

# ALLIED FORCES SPEAR TO DON AREA WITHIN 12 MILES OF TUNIS

## No Details As to Where Allies Had Struck In Reports From Agiers

### To Have Advanced Within 12 Miles of Tunis on Main Fighting Front, Allies Would Have Had to Throw Strongly Entrenched Enemy Out of Tebourba, 20 Miles West of Tunis

London, Dec. 26.—Allied forces were reported by the Agiers radio today to have spearheaded forward to within 12 miles of Tunis, one of the Axis' two main citadels in Tunisia.

Advanced elements were mentioned by the broadcast which said no immediate official corroborative news was available. It was noted the allies had struck.

They had advanced within 12 miles of Tunis on the main fighting front, the broadcast said. The allies had to throw the strongly entrenched enemy out of Tebourba, 20 miles west of Tunis, before they could advance further.

At least the outer perimeter of the enemy's defenses had been penetrated eight miles further to at least the outer perimeter of the enemy's defenses. The allies had struck.

At least the outer perimeter of the enemy's defenses had been penetrated eight miles further to at least the outer perimeter of the enemy's defenses. The allies had struck.

## PRODUCTION OF RUBBER BEHIND ITS SCHEDULE

Sen. Gillette Calls It Desperate Situation

Subcommittee to Question Jeffers and WPB Officials Soon

BY ERNEST B. VACCARO  
Washington, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Senator Gillette (D-Iowa) declared today synthetic rubber production was two to three months behind schedule and blamed "apparent complacency" for what he described as "a desperate situation."

Gillette told reporters the Agriculture subcommittee of which he is chairman would question rubber administrator William M. Jeffers and War Production Board officials next month in an attempt to find out "just what the impediment is" and to try to prevent "chaos."

Gillette said Bradley Dewey, Deputy Rubber Director, previously had told the committee a month's delay in the development of synthetic rubber production would leave rubber supplies "below the danger line by late next summer."

He added:

"I am convinced that the overall situation is a desperate one. The thing that disturbs me most is the delay in the development of synthetic rubber. The delay is a result of complacency and delay in bringing synthetic rubber into production."

Gillette expressed belief that Jeffers was doing his best and said the committee wanted to give him every chance to "bring order out of chaos and confusion."

"But," he added, "we feel it is time to ask for definite information."

Jeffers said Wednesday in Omaha the rubber shortage might make it necessary to call for the use of spare tires, from many automobiles and that some machines might be taken off the roads entirely.

The committee, Gillette said, would center its attention on the fact that the delay in constructing plants to manufacture rubber from gain for use in synthetic rubber.

A year ago \$550,000,000 was allocated to pool petroleum processes for the synthetic process, Gillette said, adding that "the supply of rubber available after a year's time is so small as to bring about concern."

"The first thing we want to determine is the demand for alcohol for all purposes and whether WPB officials are doing their best to meet the demand, have envisioned adequately the needs for synthetic rubber production and whether they are doing their best to meet the demand," he said.

Gillette related that Fraser M. Moffat, former group chief of the rubber division of the War Production Board in April that an estimated need of 300,000,000 gallons of rubber was estimated for 1943. This included 20,000,000 gallons for tires. This, Gillette said, represented substantially the same amount of rubber that would be obtained from petroleum.

With nearly nine months having elapsed, he said, the committee would like to inquire what progress estimates are now, and what production of alcohol, in anticipation of the expanded distillery production.

## Former Vichy Vice Premier Assassinated in His Office

### Soviet Columns Press Many-Headed Drive In Don Area Relentlessly

BY EDDY IGLMORE

Moscow, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Russian columns pressed their many-headed drive in the middle Don area relentlessly ahead today as the heels of retreating Nazi legions and struck a smashing blow within Stalingrad itself where one of the largest factories was occupied after 500 Germans were killed, the Soviet midday communique said.

Two preceding communiqués, one a special war bulletin and the other a regular statement of the Soviet war position, told of advances near Kotel'nikovsk, southwest of Stalingrad, and in the Caucasus near Malchik, and detailed a lengthy summation of German war equipment which had been destroyed or had fallen into Russian hands.

Red Army troops in the middle Don area have captured 40 settlements and railway stations, as well as dozens of populated points, and the offensive was pushed into the Ukraine at two different locations. It was reported.

The first drive was southwest of Kotel'nikovsk, the railway station which was recaptured Dec. 19. The latest dispatches told the advance guard in that area at the Ukrainian village of Markovka.

The second drive was southwest of Milovoro-Voroshilovsk railway. The first drive could be headed toward Kharkov and the second possibly might advance toward Donbas.

The midday war bulletin told of the occupation of another village in the Milovoro-Kotel'nikovsk section during last night's fighting with a battalion of 800 Axis troops wiped out in the engagement.

