

The activity of the Special Organization (OS) in the province of Constantine through the reports of the French police 1948-1950

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ABSTRACT

National activity during the period 1919-1954 - despite the terrible colonial repression - witnessed remarkable developments to consolidate independence thought through armed struggle. It is the prominent option that crowned the efforts of the independence movement led by The **Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties** (MTLD) by establishing the special organization as a paramilitary organization in 1947. Where it took upon itself the responsibility of preparing for armed action and the formation of a regular army with the standards of the global regular armies despite the major challenges that constituted difficult obstacles that hindered the achievement of the goals set. But the efforts of this organization were clear, represented in the qualitative activity carried out and in the formation of individuals to be the nucleus of the liberation army at the level of the national country, so the structure was controlled and the goals were underlined. This study aims to track the efforts of the special organization in the province of Constantine and the most important military operations carried out against the interests of the enemy and the size of the capabilities that it possessed before its discovery. This is through the reports of the French police or what is known as the "French Information Police"- police de renseignements généraux (P.R.G)-. Which confirmed the great efforts and capabilities of this paramilitary organization and its great role in consolidating the revolutionary thought of the Algerians.

Keywords: Special Organization, Constantine Sector, Information Police, Armed Struggle, Colonial Administration.

Introduction:

The option of armed struggle imposed itself in the first conference of the The **Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties** (MTLD) held on February 15, 1947. Where the conferees unanimously agreed that military action is no longer an option, but has become an inevitability that has been strengthened by the political leadership, in light of the great disappointment that afflicted them and the masses after the reform campaign carried by the law of September 20, 1947¹. Then a falsification of the will of the voters took place to choose the 60 representatives in the National Assembly in 1948² just to exclude Algerians and their representatives from the process of representation and decision-making.

¹- For more details about this law see:

Algerian Muslims and French Citizenship in Colonial Algeria 1865-1962, PhD thesis in contemporary Algerian history, University of Constantine, 2018.

²- To see more details about the legislative elections, and how Algerians are deprived of the freedom to vote:

Commission centrale d'information et documentation du mouvement pour le triomphe des libertés démocratiques en Algérie, le problème algérien (atteintes aux droits de l'homme), p 07.

The creativity of the Governor-General of Algeria, Naegelen ³, in electoral fraud was the drop that overflowed the cup of politicians who filled the ballot boxes and the politics of claims. What supported those calling for revolutionary action and the need for radical change of the party's orientations, so the voices of the activists rose demanding the political leadership" Don't call us anymore to the polls, give us guns⁴"

Which was quickly achieved by establishing a secret paramilitary organization known as the Special (private) Organization.

In fact, talk about the special organization in general has taken a large share in various studies and researches⁵ related to the history of the liberation revolution, considering that the outbreak of the Al-Fateh (1st) November revolution was the result of the pursuit and insistence of the organization's leaders to follow the path of armed action. Moreover, it can be said that the rely on the French sources themselves is a clear confirmation of the importance of this organization and its activity, which established the armed struggle by the recognition of the French official bodies that submitted private and secret reports confirming the independent objectives set by this organization. In addition, in most of these secret reports, the word independence is clearly mentioned.

Therefore, in this study, I seek to shed light on the private organization and its activity in the province of Constantine through French sources. Specifically, archival documents obtained from the Overseas Archives of Aix-en-Provence (A.N.O.M). Which is a collection of reports from the General Information Police (P.R.G()police de renseignements généraux) that were seized by the detainees after a series of arrests launched by the judicial police in the cities of the province. Moreover, Information police reports that monitored the organization's activity in the territory of the province and submitted them to the Central Inspector (of the Information Police in the province of Constantine).

So, this article aims to answer the following question: **What are the components of the special organization in the province of Constantine, and what are its most important activities during the**

³- the Governor-General Marcel-Edmond Naegelen: Born in Belfort in 1892, after attending secondary school in Belfort, then the Ecole Naturelle Supérieure of Saint Claude, he participated in the first World War I, appointed professor at the biotechnology School of Strasbourg, appointed Chancellor of the Municipality of Strasbourg in 1925. Then General Chancellor of the province of Bas Rhin in 1937, delegate to the National Assembly in 1944, then deputy in 1945. After that appointed Minister of Education in the government of Felix Guan 1946-1948, to be appointed Governor of Algeria during the government of Robar Schumann from 1948 to 1951. See:

- Guy Pervillé, L'Algérie les hommes et l'histoire, revue parcours, N°.12, Mai 1990, p 77.

⁴- Yves Courrière, la guerre d'Algérie "fils de toussaint", éditions casbah, Alger, 2005, p 163.

⁵- The truth is that there is no historical study that singled out the history of the revolution that did not address the roots of Al-Fateh (1st) in November, i.e. the establishment of the special organization, the military wing of the Movement for the Victory of Democratic Freedoms. For example, source studies of the organization` members: Ben Youssef Benkhedda: The Roots of the First of November, translated by Massoud Haj Massoud, 2nd Edition, Dar Al-Shatbya for Publishing and Distribution, Algeria, 2012. Also: Mohammed Harbi, National Liberation Front, Myth and Reality, Turkmeel Caesar Dagher, 1st Edition, Arab Research Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon, 1983. Mahfoud Kaddache, History of the National Movement, Part 2, previous reference, p 845.

