

CLOUDBUSTER

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By GEORGE J. GREWENOW
Chaplain Corps, USNR

Theme songs identify programs, and recurring themes identify columns. Were there no "Chaplain Corps" labelling this column, it still would be a push-over for "recognition" because of its theme song. The theme is sounded over and over because it is so vital.

We are fully persuaded that spiritual things are not merely lightly added flavours mixed into a physical program. Nor is religion a mere concomitant factor in training. It is basic. Without it we are inadequately prepared for today's kind of war. In the words of Paul V. McNutt, "Total war means the destruction of everything material. It means ruined cities, factories in ashes, millions and millions of homes—great and small—reduced to rubble. Faith, religious faith, alone is beyond its reach." Only when a man forsakes that faith can he be totally destroyed. Religious faith is that dynamic which some one has so appropriately called "Victory's absolute necessity." What else but faith did we have in those early black months of the war?

This necessity is sharply pointed out in a letter by a young Navy pilot, "Right in the thick of everything when the going is toughest, the leader invariably will be a man with a religious background. He need not delay in that moment and find a path back to God; his very life has always been to that end. Those who live by their own code in normal times abandon it rather quickly when the going gets tough. At the crucial moment they are too busy mending their ways."

At the crucial moment will it be necessary for you to delay, or will you be basically prepared?

Here's Novel Excuse For Overstay Of Leave

The following report from a sailor to his commanding officer is reprinted in full as a classic example of something or other:

From: R. E. Wilson, S2c, U. S. Navy
To: Commanding Officer,
Via: Division Officer
Subject: Overleave, Reason for.

"On Sept. 7, 1942, I left ship on ten days leave at my brother's farm in Cobblerock, Ark.

"On Sept. 10 my brother's barn burned down, all except the brick silo which started the fire.

"On Sept. 11 he decided to repair the silo right away because he had to get his corn in it. I was going to help him.

"I rigged a barrel hoist to the top of the silo so that the necessary bricks could be hoisted to the top of the silo where the repair work was going on. Then we hauled up several hundred bricks. This later turned out to be too many bricks.

"After my brother got all the brick work repaired, there was still a lot of brick at the top of the silo on a working platform we had built. I said I would take it all down below. So I climbed down the ladder and hauled the barrel all the way up. Then I secured the line with sort of a slip knot so I could undo it easier later.

"Then I climbed back up the ladder and piled brick into the barrel until it was full.

"I climbed back down the ladder. Then I untied the line to let the brick down. However, I found the barrel of brick heavier than I was and as the barrel started down, I started up. I thought of letting go, but by that time I was so far up I thought it would be safer to hang on.

"Half-way up, the barrel hit me on the shoulder pretty hard but I still hung on.

"I was going pretty fast at the top and bumped my head. My fingers also got pinched in the pulley block. However, at the same time the barrel hit the ground and the bottom fell out of it, letting all the brick out.

"I was heavier than the barrel then and started down again. I got burned on the leg by the rope as I went down until I met the barrel again which went by faster than before and took the skin off my shins.

"I guess I landed pretty hard on the pile of bricks because at that time I lost my presence of mind and let go of the line and the barrel came down and hit me squarely on the head.

"The doctor wouldn't let me start back to the ship until Sept. 16, which made me two days overleave, which I don't think is too much under the circumstances."

Male Call

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"

Magnetic Azimuth

—(CNS)

