



Marine anti-aircraft gunners on this U. S. aircraft carrier in the South Pacific forced this Japanese bomber, upper left, to turn back in his attack on the vessel. Crew members of the carrier fall prone on deck to avoid fragments from the enemy planes. Photo from Official U. S. Navy newsreel.

Kelly's
Comment

From Washington, D. C.

**Lumbermen Fear
Forest Control
Regimentation
Scheme Is Seen
Food Stamps To
Be Discarded**

By John W. Kelly

Washington, D. C., Dec. 25.—Southern lumbermen are expressing even more concern than the territory in the Pacific northwest over the plan of the forest service to launch a lumber industry of its own, all under federal control. To finance the program requires \$100,000,000, which in these days of astronomical appropriations is insignificant. There are various reasons why lumbermen are and have been protesting against this set-up, one being the belief of many operators that the ultimate aim is government ownership of the industry and the elimination of all private owners.

It is well known that several years ago the forest service was one of the most radical government agencies and there was circulated within the service a pamphlet showing how the forest service could assist the CIO in organizing the cowboys and sheepherders by compelling collective bargaining by any stockman desiring range privileges, or refusing to sell stumpage to sawmills until the operators agreed to union demands. Higher-ups in the service acted as sponsors for visiting communists from Mexico and France.

Argument of the forest service is that "something must be done" to break the bottleneck in lumber production. They proposed being given authority to take over any sawmill, large or small, to operate, close or transfer to another site—in short, to run the works. To justify this forest service had only to say that it could handle the operation better than any individual or corporation. The \$100,000,000 would be a revolving fund per-

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YANKS DESTROY
24 JAP AIRPLANES

Washington, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—U. S. Planes on the day before Christmas (Island time) destroyed 24 Japanese aircraft at Munda in the Solomons, silenced anti-aircraft batteries and damaged buildings, the navy announced today.

In a second raid on the same day, bringing to 15 the number of bombing attacks on the enemy airbase since Dec. 9, the Americans blasted a group of barges attempting to land reinforcements and supplies in the Munda area. Only four barges reached shore, the navy said.

The only resistance offered by the Japanese was in the first attack. Fourteen planes which attempted to intercept the Americans were shot down and 10 others were destroyed on the ground. On the second raid, low-flying American bombers encountered no resistance.

First Lady's Christmas Eve
Spent With Tenement Poor

Washington, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—While the rest of the capital was settling down for a Christmas that wasn't white, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt stood at a tenement door as dusk fell on Christmas Eve, wishing a 21-year-old mother a Merry Christmas.

The youthful Negro mother of five told Mrs. Roosevelt her second youngest is not walking yet, although she is two years old. Her husband said he didn't have steady work. Mrs. Roosevelt promised to help the poverty-stricken family.

As she turned away from this alley tenement, a door at the next home was opened by a little Negro, who told the First Lady "my sister-in-law is sick." Mrs. Roosevelt still had time to wish the sick woman a Merry Christmas.

Returning from a group of 90 singers, ranging from Negro children two years old to old people, Mrs. Roosevelt joined in singing familiar carols. She said she was sorry the Christmas tree they had had in former years could not be lighted this year because of the war, but she said, "I hope the spirit of the Christmas tree will live in your heart. I wish all a happy Christmas."

Besides the 100 tenement dwellers attending the singing and hanging out of second story windows, there were a couple of British sailors, Danny Merchant of Cardiff, Wales, who helped evacuate the British army at Dunkirk, and Walter Bickerton, of Liverpool. Both men were on land for the second night, after spending 18 months on combat duty in the Mediterranean. They smiled broadly when their hosts, Miss Edda Mai Russell, sponsor of the sing, introduced them to Mrs. Roosevelt.

At the end of the long day Mrs. Roosevelt appeared quite as bright as she had when she started the day by greeting 300 children at Darlington, Va. She told the children that the President wished her to tell them all "Merry Christmas and that he hoped the next year would be a happier one for the people over all the world."