In addition to French studies for French historians such as:

- Charles Robert Ageron, genèse de l'Algérie algérienne, édit, Alger 2010.

- Benjamin Stora, histoire de la guerre de l'Algérie.

For more details see:

A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, organisation clandestine du P.P.A (secret), 27 mars 1950.

period 1948-1950? How was it discovered? And what are the seizures that have been seized in the most important cities of the province?

1. The founding of the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (MTLD) and the emergence of revolutionary action:

The political plot of the national cause is intertwined, and it became more complicated after the policy of repression, abuse and torture⁶ practiced by the French administration during and after the massacres of May 8, 1945. This led to the consolidation of the rupture with the colonial regime and the conviction of the revolutionary choice among many activists and national militants." so the Algerians are not demanding their rights but their freedom Algerian People's Party At this time, the position of the activists of the dissolved. ⁷" (September 2, 1939) ⁸ became strong after the French administration confirmed its repressive intention, through the persecution it practiced on the Friends of the Manifesto and Liberty (*Amis du Manifeste et de la Liberté*, AML) and its activists⁹. After being accused of planning the events and being silent about them and the activity of the cells of the dissolved Algerian People's Party within its various branches.¹⁰

The terrorist repression that has been inflicted on Algerian Muslims, whether citizens or militants, specifically the national leaders of the various national currents - They were thrown into prisons and detention centers awaiting trial- contributed significantly to paralyzing the activity of the national movement after the end of World War II in general, and the massacres of the eighth of May in particular.

⁶- The matter was not limited to the direct killing of demonstrators, but also exceeded to trials after a series of arrests against various national elements after the end of the massacres, where it was estimated at about 1307 trials, including 151 death penalties and 329 life labor sentences. See:

- - Redouane Ained Tabet ,08 Mai 1945 en Algérie, Alger, OPU, 1987, p78.

Colonial crimes and new events and facts about these massacres can also be found in an important and new study by:

- -Jean pierre peyraulou; Guelma 1945 (une subversion française dans l'Algérie coloniale, édition la découverte, 2009.

⁷- M'hamed Yousfi le complot (l'Algérie 1950-1954), Alger ENAL, 1986, p 25.

⁸-An important report dated May 31, 1945 proved the role of members of the dissolved People's Party and the The Association of Algerian Muslim Ulama under the cover of the (Ahabab al-Bayan) **Friends of the Manifesto and Liberty (AML)** in directing the movement's ,demands from the Republic to federalism with the French Republic to the establishment of an Algerian parliament and an Algerian government. This important report can be found at:

- -A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 8 cab/88, Note sur le gouvernement musulman intitulée: "Les-amis du manifeste et de liberté , "31 Mai 1945.

⁹- An important document refers to the campaign of arrests launched by the wilaya of Algiers (le préfet d'Alger) by gendarmerie of 4 officers protecting Messali Hadj on April 18, 1945. During this operation, a large number of patriots were arrested in the area.

This is a clear evidence of the massive campaign of arrests launched by the French authorities before and after the demonstrations.

For other detailed information see:

- -A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 8 cab/88, Note sur le parti du peuple algérien (P.P.A), Alger le 28 mai 1945, p 05.

-The same report indicated that the party's activists work in secrecy and in close cooperation with members of "**Friends of the Manifesto and Liberty party** " (AML) (travaillaient en étroite collaboration).

And since the inception of the AML in March 1944, The People's Party took great importance and carried out activities in its branches, which increased significantly in the following months, especially in April 1945. People's Party members infiltrated the movement, according to the report.

¹⁰- The structural organization of the Algerian People's Party can be found in an official document of the French administration. Appendix No. 01.

However, he hastened the conviction of many of the political formations that emerged after World War II (Or rebuild itself) of the need to pursue the path of armed struggle. Which has become a reality that must be embodied after it was an idea that many refuse to believe in. In light of the colonial regime's stated intentions on every occasion, "Algeria will never be anything but a French province".

On this basis, the leaders of the dissolved party moved after benefiting from the general amnesty law in March 1946 and under a new political¹¹ and legitimate cover, which is Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (MTLD). Where did it proceed to embody its revolutionary and libertarian choice by establishing the military wing of the party, known as the Special Organization (O.S.), which bore the burden of providing the military conditions for an armed revolution¹².

2. Structuring the party of Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (MTLD)¹³ and its branches in the province of Constantine:

2.1 Structuring the party of Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (MTLD) in the province of Constantine:

The French colonial authorities were able to discover very important information about the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (MTLD) and the secret People's Party in the province of Constantine. Through the documents seized after the series of arrests and follow-ups launched following the discovery of the secret organization. This is what was referred to in the secret report No. 218. Which is an information bulletin (bulletin de renseignements) issued on April 1, 1950 about the military region of the province of Constantine, in which it spoke in detail about the establishment of (MTLD) as a legitimate cover for the Algerian People's Party and the structure of this movement and its branches in the Algerian country, which

