

SOUTH PACIFIC.

The United States forces on Guadalcanal ~~Island~~ have a new commander - Major General Alexander M. Patch of the Army. He succeeds Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift of the Marines. General Vandegrift lead the Marine Corps seizure of the Guadalcanal positions last August.

The reason for the change from Marine Command to Army Command is simply that most of the leathernecks have left the embattled area of Henderson Field - our forces on Guadalcanal now consisting almost entirely of Army troops. The Marines who fought so long and bravely have been taken out to enjoy a well earned rest.

47
Major General Patch, called "Sandy" Patch, is a former college athlete of eminence, He was a star pole vaulter and track performer. He has been on Guadalcanal for some time, and commanded the offensive which stormed and captured Mount Austin, the ridge that dominates Henderson Field. Now he takes over the command of the whole show at ^a Guadalcanal.

The ~~Navy~~ ^a ~~communicate~~ that announced the foregoing tells also of continued air action against the Japs. Flying fortresses scored a bomb hit on a destroyer off Cape ^a Friendship.

SOUTHPACIFIC/2

~~The Cape ^{the} may "Friendship," but the destroyer was an enemy.~~

And a squadron of fortresses with an escort of fighters ~~attack~~

attacked Jap destroyers and cargo ships near Shortland Island.

^{they} There were intercepted by Zeros and a big air battle ensued.

Eight-Zeros were shot down. One American fighter was lost and

several fortresses were damaged.

RUSSIA.

Soviet Russia announced^S the capture of an important railroad center in the Caucasus - Voroshilov. This is the latest success in the Red Army winter offensive, which is rolling along unchecked. Voroshilov is a key point of communications, and its capture will badly disrupt Nazi railroad traffic in the area of Caucasus that the Germans continue to hold .

8
And Moscow gives us some new figures for the losses the Hitlerites have suffered during the Red Army winter offensive. Half a million killed and another two hundred thousand captured - since November - Nineteenth. During that same period the Nazis lost six thousand tanks, thirty - five hundred airplanes and twelve hundred guns. such are the Russian *figures.*
~~figures.~~

The Head of the Soviet Information Bureau stated today that the position of the Red Army this winter is more favorable than it was last winter - - when the Nazis recoiled and were driven back all along the front. He stated that this year's soviet successes have laid what he called - "A firm basis for final ~~vict~~ victory"

AFRICA.

The British are advancing steadily on Tripoli .

Today the Eighth Army broke through the Tripolitan hills and debouched onto a flat green plain that leads to the Number One Axis port. All indications are that the fleeing East Afrika Korps does not intend to make any serious defense of Tripoli, and will leave skeleton forces for a rear guard action at most.

In Washington today, Under Secretary of War Robert Patterson stated that the fall of Tripoli seems to be a matter of hours. He added that the long retreat of the Afriko Korps from the gateway of Alexandria to almost the frontier of Tunisia has been orderly . The Nazi forces got away in methodical fashion, and their casualites were light, said Under Secretary Patterson,

British opinion is that the Afrika Korps will not try to escape by Sea from Tripoli, will not attempt to emulate Dunkirk. They could hardly get away with it- considering the Amount of air power and sea power that the Allies can bring to bear. The retreat is most likely to be to Tunisia, where the Axis forces have kept open a route of escape for their beaten comrades.

AFRICA/2

~~The latest tells of evacuation from Tripoli under heavy fire, but it may be more local forces that are getting out.~~

News from Tunisia tells of a strong enemy offensive that has scored an advance, ^{against} ~~this occurred~~ in the southern sector, which is the route by which the Afrika Korps will join up with the Axis forces in Tunisia.

~~The enemy advance was accomplished by two columns of infantry with strong tank support. The Allied sector there is manned by French troops, who joined our side when French leadership in North Africa came over to the cause of the United Nations. The French soldiers are not well equipped - some of them having nothing more than obsolete rifles. They are fighting bravely, but Nazi ^{armor} ~~armies~~ pushed them back, and the French took up new positions.~~

~~On the~~ ~~much~~ ~~bedeviled~~ political side, North African affairs were the subject of bitter newspaper attack in London today. A paper edited by an independent Labor Member of the House of Commons delivered the most outspoken assault as yet against ~~American Commander~~ ^{our} General Eisenhower and our State Department Representative Robert Murphy.

