

Interview: Marie-Madeleine Fourcade

'Beam weapons will assure the defense of Europe'

The following interview of Mme. Marie Madeleine Fourcade, one of the historic leaders of the French Resistance during World War II, was conducted May 17 in view of upcoming celebrations of the 40th anniversary of D-Day. Mme. Fourcade, a longstanding leader of the Gaullist movement, directed the Alliance intelligence resistance network which is credited with playing a crucial role throughout the war, specifically in intelligence breakthroughs on the German V-1 and V-2 deployments. It was also key in preparations for the invasion of Normandy. Mme. Fourcade is the president of the Action Committee of the Resistance (CAR), a commander of the Legion of Honor, and a leading member of the association La France et Son Armée. At present, she is active in preparations for the transatlantic celebrations of D-Day. The interview was conducted by Philip Golub.

EIR: Mme. Fourcade, as a leader of the resistance you participated directly in the coordination of intelligence preparatory to D-Day. In little more than two weeks, transatlantic celebrations will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Normandy landings. Could you tell us what it meant for you then and what it means today?

Fourcade: Soon it will be the 40th anniversary of a fantastic event, a breathtaking event for France: the Allied landing in Normandy. I remember the indescribable emotion which gripped us all at dawn on D-Day, the unbelievable effervescence of the "warriors of the shadows" at the approaching liberation, the wild hopes which filled the detainees and prisoners in the prisons and extermination camps, the passion and ardor of our youth in the Maquis who redoubled their efforts to assault the enemy, between the fronts, in the action and intelligence networks. From the depths of my soul I knew that our untiring efforts, accomplished with sweat and agony and fraught with danger, were being crowned. We had triumphed against all ambushes and odds; we restored our honor, our army, our national identity; we had defeated the Nazi Europe Hitler wished to impose on us and succeeded in the enormous effort of rebuilding France. This unprecedented renaissance placed us at the armistice table along with the three other great victors of World War II and was accomplished through our sweat, our tears, our blood.



Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, 1940.

Today, now, our tasks will perhaps be different; yet one must think of the world which is still in motion.

EIR: Could you expand on the role of the Alliance network during the course of the war and then before and after the landing? In R. V. Jones' book, *The Wizard War*, you are credited in particular with discovering the emplacements of the V-1 and V-2 missiles of the Nazis.

Fourcade: Our efforts to prepare the Liberation began in 1940, for it was the principle of liberation which made us act. We aided the Allies in their day-to-day struggle. The Alliance intelligence network suffered 30% of the losses and casualties. We had a specific role as far as D-Day itself was concerned: We prepared the map for the landing, an 18-meter-long map which described the entire array of enemy forces in Normandy, and this map was used for Overlord. And of course, military intelligence furnished other crucial information—there were many such networks, 250 in all—on the "new secret weapons," for example. And we had to know all of this for the landing so as to protect the armadas which were advancing towards the coasts of France and the troops which landed, wave after wave. In this latter domain, the contribution of [Free] French Intelligence was considerable, for had we not discovered the deployment locations of the V-1s and V-2s which were aimed at London and Allied troops, they would have caused a great sacrifice. This is, of course, what Professor Jones refers to in his book on the secret war. The woman who first divulged the secret of the rocket battalion was called Amniarix in my network and is presently the Countess of Clarens. She is an absolutely remarkable woman who at the time was 23 years old. She infiltrated the services of the Nazi chiefs of staff, succeeded in gaining the trust of many, and managed through skillful questioning as well as playing the devil's advocate—"you cannot win now, you don't have the forces"—to ascertain the existence and emplacement of the new weapons. Hence, one day, Professor Jones received a document which astonished him, and he ran into Churchill's office saying, "Look here, now we have the right story."

After the landing, we played yet another role, this time with Patton's army. As you know, on Aug. 2, Patton's army, after the battle of Avranches—before that Patton's army had

been kept further back on the front—was launched into Brittany with the terrain already prepared by action and intelligence networks of the resistance of Brittany, particularly the St. Marcel network. The Brittany offensive had also been prepared by the innumerable parachute operations worked out jointly by General Koenig and Eisenhower's command. After Brittany this extraordinary General Patton pushed on with considerable speed, by-passed Paris, arrived at Verdun in Lorraine with his army, and that is where I met him. His offensive up to Verdun had been facilitated by the regular transmission of intelligence coming from the teams that I had sent on forward missions which helped him to avoid enemy traps.

