

DE GAULLE ADVANCES.  
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Issue No.1010..1.11.1940.  
Title: Crusades Prelude.  
Tracks: Fight.French March.Mailed Fist.  
Discs: 529.555.485.223.352.579.  
Lines: Stagg.  
Voice: do.

BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS sent cameramen with General de Gaulle's expedition to Dakar. Hence, of the convoy's voyage to that port and the subsequent French landing at Duala, we now present a graphic pictorial record. Men-o'-war serving Free France sailed in the convoy. Failure was not anticipated. They little knew that a series of mishaps had enabled the Vichy Government to dispatch its old warships first.

General de Gaulle was forestalled. He was expecting to be acclaimed, to raise his standard at Dakar, to rally the whole of the North African colonies to the banner of Free France. The warships were in sight of the coast. Though the expected signals of welcome did not appear the General ordered his envoys ashore, to announce his presence and inform the Governor of his plans. Among them was the grandson of Marshal Foch. Till they returned there was nothing to do but wait.

Troops filled in the interval looking to their equipment. They had no anxiety, but already perhaps General de Gaulle suspected that something was wrong. The launch was now coming back, and even before its party came aboard the General saw that his expected welcome was not to be. Upon the flag of Free France, the Dakar garrison had fired. For Germans, as well as the tools of the Government of Vichy, were there in control, thanks to the incredible blunders by which France was allowed to send warships from Toulon. One of the envoys was wounded. Two choices lay before de Gaulle. To fight, or to retire. Rather than fire on his own countrymen he elected to retire.

Not back to England but southwards to the Cameroons the General now ordered his forces. The Cameroons had already decided for him. From there he could replan his campaign. The destination of the convoy was now Duala, a port just south of the Nigerian border. Very different was his reception here. The air of democracy fluttered the Tricolour and Cross of Lorraine, the banner of Free France. French colonial troops paraded in his honour, and were inspected. As these exclusive Paramount pictures reach England de Gaulle's army has successfully marched against Gambon. The General himself has issued a manifesto from the Belgian Congo.

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Apparently de Gaulle's army here is well equipped. If his men can win a victory it will in part atone for the fiasco of Dakar; it will put heart into the French at home.

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In aircraft too this army is up to date. From its excellent airfields strong forces can operate as soon as they are wanted. In this part of the French Empire there is hope, efficiency, a feeling that effort is worth while. In Africa may soon come the rebirth of the glory that was France.

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