¹¹- Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (MTLD): After benefiting from the general amnesty law, Messali El Hadj was released on August 11, and returned to Algeria on October 13 in a great enthusiastic and popular atmosphere. Considering him "the father of Algerian patriotism" (le père de nationalisme algérien). This required defining the method of struggle between secrecy and public (legitimacy). Especially with the approach of the elections on November 10, 1946 after the great success of the party of Farhat Abbas "**Democratic Union of the Algerian Manifesto**" (UDMA) in the elections of the Constituent Assembly on October 21, 1945, and the elections of June 2, 1946. He won 11 of the 13 seats. The People's Party, or what became the so-called legitimate framework of the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties, participated in the municipal elections and its lists achieved great success. It was an opportunity to introduce the party's program and goals, which he saw as being achieved only by:

- Non-union (association) with the Communists.
- U.D.M.A. parties, Ulema and independents must unite.
- The words "liberation" and independence must be used for our goal.
- Liberation of political prisoners.
- Our movement must receive attention and the Algerian people must contribute to liberation.

See this talk in:

-A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4157, mouvement (MTLD), juillet 1951.

As well as the 81F/4 box.

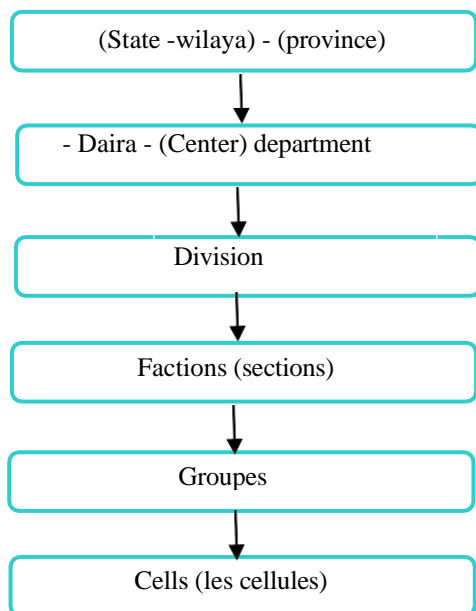
¹²- The need to create an organized and effective military apparatus is what Messali al-Hajj emphasized: "Liberation is not an isolated revolutionary act, but rather the efforts of a party with a program that can mobilize the masses to achieve independence... The formation of a secret organization is an essential means and an important technical apparatus to achieve the goal".

¹³- There is very important information about this movement in the Overseas Archives, for example, I have seen box 93/4157, which contains monthly reports S.L.N.A. about this party: Foundation-Political System-Objectives. In addition to the publications (des bulletins) were published. As for recent studies, the researcher (Jacques Simon) has completed a very important study entitled:

Le MTLD, le mouvement pour le triomphe des libertés démocratiques (1947-1954) Algérie, l'Harmattan, paris, 2003.

remained hidden and doubtful. However, it was disappeared after obtaining important documents carrying accurate details and information from one of the movement's activists. He is the municipal advisor of the movement for the municipality of Annaba (bone), whom the report indicated resigned from this political organization¹⁴.

Based on the information obtained in the report, the general structure of the movement was as follows¹⁵:



The section consists of 02 to 03 groups.

The groups consists of 05 to 07 cells.

Each cell consists of 10 main militants

The information contained in the report did not specify the internal structure of the state and the daira, while referring to the division structure, which is as follows¹⁶:

- A. The president (Head) of division.
- B. Division Committee: chaired by the President with:
 - * Administrator of the local organization.
 - * Advertising and Media Officer.
 - * Administrator of local councils.
 - * Finance and Archive Officer.

¹⁴- A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, le -organisation de M.T.L.D-P.P. A, bulletin de renseignements, (secret), 01 avril 1950. p.01.

¹⁵- See the schema (document) in Appendix No: 01

¹⁶- A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, l'organisation de M.T.L.D-P.P. A, bulletin de renseignements, (secret), 01 avril 1950. p.02.

* Union work official.

C. Group`s Committee: It is headed by the president (Head) of division and is made up of cell heads.

D. The cells: Led by the head of the cell (leader) and consists of 05 to 10 units.

Subscriptions:

The report proved that the movement relies heavily on subscriptions paid by activists, with each militant paying 100 French francs every month as a subscription to the party, and then the head of the cell collects these funds and hands them over to the leader.

