

## Daring Destroyers of United States Navy Were Deadly Fear of U-Boats, Declares Former Secretary Daniels

By JOSEPHUS DANIELS  
Former Secretary of the Navy—1913 to 1921.

Making its way across the North Atlantic, a convoy of troopships was still nearly 500 miles from land when a fledgling army officer who was making his first trip across remarked: "All you can hear about nowadays is the navy, the navy, the navy; but as far as I can see, the navy is not doing much in this war."

"One of the civilians in the party rose to his feet, pulled out his watch and said: 'In 10 minutes six United States destroyers will meet this convoy.'"

"What are you talking about?" said the officer; "how do you know?"

"Well," returned the civilian, "it is now 4:05 o'clock. The destroyers are ordered to meet this convoy at 4:15 p. m., and they will be here."

The party went out on deck to watch and to the minute, at 4:15, there hovered in sight six destroyers. Swinging into line on each side of the convoy, the saucy little vessels, leaving foam and spray from bow to stern, spanked along through the heavy seas.

"Good heavens," exclaimed the officer, "if these little destroyers can come 500 miles to sea in any kind of weather, keep their schedule and locate on a convoy on the dot, I will believe anything I hear regarding the navy."

**Backbone of Convoy System.**

"That story was told me by a man who was on that transport, and nothing could better illustrate the efficiency of these splendid greyhounds of the sea. They went out and stayed out in all kinds of weather, performing their duties in sun and storm, guarding troopships and cargo transports, liners and merchant vessels—keeping open the sea lanes for the flow of troops, munitions and commerce. They were the backbone of the convoy system, for they were the escort through the danger zone.

"The deadliest foe of the submarine, the very presence of destroyers was usually sufficient cause for the U-boat to submerge and scurry away. For every submarine encounter there were a score of submarine avoidances. Let our destroyers in European waters were credited with 256 attacks on U-boats, and there were not a few exciting encounters.

"In all the annals of the war there is no more striking example of prompt action and quick results than that of the Fanning and Nicholson on November 17, 1917.

**Gets Glimpse of Periscope.**

"These destroyers were escorting a convoy in British waters when at 4:10 p. m. Gossvain Loomis, lookout on the Fanning, caught the glint of a periscope. It was a finger periscope, a tiny thing only an inch and a half in diameter, no larger than a walking stick. It was lifted for only a few seconds, but the keen eyes of Loomis caught a glimpse of it, and he estimated its distance and location—three points on the port bow, 400 yards distant, moving across the bow at two knots speed.

"The Fanning headed for the spot, full speed, and as it crossed the course dropped a depth bomb. The Nicholson changed course and was dashing across to drop another charge when the conning tower of the submarine appeared. The Nicholson headed for the submarine full speed and the Fanning turned in her wake to attack. The Nicholson dropped a depth charge alongside the U-boat and immediately fired from her stern gun. The sub's bow came up rapidly. She seemed to be down by the stern and was evidently damaged, but tried to right herself and increased her speed. As the Nicholson cleared the Fanning opened fire with her bow gun. At the third shot the German crew came on deck and held up their hands. At 4:28 the submarine surrendered. It had been only 18 minutes since Loomis had sighted her periscope.

**Scuttle Surrendered Boat.**

The destroyers got a line to the crippled craft, preparing to take it in tow. But two of its crew disappeared for a moment. They scuttled the boat. As it sank the Germans jumped into the water and swam for the Fanning. Heaving lines were thrown to them, and all but one managed to get aboard. When it was seen that he was sinking, two of the Fanning's men, Chief Pharmacist's Mate Elzer Harwell and Coxswain Francis G. Connor, jumped overboard to rescue him. They got him aboard the Fanning, but in spite of all efforts to resuscitate him he died.

"The Germans were given hot coffee, sandwiches and cigars. Men of the Fanning loaned their warm clothing, and no prisoners were ever better treated. When they were in the boats that were to take them ashore they cheered the Fanning and its crews.

