

DARLAN

L.J. - Sunoco Friday, Dec. 25, 1942.

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All day long a heavy censorship was clamped down on French North Africa, and consequently no new illumination was shed on the assassination of Admiral ~~de~~ Darlan. We don't even know the move that inspired the killer - whether he was animated by hostility toward Darlan as a former Vichy collaborationist or whether his resentment was because Darlan ~~de~~ had joined the cause of the United ~~States~~ Nations,

One report says that the assassin ~~is~~ is a young Frenchman, which raises the supposition that he was motivated by a hatred of the Axis. On the other hand here's a statement made by General Bergeret, Darlan's Adjutant. He speaks of Darlan in these words: "The ~~victim~~ victim of an attack inspired by those who did not pardon him for responding to the voice of the people by taking up again the fight against ~~Germany~~ Germany at the side of the Allies". Which might ~~That would~~ seem to make the killer pro-Axis.

Who is to succeed Darlan as French High Commissioner in North Africa? That remains ~~is~~ in doubt. It was announced today that General Giraud, the Commander of the French African

Army, has been given the task of maintaining order -- this until a new high commissioner ~~is~~ is named.

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in  
at Morocco, <sup>who</sup> ~~He~~ proceeded by plane today to Algiers. And do did Governor General Boisson, of French West Africa, the Commander at Dakar. The undertaking is that, following the assassination of Darlan, they will continue firm in the ~~xxxx~~ support of the United Nations.

What the ultimate effect of the crime will be is probematical. President Roosevelt responded with instant indignation, calling it -- "nurder" in the first degree".

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Some opinion in ~~London~~ London is ~~is~~ that the passing of Darlan may ease the quarrel between the faction that he headed and General DeGaulle's fighting French. On the other hand, ~~this~~ this London opinion recognizes that Darlan exercised great authority over the French military forces in North Africa, and that therefore he was a powerful influence on the side of the United Nations.

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The Nazis, of course, are tossing out weird propaganda angles, trying to make as much capital as they can out of the assassination.

ADD DARLAN

Here's the latest -- a North African dispatch just in. Actually it was delayed in transmission and is something that occurred before the assassination of Darlan. The ~~United~~

United Press procured an interview with General Giraud who *in the interview set forth* ~~stated~~ the attitude of the French North African government toward

the Free French of General DeGaulle. *Gen: - shortly before* Giraud said that the group

with which he is affiliated intended most certainly to cooperate with DeGaulle even if it did not consolidate with the Free ~~French.~~

French. Such is the statement of the man who temporarily takes the place of Darlan.

*the assassination -*

NORTH AFRICA

The fighting in Tunisia has picked up somewhat, after having been static for some while. Mere patrol activity has been the story, day after day. Now, however, there has been an allied advance at one point. Today's War department communique reads:- "Units of our advanced forces after beating off enemy counter-attacks, occupied a position six miles northeast of Medjez-el-bab". That place faces the Bizerte and Tunis area, right in the heart of things. The Nazis tried some action of their own, some counter-attacks. ~~They~~ <sup>The allies</sup> warded off the blows, and stuck <sup>it</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>of their</sup> ~~our~~ own -- scoring an advance. The Army bulletin adds the familiar word: "Patrols are operating in other sectors".

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The fighting in the sky decreased and that for a reason so well known in aviation! - "adverse weather conditions". states the Army Communique, ~~"restricted air operations"~~.

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A dispatch from ~~the~~ <sup>A</sup> allied headquarters ~~in~~ in North Africa expands the theme of weather. Tunisia is soaking wet. Heavy and prolonged rains have been falling. Today's dispatch reads, "lowlands are soggy, bogging down the tanks and motor vehicles of both sides, and it adds, "both the ~~allied~~ allies and ~~the~~ axis troops seek to gain high ground from which to launch their attacks".



→ "High ground" -- meaning the drier sort of ground,  
as against the rain-filled valleys and depressions, So for  
the moment the strategies of wet and sappy Tunisia are those  
of trying to get onto the hills. One elevated position is  
that mentioned previously - Medez-el-bab, the place where  
allied troops beat off Nazi attacks and then scored an advance,  
~~of their own.~~

To the east, in Libya, the British Army <sup>has</sup> ~~is~~ reached  
a point ~~fifty-six~~ fifty-five miles west of Sirte, <sup>which</sup> ~~and that~~ puts  
them within two hundred miles of Tripoli as they pursue Rommel's  
retreating army.

Soviet Russia announces new military successes.

In that all-important sector in the bend of the Don the Red Army is said to be closing in ~~ENE~~ on the important rail junction of Millerovo, ~~They are~~ attacking <sup>the</sup> ~~that~~ city on three sides.

Millerovo is a hundred and twenty-five miles north of Rostov, the ultimate goal of the Russian counter-offensive. A late

Moscow dispatch announces the capture of several dozen localities in the big bend of the Don.