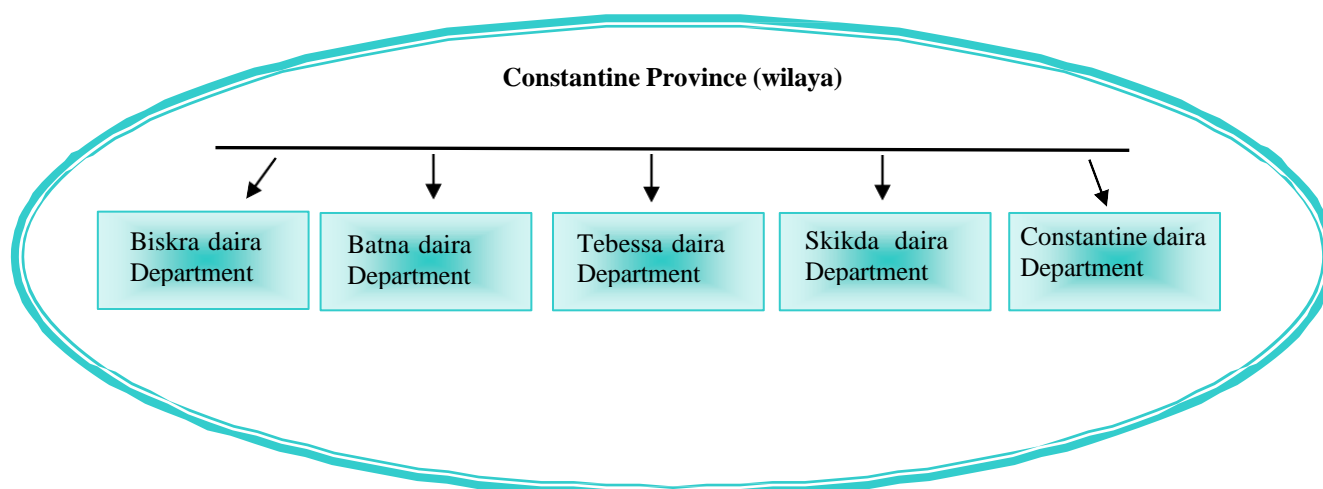
2.2 Branches of the (MTLD) party in Constantine Province¹⁷:

According to The report of the Public Information Police - under the number 3083 and classified as a confidential-. Which was addressed by the Chief Inspector of the Information Police to the Director General of Public Security (General Information) about the (MTLD), (APP)(Algerian people party) and Paramilitary organization.

On April 22, 1950, the following was held:

The province of Constantine includes three wilayas¹⁸:

The wilaya of Constantine includes the following departments (dairas):

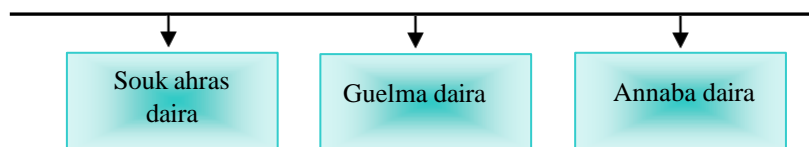


The wilaya of Annaba includes the following departments (dairas):

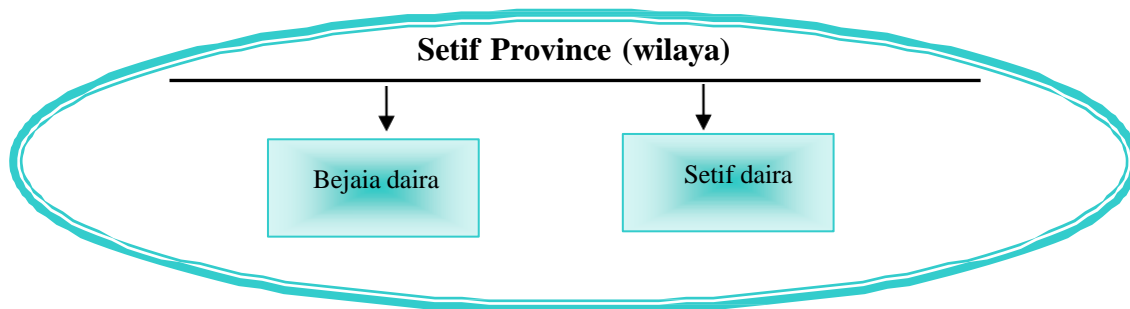
Annaba Province (wilaya)

¹⁷- For more details about the structure of the movement in the province of Constantine see: Appendix No. 02

¹⁸- A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, le -organisation de M.T.L.D-P.P. A. Et l'organisation para-militaire dans le département de Constantine, p.07.



The wilaya of Setif includes the following departments (dairas):



3. -Special Organization¹⁹ "nucleus of armed action in the province of Constantine":

3.1 -Establishment and objectives through French police reports:

The Information Police obtained important documents after the discovery of the organization in the province of Constantine, including documents about the establishment of the organization and its goals. This information is contained in Report No. 3083 of April 22, 1950, in which the details of the establishment of the organization are mentioned as follows²⁰ :

The paramilitary organization was established in the East of Constantinople at the beginning of the summer of 1948, where the heads of the divisions were tasked with recruiting young militants with the following qualities: confidence, seriousness, ability, competence, and being unknown to the colonial authorities, with the aim of including them in a secret organization.

These elements, once selected, are taken out of the division and become exclusively under the tutelage of the regional controller. They are then integrated into a local-level organization under the authority of the group leader who manages 03 semi-groups.

The total number of groups is determined by considering the total number of division fighters, where one group includes a president and 09 members, while half of the group includes a president and 02 elements.

¹⁹- The leadership of the special organization changed three times after it was first headed by Mohamed Belouizdad. "Born on 02/11/1927 in the city of Algiers, joined the Algerian People's Party in 1943, and founded the division of Northstreet of Belcourtin Algiers city, was pursued in 1945. He reorganized the ranks of the People's Party in the prefecture of Constantine after the events of May 1945, member of the Central Committee and the Political Bureau of the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (MTLD) 1947-1949, died on February 14, 1952 after suffering from illness. see: Mohammed Harbi, National Liberation Front, Myth and Reality, op. cit., p. 336.

