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From today's featured article



SS *Minnesotan* was a cargo ship built in 1912 for the [American-Hawaiian Steamship Company](#). During [World War I](#), she was known

as *USAT Minnesotan* in service for the [U.S. Army](#) and *USS Minnesotan* (ID-4545) in service for the [U.S. Navy](#). She was built as one of eight [sister ships](#), and employed in inter-coastal service via the [Isthmus of Tehuantepec](#) and the [Panama Canal](#). In [World War I](#), *Minnesotan* carried cargo and animals to France from September 1917. After the [Armistice](#), she returned over 8,000 American troops. In 1919, *Minnesotan* resumed inter-coastal cargo service. During [World War II](#), the ship was requisitioned by the [War Shipping Administration](#) and initially sailed between New York and [Caribbean](#) ports. In the latter half of 1943, *Minnesotan* sailed between Indian Ocean ports, and the following year between ports in New York and the United Kingdom, before returning to the Caribbean. In 1949, *Minnesotan* was sold to Italian owners, who renamed her *Maria Luisa R*. She was scrapped in 1952 at [Bari](#). ([Full article...](#))

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Did you know ...

- ... that **Robert Chapman** and **Louis O. Coxe**'s play ***Billy Budd*** (*title role pictured*), adapted from a novella by **Herman Melville**, won the **Donaldson Award** and the **Outer Critics Circle Award** for Best Play in 1951?



Charles Nolte as Billy Budd

- ... that on June 8, 1826, rioters destroyed **William Lyon Mackenzie**'s printing press in the **Types Riot**?
- ... that ***Anisomeles malabarica*** plants are defended from unwanted foragers by [carpenter bees](#)?

In the news

- **Two trains collide** in [Sindh](#), Pakistan, killing at least 63 people.

- **Waddani**, led by **Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi**



Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi

- (*pictured*), wins the most seats in the **Somaliland parliamentary election**.
- At least 174 people are killed in **attacks on two villages** in [Yagha Province](#), [Burkina Faso](#).
- French writer **David Diop** and American translator **Anna Moschovakis** win the [International Booker Prize](#) for ***At Night All Blood Is Black***.

Ongoing: [COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Recent deaths: [Karla Burns](#) · [Mochtar Kusumaatmadja](#) · [Richard Robinson](#) · [David Dushman](#) · [Friederike Mayröcker](#) · [Raymond J. Donovan](#)

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On this day

June 8

- **218** – Led by the



Police activity in the aftermath of the Akihabara massacre

- inexperienced **Gannys**, **Elagabalus**'s **legions** defeated the forces of Roman emperor **Macrinus** at the **Battle of Antioch**.
- **1783** – **Laki**, a volcanic fissure in [Iceland](#), began an eight-month eruption, triggering a major famine and causing massive **fluoride poisoning**.

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- ... that geographer **Hildegard Binder Johnson** fled **Third Reich Germany** after the **Nazi Party** destroyed her scientific paper criticizing the development of European colonies in Africa?
- ... that the **Sherwood Studio Building** was characterized in 1892 as New York City's "uptown headquarters of Art", with many of its tenants having studied art together?
- ... that one airline has flown more than 5,600 **freighter** flights, carrying cargo in place of passengers?
- ... that **Sonny Bloch** invested \$500,000 in improvements to Connecticut radio station **WCNX**, only to be unable to complete the purchase after he was arrested on federal fraud charges?
- ... that **Kühkopf-Knoblochsaue** is a large **Naturschutzgebiet** in **Hesse**, Germany, protecting the ecology of the **floodplains** where the **Rhine** formerly **meandered**?

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- 1941 – World War II: The Allies commenced the **Syria–Lebanon campaign** against Vichy French possessions in the **Levant**.
- 1953 – An **F5 tornado** struck **Flint** and **Beecher, Michigan**, causing 116 fatalities, 844 injuries and \$19 million in damage during a **larger tornado outbreak sequence**.
- 2008 – A Japanese man **drove a truck** into a crowd of pedestrians in **Akihabara**, Tokyo, and proceeded to stab at least 12 people before being apprehended (*police activity pictured*).

George I Rákóczi (b. 1593) · **Charlotte Scott** (b. 1858) · **Bonnie Tyler** (b. 1951)

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Today's featured picture



Lucy Arbell (8 June 1878 – 21 May 1947), was a French **mezzo-soprano** whose operatic career was largely centred in **Paris**. Her career was particularly associated with the composer **Jules Massenet**, who created a number of operatic roles for her before his death in 1912. This **carte de visite** of Arbell was created by the French photographer **Nadar**.

Photograph credit: **Nadar**; restored by **Adam Cuerden**

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