This London Newspaper made an accusation in the following words: - "Prospective military action is hampered because a complete Vichy regime in North Africa staffed as it is with Axis sympathizers is ⁱⁿ a position to sabotage the Allied war effort."

The British journalistic pen indicates General Eisenhower for establishing what it called^s - "A regime in North Africa which is only one degree less bad, less reactionary, and less democratic than Vichy itself." "And," says the newspaper, "General Eisenhower publicly, deliberately and blatantly flouted the Soviet Union's view regarding development in North Africa." ~~However,~~ The general is ^{also} condemned on military grounds. "He failed to get Bizerte without the delay which it was so important to avoid," Says the London Newspaper.

CRASH.

Today's tragic air crash took more lives than any other accident to an American airplane. A giant Army transport was flying in South America, in Dutch Guiana, when something went wrong. Just what caused the crash is not known. An Army board is investigating. Aboard the transport were thirty-five persons, and all were lost. One of the victims was Major Eric Knight, author of the best seller novel- "This Above All." Two others were F. B. I. Officials. One -- the well-known spy catcher P E Foxworth, and two officials of the State Department lost their lives.

YORKTOWN

It seemed today as if a new proud warship were eager for combat- in a hurry to get into battle. The aircraft carrier ~~Yorktown~~ YORKTOWN was launched at Newport News , Virginia-- successor to that glorious old YORKTOWN which was sunk in the Battle of Midway after inflicting so much punishment on the Japs.

Today the new YORKTOWN went down to the sea five minutes ahead of schedule- getting loose and sliding down the ways while the preliminary ceremonies were still going on. The carrier, by getting off too soon, interrupted one speech and caused the cancellation of another.

It was a notable occasion, with Mrs Franklin D. Roosevelt christening the new YORKTOWN, just as she had the older one nearly eight years ago. ~~One of the addresses was by Rear Admiral Buckmaster, who commanded the old YORKTOWN. He told how that veteran ship, before being sent to the bottom, had earned much of the credit for stopping the Japs. Or, in the Admiral's words: "For damming the raging flood of Jap aggression that was surging so strongly last Spring and Summer, threatening Australia"~~

AMENDMENTS.

In the Senate, two amendments to ^{the} Constitution were introduced today, one concerning divorce and the other concerning equal rights for women.

2
Senator Capper of Kansas introduced an amendment that would enable the national government to enact uniform marriage and divorce laws. As it stands now, such laws are made by the individual states, and differ from one state to another. The new proposed amendment would abolish these state laws and have the national government pass marriage and divorce laws that would apply to the entire nation.

Senator Gillette of Iowa today introduced a constitutional amendment providing that men and women should have equal rights throughout the United States- the same kind of treatment. There is nothing new about this. Equal rights amendments have been before Congress every year since Nineteen Twenty - Three, but not one has ever received a congressional okay.

The idea of decreeing the same treatment for both men and women has the support of many women's organizations, but is ~~it~~ opposed by others. Some influential groups of women

AMENDMENTS-2

are against an equal rights amendment because it would
abolish state laws that protect women in industry, affording th
them preferred treatment/^{as} compared with men workers.

SIZE OF ARMY.

The Senate has before it a proposal that Congress should control the size of the armed forces- should check the increase of the numbers of men that are being taken into service. A bill to that effect was introduced today by Senator Bankhead of Alabama, ^a ~~He is the~~ leader of the farm bloc ^{that} ~~which~~ is trying to stop the drafting of farm workers.

How could Congress limit the numbers of men in service?

According to a congressional law, the President, as Commander-In-Chief, has the authority to determine the size of the armed forces. Senator Bankhead cited this fact, but pointed out that Congress still retains the ultimate control - Congress holding the purse strings. ~~The Legislators determine the amounts of money that are appropriated to support the armed forces, and could limit these by limiting the money.~~

~~"I do not intimate," declared Senator Bankhead, "That there has been any abuse by the president of the power granted him. It seems to me, however, " he added, "That the time has now arrived for Congress to ^{aid} ~~aid~~ the president by advising him."~~

The Senator stated that the nation right now has an armed

SIZE OF ARMY/2

force of seven million men, and under ~~President's~~ present plans four hundred thousand more per month are to be drafted this year. And that threatens to take a million agricultural workers from the farms-thus aggr^avating the farm labor shortage that already exists.

FARMERS.

The farmers of the nation are being offered easy credit by the Government - cash in the form of loans. Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard stated this afternoon that between two hundred and two hundred and fifty million dollars will be made available to farmers. The purpose of the easy credit, is to increase food production this year.