"The O'Brien, Tripp, Warrington, Jenkins, Wadsworth, Cummings, Wilkes, Benham, Parker, Jacob Jones, McDougal, Davis, Conyngham, Allen, Reid, Stewart, Porter, Patterson, Beak, Burrows, Allen, Sturrett and Tucker were officially credited by the British admiralty with successful attacks, and there were others which probably deserved it, but were not able to present such clear evidence. For the authorities over there required pretty good evidence before they gave any credits.

"The gallant destroyers did most to combat the submarine menace. They were the bully boys who always kept the subs on the run. At sea two-thirds of the time, they escorted three-fourths of the transatlantic tonnage in and out of European ports. Some of them made astounding records. The first year after they entered the war at least three, the Porter, Davis and Conyngham, steamed about 65,000 miles each, nearly three times the distance around the globe, while the Caldwell for some time averaged 8,500 miles a month, over 280 miles a day. No class of ship, big or little, ever excelled this record.

"Give Him Anything He Wants."

Regarding the Caldwell, I must tell you a little story about Commander Byron G. Sanders. At the beginning of the war he was my naval aid, and when he begged to go to sea he was assigned to this destroyer, then building at Mare Island. He reached the California navy yard not long after the keel was laid. Impatient to get his ship finished, he was on the job day and night. He banged away at it so

And they navigated that remnant of a ship to port, reaching Portland at 1:30 in the afternoon. Two of its officers and 10 men of its crew were dead, killed in the collision. Three officers and 12 men were injured. Its bow and most of the forward part of the ship was gone. But what was left of it was in port; and it was taken to a ship yard, a new forward part built on it—and in a few months it was again in commission, and is doing splendid service in the navy today.

Could there be a better tribute than that to the staunchness of our destroyers and the undying spirit and superb efficiency of their officers and men?

(Another article by former Secretary Daniels will be printed tomorrow.)

## League Debates In Nebraska Are Being Planned

Townley and Langer Will Meet in Series of Talks—One May Be Held in Omaha.

Lincoln, May 13.—Half a dozen debates will take place in Nebraska during the last week in May between A. C. Townley, president of the National Nonpartisan league, and former Attorney General William Langer of North Dakota, according to announcement made today from the league's state headquarters here.

One of these debates probably will take place in Beatrice and another may be held in Omaha. The date and place of each will be announced later. The series is to start May 25 and terminate on the 31st. It is expected that local posts of the American Legions in towns where the discussions take place will make arrangements in Langer's behalf.

Langer and Townley are now making a tour of Kansas and presenting the facts about Nonpartisan league rule in North Dakota from their opposite points of view.

## York Farmer Cleared Of Alienation Charge

Lincoln, May 13.—(Special.)—It took a jury in federal court 15 minutes to return a verdict in favor of Henry Branz, wealthy farmer near York, in a \$25,000 alienation of affection suit brought against him by Frank Amos, St. Joseph street car motorman.

Amos charged that gifts of money and clothes bestowed on his wife by Branz on trips to St. Joseph won her affections, caused her to leave home and marry Branz. He obtained a divorce a few months later.

## Alleged Insane Woman to Get Money Paid for Stock

Lincoln, May 13.—(Special.)—Fannie E. Griggs of Raymond, alleged to have been insane when she purchased \$44,255 worth of stock of the Nebraska Building and Investment company, was awarded a verdict for \$43,410.72 by a district court jury here today. The suit was brought by Mrs. Griggs' guardian, C. D. Coe.

**First Open Air Concert At Deshler Well Attended**  
Deshler, Neb., May 13.—(Special.)—Over 1,000 attended the first open air concert given by the Deshler band. These concerts will be given every Thursday evening during the summer under the auspices of the Commercial club.

## State Tax Commissioner Explains Assessment

Lincoln, May 13.—(Special.)—Complaints filed with W. H. Osborne, state tax commissioner, by the Standard Oil company against assessments put on the company's oil tank resulted in the issuance of the following statement by Osborne:

"Assessors valued oil tanks from a schedule on that subject sent out recently from this office. The company now declares this to be too high. I learned from factories at Omaha the prices paid by the company for its tanks. I gave these figures to the assessors as a basis to work on telling them to assess the property in the same manner they assessed other property."