"In another sector, a Soviet detachment penetrated behind retreating German columns and captured 14 guns, 33 machine guns and carts with military supplies," it said.

The Russian drive in the Ukraine was reported to have captured 14 guns, 33 machine guns and carts with military supplies. The Russian drive in the Ukraine was reported to have captured 14 guns, 33 machine guns and carts with military supplies.

## Youthful Killer Put to Death This Morning—Neither His Name Nor Motive Yet Disclosed—Darlan's Funeral Held Today With Considerable Military Ceremony

London, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Admiral Jean Darlan, former Vice-president of the Vichy government who swung over to the Allies when they landed in North Africa Nov. 8, was assassinated in his office Thursday afternoon by a 22-year-old Frenchman.

Reuter's reported from Agiers that a firing squad put to death this morning the 22-year-old assassin of Admiral Jean Darlan, quickly carrying out the sentence of a court martial for the Christmas eve slaying.

The assassin previously had been scheduled to face the firing squad at dawn.

OSB Correspondent Charles Colquhoun also reported to New York that the sentence of death had been executed.

Neither the name nor the motive of the assassin as yet had been disclosed. He was described, however, as of French nationality with an Italian mother, still living in Italy.

Colquhoun said Darlan's funeral was held with considerable military ceremony this morning and was attended by the highest officials in the Agiers area, including Dwight D. Eisenhower and Mark W. Clark, who stood with Madame Darlan around the casket after the service in the Agiers Cathedral, as American, British and French troops marched past.

German broadcasts sought to make much of the assassination, using it in an effort to create a rift between American and British.

Berlin broadcasts said the Axis press was unanimous in charging the British Intelligence Service with responsibility for Darlan's death.

The Axis' dying words, unreported from any other source, were said by the Nazi-controlled Paris papers to have been "There is nothing more for me to do. Britain has reached its objective."

Agiers, Dec. 26.—(AP)—The young assassin whose bullet cut down Admiral Jean Darlan on Christmas Eve was scheduled for swift execution today as the Imperial Council named for the assassin, who was to choose his successor as high commissioner of the French North Africa colonies.

The court martial, acting speedily after the death of the former Vichy collaborator who joined the Allies, decreed the death sentence for the assassin, who was still undisclosed but who was described as of French nationality with an Italian mother.

Police powers in French North Africa were taken over yesterday by Gen. Henri Honoré Giraud, the Vichy French commander who regarded as one of the possible successors to Darlan's political leadership in the colonial empire.

The court martial, acting speedily after the death of the former Vichy collaborator who joined the Allies, decreed the death sentence for the assassin, who was still undisclosed but who was described as of French nationality with an Italian mother.

## Distinguished Flying Cross Awarded Officer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Although all his guns except one cannon jammed, Capt. Arthur T. Ryan attacked two Japanese Zero fighters and shot down both of them in a dogfight over the Aleutians.

For this extraordinary display of heroism, the Farmington, Utah, flying officer has been given the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Captain Ryan's feat occurred Sept. 18. He volunteered to escort heavy bombers in a raid over Kiska Island on a 500-mile mission over open water.

After he strafed the enemy's anti-aircraft positions, Captain Ryan was shot down by a Japanese Zero. He bled to death from wounds.

The first he shot down with four rounds of ammunition. The second he blasted off the sky with four rounds.

After he strafed the enemy's anti-aircraft positions, Captain Ryan was shot down by a Japanese Zero. He bled to death from wounds.

## SHIP COMPANY OF 52 ESCAPE IN 3 LIFEBOATS

AN EAST COAST PORT, Dec. 26.—(AP)—An entire ship's company of 52 men escaped in three lifeboats when their medium-sized U. S. merchantman was torpedoed in the North Atlantic about a mile off the coast of Ireland.

A single torpedo fired from an unseen submarine struck the starboard side of the vessel near the number two hold, they said. One lifeboat was wrecked by explosion but the merchant crew of forty-one and the gun crew of 11, had ample time to abandon ship in good order in the three remaining boats. They were picked up in about an hour by a rescue vessel and only one man required medical attention. He suffered burns caused by friction as he slid down a line to a lifeboat.

Urged "1918" As Symbol  
London, Dec. 26.—(AP)—"Colonel" Britton, the BBC broadcaster who led the "1918" campaign which nettled the Germans for months, advocates now the use of the symbol "1918" to taunt the Axis.

The campaign, which urged the British to remember the Germans in German-occupied countries "last night" to the figures on walls, saying they were "remembering the Germans and their tradition of defeat."

## Violent Death Comes to 178 During Christmas Holidays

Violent death came to 178 persons throughout the nation during the Christmas holidays, with traffic accidents accounting for 10 fatalities, reported today.

