

# Battalion Editorials

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1950

## Jets Proven Superior In Korean War

By JAMES J. STREIBIG  
AP Aviation Reporter

Washington, Oct. 16.—(AP)—Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg believes the South Korea campaign clinched the case for a jet air force.

Vandenberg, Air Force Chief of Staff, said in an interview that combat experience shows jet fighters will take more punishment from either air or ground fire than piston engine fighters. This contrasts with previous fears that the delicately balanced gas turbine engines might be more easily put out of action.

He said jets now can match piston engine planes in range and capacity to carry bombs, rockets and guns, while far exceeding them in speed and climb. And jets are easier to maintain.

### Pilots Like Jets

"The boys feel better in jets," Vandenberg said about pilots who have fought in Korea. "They found the jets can take the gaff better than conventional types, and they can get out of hot spots in a hurry or go upstairs and fight if attacked."

On a broad basis, the air force leader felt that South Korea "consolidated our previous views—we know we have to have a plane that can fight its way through enemy air opposition and also do ground support work."

Beyond the fundamentals of jet fighter operations, the air force "didn't learn a whole lot" in South Korea because the one jet type in service was not especially designed for ground support work and there were no enemy jets in the air.

The North Korea phase will see some changes in operations because of the tremendous advantage of air bases near the battle line, Vandenberg said. In South Korea, most fighters operated across the Japan Sea. That was quite a handicap for the Lockheed F-80 shooting star until extra large wingtip fuel tanks were improvised.

### Units Rotated

Small units of the Republic F-84 thunderjet fighter and the North American B145 Tornado bomber, both designed for ground support, will be given a chance at combat experience in North Korea, the general said.

Vandenberg said General Douglas MacArthur had committed only half his available fighter aircraft to Korea at a time, rotating the units so that all got action.

This was made necessary, he said, because the primary purpose of the air units in Japan was defense of those islands; that is why the force consisted almost entirely of types intended for air-to-air combat.

Through the push of Maj. Gen. Earle E. Partridge they had been trained, however, in air-to-ground firing for army support and had worked with the ground forces in limited maneuvers.

Vandenberg said the F-51 Mustang propeller fighters which were extensively employed in Korea could not have been used if the North Koreans had thrown in jets against them.

What about the future of the air force in view of Korean experience and the newly available funds for building up to the "70 group" idea?

Under the former limited funds program, the air force could not do all its planners felt should be done, Vandenberg said, so it concentrated on defense and strategic air problems that would have to be met first in a major war. The army ground forces, under similar money restraints, did not have enough divisions to justify more emphasis on tactical air than was given it.

### Command Reestablished

Now that is changed. There will be ground forces to support and funds to build and train an air force for the job. New purchases orders will call for nearly doubling the ratio of air defense and ground support planes to medium and heavy bombers.

Additional emphasis on ground support will come from reestablishment of the tactical air command as a separate major command. It has been under continental air command which has responsibility for defense of the United States.

Lt. Gen. John K. Cannon is being transferred from command of United States Air Forces in Europe to head tactical air. Succeeding Cannon in Europe is Lt. Gen. Lauris Norstad, whose job will be completion of the conversion of the air force there to an all-jet operation.

One group of more than 80 F84 thunderjets already has been flown to Germany and another group is expected to follow soon. These are the "E" model, especially equipped for ground support work. They will replace F80 shooting stars and F-47 thunderbolts, a World War II type.

### Weakens Enemy

Vandenberg would like to correct some impressions about tactical air support. The primary job, in his view, isn't hitting a machine gun nest or shooting up foxholes, although that can be done and in Korea was done. But it was an expedient of the moment, because the ground forces, like the air force, didn't have enough of anything.

Tactical air's real concept is support of the ground forces by first winning control of the air and then hitting the enemy behind the actual battle line.

## BLOOD RELATIVES



## Behind the Scenes . . .

### 'Two Flags West' Reminder Of 'War Between States'

By Fred Walker

Political issues, salvation, and silent love take the limelight in "Two Flags West", 20th's answer to "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

A troop of Southern cavalry, abiding in Hollywood's version of an FHA project, is given the chance of freedom by Yankee Captain Cornel Wilde if they will join the Army of the Republic to combat Indians on the frontier. The deciding vote is cast by their leader Joseph Cotton, and the little group snarlingly dons the Blue.

Upon arrival of their far flung outpost, the "converted" Rebels find the Commandant to be suffering from a persecution complex of the greatest caliber. Commander Jeff Chandler has a bitter outlook on life and a terrible hate for all Rebels, Indians and Confederates alike. To make matters worse, he is desperately in love with his widowed sister-in-law, Linda Darnell, but tries to rationalize by pretending that his desire is nothing but fraternal love brought about by the dead brother.