JAP AIRDROME IN
BURMA IS BOMBED

New Delhi, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—A joint allied high command communique said today that RAF fighter planes had carried out low-level attacks on a Japanese-held airdrome at Magwe in Burma and had damaged several Japanese aircraft in air fights.

Two British fighters failed to return, the communique said. Last night shortly before midnight enemy planes raided Calcutta, dropping bombs indiscriminately. Damages and casualties were described as "light."

The allied drive into Burma, meanwhile, was said to be moving ahead "steadily if slowly." Lieut. Gen. N. M. S. Irwin, commander of the India eastern army, said in a radio broadcast that advanced forces were "extending their control over areas lately under hostile influence."

KING CONFIDENT
IN YULE MESSAGE
TO HIS EMPIRE

London, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—King George VI, broadcasting his annual Christmas message to the British Empire, declared today that recent United Nations victories in Africa, Russia and the Pacific enabled him to "speak with firm confidence regarding the future."

The tasks still lying ahead of the Allies may be even harder than those already accomplished, the king said, but he added: "We face these with confidence, for today we stand together, no longer alone and no longer ill-armed, but just as resolute as in the darkest hour to do our duty whatever comes."

His Majesty said the happiness of Britons this Christmas was increased because they were sharing it with so many members of the United States armed forces. "We welcome them to our homes and their sojourn here will not only be a happy memory for us but, I hope, the basis for an enduring understanding between our two peoples."

Emphasizing that the United Nations must continue their collaboration after defeating the Axis, the king said, "Victory will bring us even greater world responsibilities and we must not be found unequal to the task."

In meeting this challenge, he said, "We shall draw on the storehouse of our experience and tradition."

Tribute to Friends

The king paid tribute to Allied armies fighting on the main fronts, in Africa, Russia and the Pacific. "On the southern shores of the Mediterranean, the first and eighth (British) armies and our fleets and air forces are advancing towards each other, heartened and greatly fortified by the timely, massive expeditionary armies of the United States."

Tremendous blows have been struck by the armies of the Soviet Union, the effects of which cannot yet be measured on the minds and bodies of the German people.

"In the Pacific we watch with thrilled attention the counterattacks of our Australian and American comrades."

MATURE'S WIFE GOING
TO DIVORCE MILL SOON

Hollywood, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—Martha Stephenson Mature said today that she would leave early next week for Las Vegas, Nev., to divorce Screen Actor Victor Mature, who now is in the coast guard.

Mrs. Mature, widow of the late orchestra leader Hal Kemp, charged Mature with cruelty.

DARLAN ASSASSINATED

Young Frenchman Nabbed
After Firing Two Shots;
Giraud Is Interim Chief

By Phil Ault

United Press Staff Correspondent

Allied Headquarters, North Africa, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—Gen. Henri Honore Giraud, commander of French African army and air forces, today was given the task of maintaining order in French North and West Africa until a new high commissioner is named to succeed Adm. Jean Francois Darlan, assassinated yesterday by an unidentified man about 20 years old.

American and British leaders conferred far into the night last night on possible problems arising from the death of Darlan, who less than two months ago was deputy chief of government of the pro-Axis Vichy regime. With French authorities they also continued to investigate the fatal shooting but there was no announcement of progress.

PROTECTION ASKED

London, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—A German broadcast of a DNB News Agency dispatch from Tangiers, recorded by the United Press, said today that Adm. Jean Francois Darlan recently had asked Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied commander in North Africa, for protection.

The German dispatch said that Darlan knew his life was in danger.

Two Shots Fired

The imperial council established by Darlan Dec. 1 will meet tomorrow to discuss the political situation and name a new high commissioner, although it was possible that Darlan's successor might be appointed before the meeting.