EIR: In other words, your teams were the eyes of his army.

Fourcade: Yes, right. He was very satisfied with all of this and subsequently asked us to prepare the crossing of the Moselle and to send missions throughout the Moselle region to determine the strength and emplacement of Nazi forces which had regrouped. We thus sent a mission with a radio broadcasting device which transmitted no fewer than 54 highly detailed telegrams to Patton's forces, detailing roads, access, forces, etc. Then one fine night, we woke up his command to warn them that the Germans were reintroducing themselves into France from the Eifel plateau through the Basin of Pouilly! They all found this unbelievable—"No, no it's not true, it cannot be," but we persisted and said, "Wake up, wake up at least your front line posts," which happily was done. We have the photos of the tanks which were destroyed as a result! It was marvelous to have worked with Patton.

EIR: What do you think of Patton himself, as a man, a general?

Fourcade: He is one of the great generals of the war. A man of great courage who had a marvelous moral authority over his men and who had a remarkable idea of the strategy of the front.

EIR: General de Gaulle played a crucial role, of course, in the liberation of Paris and of France. How did French and American efforts go together?

Fourcade: Yes, de Gaulle arrived in time. You know the famous story about his forces being out of gas? Well, he landed in Normandy only to find himself out of gas, and rushed back to find Eisenhower when he learned that Paris was going to be by-passed. After a tough discussion which, however, ended on a very amicable note, de Gaulle succeeded in getting the means necessary to have French troops enter into and liberate Paris. It was crucial to do so. Von Choltitz, the German commander in Paris, had personally given up on the idea of burning down Paris. He explained this to us when I and Paul Bretz interviewed him at the time of the film, "Paris, brule t'il?" ["Is Paris Burning?"] He said that Hitler had promised him some kind of new artillery, a larger and

more modern Big Bertha, to destroy Paris. He never sent it and, on top of this, to burn down Paris meant to use available gasoline reserves necessary for the retreat and the evacuation of troops which were flowing in from all parts of France. It was not out of love for Paris or France that he did not carry out his orders. But Paris had to be liberated.

EIR: Looking now at more contemporary events, in the present European and world context we are witnessing the development of Soviet efforts to decouple Europe and the United States and the development of a neutralist pacifist movement in many countries including Germany, Holland, Denmark, etc. Don't you think that the celebration of D-Day is very important to reaffirm both the moral and defense purposes of Franco-American and Euro-American unity?

Fourcade: Yes, that is why the French government and the French President have laid a special emphasis on the 40th anniversary and we will see an extraordinary participation in Normandy in June. Similar ceremonies will occur during the summer in the Midi to commemorate the landing in Southern France, and analogous events will occur in Alsace . . . in short, throughout France as a whole. This is not to reanimate the courage of the French people which, I believe, remains intact—there is very little neutralism in France—but rather, through a process of osmosis to reaffirm the Europe of the resistance. I myself, and many of my friends, believe that Europe is the heritage of the resistance, the heritage of the martyrs who fought for a free Europe, of those who from concentration camps sent us messages begging us to create a Europe of peace and liberty and for which they died.

EIR: Let me ask you personally, Mme. Fourcade, what led you to found the Alliance network?

Fourcade: I lived before the war in a milieu of military officers and thus entered more easily than others into the resistance. Of course, what I lacked, as we all did, were the technical means, the specific knowledge, some expertise. We had to learn minute by minute; specialists were sent to help us from London. Training occurred. We sent our agents into England. What was difficult was to form the real network, cells acting to know what was happening minute by minute in the enemy camp.

EIR: Lastly, if you had a message to send to the American people today, what would you say to them?

Fourcade: First I would express my gratitude. We have never fought against the American people, and our fraternity of arms goes far back into our histories. We are grateful for 1917, for 1944, and for what the United States continues to do today in Europe, for you are still here. The troops of occupation have become troops of protection for Europe. Ultimately our protection must be assured by the elimination of nuclear weapons by new technologies, such as the weapons of defense which President Reagan has put forward, beam weapons.