

Birdy

CLOUD BUSTER

Vol. 1—No. 51

U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Saturday, September 11, 1943

Commentary

By ENS. W. O. SHANAHAN, USNR
Academic Department

Neutrality in modern times is a precarious status for either a major or a minor power. When the scale of war was small and the issues were local, neutrality was a practical concept in international law. It is now safe to say that neutrality is only respected as long as it serves the belligerents' interest.

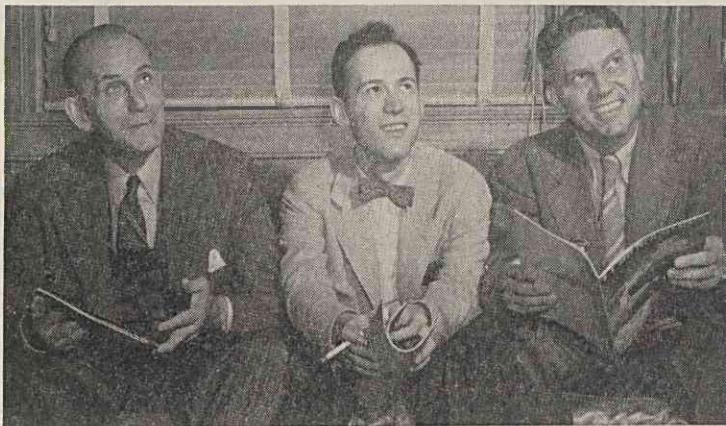
This principle is well illustrated by the fact that both the United States and the U. S. S. R. were dragged into the war despite their professed intention of remaining neutral. It is difficult if not impossible for great powers to avoid being enmeshed in war. Neither armed might nor industrial resources can deter attack because of the respect this strength commands. Instead, great strength invites attack lest it be used under circumstances disadvantageous to the attacker.

Each of the remaining neutrals in the European theater enjoys its position at the pleasure of the warring powers, who respect neutrality only as it serves their military or economic policies. After the conquest of Norway the Swedes were at the Nazis' mercy. Centuries of hostility to Russia ruled out diplomatic or military support from that quarter and England could not bring its sea power into the Baltic. Without setting foot on Swedish soil the Germans brought the Swedish economy into line with their own. The most valuable exports, iron ore, copper, and timber began to flow into German ports. Armed resistance would have been futile and at any sign of dissatisfaction the Nazis had only to tighten their blockade.

Since 1914 the Swiss have been aware that their country could serve as a military highway from Germany into France. Notwith-

See COMMENTARY, page 4

Discuss Pre-Flight Training



DISCUSSING the Pre-Flight Training Program among themselves were the three sports writers in the above photo. Here to study first hand the type training a cadet undergoes in Pre-Flight the writers are, left to right, Mr. Arthur McGinley, sports editor of the Hartford Times, Hartford, Conn.; Mr. Stephen White of the Boston Herald-Tribune; and Mr. Jack Sell of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Sports Writers Visit Station To Inspect Pre-Flight Program

Here to Get 'First Hand View'

Sports writers from newspapers and periodicals located in the first, third, fourth and fifth Naval districts have been here since Wednesday morning inspecting first hand the U. S. Navy's Pre-Flight Training Program.

Comdr. John P. Graff, USN (Ret.), Commanding Officer; Lieut. Comdr. Howard Hamilton, USNR, head of the Academic Department, and Lieut. Comdr. Burton Ingwersen, USNR, Athletic Director, acquainted the group with the idea and purpose of Pre-Flight Training when they first reported aboard. Other officers at the station have explained individual phases of the program.

The writers were invited to Chapel Hill to study the type train-

See WRITERS, page 4

Movie Schedule

Sept. 11—Free movie at Village Theatre, "White Savage" with Maria Montez and Jon Hall. Feature starts at 1355, 1940 and 2116. Complete show one hour, 26 minutes.

Sept. 12—Free movie at Village Theatre, "The Man Who Came to Dinner" with Monty Wooley and Bette Davis. Feature starts at 1310 and 1512. Complete show two hours.

Talent Try-outs

Cadets who are interested in talent try-outs for station entertainments are invited to sign up at the Welfare and Recreation office, room 112, Alexander Hall. Singers, tap-dancers, instrumentalists, comedians, novelty acts, etc., are all welcome.

Third Band Concert Scheduled Tomorrow In Forest Theatre

The third in a series of band concerts by the U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School band will be presented tomorrow afternoon at 1630 in the Forest Theatre. In case of inclement weather, the program will be presented in the auditorium of Hill Music Hall.

Guests on the program will be Charles Everett, New York dramatic tenor of the concert stage, F. Nathaniel Gatlin, outstanding conservatory clarinetist from the music faculty of Bennett College, and, provided their itinerary permits, Buddy Johnson, ranking swing band leader and pianist and his vocalist, Mary Lou Johnson.

Mr. Gatlin is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory and Northwestern University, and for the past five years has been instructor of instrumental music at Bennett College, where he organized the only Negro symphony orchestra in North Carolina.

Mr. Everett is well known in the metropolitan centers of the eastern states, having appeared in recitals at many outstanding musical events. The fine quality of his tenor voice has been noted in many favorable press comments.

Among the selections by the band will be Grieg's "Triumphal March," and favorites "Stardust," and "Deep Purple." Also a medley of songs of the Services will be presented.

Wednesday Evening Movies

"Nazis Strike," a continuation of "Prelude to War," will be the featured film at the Pre-Flight showing in Memorial Hall next Wednesday evening. The film is an excellent editing of newsreels, with narration by Walter Huston.

Second film to be shown that night will be "Quizcraft No. 4." The movies start at 1930, and all Pre-Flight personnel are invited.