

DARLAN

L.I. - Sunoco. Wed., Dec. 16/42.

From North Africa we have a statement from Admiral Darlan - ^{late today,} ~~it~~ was released ~~just a few minutes ago~~. Darlan, of course, is the center of a political storm - the big-shot of the Vichy Government who was captured at Algiers, who came over to the side of the United Nations, and who has been recognized as the political chief of French North Africa. There has been loud protest against this recognition of the man of Vichy. DeGaulle's Fighting French are bitterly opposed to him, and angry statements have been made that Darlan seeks to get himself into power in France after the defeat of the Axis.

His statement tonight denies this. He declares that his regime in North Africa gives its complete support to the cause of the United Nations, and will do all it can to aid in the defeat of the Axis. He outlines measures that he has taken to ~~xxx~~ cooperate with our

Commander, General Eisenhower, and he states:- "I seek no assistance or support for any personal ambition."

This he expands with the following: "My sole purpose is to save French Africa and help ~~xxx~~ to free France, and then retire to private life, with the hope that the future leaders of France will be selected by the French people themselves and by nobody else."

To this Darlan statement we have a swift response from DeGaulle's Free French, a bitter reaction. In London, a DeGaulle spokesman declared that if the French people had their way, Darlan, in his words, "certainly would be court-martialled without delay and shot at dawn."

All of which will add new heat to the argument about Darlan, which has been blazing all along. ^{TF} Today,

^{for example}
Wendell Willkie renewed his denunciation of the policy of expediency which has persuaded us to support the

authority of the former Vichy chieftain. Willkie spoke to a gathering of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and denied the argument that in dealing with Darlan in North Africa we saved American lives. "I am fearful of the effect of policies of expediency on the millions of conquered peoples in Europe," said he. "Whether they will fight on our side will determine the number of American boys who will die in this war."

~~In this, Willkie took issue with~~ Senator
of Michigan,
Vandenberg, ~~who~~ defended the military viewpoint of General Eisenhower in making terms with Darlan, thereby bringing the ~~Vixxy~~ Vichy French forces in North Africa over to the side of the United Nations. *And Gen. Sikorsky, Prime Minister of Poland, today defended Eisenhower's policy, at the same time praising De Gaulle as the man who held aloft the flag of France, in her darkest hour.*

NORTH AFRICA

In Libya, British troops today drove more than ~~five~~^{fifty} miles west of El Agheila, the line which the Nazi Afrika Korps occupied until ~~the~~ day before yesterday. The British are chasing Rommel as fast as they can, in the hope of catching him before he is able to get his battered army into Tunisia. That, more and more, seems to be Rommel's destination -- the Nazis prepared^{ing} to abandon Libya altogether and concentrate their power in that small but all important sector, the tip of Tunisia.

The advancing British Eighth^h Army, chasing Rommel, is encountering small resistance -- but plenty of obstacles. These consist of land mines and what are called booby traps. The retreating Germans have mined the desert elaborately and cunningly. They have built fake roads and have laid down phoney^y tire tracks to make them look safe. But the roads blow up when you pass over them. At some places the Nazis put mines under mines so that when the top layer was

removed and everything seemed safe, a deeper layer remained. Some mines are buried so deep that ten or twelve trucks can pass over them before the pressure is great enough to touch off an explosion.

The booby traps are articles that British soldiers would be likely to pick up. They explode when touched. Some booby traps are pistols and binoculars with the economical Germans ^{having} removed the lenses from the binoculars.

In Tunisia things are still relatively quiet. The Germans have withdrawn from some of their advance positions. This is reported by ^{Radio} the Morocco ~~radio~~. Allied patrols pushing forward found no resistance at several points. The Germans had previously held.

~~The air activity is constantly intensified on our side, American and British planes launching raid after raid. The amount of ^{Allied} air action is taken to indicate that we ^{are} gaining superiority in the Tunisian skies.~~

RUSSIA

Heavy fighting is raging on the snow bound war front in Russia. In ~~the~~ two critical areas large scale action has been resumed in the bitter winter cold. On the Rzhev front west of Moscow the Germans took the offensive with ^{heavy} ~~Nazi~~ tank tactics. But the Red Army line held fast. The other theatre of action is Stalingrad where the Nazis hit the Soviet line with eighty tanks and two infantry regiments. That scored an advance, plunging into the Soviet front. --
Then ^{the Germans} were checked, after having thrust forward a narrow wedge.

