

M. MAURICE BOURGÈS-MAUNOURY

MINISTER OF FINANCE

M. Maurice Bourgès-Maunoury was born on August 19, 1914. After studying at the Ecole Polytechnique he graduated in Law and Political Science. At the beginning of the War he was an artillery Lieutenant in charge of a battery until taken a prisoner in June 1940.

In 1941 M. Maurice Bourgès-Maunoury was repatriated and began preparation for the examination as an Inspector of Finance. At the same time he joined the Resistance and about the end of 1942 escaped from France via the Pyrenees with the intention of joining the Free French Forces. He was taken prisoner in Spain but managed to escape and reached London at the beginning of 1943.

In September 1943 M. Bourgès-Maunoury returned to France on a secret air mission. He became the Military Delegate for the Rhone-Alpes region and later the National Military Delegate in the Resistance. He returned to London by clandestine air service in April 1944 to report on the results obtained inside France with a view to co-ordination with the pending Allied invasion. He was parachuted back into France on the night of June 6 or 7 as Military Delegate for the southern zone.

After the liberation of Lyon he tried to reach still occupied Paris but was taken prisoner. He was liberated a few days later by members of the Resistance. In October 1944 he was appointed Deputy Chief of the Army Chief of Staff where he remained until June, 1945. At that time he was appointed Regional Commissioner of the French Republic at Bordeaux. Elected a member of the first Legislative Assembly in November 1946, he was re-elected in June 1951.

Secretary of State for the Budget in the first Schuman government in November 1947, M. Bourgès-Maunoury has been successively Secretary of State for Air, Secretary of State for War, Minister of Public Works and Deputy Minister of National Defence. He is, at present, Minister of Finance in the cabinet of René Mayer. He holds the following decorations: Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, Cross of the Liberation and Croix de Guerre with several palms.