Then it was headed by the militant Hocine Aït Ahmed, and then the militant Ahmed Ben Bella . Until it was discovered in 1950.

²⁰- A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, l'organisation de M.T.L.D-P.P. A. Et l'organisation paramilitaire dans le département de Constantine, p.07.

The recruitment process occurs in strict secrecy, as the elements do not know each other in the groups and semi-groups. Only the heads of the groups know each other and know the general coordinator among them (the joint coordinator).

As an increase in caution and complete secrecy, the heads of the groups, then the heads of the semi-groups, and finally the militants take the oath by putting the right hand on the Quran to abide by complete secrecy and sincerity in performing tasks and seeking to liberate Algeria to death²¹.

This process is carried out in complete confidentiality, according to the report, where the oath is taken individually and the observer performing the operation is anonymous, as he usually wears a long black shirt and wears a mask on his face. They then receive theoretical and practical military instructions.

The heads of the groups learn various moral and material instructions through the publications and booklets that they obtain, which usually carry the principles of the revolution, and then teach them to the heads of half groups and militants to be applied after that in the mountains and forest areas out of sight and with the use of weapons.

The report also indicated that the instructions to the militants recommend them to not reveal their identities when they train. In addition, to deny any affiliation to the organization, and claim that they are members of the scouts. This of course so that they will not be discovered.

Because the private organization has clearly defined its objectives, the report did not neglect to record the objectives of this secret organization, which are mainly the liberation of Algeria, through armed action and revolution (la guérilla). Which were the objectives of the public information police in the three provinces, which concluded in its reports that the formation of the organization aims to strike "France and French sovereignty in Algeria..."²²

Despite the secrecy of the organization, the French police were able to uncover this military wing of the victory movement, stressing that the goals set by this organization are²³:

- Preparing the elements who are morally, physically and militarily qualified to fight by any means for the independence of Algeria.

- Formation of cadres capable of leading revolutionary forces (partisans). This was considered by the French authorities to be a very dangerous matter that would have gone far without surveillance operations and the expertise of the Information Police.

In this context, the report of the inspector of the information police of the department of Guelma ²⁴ to the inspector general of the same police in the province of Constantine clarified this general objective, in which he confirmed that this statement is recorded in reports and documents seized by the main officials of this organization.

3.2: Composition of the (members) organization in the dairas of the province:

21- Ibid, p.06.

22-A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence: boîte 93/4158, organisation clandestine du P.P.A, 31 mars 1950, p.01.

23- Ibid.

24- Ibid.

The French police were able to identify the composition of the special organization in the province and obtained through the documents they seized, the nominal lists of militants, groups commanders and semi-r groups who are active in the cities of the province by order of the Supreme command.

We summarize as follows:

Names of the most important members of the organization and some personal information about them²⁵:

Daira of affiliation	member	Role	Personal Information
Constantine province (the leadership center)	Abdelkader (full name not mentioned)	Provincial Organization Leader	/
	Cherraz Abderrahmane ben Brahim	controller	Born in Constantine on July 24, 1921.
	Habachi Abdesselem	/	Born on September 02, 1925 in Ain Melilla, living in Constantine.
	Bettat Saleh	/	Civil Engineering Department Worker
	Lebid Hamiche	/	He lives in Constantine.
Constantine city	Merkouche Mohamed Cherif Ben Ali	A group leader	Born on December 27, 1924 in Constantine, a worker in the company "Stellin"
	Menaâ Boudjemaa Ben Amar	Half Group Leader	Born on June 23, 1923 in Douar Ouled Belkheir (mixed commune of Eulma) living in Constantine
	Hachiche Mohamed	Half Group Leader	He lives in Constantine
	Sarakta Said	Half Group Leader	shoemaker, rue Alexiis Lambert in Constantine
	X.....Aomar	Half Group Leader	Kabyle, originally from Bougie, ex-employee
	Bouchemal Salah Ben Arezki	Half Group Leader	Born on July 14, 1926 in Constantine, a worker
	Bouali Said ben slimane	Half Group Leader	Born on January 14, 1927 in Constantine
Tebessa city	Laibi abdallah ben tayeb	Organization Leader	Born in 1913 in Tebessa, merchant
	Fares yahya ben sassi	member	Born on April 02, 1928 in Tebessa, Carpenter
	Moslem tayeb ben ali		Born on February 28, 1931 in Tebessa Tobacco factory worker
	Madoui elhaddi ben ali	Group leader	Born on January 7, 1921 in Tebessa, carpenter
	Souai nourredine ben	Group leader	Born on November 10

²⁵-In fact, the nominal lists are very long and detailed and are limited here only to the names of the group leaders in all the cities, to see the full lists:

-A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, le -organisation de M.T.L.D-P.P. A. Et l'organisation paramilitaire dans le département de Constantine annexe N03 p.1-10

