

THE PILOT

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AN AIRMAN TO HIS MOTHER

Among the personal belongings of a young R. A. F. pilot in a bomber squadron who was recently reported "Missing, believed killed," was a letter to his mother—to be sent to her if he were killed. "This letter was perhaps the most amazing one I have ever read; simple and direct in its wording but splendid and uplifting in its outlook," says the young officer's station commander. "It was inevitable that I should read it—in fact he must have intended this, for it was left open in order that I might be certain that no prohibited information was disclosed. I sent the letter to the bereaved mother, and asked her whether I might publish it anonymously, as I feel its contents may bring comfort to other mothers, and that every one in our country may feel proud to read of the sentiments which support 'an average airman' in the execution of his present arduous duties. I have received the mother's permission, and I hope this letter may be read by the greatest possible number of our countrymen at home and abroad."

Dearest Mother—Though I feel no premonition at all, events are moving rapidly, and I have instructed that this letter be forwarded to you should I fail to return from one of the raids which we shall shortly be called upon to undertake. You must hope on for a month, but at the end of that time you must accept the fact that I have handed my task over to the extremely capable hands of my comrades of the Royal Air Force, as so many splendid fellows have already done.

First, it will comfort you to know that my role in this war has been of the greatest importance. Our patrols far out over the North sea have helped to keep the trade routes clear for our convoys and supply ships, and on one occasion our information was instrumental in saving the lives of the men in a crippled lighthouse relief ship. Though it will be difficult for you, you will disappoint me if you do not at least try to accept the facts dispassionately, for I shall have done my duty to the utmost of my ability. No man can do more, and no one calling himself a man could do less.

I have always admired your amazing courage in the face of continual setbacks; in the way you have given me as good an education and background as any one in the country; and always kept up appearances without ever losing faith in the future. My death would not mean that your struggle has been in vain. Far from it. It means that your sacrifice is as great as mine. Those who serve England must expect nothing from her; we debase ourselves if we regard our country as merely a place in which to eat and sleep.

History resounds with illustrious names who have given all, yet their sacrifice has resulted in the British Empire, where there is a measure of peace, justice and freedom for all, and where a higher standard of civilization has evolved, and is still evolving, than anywhere else. But this is not only concerning our own land. Today we are faced with the greatest organized challenge to Christianity and civilization that the world has ever seen, and I count myself lucky and honored to be the right age and fully trained to throw my full weight into the scale. For this I have to thank you. Yet there is more work for you to do. The home front will still have to stand united for years after the war is won. For all that can be said against it, I still maintain that this war is a very good thing; every individual is having the chance to give and dare all for his principle like the martyrs of old. However long the time may be, one thing can never be altered—I shall

THE POCKETBOOK OF KNOWLEDGE



TAILLESS ROOSTERS
A CURIOUS BREED RAISED IN JAPAN

1939 TAXES ON THE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY WERE 94% GREATER THAN IN 1929, THOUGH NET INCOME WAS LOWER.

AMMONIA WAS NAMED AFTER THE EGYPTIAN GOD AMMON, NEAR WHOSE TEMPLE AMMONIUM CHLORIDE WAS FOUND

MORE THAN ONE OUT OF FIVE JOBS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE PROVIDED BY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

have lived and died an Englishman. Nothing else matters one jot nor can anything ever change it.

You must not grieve for me, if you really believe in religion and all that it entails; that would be hypocrisy. I have no fear of death; only a queer elation... I would have it no other way. The universe is so vast and so ageless that the life of one man can only be justified by the measure of his sacrifice. We are sent to this world to acquire a personality and a character to take with us that can never be taken from us. Those who just eat and sleep, prosper and procreate are no better than animals if all their lives they are at peace.

I firmly and absolutely believe that evil things are sent into the world to try us; they are sent deliberately by our Creator to test our metal because He knows what is good for us. The Bible is full of cases where the easy way out has been discarded for moral principles. I count myself fortunate in that I have seen the whole country and known men of every calling. But with the final test of war I consider my character fully developed. Thus at my early age my earthly mission is already fulfilled and I am prepared to die with just one regret, and one only—that I could not devote myself to making your declining years more happy by being with you; but will live in peace and freedom and I shall have directly contributed my life may not have been in vain.

Your Loving Son.

THE MEANING OF DEMOCRACY

Today this country stands unified, devoted to the proposition that here, if nowhere else in the world, democracy shall be preserved and made secure.

And the people are coming to realize that the preservation of the democratic system involves more than merely spending billions for military weapons, important as that is. The preservation of democracy means that we must again analyze the meaning of democracy—and again return to those principles on which the nation was founded.

Those principles are simple and basic. Certain powers were given to government—the power over currency, over national defense, over foreign policy, and so on. The balance of powers were reserved to the people. The founders realized that government is a non-producer—that all production and creation must come from the individual. And they realized that strict limitation of the activities of government was necessary if freedom was to live.

In recent years we have been drifting away from true democratic government. We have put government into business. We have all but destroyed the rights of the states. We have gone a long way toward the ruinous theory that government owes everyone a living. We have destroyed local independence, local pride, local self-sufficiency. We have become a nation of beggars, feeding at the public

trough. This has cost us tens of billions in taxes and increased Federal debt. Yet, serious as that problem is, it is the least important phase of trend. Vitally important has been the change for the worse in the American character—the loss of those traditional characteristics of independence and self-reliance. Dependence always breeds dictatorship. Dependence always menaces liberty, and the democratic way of life.

