

# THE PILOT

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## TRIAL BY FIRE

Our entrance into this war begins with a disaster. It is true that the Japanese attack was despicable in its treachery. But it was not unparalleled. By now we know the Axis method of making war and we should have been prepared. Details as yet are lacking but it is clear that the enemy has been able, across a thousand miles of ocean, to raid the United States battle fleet and the strongest fortified area under the American flag.

This bitter and humiliating lesson will only unite us and harden our determination to face the heavy task that lies ahead.

For this task we must set our house in order.

We must set up a Supreme Defense Command with authority to coordinate all our armed services.

We must create a Supreme Industrial Command with authority to unscramble the present chaos and coordinate all production.

We must immediately declare war on Japan's master, Germany, and on Germany's other satellite, Italy.

The first shot caught us half asleep. Now let us clear for action. Let us take our stations. Let us man the guns. Let us show both our friends and our enemies what we can do.

## FREEDOM TO MOVE

Last year in California a man named Fred Edwards helped his brother-in-law to move from Texas into California. The brother-in-law had no money and the next thing Edwards knew he himself had gotten six months in jail under the so-called Anti-Okie law for helping an indigent person to come into the state. Last week the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that this law was unconstitutional.

This may be bad news for those of us who have indigent relatives that may move in on us at any time. But it is a victory for freedom. It means that any American citizen, whether he is rich or poor, is equally free to move anywhere in this country. It checks once and for all any attempt to set up immigration barriers inside our borders.

Instead of cutting up our freedom into small chunks we would like to see this country head the other way and extend it. For a starter we would like to see an arrangement between ourselves and the British Commonwealth of Nations by which a citizen of any of those countries involved could move as freely about the whole area as he does in his own country. In the end we would like to see a world where a man can go anywhere and never be bothered by an official unless he breaks the law.

## BACKING INTO A WAR

No nation except Germany wanted this war. She walked into it. Her neighbors, both allies and enemies, were hitched so closely to her that they were dragged in with her. But we are so far away, the rope connecting us with Germany is so long that it has only now become taut.

The sensible thing would have been, as soon as we saw the inevitable, to have gone in voluntarily with all our force. Suffering all over the world will be increased and prolonged because we did not do this, just as it is now being increased and prolonged because none of the other nations opposed to Germany saw fit to do it in time. Instead we have compromised, have tried to get the war fought for us, have tried to eat our cake and have it too, to insure the survival of Britain and our own safety on a part-time

## basis.

Our reluctance is understandable. All we want is to be let alone, to go our own way. This mess is not of our making. At least so we like to think, though our policy since the last war, often selfish, self righteous and stupid, has added its sorry influence to the similar policies of other countries in producing the present chaos. But whatever our share of the blame, very great or very small, it has come to the point where as Cleveland said, "It is a condition that confronts us and not a theory." The world is on fire and we are part of the world. It is no use to debate whether the world should be on fire or whether we should be a part of it. Faced with this terrible reality, we have compromised, have split the difference between the best we might have done and the worst. The worst would have been to play possum and let the crash come. If we had, by now Britain would have gone under and we would stand defenseless and alone. The best would have been to go on an immediate total war footing so that whether we fought or not the nations of the world would have had to listen to us. Instead we have had two ideas that cannot be worked together. One was to pull Britain through, the other was not to fight. But to pull her through we had to send her supplies. Naturally the Germans sank the supplies. They are in the war to win, too. There was no sense in making supplies if they did not arrive. So we established bases and extended our patrols. Naturally the Germans try to cut off Britain's supplies and the only way they can do so is to attack our system of protecting them. Anybody who knows war knew this would be bound to happen. But without ever facing this reality we have backed into the war. It is a war we would give much, have given too much perhaps, to avoid. But once in we will meet the issue, like the British, no less firmly because we are reluctant. On great issues democracies are moved most strongly by a combination of self-interest and ideals. They cannot be expected, since they are collections of ordinary mortals, to act for the sake of ideals alone. And since man has need of faith and at least a rudimentary sense of dignity and justice, they will not act with unity or conviction for self-interest alone.

Today both those influences are working on us. As the situation grows more intense and clearer most of us feel that the course which Lindbergh and his backers urge both undermines our security and violates our sense of right and wrong. We are not complaisant we have been chastened by troubles within and by the danger without and we are conscious of our present shortcomings and past mistakes. But in our hearts we know that not to oppose the Nazi system would be a betrayal of our country's history and of all that is best in our spirit.

So we shall move into the unknown future with a sombre understanding of how uncertain it is and how grim it may turn out to be. But we shall move because we have made up our minds and if we are less happy than before we shall be more determined, more united and, above all, more at peace with ourselves.