	Mohamed		
Mila city	Bentobbal slimane ben ali known as lakhdar	Group leader	Carpenter and gardener
Conde Smendou	Zighoud Youssef ben said	Group leader	29 years old works as a carpenter and blacksmith
Oued Zenati	Barkat Slimane	Group leader	29 years old
Bone province	Benzaim Mohamed ben aissa known as Hocine	Leader of annaba-bone- guelma, souk-ahras regions	Born on January 1, 1923 in Annaba
	Benmostffa benaouda ben ali	Lesder of annaba – bone- section	Born on September 17, 1925 in Annaba
	Belleili hamed ben Mohamed	Group leader	Born on April 24, 1926 in Annaba
	Mihoubi brahim ben amar	Group leader	Born on August 02, 1917 in Saint Arnaud
	Baccouche abdelbaki ben Mohamed	Group leader	Born on June 16, 1925 Souk Ahras
	Fedal abdallah ben ali	Group leader	Born on 01 March 1931 in Guelma
Guelma city	Benhamla saci ben omar	Group leader	Born on September 12, 1926 Guelma
Souk- ahras	Badji mokhtar ben hassen	Group leader	April 17, 1919 in Annaba
	Ouled zaoui Mahmoud ben ahmed	Group leader	Born on January 29, 1916 in Souk Ahras .
Bejaia	Ali pacha rachid	Group leader	/
dJidjel	Amrouche mouloud ben akli	Group leader	December 11, 1919
Taher	Aissaoui Mohamed ben rabah		/

The truth is that the nominal list is detailed with the names of the leaders of the groups and semi-groups, as well as the elements belonging to each group, but it is not possible to mention it here²⁶.

4. Preparatory activity of the special organization in the cities of the province:

The leaders and militants of the special organization have done something that I consider mighty and even superstitious in view of the time, place, available possibilities and tight and precise structural organization²⁷. Which confirms the military sense of these young leaders, and their strong desire to form military cadres to be a future base for a strong and framed army ready to fight the war of liberation. In addition to collecting significant quantities of weapons needed by the revolution.

²⁶- You can refer to the police report to see the names of the members of the special organization in the dairas of the province of Constantine, including those who were arrested and some of them managed to escape after the discovery of the organization on March 18, 1950.

-A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, le -organisation de M.T.L.D-P.P. A Et l'organisation paramilitaire dans le département de Constantine, annexe N03 p.01-10.

²⁷- For the Organization's structural organization, see Appendix 01.

Therefore, the magnitude of the activity carried out by this organization at a short point in time before its discovery²⁸, is a clear indication of the creativity of these young men²⁹ in military work. Moreover, their possession of the standards of competence (courage, honesty, secrecy...), after serious training supervised by Hajj Al-Jilani, which qualified them to make sacrifices in all circumstances. They are people who "do not hesitate to implement all orders, whatever they may be."

However, not much information about the activity of the special organization in the province of Constantine was contained in specialized sources and references. Or even testimonies of the actors or participants in this organization who survived or kept documents proving and demonstrating the existence of a preparatory and organized process carried out by the leaders and militants of the private organization in the province.

One of these important reports, entitled "A note on the clandestine activities in the province of Constantine", states that after the massacres of the eighth of May 1945, the French police services receive various information related to hidden activity among patriots, namely supporters of the independence movement, or as they call them nationalists -les nationalistes³⁰ -.

This activity is specifically related to the formation and establishment of a paramilitary organization, but the information that reaches the police is incomplete, which did not allow the discovery of the plan of action of this organization.

In the same context, the same report indicates that what makes them sure of the existence of this organization is the daily information they receive about some scattered actions here and there in the dairas of the province, which are isolated actions, as described by the police, and which aim to prepare Muslims for resistance (résistance) against France.

The following are the most important preparatory activities carried out by the special organization in the dairas of the province:

Carrying out qualitative operations required good preparation, training of personnel and collection of weapons, which is what the leadership of the organization in the province of Constantine sought to achieve.

²⁸- The Special Organization was discovered as a result of a disciplinary operation in the Constantine province against the so-called "Khiari Abdelkader", who was accused of collaborating with the French security services, on March 18, 1950, where a group consisting of the names: Ben Zaim Mohamed, Hajjani Ibrahim, Bakouche Abdelkader, Ben Mustapha Ibrahim, and Abdelkader led by Larbi Ben M'hidi. who was assigned this mission. However, the operation failed and the so-called Khiari managed to escape and give the specifications of the patriots and their car to the police, so they were seized in Wadi Zenati.

For details about the operation, see: Confidential report of the Director-General of the General Secretary of Algeria in:

- A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, le MTLD, département de Constantine, 22 avril 1950, (secret).

Statement by Ahmed Bouda, one of the organization's leaders, see:

-A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, extrait du bulletin d'information de février 1950 (M.T.L.D, P.P.A), p.01.

²⁹- One report described these militants within the organization's own cells: "... the militants are young, intellectual, strong, and unknown..." Consider this speech in :

-A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, le MTLD-PPA et l'organisation ... op.cit, p.05.

It can also be seen that most of the detainees in the province of Constantine were between 20 and 25 years old, and most of them were 20 years old, based on the nominal list I saw at the archive center.

³⁰ - A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, police de renseignement généraux, n3826, notes sur les activités clandestines en milieux nationalistes dans le département de Constantine, 13 juin 1949.

What is certain is that all cities were witnessing a clear activity aimed at preparing for military operations. In September 1948, a secret code entitled: "11.I52" was distributed in Bejaia and Tebessa carrying military orders to collect books and pamphlets related to the installation and maintenance of weapons³¹.