I BRASS

Here is a shortage that is depriving the army of something exceedingly military- and won't the soldiers be tickled! There is a shortage of brass, and so the Army will have to get along without brass buttons. The buttons hereafter will be made of a plastic material that won't tarnish- and the soldiers won't have to shine brass buttons anymore.

However, ~~not all is gay and cheerful for the troops.~~

There's a fly in the ointment- or rather, a lot needles and thread. The brass buttons on uniforms at present are to be removed, and the new fangled kind are to be sewn on. ~~Who is to do the removing and sewing? Why, the troops, of course.~~

The "Quartermaster's ^{Corps} ~~Corps~~ is going to distribute the new type of buttons with needles and thread- and the soldiers will start sewing.

~~The change will save three hundred and sixty-five pounds of brass in nineteen forty-three such is the estimate~~

~~given by~~ Under-Secretary of War Patterson ^{said} today, ^{that so far} ~~how high~~

^{he hadn't} ~~had added:~~ "I Haven't ^{heard} of them taking any brass off the

brass hats."

SPRINGFIELD - WESTINGHOUSE

Tonight I have a little better idea of what it's like to fight in one of those tank battles in North Africa. During the last war, in France, I saw a little of the first tanks that ever were used in warfare, and rode in them. But, as we all know, the tank has changed plenty since then, and today is infinitely more importante.

Here on the outskirts of Springfield, Massachusetts, this afternoon, John Charles Thomas and I made a trip in the latest model American tank. We both put on crash helmets and coveralls, mounted the ladder to the top of the tank and then dropped down through the turret; he into the seat normally occupied by the man who loads the gun and I into the gunner's spot.

There's a battery for you -- John Charles
loading and L.T. firing!

Colonel Joseph Colby, one of Uncle Sam's tank experts just back from India, Persia, Iraq, Arabia, Palestine and North Africa, explained the gadgets and told us what to do as we went careening over the bumpy ground. The driver has a lonely job, in a little compartment all by himself, with his own trap door leading to the outside. After our ride over the testing ground, I lifted his turret and asked him how he liked it and which he would prefer in battle, driving a tank, or an airplane. He replied:- "I've only driven tanks. But, just give me an airplane any day."

The occasion of our visit was to take part in another Army-Navy E. award, in company with Governor Saltonstall, Mayor Putnam of Springfield, General Gillespie of the Watervliet Arsenal and Captain Gordon Hall of the Boston Navy Yard, and many other of the

military and civilians who are playing an important part in the war effort. Also thousands and thousands of employees of the vast Westinghouse Springfield plant.

After the Army-Navy E ceremony, and my tank adventure with John Charles Thomas, I went through the Westinghouse plant where they showed me some of the things they are doing that will help to revolutionize our every day life, after the war, when they can go back to peace-time production ; a simplified cooling and heating system for your home; a new and easy way of eliminating insects that plague man, to mention only two.

Letter

In the Senate today, a letter was read- a letter from Guadalcanal. And Senator Tydings of Maryland urged that a copy be posted on the bulletin board of every war plant of the nation.

The letter was from a marine who used to be an aircraft worker. ^{TP} Private William Smith, who was wounded at Guadalcanal, wrote to a former buddy of his at the airplane factory- and told how he was one of sixty-five marines trapped by the Japs in a bad position. The marines ^{Just} didn't have enough air-
~~REFEX~~ support.

"There were forty -seven of our little group killed," says Private Smith. "And, Jim, let me tell you, if I was on the second floor of the plant now I'd shoot dead every loafer that would hang around or that wouldn't ^{TP} work. The forty-seven that were lost," Private Smith goes on, "Were better than ten thousand of the wise guys that go to work and do nothing but spill rumors and draw their pay. Boy, what a lesson I've learned."

~~learned~~ And that was what Bill Smith wrote from Guadalcanal.

COAL.

The coal mine strike is on its way out. Of about fifteen thousand miners all but about two thousand have returned to work.

We have these figures in a statement issued by the White House.

President Roosevelt is gratified by the response to his appeal asking the anthracite workers to return to their jobs.

So said White House Secretary Steve Early today. "The President," explained the Secretary, "is glad to learn that of the fifteen thousand who were on strike at one time, all but two thousand have returned - and some of those are making plans to return."

And s-l-u-t-morrow.