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Believe Dieppe Part of Scheme To Help Russia.

Raid of Four Years Ago Linked With Plan to Invade France and Take Nazi Pressure Off Red Army

By ROSS MUNRO
Canadian Press Staff Writer

PARIS (CP)—The costly raid on Dieppe by the Second Canadian Division four years ago now appears to have been strategically linked with a desperate plan to invade France in 1942 to take some German pressure off the hard-pressed Red Army at Stalingrad.

This interpretation is based on the disclosure by Gen. George Marshall, former United States chief-of-staff in his report, "Winning the War of Europe and the Pacific," that the plan to invade with six divisions was considered two years before D-Day actually came.

Several senior Allied officers who knew some of the inside story of Dieppe and with whom I talked in London said the same thing.

Official details of the connection between the raid and the 1942 plan remain locked up with Britain's wartime prime minister, Winston Churchill, and the war cabinet and may never be fully divulged.

The basic strategic reason for Dieppe was never explained satisfactorily, but this much appears certain:

In April, 1942, when the Red Army was being forced back by the Germans, British and United States senior officers conferred in London on a tentative plan to invade Europe across the English Channel. The code-name for the operation was "Roundup" and the target date was the summer of 1943.

"Sledgehammer" Assault Plan

An emergency plan, code-named "Sledgehammer" and involving a diversionary assault on the French coast with at least six divisions, was also considered.

About this time the Second Canadian Division began intensive combined operation training. It was ticketed for the Dieppe raid but its task could be easily fitted into the "Sledgehammer" plan and in fact seems to have been part of it.

In June, 1942, Mr. Churchill and Lord Alanbrooke, then chief of the Imperial general staff, went to Washington for further conferences on "Sledgehammer" and "Roundup" and possible operations in the Mediterranean. It would seem that the final decision was reached there to carry out the Dieppe raid in early July.

At the Washington conference a trial run such as Dieppe to test new combined operation equipment and methods was thought necessary before risking all six divisions. Dieppe would be a certain raiser for "Sledgehammer" if the latter operation had to be undertaken.

As a result the Second Division rushed through its training and was ready to attack on July 4, but bad weather blew up. Day after day the operation was postponed and finally was cancelled on July 7.

Gen. Marshall later revisited London to determine, as the general said in his report, "if there were not something that could be done immediately to lessen the pressure on the Soviet whose armies were facing a crisis."

But the British and United

States chiefs found it impossible to put on "Sledgehammer." The North African landings were ordered instead, but the Dieppe operation was kept on the books and in response to further pleas from Moscow for action in the west, it was finally decided to attack Dieppe in August.

About Aug. 17 the troops were moved toward Portsmouth and Southampton. On Aug. 19 the Canadians hit the beaches.

That, as far as I can determine without reading secret documents and inaccessible war cabinet papers, is the story behind Dieppe.

Other Questions Being Asked

Several other pertinent questions are still being asked. One is: Who did the planning? I can say, after careful investigation, responsibility for the broad plan was that of combined operations headquarters and the British war office.

Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, then First Canadian Army commander, and Gen. H. D. G. Crerar, then commander of the Second Corps, which included the Second Division, had nothing whatever to do with that part of the plan. The only influence any Canadian senior officers had was in working out details of the assault within the rigid framework of the broad plan.

The original plan was not greatly altered. For the raid which did not come off British paratroops were to be employed on the flanks. On the real attack commandos were used instead. There also was a plan, in the original intention, to attack Dieppe heavily with bombers, but this was rejected because the British war cabinet feared French reaction.

Rumors that the First Division was offered the assignment but turned it down because Maj. Gen. George Pearkes, divisional commander, regarded it as unsound, are untrue. The Second Division was chosen in the first instance and the First never entered into it at all.

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TROOPS DON'T LIKE JAPAN

New Zealanders Show No Love For Temporary Home

CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z. — New Zealand troops who have been on occupation duties in Japan do not like the country, the people nor conditions there. When a draft of 2,000 of them, who have been relieved by a new volunteer force, arrived here they were full of complaints, some bitter, some good-humored and some merely resigned.

They complained of lack of clothing and equipment, lack of amenities, lack of provision for sport and recreation, and the fact that even when they did get leave there was little of interest to see and do in the war-ravaged part of the country where they were stationed. They did not like the "spit and polish" regimental discipline that prevailed.

"The only real amenity we had was beer, and it was not even very good beer," one man declared.

A sharp rejoinder to what he termed "irresponsible complaints" was made by Brig. K. L. Stewart, who recently returned to the Dominion after relinquishing the post of commander of the force. Brigadier Stewart said he did not claim that the conditions of the troops in Japan were perfect, but it was well to keep in mind that they were not on a holiday.

"I can only say that anyone who complains of too much spit and polish in an occupation force is a bad soldier," he added. Admittedly there were shortages in clothing issues, but that was due to cargo delay and the military authorities had no control over it.

Pictures were provided six nights a week, Brig. Stewart said. There was cricket, tennis, athletic sports, softball and swimming, and three rest camps at beaches. Conditions would improve every week and the re-

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lie force would reap the benefit of the spadework done by the original troops.



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