the Christian Trade Unions. Their faith is France and their leader General de Gaulle.

PLANNED SABOTAGE

The functions of the Resistance Movement, by which is meant the several hundred of thousands of active partisans, can be described broadly as two-fold. They are soldiers with uniforms executing acts of sabotage according to systematic planning. They are organised functionally (for example, for specific acts of sabotage) and regionally.

The functional bodies are interconnected in the regional scheme, so that one body can help another on a particular task should outside assistance be necessary. The whole organisation is centrally controlled. The acts committed by the Resistance Movement are all for specific military purposes. Attempts to depict its deeds as banditry or "Communism" are simply German and Vichy propaganda.

The other broad function of the Resistance Movement is to replace the German and the Vichy collaborationist officials when the time comes. The plans of the Resistance Movement are deep-laid and extensive. They are aware which officials are collaborationist and which are not. In general it may definitely be said on the assurance of this authority that genuine collaboration with the Germans is very limited. Even among the specially picked collaborationist officials there were many who were secretly favourable to the Resistance Movement.

An example of the systematic work of the resistance organisation may be given. Heavy consignments of sugar were loaded into vessels to be sent by canal into Germany. The canal locks were blown up by the resistance movement and the boats left stranded. The locks were repaired, but locks farther along the canal were dynamited. The Germans abandoned the dispatch of the sugar by water. It was unloaded and put into trains. The trains were overturned. Finally the sugar was reloaded into lorries which were requisitioned on a large scale locally for the purpose and assembled in a big public square. On the morning they were to depart it was found that a vital part of each of the motors had been removed.

NO PREMATURE DISCLOSURE

In the opinion of this leader the resistance movement is now so well organised that there is no danger of any repetition of the events of St. Nazaire when during a Commando raid French patriots prematurely disclosed themselves by a sporadic sympathetic rising. The resistance movement is fully disciplined, and measures have been taken to prevent its supporters from throwing away their lives in vain.

The Germans are, however, he said, full of tricks to try to trap the members of the resistance movement. One such trick is reported to-day from a French coastal region where thousands of British uniforms are known to have been collected. It is believed that the Germans intended to stage a mock invasion with the purpose of causing the resistance movement in that area to disclose itself.

59 BODIES IN CASTLE THE GERMANS BURNT

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

FRENCH FRONTIER, JAN. 4

According to reports received to-day from Haute-Savoie, 59 charred bodies were found in the ruins of the so-called "castle" of Habère-Lullin, south of Thonon, which was stormed and set on fire by German troops on Christmas night. Many French partisans had come down from the hills that night to a Christmas party, and many of their wives were among the victims.