

# Capt. Pat, an Airedale Dog, Back Home With Notable War Record

He is only a dog, but a veteran of the war in the South Pacific where he helped to create bad news for Tojo and Hirohito. His name is Pat, who claims Torrance as his home. He joined the Navy as a mascot and is a native American of Airedale extraction. Soon after reaching the scene of action below the equator, he was adopted by an outfit of Marines. He acquitted himself so admirably that he became known to men of his company as Capt. Courageous, after winning citations for outstanding bravery in action.

## Army and Marine Fliers Talk at C.D. Meeting

After being wounded by shrapnel and suffering from "shell shock," Capt. Pat was honorably discharged and sent home in a strong crate placed aboard the U.S.S. Walter Colton and arrived only last week at the Patshee Airedale Kennels on South Main st., east of Torrance, operated by his owner, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick F. Sheehan.

"When he arrived home," said Mrs. Sheehan, "Pat was tired and lean as the result of his past experiences and long journey. He surely looked like he needed a bath, which was given him. We then placed him on a special diet which makes the other dogs in the kennels a bit jealous. But Pat seems to realize that he has done his bit for the country and is entitled to this extraordinary attention, frowning on other kennel tenants as just common dogs."

When the crate in which he was contained was placed aboard the Walter Colton, it bore a notice written in large letters to attract attention of the skipper and his crew which read:

Technical Sergt. Vernon Coll, who recently returned to Torrance on a 30-day furlough after having been on more than 50 missions with the Army Air Forces over Germany and who participated in the first bombing of Rome after the conquest of Sicily by the Allies and Staff Sergt. George Walls who piloted U.S. Marine dive bombers over Jap infested islands of the Pacific, gave a few sidelights on their experiences in this war at a meeting of the Torrance Civil Defense organization at the Civic Auditorium Tuesday night.

Walls also is home on a furlough from the Pacific war zone. He told listeners that most of the Jap soldiers act like maniacs when they go into conflict with Americans and their allies. He also said the Jap fliers are good and that the Zero planes are "plenty tough" yet they are no match for some of the American built planes now operating in the South Pacific. He says the American air pilots are far better than the Japs and that the score board of comparative results kept by the military authorities and released to the public clearly indicate this much, Walls asserted.

Private Mary Walls, sister of Sergt. Walls, who recently completed her training at Marine Corps Auxiliary Reserve bases, also is home on furlough before being assigned to active duty. She was also present and told about objectives and duties of women who are now playing their part helping win the war. She was flown by her unit to meet her brother while he was at home.

### Notice to Skipper

"This is a Veteran Dog—my name is Pat. But my papers and citations call me Capt. Courageous. I fought with my outfit in the Southwest Pacific and have a splendid record in action. I am shell-shocked now and am going home to Torrance, Calif. I cannot look after myself in this cage and ask that you feed me and give me a drink of fresh water occasionally. I am not vicious and won't bite but I am a little nervous riding in this cage and would appreciate a kind word or a pat on the head from you. I fought for you. Won't you please help me? Thank you."

### Tribute From Marines

Also appended to the bill of lading was a letter addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Sheehan from Dr. Gilheest of the Marine outfit in which Pat served, which read: "I thought you might be interested in a report on 'Pat.' I believe the Skipper wrote you when Pat adopted our unit and how delighted we were with him and how grateful we were to you."

"Since then Pat has had some experiences that, literally, should not happen to a dog. But he's not alone. His vicissitudes have been shared by officers and men of the unit."

"Amazingly enough, aristocratic Pat has taken to the life of the muddy Marine with enthusiasm. And he's well-rounded both physically and geographically. Not only is he turning plump but he has also traveled into these unique South Pacific islands about 10,000 miles from home, has seen native life and flora and military operations beyond the wildest dreams of staid-at-home dogs."

This morning I chided Pat for calling such pups old sticks

## Postoffice Stamp, Parcel Windows to Be Open Evenings

Postmaster C. Earl Conner of Torrance announced today that the postoffice parcel post and stamp windows will be open on Saturday, Dec. 11 and 18, until 6 p.m. for accommodation of patrons in mailing of holiday letters and parcels.

