

# New Letters to Jurors Warn They Are Doomed If Petain Convicted

By **RELMAN MORIN**

Paris, Aug. 13 (AP). — French High Court jurors trying Marshal Petain for treason disclosed today that almost all 24 of them had received news letters threatening death to any who vote to condemn him.

The trial, which began July 23, is expected to go to the jury tomorrow night.

Some jurors said they had received as many as a dozen threatening letters. Pierre Bloch, one of the jurors, said one letter declared: "Beware, I am sitting just a few feet from you in the court room," and another concluded with "death to Jews."

Defense counsel attacked the State's case in day-long arguments, asserting the prosecution had used disreputable witnesses, and had failed to bring "a single fact" into court in proof of its charges against the 89-year-old former Vichy Chief of State.

"Let's be sensible," said Defense Counsel Jean Lemaire. "You are going to need something more substantial than this to convince the jury."

## "Most Glorious Son"

The chief defense counsel, Fernand Payen, called Marshal Petain "one of France's most glorious sons," and said he had never shown anything but loyalty to the republic during his long years of service.

The defense spent virtually the entire day examining the case built up by Prosecutor Andre Mornet, point by point and almost witness by witness. M. Lemaire said one man who had testified against Marshal Petain had just been arrested for betraying members of the French Resistance Movement. Another State witness, he said, was a member of the Austrian Army in the first Great War.

M. Payen, who spoke before M. Lemaire, said he had been unable to call valuable witnesses who are abroad because the Government would not guarantee them safe conduct.

## Blames Reynaud Also

In rebuttal to the prosecution charge that Marshal Petain abused the powers granted to him by the National Assembly at the time of the fall of France, the defense said President Albert Lebrun had not

protested against the marshal's actions.

"If Petain is guilty of plotting to bring himself to power, then the prosecution's star witness—former Premier Paul Reynaud—is equally guilty," said M. Payen. "He called Petain into the Government."

M. Payen read a testimonial to Marshal Petain written after the first Great War by Gen. John J. Pershing, American Expeditionary Force commander, 25 years ago.

The defense lawyer said Marshal Petain had been a patriot all his life.

"They accused Marshal Petain of having become politically ambitious in 1935 and 1936," M. Payen said. "At the age of 80, he is suddenly seized with political ambition. And at 84 he suddenly becomes a traitor, selling his country to the enemy he had always fought."

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