On September 5, 1948, the gendarmerie and the judicial police arrested two militants belonging to the movement carrying explosives, respectively: the militant Khan al-Said and the militant Ayyash al-Said, both municipal councilors of the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (MTLD).

In the same context, the judicial police of the city of Bejaia confirmed that the municipal councilors of the movement manage the paramilitary organization in the city.

The city of "Philippe Ville" - Skikda - in August 1948, witnessed some preparatory work, as the men of the gendarmerie of the city confirmed that a shipment of weapons was transported and a store was set up to collect weapons in the Milia area of Jijel³².

On the other hand, the Inspector of Information Police, Mr. John Zampoli, confirmed that starting in 1949, the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties worked on complete secrecy before switching to direct action.

5. Outcome of seizures (weapons and means) after the discovery of the organization in the province of Constantine:

As soon as Abdelkader Khiari's operation in Tebessa failed on March 18, 1950, the French police were able to carry out large search operations based on the important information they obtained. "The rapid use of the information obtained made it possible to transfer the arrests to Annaba, Constantine Skikda (Philip Ville), Jijel (Djijelli), Bejaia (Bougie), Souk Ahras and Guelma. In various centers many arrests took place. Visits to the headquarters made it possible to seize important documents, some weapons, war ammunition, means such as shovels, axes, bale, compass, saws... etc³³.

It is evidence of the range of material and human resources that the organization was able to possess in the province of Constantine based on the archival documents it has seen. The French police services were able to seize these assets in the possession of detainees or during raids on the headquarters of the organization, which are usually the meeting places of the militants³⁴.

Talk of these seizures is taking place in all cities of the province, which confirms the great activity of the organization's branches in the region. This is illustrated by the table³⁵ completed by the General Information Police Services in the province of Constantine, and sent to the Director General of General Security (Public Information) after the operation of March 18, 1950.

³¹- A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boîte 93/4158, police de renseignement généraux, n3826, notes sur les activités clandestines en milieux nationalistes dans le département de Constantine, 13 juin 1949.

³²- Ibid.

³³- A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence· boîte 93/4158, l'organisation paramilitaire dans le département de Constantine, op.cit. p.02.

³⁴ -It should be noted that the seizures, especially the - weapons - are not necessarily all that the organization's branches have in the region, as evidenced by the use of many of them in the operations of the November Fateh after being able to hide and smuggle them.

³⁵-The table as reported by the police services can be found in Appendix 2.

In fact, seizures from ammunition, weapons and military uniforms vary from city to city, but in total they are very significant, and I have briefly singled them out in the following table based on the table of the French police.

Materials						Weapons and ammunition					Headquarters
Misc	Military equipment	Other	Other	Shovels	explosives	Miscellaneous ammunition	White weapon	Other	Rifles	Machine guns	
					5 Bullets 5 Lightning 4 Bits	140	/	1	2		Tebessa
						570	/	1	5	1	Bonn
						05	/	1	/	/	Guelma
	13 Chargers					80	/	1	/	/	Souk Ahras
					1 explosive	968	3	9	4	2	Skikda
	2	6	1	10			3				Constantine
						23		5	2		Wadi Al , Zanati
	21	21	23	33		1806	6	18	14	3	Total

We can point out here that the seized quantities are not necessarily all that the organization's branches in the province of Constantine possess. Therefore, the possibility of storing and smuggling weapons remains before the arrival of the police and discovering their location, this is because the organization had all its secret cells that did not know each other. In addition, the police were not able to access people and means until after confessions made by some activists under torture³⁶.

6. Nominal list of detainees in the province dairas:

In addition to the weapons, ammunition and various military means that the organization possessed. It included in its ranks the best patriotic Algerian³⁷ youth from the activists of the People's Party and

³⁶-This is what happened with the so-called "Ben Zaim Mohamed" after his arrest and interrogation, so he announced his role as a liaison officer in Annaba - Guelma - Souk Ahras .and he is in contact in Annaba with the so-called "Ben Hamla Sassi" official P.P.A. in Guelma. As he told them that Badji has 80 bullets and Sassi in possession of an automatic pistol.

-Based on this information, those concerned were arrested and a large raid was carried out, for more details see:

- A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence· boîte 93/4158, rapport spécial atteinte à la sureté extérieure de l'état Guelma le 3 avril 1950.

³⁷- I found many differences in the number of activists of the organization between the various sources and well-known references, for example,

-Ageron indicates that their number did not exceed 1000 activists see: Charles robert Agéron, jeunesse de l'Algérie algérienne ,op.cit.,p.510.

- Ives courrière: 4500 Fighter: see fils de toussaint", éditions casbah, Alger, Ives courrière, la guerre d'Algérie 2005.

- Ahmed Ben Bella: 1000 and 15000 militants see: Mohamed Boudiaf, Preparation for the First of November, presented by Issa Boudiaf, Dar Al-Numan for Printing and Eagle, 2011, p. 15.

Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties, who by joining the organization showed great courage and sacrifice that, exceeded its human and historical meanings. Regardless of their groups, ages and education, they were fully prepared and without hesitation to give everything possible for the sake of the party-organization-homeland.