On Christmas day, Dec. 25, there will be no deliveries, excepting parcels and special delivery mail. The postoffice will be closed.

Postmaster Conner again emphasized the importance of sending out Christmas mail now as the best insurance that deliveries will be made before the holiday. "This is especially important," the postmaster emphasized, "on mail addressed to persons outside California. We must all remember that there is a shortage of manpower in the postal service in addition to overtaxed transportation facilities."

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## Torrance Reported Likely to Make War Chest Quota In Final Returns

Torrance had subscribed \$41,659 for 83 per cent of its \$50,000 quota, it was disclosed at an enthusiastic "victory meeting" last Tuesday of volunteer workers and leaders held at the Biltmore Bowl in Los Angeles, when the Los Angeles Area War Chest campaign officially ended. However, Hillman Lee, chairman of the drive in the Torrance division, reported that several local industries had not filed their final reports and that Torrance is to receive other credits from firms operating here and elsewhere in the county which may amount or entirely make up for the 17 per cent to meet the full quota.

Combined Area Total

It also was revealed at the Los Angeles meeting that total contributions to the Chest fund from the entire area covered by the campaign totaled to \$7,327,927, equivalent to 107.7 per cent of the total quota of \$6,850,000, which the War Chest sought in behalf of its 120 member organizations to finance its activities during the ensuing Chest fiscal year.

P. G. Winnett, general chairman, presided at the Los Angeles session and had generous praise for every individual who had a part in the noteworthy performance. Each worker de-

served honorable mention, he said.

The fund raised is the largest by far ever sought through voluntary giving in Southern California. Only three cities in the entire country—Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia—sought larger War Chest funds this year. The 424,321 contributors also set a record in this area, as did the number of volunteer workers, nearly 40,000.

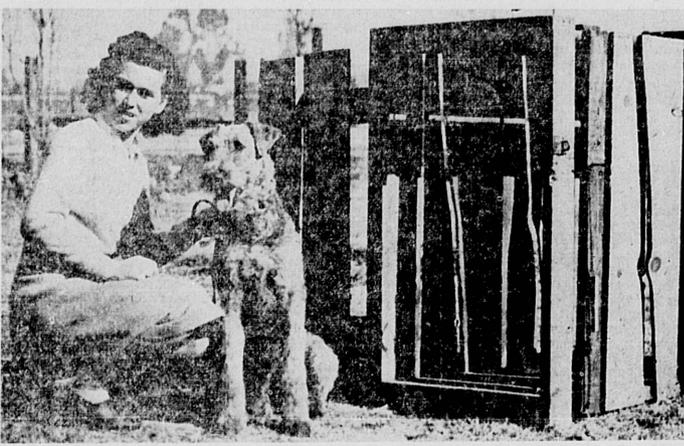
The associated cities and towns division has reported 130 per cent of its quota.

Film Folk Respond

One highlight of Tuesday's meeting was the big contribution from the motion picture industry. This amounted to \$1,154,126 and was made up of 22,382 contributions. They represented all the crafts, guilds and studios as well as the actors and artists.

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CAPTAIN PAT COURAGEOUS...yes he is an Airedale dog, who has just returned to Torrance after seeing action with the U.S. Marines in the South Pacific. If he could talk, he could tell of many thrilling experiences out on New Guinea and the New Georgia Islands. He was accepted as an official mascot of the U.S. Navy—his duties a morale builder, and later was adopted by the Marines with whom he went through the hell-fire of war to come home bearing the scars of a shrapnel wound. He received an honorable discharge after a period of indisposure from the effects of "shell shock." The crate shown in the above picture was his temporary home while en route away from the roar of barking guns and bursting shells aboard the U.S. steamship Walter Colton. He was in active service not quite six months. Capt. Pat recently passed his second birthday. The girl in the picture is Miss Francis Sheehan, happy to be reunited with her now distinguished pet canine.

