

Colonel E. J. Buckley Mapping Tokyo Assaults in New Role of Assistant Chief Of Staff of Pacific Fleet Marine Force

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SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC (Delayed).—Marine Colonel Edmond J. Buckley, of Bethlehem and Ardmore, Pa., has been named assistant chief of staff of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

In his new post the Pennsylvania Marine officer will have an important part in formulating plans for operations which have Tokyo as their ultimate objective.

Veteran of the Guadalcanal, New Britain and Palau Islands campaigns, Colonel Buckley has been a staff officer for four years, earning rapid advancement to higher echelons through the display of marked ability in combat.

Only one Marine Corps reserve officer has attained a higher rank than Colonel Buckley. He is Brigadier General L. W. T. Waller, Jr., commanding general of Marine Garrison Forces, 14th Naval District. The General is also a former Philadelphia Main Line suburbanite.

Colonel Buckley was elevated to his present rank in March, 1944, at the conclusion of the Cape Gloucester offensive, during which he served brilliantly. He was recalled to Washington at the same time to take a staff position at Marine Corps Headquarters.

But six months later when his old organization, the First Marine Division, went into action on Peleliu for its third campaign within two years, Colonel Buckley was on hand helping direct the assault as a member of the staff of Major General Julian C. Smith.

With operations in the Palaus in the mop-up stage in October, Colonel Buckley returned to Washington to resume his former duties. Later he received his current assignment.

Colonel Buckley began his 18-year career with the Marines as a private, enlisting in 1926 with an organized reserve battalion in Philadelphia. In 1930 he was commissioned a second lieutenant. He was with the same unit when it was called into active service Nov. 7, 1940.

Following maneuvers in Cuba, the battalion became part of the 11th Marines, the artillery regiment of the newly activated First Marine Division. Colonel Buckley, then a



COLONEL E. J. BUCKLEY

lieutenant colonel, was executive officer of a 105mm. howitzer battalion when the division launched the first American landing of the war in the Solomon Islands Aug. 7, 1942.

While fighting on Guadalcanal, Colonel Buckley became a division staff officer. In that capacity he served under Lieutenant General Alexander A. Vandegrift, now corps commandant, and Major General

William H. Rupertus, who succeeded the former to the command of the First Division.

Colonel Buckley was graduated from Lower Merion High School in 1919 and from Penn State College in 1923. About ten years ago Colonel and Mrs. Buckley moved from Ardmore to Route 3, Bethlehem. The colonel's mother, Mrs. George A. Buckley, lives at 219 South 50th Street, Philadelphia.

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