In the Caucasus, where the Nazis are also under vigorous assault, Red Army forces have seized several more towns, And immediately in front of Stalingrad Soviet troops have gone on the offensive and have broken through to capture three towns. Here, says tonight's Moscow communique, the Russians scored advances of from twelve to fifteen miles.

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The war news from New Guinea tells of two different kinds of military operation-- one on a small scale, the other on an immense scale. Contrasting ~~maxim~~ magnitudes -- the tiny and the great.

The small scale of battle is to be found on the northern shore of New Guinea, where American and Australian forces are attacking the Japs that remain in the Buna area. All that the enemy now holds is a stretch of shore about a mile long -- running eastward from the Buna Mission. ~~It's~~ a strip of beaches, ~~xxxx~~ between five and six hundred yards wide.

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On this the Americans and Australians have converged, and are hitting the mile-long sector from two sides. We are told, however, that it won't be so easy to take that small bit of land from the Japs. A spokesman at General MacArthur's headquarters gives <sup>us an</sup> ~~the~~ explanation, <sup>and s</sup> call the Japanese beach ~~xxxx~~ positions "a prepared and fortified citadal of resistance". He states that the enemy has set up a barrier of steel and concrete emplacements, barricades and earthworks reinforced by the trunks of palm trees, <sup>behind which</sup> ~~those typical tropical palms.~~ Behind the

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fortifications the ~~Jap~~ Japs are making a ~~last~~ last-ditch stand.

The large <sup>magnitude</sup> ~~manitude~~ of war is to be discovered in New Guinea air operations. Allied planes are fanning out from their bases and assailing the enemy along a front many hundreds of miles ~~away~~ long, ~~This is~~ an arc of islands extending from the Aru group to the northern tip of New Ireland. From their central point in New Guinea United Nations air power sweeps the immense ~~arc~~ arc of those islands -- striking at Jap supply centers and communications. The latest dispatch tells of the ~~sixteenth~~ strongest allied air raids in weeks, <sup>with</sup> An enemy destroyer ~~has been~~ sunk, <sup>also</sup> a five thousand ton transport.

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SOLOMONS

The news from the Solomon Islands <sup>if</sup> ~~is getting to be~~  
*to us at late*  
monotonous ~~and it~~ must be painfully monotonous for the  
Japs at Munda. Because that's all we have been hearing day after  
day from the Solomons -- American planes attacked Munda.  
*American planes attacked Munda,*

Today's Navy bulletin is divided into two sections --  
A and B. Under the heading of "A" we are told that United States  
aircraft flew from Guadalcanal for one hundred and fifty miles  
to Munda. And there they bombed and strafed ~~in~~ the air field  
the Japs had built recently.

The communique tells how the tactics of ground strafing  
were employed. Low-flying, machine-gunning planes silenced  
the Jap anti-aircraft batteries at Munda, and that left the  
bombers to operate without the peril of fire from the ground.  
Enemy planes on the ground were <sup>sm</sup> ~~ms~~ashed -- ten destroyed. The  
United States air raiders were opposed by Jap fighter <sup>p</sup>lanes.  
Fourteen of these were shot down -- the enemy losing ~~from~~ twenty-  
four aircraft in all.

Section "B" of the Navy bulletin reads as follows:-

"Later in the day U.S. aircraft bombed a group of landing barges  
engaged in reinforcing ~~them~~ and supplying enemy troops in the

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Munda area". The communique adds that of the whole flotilla of enemy barges, only four reached shore.

And again that much bombed airfield was blasted. The bombers flew low and took careful aim. This time the opposition was nil. The Navy states:- "The air field was bombed from low altitude in the absence of any resistance".

WAKE ISLAND

The Navy Department refrains from any comment on an enemy story about an American air raid against Wake Island. Wake, of course, is that bit of Pacific land so bravely and sternly ~~is~~ defended by an American garrison early in the Pacific War. And now the Japs tell how a flight of United States war planes went winging to Wake Island, and bombed the ~~enemy~~ enemy there.

The Tokyo story is that there were a dozen American bombers, and they appeared from the direction of Midway Island. The Japs don't say whether the planes were carrier-based or whether they may have ~~gi~~ flown all the way from Midway. And Washington isn't telling them -- the Navy making no comment on the enemy story of the bombing of Wake Island.

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The latest news in tells of heavy American bombers  
blasting the Japs, <sup>in Burma, at</sup> ~~at~~ ~~the~~ Rangoon. Their aim was so accurate  
that every bomb was seen to smash in the target area - which  
area consisted of the docks and warehouses of the Burmese  
metropolis.



The Christmas message that King George the Sixth broadcast today to the British empire gives us a telling expression of British resolution and will to fight. "Today" said the Monarch, to the Dominions, "we stand together -- no longer alone and no longer ill-armed, ~~but~~ but just as resolute as in the darkest hour". Which would seem to be an apt British formula of victory -- when things were ~~at~~ darkest they had the determination that enabled them to hold out alone. Now, when things are bright, they have that same determination -- and they are not alone.

