



### Sgt. Peterson With Famed 361st Infantry Unit

Sgt. Winfred I. Peterson, 1728 Abalone ave., Torrance, a communications chief, is fighting in Italy with the 361st Infantry Regiment, which spearheaded the advance of Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army from Velletri to the Arno River without having once given ground.

The 361st is part of the 91st "Powder River" Division, currently in the Florence-Bologna drive.

The regiment landed in Italy last May 31; in two days moved into the line and fought its first battle just north of Velletri while attached to the 36th "Texas" Division. The 361st was one of the units that took the Albano Hills and Lake Albano, making possible the fall of Rome.

Bypassing Rome, the regiment continued to advance north on Highway One and participated in the capture of Tarquinia, which fell June 8, and Montalto, ten miles further north, which fell on the following day. The 361st then went on to defeat the Germans at Magliano and capture the key terrain feature of Poggio di Moscano on June 17.

The outfit next won a signal victory at Ponte d'Istria, where the unit captured more than 200 Germans. One company of the 361st had crossed the Ombrone River and entered the town; two other companies had flanked the village. A German force counterattacked in the town and was taken by surprise by the flank companies.

The regiment advanced further to take Paganico, Roccastrada, Radicondoli and Casole d'Elsa. It was pulled out of the line for a rest July 4. Rejoining the 91st Division, the 361st attacked again July 14 east of Cecina. It then moved through Orseto, Ponsacco and Pontedera and was the first in Italy to reach the Arno River, July 17.

Col. R. W. Broedlow of Medford, Ore., veteran of 28 years' service, commands the 361st. He has seen action on the Mexican border and in the first World War and served also in the Philippines and elsewhere in the Orient.

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### Ensign Fierce Home With Long Combat Record

With a record which might credit him with being a one-man air force, Ensign Vernon R. Fierce, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. R. Fierce of 2363 Eldorado ave., is home, having returned Sunday for a 30-day leave.



A Helldiver pilot, Ensign Fierce is credited personally with the following: One enemy plane shot down; direct hit on a 10,000-ton enemy assault ship; direct hit on an enemy assault ship; near miss on an enemy troop transport.

His Carrier Air Group, No. Eight, based aboard an Essex-class carrier, has for the past seven and one-half months been the most active air group in the Pacific and now is the Navy's senior air group. An account of its activities reads like a Cook's tour of enemy bases in the Pacific.

The group has participated in virtually all strikes and invasions from March through October, 1944, including the strikes on Palau, the landings at Hollandia, the strikes on Truk, the landings on Saipan, Tinian and Guam, the strikes on the Kozan-Bonin Islands, the Palau landings, the strikes on Mindanao, the Visayas and Luzon, the strikes on Formosa and the landings at Leyte. This group was in the thick of the attack against the Japanese fleet on June 20, 1944.

This group was the first of Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's fast carrier air groups to reach and attack the Japanese fleet on June 20, 1944; on that attack this air group's strike heavily damaged and probably sank one aircraft carrier and one destroyer, and damaged one battleship and two heavy cruisers.

### War Plants' Disposal Group Is Announced

Formation of a Government Plants Committee to represent this area in disposal of 31 government-owned factories with a total valuation of \$150,000,000 which are located in Los Angeles County was announced Dec. 2 by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Industrial Committee, of which George J. O'Brien is chairman.

The new committee, headed by George J. Buckley, of Ford J. Twaits Co., proposes to contact present operators of the 31 plants and other manufacturers throughout the United States with an offer to provide information, based on surveys by the chamber's industrial department, concerning postwar raw materials, employment conditions and potential markets.

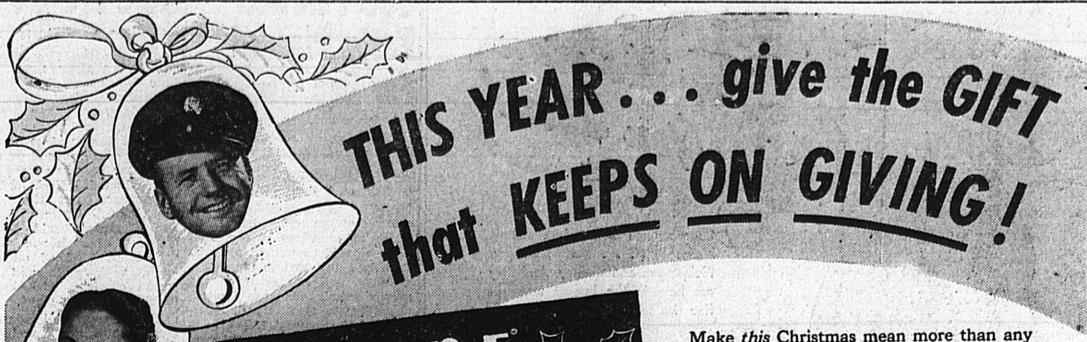
Present operators will be contacted first, as it is believed many of these will purchase the plants. Information based on the surveys is expected to go far in effecting sales for the properties.

Others on the new committee are:

Howard Brown, of Henry J. Kaiser Co., Inc.; F. S. Carpenter, manager, synthetic rubber division, U. S. Rubber Co., Torrance; A. D. Bragg, assistant to the manager, General Electric Co.; John R. Holt, of Citizens' National Trust and Savings Bank, and O. K. Buck, of the Bureau of Power and Light. James F. Bone, manager of the Chamber's Industrial Department, is secretary of the committee.

Chamber representatives pointed out that wherever a government plant sale involves \$5,000,000 or more the transaction must be cleared by a special act of Congress.

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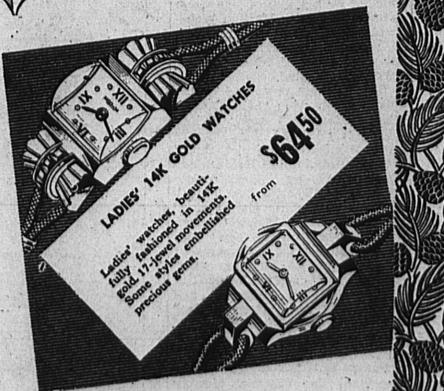
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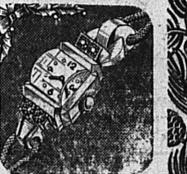
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**YOUTHFUL MASTER...** One of the youngest men in the Merchant Marine holding master's papers is Com. Philip Jensen, above, Torrance boy. A graduate of California Nautical school, he is the husband of Maxine Steele Jensen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Steele of 1320 Cota ave. He expects to leave shortly on an assignment with the American Hawaiian Lines which he has been serving for years as chief mate.—(Torrance Herald photo)

### Patterson Found Not Guilty; Jury Trials Dismissed

Two of the three jury trials scheduled for City Court this week were called off this week when the cases scheduled for trial were dismissed by City Judge Otto B. Willett, at the request of attorneys involved.

The battery case against Wm. Koendorfer, towel supply man, brought by Jack Koch as complaining witness, and the similar case against Koch and his brother, Morris, by Koendorfer, ended in dismissal.

The third trial proceeded, that of Wm. Patterson who was found not guilty by the jury on the charge of driving while intoxicated. The jury finding Patterson innocent consisted of Raymond Rogers, George Morgan, Ethel Vincent, Lillian Sherby, Mrs. John V. Murray, Fred Sandstrom, John B. Scotton, Charles Law, Ruth E. Basch, Margaretha Clayton, Marguerite Melville and Mrs. Clifford Ruppell.

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