## Forest Protection Week To Be Observed May 22-29

Lincoln, May 13.—(Special.)—In a proclamation issued today Gov. S. R. McKelvie set aside the week of May 22 to 29 as Forest Protection week. He urged organizations to devote their energies that week toward instilling in the minds of the public the necessity of providing protection for the country's forests.

## Lincoln Man Elected Head Of Schools at Oxford

Oxford, Neb., May 13.—(Special.)—Lowell S. Devoe of Lincoln has been elected superintendent of the Oxford schools to succeed R. B. Thornton, who goes to Guide Rock.

## Plan Amusement Park

Beatrice, Neb., May 13.—(Special.)—Waylon Miller, wealthy land owner living west of Beatrice, has purchased property just west of the Court street bridge in West Beatrice, where he expects to establish an amusement park this summer.

## Bring Vessel Into Port

That the vessel kept afloat at all seemed remarkable, to get it to port appeared almost impossible. But those brave boys of the Shaw put out the fire in the face of bursting ammunition. They rigged up its engines and got them working again and repaired the steering gear.

## Twenty feet above the high rents



Men—here's the issue that contributes mightily toward Barker's ability to offer better style selections—

To assemble a stock of clothing from one or two houses means to take all—the good, bad and indifferent—because every house specializes on some particular type of suit, and naturally neglects the balance of their line. Barker's method of selecting the Best and only the Best from more than twenty of America's Foremost Clothes Makers permits the widest of selections and every one a masterpiece.

## The New Low Level in Clothing Prices Is Here—Investigate!

Men in every walk of life have awaited the Clothing Market to descend to that stage where a dollar bought a full dollar's worth of Clothing. That time has arrived at Barker's. There is no need for further waiting and watching. Come in—compare today's values with the best you encountered in 1914. We'll abide by your judgment.

\$2.50

It's only logical that Barker's should offer the best values because they've eliminated—

\$3.50

Gigantic ground floor rentals  
Losses from bad book accounts  
High insurance rates  
Investments in elaborate fixtures

Barker's reputation for value and style supremacy in Omaha's Clothing Field should be your reason for coming in for a try-on tomorrow.

\$4.50

Assure yourself of a positive saving of at least \$10.00 by taking the elevator direct to

# BARKER'S

2nd Floor Securities Bldg. 16th and Farnam

A Word About Sizes It matters not whether you are big or small, fat or thin. There's a Barker suit that will fit you right.

# Julius Orkin

1512 DOUGLAS STREET

Beauty of Style Commands Attention in These Dainty Organdie Frocks

WITH their special pricing, their freshness in appearance, rich new colorings and wonderful styles these exquisite Organdie dresses are bound to win many friends here Saturday. \$12.50

Stunning New Sport Dresses

MAKING their initial appearance Saturday are hosts of the smartest sport dresses that has ever been this store's privilege to show. \$19.75

Wonderful effects in Organdie, Taffeta, Crepe de Chine and Tricolette. Rich combinations of colors. The moderateness of price makes them doubly attractive.

Blouse Values of Interest

REAL value giving reaches its fullest scope in this unusual blouse, offering. Smart Georgettes and new Tricolettes in the richest of colorings. Wonderfully embroidered, braided and lace trimmed creations. \$4.95

Unusual Values in Sport Skirts

FRESH from their packings we offer for Saturday these striking new arrival sport skirts, novel checks, silk faille, wool stripes and plaids. You'll readily recognize them as being worth decidedly more than \$5.95

May Sale of Silk Underwear

Now is the time to lay in your complete supply of silk underthings.

- at \$1.95 Fine Jersey Vests, Several Styles
- at \$2.95 Jersey Vests, Bloomers, Satin Camisoles, Crepe de Chine
- at \$3.95 Extra Heavy Jersey Vests, Bloomers, Satin Camisoles, Teddy Bears