Darlan was killed by two shots from a .25 calibre weapon. An announcement by Allied headquarters said Darlan, who was high commissioner of French North and West Africa, was assassinated in his office at Algiers at 3 p. m. yesterday but that a preliminary investigation had not established whether the deed was of German or Italian inspiration.

(British reports said the assassin was a 20-year-old Frenchman.)

The assassin, who was "arrested on the spot" after he fired one bullet into Darlan's mouth and another into his lung, was waiting for the admiral in a small room opposite his office. He opened fire with a .25 calibre revolver just as Darlan was crossing the corridor to his office.

Aide Is Wounded
Darlan stumbled and the assassin ran toward the admiral's office, jumping over the latter's body. A French officer, Commandant Fourcade, attempted to halt the murderer, but the young man fired two shots, one striking the officer in the leg.

By this time other French officers had arrived from other offices and they overpowered the assassin.

The assassination apparently was well planned, for the young man had appeared at the commissioner's headquarters earlier in the day and asked to see Darlan. Although he was unsuccessful, the visit enabled him to familiarize himself with the layout of the office.

Immediately after the youth fired the fatal shots Rear Admiral Daplet, a member of Darlan's cabinet, ordered the admiral taken to a hospital in an automobile, but he died en route. A priest administered the last sacraments to the admiral, who was a devout Catholic. Darlan's wife was summoned immediately, but her husband was dead when she reached him.

The assassination was regarded as particularly unfortunate at this time because of possible repercussions on the political, and to a lesser degree, on the military situation in French North and West Africa.

Except for public indignation, there were no immediate signs that Darlan's death would cause any difficulty for the Allied authorities.

(The Berlin radio broadcast the news of Darlan's assassination based on information from Algiers, but its only comment was to assert that the admiral had been unpopular in Britain and had been chosen by the American authorities as the French leader for Africa. The British later assented to the arrangement, Berlin said.)

(The Vichy radio merely summarized the Allied communique without comment.)

SPEEDY JUSTICE
FOR GUN WIELDER
IS F.D.R.'S HOPE

Washington, Dec. 2.—(U.P.)—Official Washington today awaited details of the assassination of Admiral Jean Francois Darlan, which President Roosevelt branded in a formal statement as "first degree murder," before conjecturing on what effect his death would have on allied affairs in North Africa.

So far Mr. Roosevelt has issued the only statement from here on the assassination of Darlan, former Axis collaborator before he became the allied-sponsored high commissioner of North Africa. Still awaited is word from the State Department and from fighting French representatives, who never accepted the leadership of Darlan.

First Degree Murder
Mr. Roosevelt's statement, issued through his secretary, Stephen T. Early, said:

"The cowardly assassination is murder in the first degree. All leaders of the United Nations will agree with that statement. 'Nazism and Fascism and military despotism will hold other-wise.'"

"I hope that speedy justice will overtake the murderer or murderers of Admiral Darlan."

Darlan only two months ago renounced his Axis ties and entered into the agreement with Lieut. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower which gave the United Nations control of French North Africa. That move brought widespread criticism, but was justified by United Nations leaders on the ground that it speeded the North African campaign and saved American lives.

Temporary Expedient
Mr. Roosevelt on November 17 issued a clarifying statement on the Darlan deal, calling it a "temporary expedient, justified solely by the stress of battle."

One thing that delayed conjecture on future North African policy was the lack of identity of the assassin. Mr. Roosevelt's statement, however, was believed to imply that the killer was either German or Italian inspired, motivated by Darlan's turn from the Axis and by the scuttling of a large part of the French fleet which had been under his command.

ALLIED BOMBERS
STRIKE AT TWO
ITALIAN PORTS

Cairo, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—Bomber formations of the United States Middle East air force struck at two of Italy's most important southern ports Wednesday night—Naples and the big naval base of Taranto—it was announced officially today.

It was the first American raid on Taranto, on the Italian heel. Italy's second most important arsenal is located here, the first being at Spezia on the Gulf of Genoa.