## Liquor Blamed For Increased Law Violations

An analysis of Judge Otto B. Willett's report of city court cases during the month of November indicates a sharp increase in crime which may be directly attributed to over-indulgence in intoxicating liquor. The report recites that 22 persons were cited for drunkenness, all of which, with one exception, were found guilty as charged. There were three cases of drunk driving, two of which were adjudged guilty. Eighteen were haled into court on speeding charges and all were convicted.

In addition, there were 32 miscellaneous traffic violations, 24 of which were deemed not guilty, eight were found guilty and paid their fines; violation of parking regulations brought 42 convictions and six dismissals; five were arrested on miscellaneous criminal charges and only one case was dismissed; seven minors were certified to juvenile court. One adult was held to trial in superior court.

Revenue derived from fines and fees collected during the month totaled to \$2241, which Judge Willett believes, sets a record for the city court.

Five civil cases were filed during November, from which \$11 in fees were collected.

General fund monies were collected from the following cases: drunkenness, \$503; parking, \$108; boulevard stop, \$120; disturbing the peace, \$80; battery, \$85, and miscellaneous criminal violations, \$50.

Vehicle code funds were derived from the following cases: drunk driving, \$550; speeding, \$350, and miscellaneous traffic violations, \$494.

## Walteria Youth Reported Missing In Tarawa Battle

The Navy department yesterday reported James Sanders, 17, seaman first-class, youngest of three sons in the Navy of Mrs. Esther Sanders, 24410 Nece ave., Walteria, as missing in action by the sinking of the escort aircraft carrier Liscombe Bay during the battle of Tarawa in the Solomons area. This information was received in a telegram addressed to the mother.

Mrs. Sanders' next older son, Patrick Henry, 18, seaman first-class, who enlisted in March, 1942, was on a destroyer in the same battle. In a letter written a short time before the battle, James said he was unable for weeks to communicate with Patrick, whose ship for some time was "only 200 yards away." Eldest of the three brothers is Earl Edward Sanders, 22, machinist's mate second-class. Father of a 2-year-old girl at home in Walteria, Earl Sanders, on duty at San Diego, was informed of both the supposed death of his brother and the birth of a son.

## Richard L. Parry, Local Fireman, Dies on Train

Word was received last night that Richard Loren Parry, 34, member of the Torrance fire department since 1936, had passed away on a train near Santa Barbara while enroute home after having been at Hayward, Calif., at the home of a brother under treatment for an ailment which incapacitated him from duty in the fire department last August.

The body was taken off the train at Santa Barbara to be prepared for shipment to the Stone & Myers mortuary in Torrance.

Mr. Parry was well known and liked by all who knew him and Fire Chief John E. McMaster said he was one of the most efficient members of his department. He is survived by his wife, Vera, and two children, who live at 1820 Gramercy ave.

## Woman Checker at Local Store Drops Watch In Package

Mrs. Vera Blackwell, one of the checkers at the Safeway store in Torrance, while serving a customer yesterday inadvertently dropped her wrist watch into one of the packages.

Mrs. Blackwell has no means of knowing which of the many customers she had been serving carried away her timepiece which fell into the bundle. She hopes whoever finds it will return it to the store. Being a gift, the watch is highly prized by her.

## Schools Closing Tomorrow for Holiday Period

All Torrance schools close tomorrow afternoon for the Christmas holiday period and will return on Monday, Dec. 27. The vacation dates were so as to give high school students the opportunity to work in stores during the Christmas sales rush.

During the period the Civic Auditorium will be open afternoons to supply recreation facilities for elementary school students while evenings will be given over largely to those of high school ages.

Arrangements have been completed for rendition of the play, "Christmas at Home," staged by junior and senior students of the Torrance high school tomorrow. The program will be presented at 10:15 a.m. for junior high school students and at 2 p.m. for seniors and P.T.A. The public is invited to attend either performance.

## 2 Women Qualify For Gallon Club

Mrs. Mildred Mitchell of 1895 Gramercy ave., and Mrs. Marion Walton of 2414 Sonoma ave., Torrance, are the new members of the Gallon club, comprised of men and women of this community who have given a gallon of blood to the Red Cross Blood Bank for conversion into life-saving plasma used successfully by physicians and surgeons in U.S. service on the many global war battle fronts.

Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Walton qualified for membership when the Red Cross Blood Bank units was at the Torrance Civic Auditorium last week.

## Rain, Hail Storm in Torrance Today

A rainstorm, accompanied by some hail, starting about 8:45 this morning, resulted in 24 of precipitation by 11:15 o'clock, bringing the season's total to 1.35 inches. A brisk south wind prevailed with every indication that the storm had not ended.

The rainstorm which hit most parts of Southern California last Sunday night left .76 of an inch of precipitation in Torrance, bringing total rainfall for the season beginning Oct. 1 to 1.11 inches. Last year at this time measurements showed .66 of an inch for the corresponding season.

Heavy snow fall was reported in the mountain areas back of Los Angeles and in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

## Housing Center Office Hours Schedule Changed

Commencing next Saturday, the Federal Housing Center in the Chamber of Commerce, 1119 Sartori ave., will be closed at noon. This schedule will be followed for three following Saturdays—excepting Christmas day—when the office will be closed all day. On New Year's day, which also falls on Saturday, the office will be open in the forenoon.

## Home Shortage Still Critical, Says MacDonnell

A total of 470 applications for housing in Torrance were made at the Federal Housing Center, 1119 Sartori ave., during the month ending Nov. 20. In addition there were 54 applicants for rooms in private homes, according to Pat MacDonnell, area manager.

The center had listings of 314 old and new homes, 183 of which were rented to immigrant war workers families. It was announced that 172 homes now in course of construction had been listed as available in 30 days.

The demands for houses by families having two or more children is causing difficulties for housing center officials and employees, because of the reluctance of some owners to rent to these families. This condition MacDonnell said, is responsible for many desirable people leaving the area for places where they think they may have a better opportunity to find something that will meet their requirements.

MacDonnell stated that the Torrance Housing Center has received listings from private owners who include the children as undesirable tenants. Others cite dogs, cats, drinkers of intoxicating liquor, smokers or other persons whose manner of living is not in accord with their own. While MacDonnell might share in some of these views, he believes that on the whole there is such a thing as being too particular. He is of the opinion that relaxation of such stringent qualifications for the duration would result in greater production in local war industries and thereby contribute to the welfare of the community. Housing conditions in this area still are critical and they are likely to become worse before they are better, MacDonnell insists.

## Marine League Basketball Schedule Set

Basketball games in the Marine league, made up of Narbonne, Torrance, Banning, San Pedro and Gardena high schools with teams in both "A" and "B" classifications will be played on Tuesday and Friday afternoons with the season finishing up on Friday, Jan. 21, according to the official schedule released this week.

The first scheduled games were played last Friday, Dec. 3, when the Narbonne A team was beaten by San Pedro, while the B team of Narbonne won its initial contest in the Narbonne gym.

The following is the schedule: Friday, Dec. 10—Torrance at San Pedro, Gardena at Banning, Narbonne, bye.

Friday, Dec. 31—Narbonne at Gardena, Banning at San Pedro, Torrance, bye.

Tuesday, Jan. 4—Narbonne at Banning, Gardena at Torrance, San Pedro, bye.

Friday, Jan. 7—Torrance at Banning, Narbonne at San Pedro, Gardena, bye.

Tuesday, Jan. 11—Narbonne at Torrance, Gardena at San Pedro, Banning, bye.

Friday, Jan. 14—San Pedro at Torrance, Banning at Gardena, Narbonne, bye.

Tuesday, Jan. 18—Gardena at Narbonne, San Pedro at Banning, Torrance, bye.

Friday, Jan. 21—Banning at Narbonne, Torrance at Gardena, San Pedro, bye.

According to present arrangement, "B" games are played as preliminary contests ahead of the "A" games.

## Training School for Doctors Gains Favor

Expenditure of \$175,000 for remodeling a building at the County General hospital for use as a training school for doctors was authorized by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday providing the Federal government will reimburse the county, according to Supervisor Oscar Hauge.