SIKORSKI

A sombre report was presented today - a report on Poland. It was given by the Prime Minister of the exiled Polish Government, General Sikorski. In an address to the Overseas Press Club, he stated: "The Germans have made six million, five hundred thousand victims in Poland - which means that every ~~fixxxxxxxx~~ fifth man, woman and child has either been murdered or driven from his home, taken to concentration camps, or ~~xxxxx~~ ^{put} to forced labor in Germany."

Then General Sikorski translated the Polish tragedy into terms of the American population - telling what it would mean if it had happened to us. ~~It would mean with our larger population,~~ "Twenty-two million Americans would be thrust out of their homes, eight thousand university and college professors murdered, one million Americans undergoing torture in concentration camps. Such," said he, "would be America under the German heel."

In the studio with me tonight is a distinguished Canadian, who has authoritative knowledge about the people in the conquered countries of Europe -- particularly the French people. He is Leonard W. Brockington, who was formerly Special Wartime Assistant to the Prime Minister of Canada, now Adviser to the British Ministry of Information in London. He is in this country for a brief stay; then on to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Brockington, you have had, I believe, a great deal of contact with people from the conquered countries.

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MR. BROCKINGTON:- Yes, Mr. Thomas, I've interviewed many natives of France and Belgium who have escaped to Britain, as well as Canadian and British prisoners who have managed to find their way back to fight again. They tell the same story. The ^{ordinary folk amongst the} conquered peoples have, almost without exception, remained anti-German. By innumerable acts, done at the risk of their lives,

they have shown where their hearts and their hopes lie. Out of their scanty rations they have fed escaping prisoners, ^{They} and have sheltered them in their homes. Out of their poor savings they have lent and given them money.

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L.T.:- I believe, Mr. Brockington, that their hope has been strengthened by broadcasts from London?

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MR. BROCKINGTON:* Yes, people everywhere listen in secret. I remember a talk I had in London with a citizen of an occupied country who ^{in the past} ~~occasionally~~ ^{spoke.} speaks for the B.B.C. He told me his wife in the German occupied country always ^{listened} ~~listens~~ to him. I asked him how he knew. He said, she was allowed to send him a letter occasionally, and in one letter she said: 'I am glad to hear your throat is better.' In the next letter she said: 'We have kalsomined the living room and it ^{improve.} does ~~approve~~ the acoustic properties.' He knew by these

two letters that she was listening -- telling him cryptically what she did not dare to write openly.

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L.T.: Many thanks, Mr. Brockington, for the picture you have given us of the courage of the conquered.

CANADIAN ANTHEM

At Quebec today, an inquest ascribed the death of a Canadian soldier to a fight about the Canadian national anthem. There was a gathering of soldiers in a hall, and members of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps got into an argument with soldiers of a French Canadian regiment. The Medical Corps men demanded that "God Save the King" be sung. The French Canadians wanted to sing - "Oh Canada."

The dispute echoed a long-time difference of opinion about which should be the Canadian national anthem. The armed forces generally recognize "God Save the King." The French in Quebec favor - "Oh Canada." The question has come before the Canadian Parliament, where the suggestion ^{has been} ~~was~~ that Canada might recognize both songs as national anthems.

At the soldier gathering in Quebec, the anthem argument was so heated that a fight began. The lights

went out, and soldiers battled all over the place -
a wild free-for-all. And this resulted in the death
of a soldier from Ottawa. Apparently nobody will be
prosecuted, because nobody knows who hit the victim
in the dark.

FLIERS

From the Solomon Islands, comes an echo of American cheers for the black fuzzy-wuzzy natives of those parts. Warplane pilots ^{who have been} ~~were~~ forced down ^{have} ~~and~~ had a lot of dealings with the Melanisian tribesmen of the many islands. The time was when these tribes were of evil notoriety for their ferocity - killers and cannibals. They did their share in the creation of the ^{legend of the} ~~phrase~~ "missionary in a pot." In recent years, however, they have ^{largely} become Christianized - the ~~missionaries~~ missionaries having contrived to keep out of the pot. So what do we find today?

Some fifty American pilots who have been forced down, have fallen into the hands of the fuzzy-wuzzy natives. These have befriended the Americans, and helped them get back to Guadalcanal. Thanks to the Melanisian tribesmen, between sixty and seventy per cent of the airmen who have had to land, have been able to ^{get back} ~~to~~.