If democracy is to live, the democratic virtues of self-reliance and independence must come back into their own. Government must again be confined to those duties given it by the Constitution. Industry and individuals must realize again that they can no longer expect manna from Washington for sustenance. Then that democracy of which we talk so much in idle phrases will really survive. Then we shall be strong and secure.

Grains of Sand

There was a day when a single airplane over the Sandhills attracted a lot of attention. Today is different. Today only numbers in graceful flying formation cause an upward glance of appreciation. But the big army dirigible, more diffident and not nearly so well known, still brings out the entire family when sailing out of clouds.

Salesmen who travel over the Carolinas and are familiar with the stores of the two states report that Dorn's grocery store of Southern Pines is not only the first, but still has the honor of being the only grocery in either North or South Carolina to have an air-cooling system, within its closed front doors. To be in harmony of progress with the far distant city grocer speaks well for Dorn's and Southern Pines.

An interesting little incident occurred on a country road recently that brought to mind rather forcefully, some of the worthwhile things a Boy Scout learns. A car rounded a curve and headed down a hill on a sandy road little traveled. Directly ahead of the automobile a group of Scouts had scattered out over the road, setting forth on a hike. There was no confusion whatever at the first signal of the approaching car. There was no wild scattering to right or left, with the final division leaving boys on each side of the road for the motorist to thread through. With swift precision and the grace and beauty of a trained military movement, they were assembled in single file on the right as they continued their march in safety without a backward glance.

The young Boy Scout has not only learned the valuable lesson of protecting himself, but at the same time has made it safe for the automobile driver who cannot be held responsible for all the accidents to pedestrians.

Small Proctor Goldsmith is a little boy who likes animals and who has had a varied list of pets in his short

lifetime. Just now a little dog, a black cat, two kittens and a little pig make up an interesting outfit, and real friends they are. When the infant pig, the runt of the litter, came into this world it was destined to be the unfortunate who could never find room at his mother's dinner table, so was finally taken to the back door for artificial reinforcements. And there the puppy, the kittens, and the kindly mother cat formed an alliance with the orphan pig. The cat, a generous soul, invites the little pig to join at mealtime in her meager supply and those partaking are congenial and happy.

Can it be the foster feline mother thus interprets the current talk of adopting refugees?

Monday July 15, was St. Swinthin's day. According to legend, if rain falls on this day rain is scheduled for 40 days. No dripping clouds let go their stock of moisture on this particular Monday over the village. Not wanting to assail all traditional beliefs or institutions or adopt a lot of erroneous ideas we set out to get the straight of things and looked into this watery Sain't day business curious to know whether we would be blown away in the heat and dust or succumb to mold and mildew.

The Bishop of Winchester of 882 who later became St. Swinthin forecasts dry weather for us now. It seems that he had a great hankering for rainy days and one of his last requests was that he be buried under the eaves the rain might fall on his grave. When canonized a century later and exhumed and removed to the cathedral, tradition says he was made forever unhappy when deposited in his new resting place following a violent storm. Poor old Saint, taken in out of the wet when all he asked for was to sleep in the rain.

But to get on with our prognostication. There were a number of other old boys who are supposed to be affiliated with the weather bureau. In France the 8th and 19th days of June are Saints days that have to do with the weather. The rainy saint in Flanders is St. Godelieve who reigns over the 6th of July, while Germany celebrates its Seven Sleepers on the 27th of this month and predicts seven weeks rain if rain falls on that day. If we shift out the forecasts of

\$32,801 REDUCTION IN EDUCATION BOARD BUDGET

The Board of Education of Moore county met this week and adopted a budget calling for \$42,664.98 for current expenses and \$44,192.45 for capital outlay. Last year's current expense allotment was \$42,253.24, or \$411.74 less than the new budget calls for, but there is a decrease of \$33,212.73 in the capital outlay fund, which was \$77,405.18 for last year, making a net reduction of \$32,800.99 in the two items.

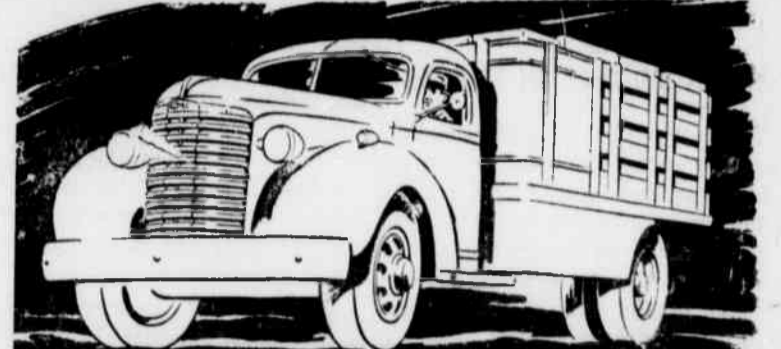
them all we will probably find our usual normal weather conditions of hot and cool waves, of dry and wet periods, and Jo Jo will chalk up on his bulletin board figures that run a little above and a trifle below normal, figures that run about the same as always, year after year.

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