Plans are to lease the building for a nominal sum to the University of Southern California. The program is in line with the government's desire to speed up the training of medical men for the armed forces, Dr. Hauge said.

## Record Crowd Attends Revitalized Chamber of Commerce Session

Close working cooperation between the city council of Torrance and a well directed businessmen's organization is a prime factor which insures community betterment through a live, progressive Chamber of Commerce, was the message brought to Torrance Monday night to the first membership meeting of the recently reorganized Torrance Chamber of Commerce held in the city council chamber at the city hall by Glenn B. Eastman, head of the aviation department of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, who was the principal speaker at the gathering.

Present were between 60 and 70 representative citizens of Torrance who displayed keen interest in the formation of a revitalized civic body, recognized by all as a great need in this rapidly growing and important Southern California industrial city with a population of more than 12,000 people. It was the largest turnout at a Chamber of Commerce meeting in many years, and indicative of the revitalized interest in civic affairs.

Cooperation Stressed

"Cooperation is the thing that counts. The city council has certain functions to perform as representatives of all the people. The council being elected by the people, is directly responsible to them for administration of public affairs.

"On the other hand the Chamber of Commerce should be a clearing house for community affairs and help solve the problems that may arise from time to time. Being nonpolitical, it should remain free and independent," Eastman stressed.

Power in Unity

Advancing reasons why there should be a live, progressive Chamber of Commerce in Torrance, the speaker reminded that there are 43 incorporated cities in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area. Chambers of Commerce in each of these cities create a power for strength, not only for their individual communities, but when all pull together they can get somewhere. He advised that the Los Angeles Chamber welcomes them, will cooperate with them and gladly open to them all its research and other facilities upon call.

If a community is fully built or has no further room for expansion, the speaker asserted, there may be an excuse for no Chamber of Commerce in that particular community. But if it is not, there are many reasons why a Chamber of Commerce should be maintained—if that city is to expand. Pooling of ability in any community is quite essential. Co-citizenship carries a great responsibility, Eastman explained.

"You in Torrance should look upon your city as a large corporation. Your Chamber of Commerce should become a large and influential business organization, conducted on business

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## Civic Aud. Hours Changed for Yule Holiday Week

Due to the limited facilities and room for recreation at the Civic Auditorium, it will be necessary to divide the age groups during the Christmas vacation period, according to announcement made by Dale Riley, commissioner of recreation.

Starting next Monday, Dec. 13, the auditorium will be open from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. These hours have been set aside on Monday, through Thursday, for accommodation of children under 14 years of age. From 7 to 10 p.m. on these days, the auditorium games will be for exclusive use of the high school students. The only exception to the above schedule, Riley said, affects younger boys who are working or carrying newspaper routes in the afternoons who will be admitted during the evening hours.

## U. S. Seizes San Pedro Shipyard; Admiral Bowen In Charge for Navy

A government statement yesterday stated that the U.S. Navy had taken over the plant of the Los Angeles Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co. at San Pedro on the grounds, it was said, that the yard had not been operated satisfactorily. In taking over the yard Admiral Bowen issued three orders:

1. Under Navy management, the wage rates, hours of work, overtime, and general working conditions in effect at the time the Navy took over the yard will prevail.
  2. It was stated that the Navy having taken control of the yard, no books or records will be removed from the plant.
  3. The Todd shipyard is authorized to manage the plant.
- The admiral added that his direct management agent would be furnished by the Todd shipyards, which was followed by a conference with John G. Riley, president, and Joseph Haig, vice president of the Todd organization when details were worked out regarding future operations.
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- First organized in 1917, the west basin shipyard constructed more than 50 vessels for World War I and was chiefly engaged in ship repair work until September, 1940 when contracts for 10 large Navy ships were obtained.
- The corporation, meanwhile, was in process of bankruptcy reorganization which culminated in a precedential Supreme Court decision that holders of bonds used to refinance the yard in depression years were entitled to first claim on the plant, in effect freezing out the original stockholders.
- Several corporation reorganizations were carried out at the direction of the Federal District Bankruptcy Court and several parallel changes in yard management were made.