Naples has assumed increasing importance for the Axis as a reinforcement port for its forces in Africa since the RAF crippled Genoa.

(A Radio Morocco broadcast heard by the United Press in London said Allied aircraft blasted airdromes on the Axis-occupied island of Crete in the eastern Mediterranean last night. An Italian ship reportedly was hit by a torpedo and blew up.)

ROOSEVELTS JOIN
IN TRADITIONAL
YULE OBSERVANCE

President and Wife Attend
Church Services—Pastor
Cites Rickenbacker Faith

Washington, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—President and Mrs. Roosevelt in common with millions of their countrymen worshipped at traditional Christmas services today.

The president set aside state problems and his own fireside Christmas celebration at the White House for half an hour as he and other members of a White House party attended services in the quiet, poinsettia-decorated Church of the Epiphany in downtown Washington.

The president and Mrs. Roosevelt occupied the first pew on the left aisle of the church with their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, Jr. In the second pew sat Harry Hopkins, the president's adviser, and Mrs. Hopkins, and Mr. Hopkins' daughter Diana. With them was Col. Harry Hooker, a Hyde Park neighbor of the Roosevelts, and Mrs. James Roosevelt, the president's sister-in-law. All were house guests for the holiday season, of the president and his wife.

Services were sponsored by the Washington Federation of Churches and the participating clergy included pastors of several denominations.

Rev. Howard Stone Anderson, pastor of the First Congregational church which the late President Coolidge attended, delivered the Christmas sermon.

"Christmas," the minister said, "is a time of joy and gladness, a time to put aside for a while the evil news which our newspapers and radios bring to us."

The pastor also referred to Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker's public acknowledgement of his prayers during the 22 days the famous flyer and others were adrift in the south Pacific.

"As long as there are men with that kind of faith, there'll always be a Christmas," Rev. Anderson said.

"There always will be a Christmas as long as there is moral initiative."

Traditional Hymns
The services included the singing of traditional Christmas hymns including "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear." The choir sang also a verse of "America."

The presidential party left the White House at 10:23 a. m. and drove the several blocks to the church arriving at 10:28. Several hundred persons lined the streets to wave to the chief executive. Cordons of soldiers and Washington policemen and heavily armed secret service men guarded the president as he and his party drove to and from the services.

Other clergymen who participated in the services included Dr. Frederick E. Reissig, executive secretary of the Washington Federation of Churches; Dr. Charles W. Sherrin, rector of the Church of the Epiphany; and Rev. Hunter M. Lewis, associate rector.

Following the services the president posed for photographs with Dr. Sherrin and Rev. Anderson.

Mr. Roosevelt observed Christmas, confident that if this is not truly a merry one, it is at least happier than last year's because the allied might is growing.

Million and Half
Christmas Bonus

Cleveland, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—The Jack and Heinz Co., whose liberal bonuses to employees was the subject of a house naval affairs committee investigation early this year, today awarded employees a year-end bonus totaling \$1,550,000.

William S. Jack, president of the thriving war plant, said each "associate"—as he terms employees—will receive one \$50 war bond and \$12.50 cash for each month he or she worked for the company regardless of wage levels.

Admiral Darlan
Long a Key Man
in French Navy

Jean Darlan

By United Press

Admiral Jean Francois Darlan, noted for his political sagacity and naval ability, came from a family of seafaring people. Born in the village of Nerac in Gascony on August 7, 1881, his main interests were the navy and, on brief holidays, the countryside of his native Gascony.

Darlan had been a key man of the French navy since 1936 when he was named director of the ministry of marine. With his appointment as a full admiral on June 6, 1939, he took command of all French naval forces.

He used his position in the ministry of marine before the war to place his own nominees in all important naval posts. Thus, when German-French relations became strained after the armistice, Darlan was a key figure because of his control of the navy. He apparently used his control to obtain his post as Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain's minister of marine and later vice premier.