The following census shows the total number of detainees trained in the organization to form the nucleus of an army of revolutionaries that bears the responsibility for

the liberation of Algeria³⁸.

Number of arrests	Headquarters (Localités)
17	Tebessa
35	Bone (annaba)
10	Guelma
09	Souk-ahras
02	Skikda
11	Constantine
03	Conde smendou
11	Oued zenati
01	bejaia
14	Tazmalt
06	Jijel
09	Adekar
128	Total

The North African (S.L.N.A) has collected about these detainees, department, the included, in particular: national service, their administration, the the quality and language addition to their sub-Arabic...)³⁹.

This confirms the militants belonging to they are qualified play these roles.

Liaison Services personal information According to each information their performance of work for the French certificates obtained, of education, in origins (Berber, quality of the this organization, as national elites to

Based on this information, which focused on the domain of the Constantine province, we see the great and extensive activity that – the special organization – was able to collect weapons, ammunition and significant military means. In addition to giving the militants a distinguished military framework with evidence of high efficiency. And the honesty they showed when they were arrested and subjected to the

- roger le Tourneau 1800 militants see: roger le tourneau, evolution politique de l’afrique du nord musulmane 1920-1961, laibreraie aemand colin, paris 1962, p .374.

-2000 militants : Ahmed Mehsas: The revolutionary movement in Algeria from the world war to the armed revolution, translated by Massoud Haj Massoudou Muhammad Abbas, Dar Al-Kasbah for Publishing, 2003, p. 307.

³⁸- A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, boite 93/4158, état récapitulatif des arrestations opérées.

³⁹ -A.N.O.M. Aix en Provence, service de liaisons nord africaines, renseignements sur les militants de l’organisation paramilitaire arrêtés.

worst types of torture Adopted by the General Government headed by Edmond Naegelen and translated in the latest and ugliest methods "using the bathroom basin, electric current and leather ⁴⁰.

What is certain is that what happened in the province of Constantine regarding the organization happened exactly the same in the Oran sector⁴¹ and Algeria. This prompts us to expect the potential of the organization at a crucial and simple stage at the same time if we adopt the beginning of the actual activity in January 1948.

Based on this presentation of some of the organization's capabilities, which its officials sought to obtain, especially weapons⁴² to be used in military training and to keep some of them for a remarkable day, we stand on a strategy on the organization, in addition to the human capabilities represented in those frameworks that he ensured to form to be the nucleus of an army ready to bear the responsibility for the explosion of the liberation revolution.

Conclusion

The November operations on 1954 are the actual start of the armed struggle in Algeria. And the culmination of a decades-long political struggle against the French occupation authority, which refused to respond to the demands of the various political parties. Which did not yield to the French rejection, as the independence current led by **Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties** (MTLD) (the successor to the Algerian People's Party) made serious revolutionary attempts to adopt armed struggle. Represented in the paramilitary organization, or what was termed the private (special) organization in 1947. This organization, whose activity covered almost the entire national country, reflected the desire of Algerian youth and the new leadership to adopt the logic of power through the revolutionary struggle to achieve the desired goal of independence. This was achieved through the activity of this armed organization, which was distributed throughout the Algerian country, so the organization's branches are present everywhere.

Specifically in the northern region of Constantine, which has known a remarkable and distinctive activity, confirmed by the great preparatory activity of the organization in all cities of the province, as evidenced by the size of the qualitative operations, the quantity of detentions and the list of detainees, and it is a clear indication of the qualitative and strategic work that was embodied through the members and leadership of the organization in the province of Constantine. This prompted the French Information Police to seek to uncover this organization after the Tebessa incident on March 18, 1950.

⁴⁰- Mahfoud Kaddache, History of the Algerian National Movement, vol. 2, previous reference, p.862.

⁴¹- The newspapers of the province of Oran, especially l'Écho d'Oran, talked about the arrest and the weapons seized in the city of Tlemcen Which was (machine guns, pistols, knives, explosives...)24 militants were also arrested with weapons see:

- L'Écho d'Oran, N°.28, 663, année 106, 10 Mai 1950.

The same newspaper also mentioned in Al-Fateh (first) of the same month a list of the names of those arrested in Oran.

-l'Écho d'Oran ,01 Mai 1950.

- For more details about the activity of the special organization in the prefecture of Oran and how to discover it see:

-Abdelkader Djilali Beloufa, Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties in the Prefecture of Oran, -Exit from the tunnel - from the discovery of the special organization to the outbreak of the liberation revolution, PhD thesis in modern and contemporary history, University of Tlemcen, 2007-2008.

⁴²- The militant Ait Ahmed confirms in this context: "...We had to get communications equipment by all means, and the priority was to get weapons." See:

- Hocine Ait Ahmed, The Spirit of Independence: Memoirs of a Fighter (1942-1952 AD), translated by Said Jaafar, Al-Barzakh Publications, 2002, p.154.

However, the mistakes committed precipitated the discovery of this revolutionary organization, which, despite its failure to achieve its goals, paved the way for the launch of a massive liberation revolution that eliminated the most powerful colonial empires and liberated the Algerian people from the shackles of hateful French colonialism that lasted for 132 years.

Appendix01:

