

CLOUDBUSTER

Vol. 2—No. 31

Sat., April 15, 1944

Published weekly at the U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School, Chapel Hill, N. C., under supervision of the Public Relations Office. Contributions of news, features, and cartoons are welcome from all hands and should be turned in to the Public Relations Office, Navy Hall.



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By CHAPLAIN GEO. W. CUMMINS,
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"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and the Barbarians; both the wise and the unwise."—Romans 1:14.

A deep sense of obligation is fundamental to Christian character. In every sphere of life we are debtors to God and man. The material benefits and conveniences which we every day enjoy are accumulation of labors of unnumbered generations. Our system of government, our schools, our cities, the roads over which we ride were built by the sweat of other men's brows and by other men's brains. Millions of people contribute daily to the material and spiritual good of each of us. All of us receive more from the world than we contribute to it. We are debtors to the past and the present.

And who can measure our debt to God? Before time began, He planned that we should be His immortal sons and daughters. His passion is to give Himself to us. This is the meaning of His love. Herein is the wonder of His grace, that He gave His Son, our Saviour. Who can ever pay that debt?

When we think of our debt to man and God we are humbled. Gratitude drives out selfishness. The least that an honest and grateful person can do is to dedicate himself to serve the tragic needs of man and to further God's purpose in the world.

To recognize our obligations is more Christ-like than to claim our rights.

No service in itself is small,
None great, though earth it fill.
But that is small that seeks its own,
And great that seeks God's will.

Cruising With Covey

By DAVID Y. COVERSTON, Y1c, USNR

Monday of this week I joined a class of officers and crew members to be indoctrinated into the fine art of pistol shooting by Warrant Officer F. E. Wirkus, USMC, and his band of sharpshooting Marines.

Having been an ardent fan of western melodrama as a youth, I felt that it would be a simple matter to hit the bull's eye, and visions of a medal-bespangled jumper danced before my eyes. However, a few moments after arriving at the range in the green paneled truck, those dreams were dashed forever. Having set up the targets (at the time they looked huge), we gathered around Mr. Wirkus for our first instructions. He showed us how to load the pistol, how to hold it, and how to load the magazines. Then he said "When you start to fire, line up the sights and squeeze the trigger—that's all there is to it."

Standing up there with that .22 held at arms length, we rapidly learned that it wasn't as easy as it seemed in "Dead Eye Dick." The pistol weaved and bobbed, and the targets shrunk smaller and smaller. We commenced firing at the command, and after shooting 14 rounds, we hurried down to find what we hoped to be a perforated bull's eye.

There were holes in the target, holes we had made, but so scattered that it looked as if we had been shooting shotguns. The Marines shook their heads and their looks made us feel like forgetting the whole thing. "You're bucking the gun," "I told you to squeeze that trigger, not jerk it," and "Are you afraid of that little gun?" were among the more complimentary remarks we heard.

After that initial round, we have had a lot of respect for those little Hi-Standards, and have listened attentively to instructions. With five days of firing completed, we have made a great deal of improvement due to our Marine teachers, but no longer do we think in terms of Expert—we just hope we qualify. Next week we shoot our final rounds, and if we qualify, you'll be sure to hear of it.

Warrant Officer Wirkus conducts combined classes of officers and crew members every two weeks, and the majority of men who have finished have qualified, and several have absorbed enough instruction to become experts. The experience is fun, the teachers are excellent, and every officer and crew member should get it while he can. It may come in handy some day, and as Warrant Officer Wirkus says, "There's really nothing to it—just line up those sights and SQUEEZE."

Male Call

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

Forecastle Armor

—(CNS)



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