Chandler berates and attacks Cotton incessantly, while the enlisted personnel spit upon each other. Matters come to a head when the Confederate contingent unknowingly executes two Rebel spies who are introduced as gun-runners and smugglers.

Cornel has placed his faith in Cotton, but Chandler, who still believes that Cotton will die in Texas as soon as the chance presents itself, allows him to escort a California-bound wagon train hoping that he will desert.

Much to Chandler's surprise and disgust Cornel returns, and with him comes Darnell who has unsuccessfully tried to return home to California.

The Southerners are ready to make their move now. They capture Cornel while on patrol and Cotton has him sent back to the fort. Finding the outpost under attack from the Apache chief whose son has been savagely killed by Chandler Cotton arises to the occasion and returns.

Cornel is killed in the attack and Chandler "heroically" gives himself to the Indians. Cotton and Darnell smile at each other and the movie ends.

This picture is written and acted in the same style that its review is penned—childishly. For 45 minutes there is no action at all and the dialogue is terrible. But it must be admitted that Jeff Chandler turns in a fine performance—regardless of moments of overly-melodramatic horsplay.

Comment: If you want to fight the war between states over, this will fit your temperament.

### Groneman to Address Education Conference

Chris H. Groneman head of the Industrial Education Department, will deliver an address at the Adult Education conference to be held in Houston, October 19.

"Avocational Interests in Adult Education" will be discussed by Groneman.

## From the City Desk . . .

# Innovations Bring New Expenditure

By Joel Austin



Very seldom can you find an innovation of any system that doesn't bring about added expenditures. Such is the case with College Station's newly proposed electricity supply.

To predict the actions of the city council 24 hours before it meets we would say that in addition to the new rates established in a meeting Friday night, power will also be offered residents of the College Hills area at the same price as the rest of College Station.

Although this section of town is presently getting its power through the City of Bryan-REA tie up, the council will most likely accept the bid from the Brazos River Transmission Electric Cooperative, making the new rates available to the east side people.

In order to serve these people with electricity, new lines will have to be built parallel to the present lines which belong to the Bryan power company. In addition, the City of College Station would be required to obtain electricity supplied by the Brazos River Transmission from their sub-station some five or six miles away.

This being the case, money to finance this new, cheaper supply is going to have to come from some one. The city's supply of wire, which is practically enough to meet the demands of building a line to the sub-station, is still far from the amounts needed for the complete job.

But with their offer for lower electric rates, the Brazos River Electric Cooperative, has made available to the city a surplus supply of wire, transformers, etc. which they have for sale at cost price.

But with their bid to sell the city these supplies, the money for a new line to make the loop through College Hills would necessitate a revenue bond issue, the amount of which is still to be determined.

As we said, nothing has definitely been decided about making this cheap power available to people in College Hills, although it was recommended by Dr. F. C. Bolton in his report to the council last Friday.

With the college's decrease in charges for power, the new rates established by the city council Friday night will go into effect one month from now.

But with the passage of a revenue bond, citizens of College Hills would be paying something like \$4.73 (less 10% when paid by the fifteenth of the month) instead of \$6.50 net for 150 kilowatt hours—strictly unofficial figures!

### Don't Forget the Tauber Addition

For too long the people in this relatively new section of town have been buying their power from the City of Bryan at a price which is far beyond the new rates agreed upon by the council Friday night.

Although the rest of town would still be supplied by the college facilities, these people would pay the same low rates which the council has established. Also not to be forgotten is the new Tauber Addition which is still in the making.

This new section will probably have the option of whom to secure electricity from and there is no reason why our lower rates wouldn't be more acceptable than Bryan's.

With the biggest part of this new Culpepper enterprise not in the official limits of either Bryan or College Station, it will be interesting to see what city succeeds in taking it in.

### To this writer, College Station would be the logical place to admit the Tauber Addition since some of the businesses in the proposed shopping area of the addition will join College Station at the Catholic Church at North Gate.

Time will tell.

## Quion Hall

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WARNER BROS. BRIGHT LEAF

STARRING GARY COOPER

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JACK CARSON CRISP

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

WARNER BROS. MONTANA

TECHNICOLOR

ERROL FLYNN ALEXIS SMITH RAY ENRIGHT

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TODAY thru WEDNESDAY

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—Features Start—

1:48 - 3:51 - 5:51 - 7:57 - 10:00

JOSEPH COTTON - LINDA DARNELL

CORNEL WILDE

JEFF CHANDLER

Two Flags West

NEWS-CARTOON

# The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions  
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

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