

PATHE JOURNAL
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German General SPEIDEL takes over post at NATO HQ
Fontainebleau April 3. 1957
all competition
POSITIVE UNDEVELOPED : 65 meters - 225 feet

While a French military band rendered his national anthem, "Deutschland Uber Alles" Lt. General Hans Speidel who helped place the Nazi Blitzkrieg across Western Europe in 1940 was welcomed on April 3, 1957 to both France and the theoretical command of the armies of his former enemies. The 59-year old German officer was accorded his official welcome and assumed his new military responsibilities under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation at NATO's Central European Headquarters in FONTAINEBLEAU. In a brief ceremony there he took over as Commander in Chief Allied Ground Forces, Central Europe.

General Speidel, like other high up in the Allied Command can actually give orders to the international mixture of troops only if there is an overt act of aggression against NATO defenses. But all his planning will assume the worst with himself as chief of the ground forces.

Wearing the new Federal German Republic's new slate-gray uniform with gold and red trimmings appropriate to his rank, General Speidel showed no emotion on his bespectacled face as he was greeted by his own immediate superior, French General Jean Valluy, commander in chief of land, sea and air forces in the Central Europe sector.

In the ceremony at the Chateau of Fontainebleau, General Speidel and General Valluy, followed by members of the former's new staff, briskly inspected a guard of honor made up of French, American, British troops. The band of the French Gendarmerie which provided the music for the occasion, played "Deutschland Uber Alles" before the French MARSEILLAISE.

General Speidel's new deputy commander is Major General Pierre DEJUSSIÈS PONTCARRAL of France, who commanded the resistance army in the southern part of France during the Nazi occupation. He was captured and deported to Buchenwald.