High as the total was, it appeared that the nation had enjoyed one of its safest Christmas holidays in years. By dawn of December 26 last year, 41 deaths had been listed. Of that number, 34 lives were lost in automobiles and other vehicles.

The fact that there were fewer cars on the highways because of the shortages and gasoline rationing was believed partly responsible for the low number of traffic fatalities during this Yuletide period compared with last year.

An Associated Press compilation showed that California had the greatest number of accidental deaths during this year's Christmas holidays, with 27. Illinois was second with 19 and New York and Ohio each had 15.

Deaths by state: Alabama, 1; Arizona, 3; California, 27; Colorado, 1; Connecticut, 2; Delaware, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Idaho, 1; Illinois, 19; Indiana, 4; Iowa, 2; Kansas, 1; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 1; Maine, 1; Maryland, 1; Massachusetts, 1; Michigan, 5; Minnesota, 2; Mississippi, 2; Missouri, 2; Montana, 1; Nebraska, 1; Nevada, 3; New Hampshire, 1; New Jersey, 4; New Mexico, 1; New York, 15; North Carolina, 5; North Dakota, 1; Ohio, 15; Oklahoma, 1; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 4; Rhode Island, 1; South Carolina, 1; South Dakota, 1; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 1; Utah, 1; Vermont, 1; Virginia, 1; Washington, 1; West Virginia, 1; Wisconsin, 1; Wyoming, 1.

## DeGaulle May Formally Declare Himself For Unity

London, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Gen. Charles de Gaulle may formally declare himself for unity among all French elements if he is appointed successor to Admiral Jean Darlan as head of the Vichy French government.

In North Africa, persons familiar with the fighting French leader's policies said last night.

Gen. de Gaulle, one of those who approved most strongly the arrangement by which the assassinated French admiral took over Africa from Darlan, was expected to be named on Darlan's slaying and on the possible developments his death may bring in pre-Allied French circles.

In Bern, dispatches said, some Frenchmen saw Darlan's death as clearing away a principal obstacle in the path of Dr. de Gaulle's followers. They said, however, that much apparently depended on the identity and motives of the assassin.

Gen. de Gaulle, one of those who approved most strongly the arrangement by which the assassinated French admiral took over Africa from Darlan, was expected to be named on Darlan's slaying and on the possible developments his death may bring in pre-Allied French circles.

## Survivors Of Sunken Ship Followed By Sharks 4 Days

Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 26.—(AP)—The bodies of 20 men who perished behind, crewmen of the sunken Australian Corvette Armistead, were followed by sharks for four days early in December.

A storm broke, 27 hours after the ship was sunk, and the rain off the sea.

Ordinary seaman John Parker, one of the survivors, said the Armistead was sunk by a German U-boat on Nov. 30 in the vicinity of Timor, and defended itself against a series of air attacks lasting two days. Nine bombers, three fighters and a reconnaissance plane attacked the ship.

The Armistead, 500-ton vessel, was sunk by a mine-laying U-boat, 20 miles northwest of Darwin, with a loss of two officers and 19 crewmen.

Survivors were rescued by the Australian ship HMAS Sydney, which picked up the bodies of the 20 men who perished behind, crewmen of the sunken Australian Corvette Armistead, were followed by sharks for four days early in December.

## Boy Of Five Loses His Fight Against Disease

Watertown, Dec. 26.—(AP)—William R. Hotie, five, has lost his fight against the rare blood disease, lymphatic leukemia.

William, a son of Mrs. Mary Hotie had been reported improving after a transfusion in which Mrs. Rose McMullen of Philadelphia was the donor. Mrs. McMullen, who had recovered from the disease, is known as "the lady with the golden blood."

William died rapidly, however, after a relapse Dec. 8 and died yesterday.

He explained, could not estimate with any certainty the amount of their income for the year ahead. Weekly or monthly payments would be based on those estimates.

## Employment and Payrolls Up in State in Nov.

Albany, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Barry Hold, state shipping agent, said today that the state's employment and payroll rose 4.6 and 5.3 per cent, respectively, from October to November.

Hold, explaining, said that the number of the state's employees had risen 4.6 per cent, and the payroll had risen 5.3 per cent.

Hold, explaining, said that the number of the state's employees had risen 4.6 per cent, and the payroll had risen 5.3 per cent.

## THE WEATHER

Washington, Dec. 26.—(AP)—Forecast for Western New York: Continued cold today. Warmer tonight, followed by rain.

Temperatures (Reported by the New York Experiment Station)

7 a. m.	18
Noon	29
Highest last 24 hrs.	44
Lowest last 24 hrs.	15
Sun rises tomorrow at 5:43	
Sun sets tomorrow at 5:42	

Local Conditions

"Temperatures became warmer" as the day progressed. The sun shone through a blue sky during most of the day.

Light even when the division can governor, to express confidence.