

Sherman New Navy Chief; Leapfrogs Several Older Men

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2 (AP)—A shake-up springing from the military policy row and aiming at harmony in the high command put Vice Admiral Forrest P. Sherman in as top officer of the navy today.

It was too early to tell whether the replacement by Sherman of the ousted Admiral Louis E. Denfeld would bring a smooth and easy teamwork to the top level job of working out the strategy for war. Sherman and Denfeld met for 15 minutes early this forenoon with Secretary of Navy Matthews at the Pentagon.

Presumably, Matthews called in Denfeld to formally notify him of his removal as chief of naval operations. Aides said he had not been told officially he was out. He had reported as usual at his old office today.

He and Sherman left Matthews' office, smiling and chatting chummily. They went down the hall, entered the office marked "Chief of Naval Operations" and shut the door.

Youngest
It wasn't until late yesterday that the White House announced President Truman had tapped Sherman to become, at 53, the youngest chief of naval operations in history. And the formal commissioning was held over until today.

But Sherman was one of the original architects for the armed services unification plan. And he told reporters after his new appointment came through:

He still is 100 per cent for unification, expects no difficulty in getting along with other members of the policy-making joint chiefs of staff and is "sure the navy will give me the support and loyalty they have given all my predecessors."

Yet within the navy and congress there still is a certain bitterness over the ousting of Denfeld and over the way the whole defense set up is working.

Denfeld was given the boot after summing up navy complaints when the house armed services committee gave them an airing. The navy, he said, doesn't have a "full partnership" in defense planning. And before the denials were recorded by Secretary of Defense Johnson and the top men of the army and air force, other top admirals stood up and were counted on Denfeld's side.

Vaulting
Now Sherman is vaulting over the heads of all of them, and over some vice admirals with longer service. Sherman told a news conference yesterday he was making the jump under orders. To do so,



VICE ADMIRAL SHERMAN . . . On big spot

he gave up the command of the Sixth task fleet in the Mediterranean.

"I didn't seek this appointment," he said. "I have been happy while I was at sea."

As for Denfeld, there had been no clear indication whether he would retire or take a new assignment. Matthews has offered him a new job.

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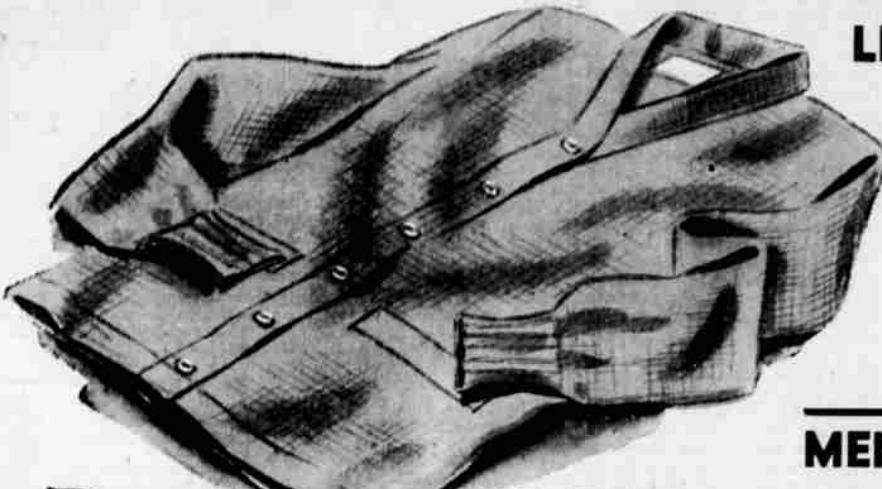
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