Yanks and Aussies
Jab At Two Sides
Of Buna Stronghold

Gen. MacArthur's Headquarters, Australia, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—American and Australian forces jabbed from two sides at the last Japanese stronghold in the Buna area of New Guinea today, as allied bombers struck at enemy occupied islands in an arc extending hundreds of miles.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's jungle fighters drove the Japanese back to an inner core of resistance extending a mile eastward from the Buna Mission. The enemy-held strip was between 500 and 600 yards wide, with its center at Galopra point.

One allied force attacked the main airstrip from the seaward side while an inland force peppered the Japanese from the western end of the airstrip.

Christmas Feast in U. S. Bountiful
Compared to Fare of Other People

Washington, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—Americans ate a largely unrationed Christmas dinner today for probably the last time for the duration, and although some foods were scarce the menu was bountiful compared to that in almost any other nation.

Many forms of rationing will go into effect during 1943, and next Christmas the tables will be lighter and belts pulled tighter. Officials have promised, however, that adequate nutrition needs will be met.

Americans who had difficulty in finding a suitable turkey or plum pudding this Christmas should look at the fare of other nations. Diplomatic and agricultural department officials gave this picture of Christmas dinners in other countries:

Britain—Only one family out of 20 will have turkey, and restaurants cannot serve it at all. But there will be beef, mutton, pork, Christmas cakes and mince pies.

RUSSIANS PRESS
FOUR BIG DRIVES
SIMULTANEOUSLY

Greatest Gains Reported
Along New Caucasus
Front; Tanks, Guns Taken

Moscow, Dec. 25.—(U.P.)—Russia's armies, pressing four large scale offensives simultaneously, today were reported making their greatest gains along the new Caucasus front, where they were hurling the Germans back from previously threatened oil fields and on the middle Don where red troops occupied a strongly fortified town.

Southeast of Nalchik in the southern Caucasus, where the Germans vainly had sought to reach the Georgian military highway and the rich oil wells, the Soviet noon communique said that Russian troops were continuing to advance. They captured several inhabited localities in addition to those reported in the midnight communique. The most important was Algier, 40 miles northeast of Ordzhonikidze, the high command said.

23 Tanks Taken
The scale of the battle was indicated by the announcement that 23 German tanks were captured and that in one sector alone an additional 24 disabled tanks, 10 trucks, 12 machine guns and more than 1,000 mines and a number of ammunition dumps were taken by the Russians.

The new offensive already had thrown the Germans back from 12 to 14 miles, an earlier special Soviet communique said. In the eastern Caucasus other Soviet forces "acting as separate detachments" wiped out at least one company of axis troops (200 men) northeast of the Black sea port of Tuapse, the communique reported. Russian artillery in the same area destroyed eight pillboxes and four trench mortar batteries.

On the middle Don front, where the red army had penetrated into the Ukraine, cut the Rostov-Voronezh-Moscow railway and was threatening the city of Rostov itself, the Russians said their troops still were pursuing "the beaten enemy."

"In one sector, men of x unit, by a flank blow, occupied a strongly fortified inhabited locality," the high command said. In this engagement, 650 axis troops were killed, and captured booty included 19 artillery pieces, 37 machine guns, 51 automatic rifles, 48 trucks and stores of ammunition and food. Only 250 axis troops were taken prisoner.

The total number of axis prisoners taken yesterday, however, aggregated 5,600, which swelled the eight-day total to 42,200 officers and men, the communique said. It added that the enemy left more than 6,000 dead on the battlefield Wednesday.

The high command said this Russian offensive had advanced from 85 to 119 miles in eight days and that it was continuing at a rate of 12½ to 15½ miles daily.

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Germany—The German table will be a little more bountiful because of wine and meat from France, bread from conquered Soviet territory, and other foods stolen from occupied countries. But there will be no real coffee and no after-dinner cigars, and the meat and vegetable rations will be slim.