~~get back.~~

One pilot tells ^{how} ~~that~~ in his rubber boat he approached an island, and saw two fierce looking black fellows waiting for him on the shore. "They gave me a scare for a minute," he relates. "The two of them stood on the beach swinging long sharp knives. But they were shouting: 'Me friendly, me Christian.' I took their word for it," the pilot goes on, "and they proved to be Bill and Ben - both swell fellows."

~~Another pilot,~~ Second Lieutenant Howard Bollmann of Dundee, Illinois, tells a tale of how he lived like a king - or rather like a chief. In a dogfight over the sea, he shot down a Zero - but a bullet cut his oil line. With a dead motor, he glided toward an island, Savo Island - and came down on the ocean not far from ~~the~~ shore. "I had no more ^{than} hit the ~~water than~~ ^{island than} three natives came out after me in a canoe."

They took him to their village, gave him the best dwelling in the place, the royal residence, the chief's hut. And they fed him on boiled birds' eggs and potatoes. The Lieutenant lived there for three days, treated like the chief of the tribe.

"On Sunday we all went to church," he relates.

"The singing was a bit off tune but they liked it.

The women were decked out in colored shirts, the men wore their best loin cloths. I must have shaken hands with a hundred of them after service. Boy," says the Lieutenant, "how those ~~people~~ people love to shake hands and salute." ^R That Sunday afternoon came the high spot. The natives dug up a present for the Lieutenant. It was a book of Western stories.

he says,
"I was reading about "Two-Gun O'Malley,"[^] when I heard a swishing noise above my head. I looked up and saw two natives brushing flies away with palm leaves,"
"And," he adds, "that's the life!"

NEWSPAPER STRIKE

Late this afternoon the War Labor Board ordered the striking newspaper deliverers ^{in New York} to return to their jobs at once -- pending arbitration. The W.L.B. announced that a two man arbitration board would begin hearings immediately to end the walkout that has tied up the circulation of eight major New York newspapers for three days.

~~Earlier in the day a meeting of newspaper owners and union leaders had been held -- with federal and state conciliators trying to mediate. This attempt to end the strike failed, and soon thereafter Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins certified the strike to the War Labor Board, and now the Board has acted -- with a telegram telling the union men to go back to work while the dispute is arbitrated.~~

CONGRESS

The Seventy-Seventh Congress came to an end today in an atmosphere serious and thoughtful. With ~~thoughts of~~ ^{the} war in mind, the legislators dispensed with the singing and the laughing and shouting customary in ~~the~~ years of peace. In the Senate and the House of Representatives a message of thanks from President Roosevelt was read: "On the final adjournment of the Seventy-Seventh Congress," said the President, "may I send to the members my truly sincere thanks for all that they have accomplished during these two difficult years."

Then followed the routine of adjournment in the House ~~of Representatives.~~ When Speaker Sam Rayburn banged his gavel to end the session - only a dozen members were on the floor.

National attention is now on the new Congress, which convenes on January Sixth, with the Republicans

in the spotlight. After their gains in the November election, they ~~were~~ were within a few votes of a majority in the lower House. So what will their attitude be?

Today, the new Republican National Committee Chairman, Harrison Spangler, said that the G.O.P. will not let partisan politics hamper the prosecution of the war. He said the Republican plan would be to line up with anti-New Deal Democrats, look forward to the Nineteen Forty-Four election, and oppose a fourth term for President Roosevelt. But, as for the war, he stated: "We will support the President as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, and ~~we will~~ make every effort to keep politics out of the war itself."

PRESIDENT

Here's one for a spelling bee - How do you spell "Generalissimo?" In case you get it wrong, well don't be discouraged. President Roosevelt couldn't spell "Generalissimo" either.

That long word is the official title of Chinese war leader, Chiang Kai-shek. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
To him the President wrote a letter in his own hand-writing. And he spelled "Generalissimo" with a double "l" instead of a single "l".

Not content with that, the President made another mistake when he handed the letter to the Chinese Ambassador - calling him "Minister" instead of giving him his proper title of "Ambassador." So, if you happen to make a faux pas in addressing somebody - don't let that discourage you, either.

For example if I were to say here's Mrs. Hugh James.