## THE COLONEL TANGLED IN HIS SWORD

Even before the Japanese attack the isolationists are dropping away one by one. Some of them read the handwriting on the political wall; some were getting disgusted with the company they are keep; and some had become alarmed at finding that their movement receives the blessing and the financial support of enemies of this country.

Those who hung on found it increasingly hard to justify their position. Events have moved faster than they have and their theories which were never particularly logical have now become nonsensical.

The latest to involve himself in his own explanations is Colonel Robert McCormick of the Chicago Tribune. The Colonel in an open letter to Lord Kemsley, owner of the London Sketch, has come out and said that he would be willing to fight himself for the defense of Great Britain but he will not fight for

## Great Britain's colonies.

The Colonel does not explain why he is so agitated about the unhappy state of Britain's overseas possessions, why, in short, he is so much more agitated about them than they are about themselves. For though it is against the Colonel's principles to fight for them, they seem sufficiently satisfied with their own situation to be willing to fight for themselves. Since troops from New Zealand, Australia, Africa and India, mostly volunteers, are saving the Empire in Lybia and saving themselves too, it is hard to see why the Colonel disapproves. Apparently, however, he feels that though they don't know it, they are exploited and oppressed and that therefore he should do nothing to help them. For the sake of the Colonel's high, moral scruples, they should be allowed to be conquered. They should be permitted to lose their government for which they are willing to fight and permitted to pass under the domination of a government which they detest. We would like to hear the Colonel explaining to these people who are desperately engaged in the defense of their freedom just why it is to the best interests of the world that they should lose it.

But suppose that the Colonel's position is really wise and noble, suppose that it is logical to defend Great Britain, as the Colonel proposes, but not to defend her colonies, the question then arises at what point in the destruction of the British Commonwealth of Nations, the Colonel proposes to come to Great Britain's aid. Will he fight for her when she has lost India, or must she lose Australia and New Zealand too? Or must she lose all her colonies before he starts to work?

Then when the Colonel has answered that, there is one more question. If he means to help Britain, when she has lost some or

# GRAINS OF SAND

## LOCAL AUTHORITY ON

French-Canadians is Arthur S. Newcomb, who wondered all through maneuvers if there weren't any French-Canadians among our armed forces. When, the other day, he ran up with the first one in U. S. uniform, he was inspired to write this tribute, in the hard-to-capture dialect of our northern neighbor:

Down Canada w'ere I was born, I live on beeg, beeg farm.  
 I nevaire lak dat farm at all, but I don' mean no harm.  
 Ma frien' up dere mak fon of me an' call me "bum" an' "shirk"  
 Dey t'ink I'm lazy jus' 'cause I don' lak dat kin' o' work

So den I come down here for live in les Etats Unis  
 By gar! I'm diffirunt feller queeck: beeg change come over me  
 I'm git me job in cotton mill, an' marry nice French girl.  
 An' we bot' teenk Etats Unis is best place in de worl'

An' w'en I git my papier for mak' me citizen,  
 Ma femme an' me, we's proud of dat. It mak' us happy den.  
 But bimebye w'en de Army come an' say "You come too, Joe,"  
 Dat mak' us sad 'cause we bot' know of course I got to go.

Clarette, she's pretty good 'bout dat, she's smile an' sing a song  
 An' kees me queeck an' say "Good-bye, it won' be very long."  
 But w'en I git my uniform, we bot' feel glad, monjee!  
 For have de chance for do something for les Etats Unis.

all of the dominions, which now are fighting for her, would it not be better, would it not be less costly to us, in materlai and in blood, to help her while her dominions are in the battle line, rather than wait until she has lost all of that great strength and stands alone with no one to save her but ourselves and Colonel McCormick?

Though this editorial was written before the present crisis, it still holds true. In fact, its principles are more vital to America than ever.

## ABERDEEN FOLKS THOUGHT

they were experiencing a trial black-out Tuesday. For about an hour, early in the morning, all the power was shut off and industry was at a standstill. Of course, the streets weren't darkened, but the interior of stores were grim and solemn and dark.

INDIAN SUMMER IN THE SANDHILLS brought and kept forth blooms which ordinarily would long since have died. In front of the Bank and Friscilla Scofield's shop in Pinehurst are beds of pansies, petunias and narcissus, blooming as merrily and as prettily as if it were spring.

## The PUBLIC SPEAKING

To The Editor:  
 Tuesday evening, December 9, John W. Vandercook, over the radio, said: "Whatever happened in Pearl Harbor Sunday, the result was clearly a victory for Japan." I protest such use of

the word "victory." A better word had been spoken in Washington Monday. Whatever happened in Pearl Harbor that day, Sunday, December 7, the sum total was clearly for Japan "The Day of Infamy."  
 Ups and downs in many details must occur throughout the conflict now under way which must specialize in "blows in the dark." Please God, this conflict which began in infamy for Japan will end in Victory for free men everywhere.  
 —WARREN F. SHELDON.

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