

THE PRIME MINISTER'S STAY IN MARRAKECH

It is now possible to state that the Prime Minister arrived at Carthage from Cairo on December 11, meaning to stay a day or so with General Eisenhower before proceeding to visit the Italian Front. He was, however, taken ill and it was only on December 27 that he was sufficiently recovered to make a journey by air. On that day he flew over the Atlas Mountains to Marrakech, where he had been invited by the American High Command to spend his convalescence.

Here a villa with a beautiful garden kept by the United States authorities for the use of distinguished guests was placed at his disposal. It was the same at which he stayed with President Roosevelt after the Casablanca Conference in February 1943. Mr. Churchill has remained constantly in touch with London and with affairs of state. He nevertheless spent as much time as possible out of doors in the sunshine and went to a number of picnics in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. Leaving the villa about noon, it was his practice to motor with Mrs. Churchill, his daughter, Section Officer Oliver, Lord Moran and members of his Staff and to lunch in an olive grove or by the side of a mountain stream. On one occasion he drove high into the mountains, above the snow line, and left the car at various points to admire the scenery. Even on days on which Mr. Churchill did not go for a picnic, the weather was such that he could lunch in the garden of the villa.

The Lord Privy Seal has been staying with the Prime Minister throughout his visit. General Montgomery, General Eisenhower and General Bedell Smith visited him here, as well as General Georges. President Benes and the Russian Ambassador to the Czechoslovak Republic, Monsieur Lebedev, remained for a night on their way to England. Sir Henry Maitland-Wilson and General Alexander have also been amongst the guests. Mr. Duff Cooper and Mr. Macmillan came over from Algiers. General de Gaulle lunched with Mr. Churchill one day and spent the afternoon with him. The Glaoui of Marrakech called on Mr. Churchill, as did Monsieur Piaux (the Resident-General of Morocco) and General de Vilette.

The day before he left for England Mr. Churchill was present at a review of French troops by General de Gaulle and stood with the General on the saluting base during the march-post.

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