King George <sup>said</sup> ~~paid~~ his tribute to Britain's allies -- Soviet Russia, China, and America. Britain is, ~~in his words~~ <sup>"</sup>heartened and greatly fortified by the timely massive expeditionary armies of the United States," <sup>said the King.</sup>

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## SWEATERS

Here is a Christmas story <sup>about hundreds</sup> ~~a little in advance.~~  
~~and hundreds of~~  
~~It tells about seven hundred and fifty sweaters. - the~~  
~~most welcome kind of Yuletide gift considering the~~  
~~jobs of the men who are getting them.~~

When the big tanker fleet of the Sun Oil Company  
was taken over by the government for the desperately  
perilous job of delivering oil to the forces of the  
United Nations, <sup>almost to a man the</sup> ~~the sailors had their word to say.~~

~~Never mind the danger - was their verdict. Virtually~~  
<sup>sailors</sup> ~~insisted on staying on the job, and are now running~~  
<sup>And since then they</sup>  
<sup>have been running the</sup> ~~a~~ gauntlet of submarine and bombing attack on the  
seven seas.

As winter came on, some of these tanker  
sailors were heard to say - "If anybody wants to give  
me a Christmas present, I wish they'd make it a good  
<sup>And</sup> warm sweater." There was ~~plenty of~~ logic in that -  
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considering how the men of the tanker fleet ~~must~~ face

not only submarines and bombers, but also the icy gales of winter at sea.

*Of course*  
~~It promptly developed that~~ Sun Oil families wanted to do something about this, <sup>and</sup> Wives and daughters of employees spoke up <sup>saying</sup> ~~and said~~ they'd do the knitting. Just let them at those balls of woolen yarn and those knitting needles.

A mountain of wool was needed - and this was provided by <sup>an</sup> ~~an~~ anonymous doner, who procured the miles and miles of yarn through the Bundles for America Organization. And several hundred women of ~~the~~ Sun Oil <sup>families</sup> ~~family~~ got busy, together with volunteers from Red Cross units in and around Philadelphia.

The ladies, using their spare time, ~~have been~~ <sup>knitted</sup> ~~knitting~~ week after week, <sup>and so it was that</sup> ~~and now seven hundred and~~ ~~fifty sweaters are complete - down to the last stitch.~~ <sup>hundreds of sweaters went out as</sup> ~~They'll make the most welcome of Christmas~~ presents for the men of the Sun Oil tanker fleet who brave the perils of war and the icy blasts of winter at sea.

Here's a message of Christmas cheer from the new food administration, which announces the agricultural facts of Nineteen Forty-two. The nation had a bumper crop, with the farmers turning out a record-breaking food supply. The Nineteen forty-two production was fourteen percent above ~~xx~~ that of the previous year, Nineteen Forty-One. And it was twelve percent above the previous record-breaking crop - that of Nineteen Thirty-Seven.

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For which we can thank the American farmer. The ~~xx~~ weather gave him <sup>m</sup> a lucky break, with nineteen forty-two showing the most favorable crop weather the American farmer has ever known. He took advantage of this, and redoubled his labors to provide the increased supplies of ~~xxx~~ food that America in war must have. The American farmer worked his head off to fulfill President Roosevelt's pledge to make America "the larder of democracy".

As a result the record-breaking Nineteen Forty-two crop, plus reserve supplies on hand, gives us enough of most kinds of food to last for from twelve to eighteen months.

Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard makes the

following promise for the coming year of Nineteen-Forty-Three: -

"America will continue to be the best fed nation in the world,"

says he.

There are warnings, however, a bit of caution. The record-breaking crops do not mean that there will be enough of all foods for all of us to eat all we want of all kinds.

(The nation's war needs are so huge that there will be some shortage. )



WEDDING

*now a final Xmas message from you, Huck,*

At Tampa, Florida, a Christmas wedding was solemnized

at a hospital. The ~~brideg~~ bridegroom was in a wheelchair. He was staff sergeant Charles <sup>Stuart</sup> Stewart, who was the sole survivor of an air crash in the Gulf of Mexico back in September. The sergeant was badly cracked up, so badly that they had to amputate one leg. It took somewhat of a medical miracle to save his life. On the operating table his heart stopped beating four minutes before the doctors could start it going again.

Staff Sergeant <sup>Stuart</sup> Stewart was engaged to be married -- the wedding date set for October ~~the~~ first. The bride-to-be was twenty-two year old Lois Floto of Jackson, Mississippi. He wrote a letter to Lois -- to break the engagement, calling off the wedding. In his maimed condition, with one ~~leg~~ leg off, he wrote the following to her:- "I am not the same man you promised to marry. Our life together could never be as we had ~~pl~~ planned".

With sentiments like those, Christmas was the right time for the wedding, and it was celebrated with the bridegroom

*with the faithful Lois,*  
in a wheel chair. *So it was a merry Xmas for the sergeant -- and a reasonably merry Xmas for all of you, I hope, and for all your sons and daughters and your fathers and husbands who are*

*in distant parts of the world -- on a mission that we hope will bring peace on earth.*

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