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Our Loss Now Will Be Jap Loss Later

Sometime next week Comdr. O. O. Kessing will return to his first naval love—sea duty, with a fight to be won. With him go the best wishes of the entire staff of the Pre-Flight School—officers, cadets, enlisted men, and civilian employees.

Comdr. Kessing's 32 years of service in the Navy have made him one of the best liked and most respected men in the service. He knows the Navy and loves it. Men like him have made the Navy what it is today.

While most commanding officers have the respect of the men under them, Comdr. Kessing won respect along with devotion and admiration. The University administration, officers, cadets, enlisted men, and civilian employees of the station did their jobs with a bit more determination and spirit because at the helm was a man whom they knew as a real leader and likable personality. He, to them, was capable, efficient, quick-acting, and fair-minded. He inspired his men to attain the same qualities.

Typical of the feeling of those who know him best is that expressed by William D. Carmichael, Jr., controller of the University of North Carolina, who perhaps had more business dealings with him than any other man in Chapel Hill.

"God help the Japs," said Mr. Carmichael in a telegram to the Skipper early this week. "They will rename the Pacific when you get out there. We are happy for the Allied Nations that you are going out to help finish the job, but Chapel Hill won't be the same when you are gone. I have never enjoyed anything in my life as much as I have working with you. Your fighting spirit and devotion to duty will be an everlasting inspiration to all of us. You have the colors of the Pre-Flight school at the top of the mast and we promise to keep 'em flying at the top. God bless you, Scrappy. Give 'em Hell!"

Comdr. Kessing has spent 22 years on the sea, and since Dec. 7 he has requested sea duty time and again. He will be in the thick of the fight, and he will again do the Navy proud. For that is the way Scrappy lives whether it be on land or sea.

Although he has gone, Comdr. Kessing will forever live in the hearts of those who have known him here. All hope that this is not a final good bye, and that sometime soon we can join him in the actual fight. Fighting with him and against the Japs at the same time is a treat all of us are looking forward to. Our loss now will mean a Jap loss in the future.

Succeeding Comdr. Kessing at the helm of the Pre-Flight School is Lt. Comdr. John P. Graff, who has served well as Executive Officer here since the beginning last spring. The choice of a new Skipper could not be better for no man is more familiar with the job being done here and as well equipped to direct the ship's course.

In his statement of future policy, Lt. Comdr. Graff declared that the change in command would in no way change the operation of the station. Although a good C. O. has left, another good one takes over to carry on the job. Comdr. Kessing goes to battle knowing full well that the Pre-Flight School in Chapel Hill is in good hands.



By LIEUT. ERIC H. ARENDT
Chaplain Corps, USN

Sad though it seems at the moment, we must always prepare ourselves for the inevitable—to say farewell to the past and start toward the mystery of the future. We have all been confronted with the very difficult situation of breaking ties, which for the moment at least, seem so precious that we think they ought to be lasting. The friends and shipmates who become such a meaningful part of our lives—even the work to which we are assigned becomes such a natural part of our lives, that we do not like to see these ties broken.

A Navy man, for the sake of his own morale, must prepare himself for the inevitable changes that will be his. The Navy offers series after series of changes for the "good of the service." Time after time one will be tempted to question moves which affect him personally.

Not one of us at this Pre-Flight School can fail to have a heavy heart because we have lost "our Skipper." But we brace ourselves, we control our emotions and swell with pride because it is "our Skipper" who is chosen for a job that HAS to be done and WILL be done—we all know that.

Our emotions are mixed. We are sad because we are losing a great friend. But our sadness is eclipsed by the happiness that is ours, and his, because we know another "well done" will be added to the Cause to which each of us is trying to contribute. When Paul wrote his letter to the Phillipians he gave a sensible and meaningful thought which is now

There's Always One in Every Room



"Of course Milton is pretty good, but it's that soulful feeling one gets that really draws one to Shelley. On the other hand . . ."

applicable: "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before." In this way, we can, with a cheerful spirit say to our Skipper—"a Bon Voyage and God Bless You."

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