

THE PILOT

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PROMOTION OF MacARTHUR

The appointment of General Douglas MacArthur to command the fighting forces of the United Nations in the southwest Pacific area is first of all a mighty bolster to the morale of the people of the allied nations. It is also a definite recognition of the general's courage, military strategy and ability, as demonstrated in his defense of the Philippines.

There is every reason to suspect that General MacArthur will continue his fine record and no indication whatsoever that his successes in the Philippines can be attributed to anything other than the fighting spirit of his men and his own ability. However, it is somewhat unfortunate that, because he did, practically overnight, become a hero in this hero-worshipping country, viewing the thing objectively, one has a tiny fear that maybe this hero too will not stand up in the limelight. In years past, the United States have made presidents out of generals because of their wartime activities—and disaster usually resulted.

It is a far better move on the part of the President to have kept MacArthur in the general area where he has shown his capabilities that would have been the following of the suggestion that MacArthur be brought back to this country to hold down an Army staff job—no matter how important—in Washington.

His new job is a test of his mettle. Lord knows, we in America are pulling for MacArthur to maintain the impressive record he has made in the Philippines.

DISASTERS DON'T STOP

While we in America have rightly turned all our efforts toward the prosecution of the war, deploring any distractions of any kind, and when we have had no other way, have done our bit through the American Red Cross, now deep in war work, we must not forget that even the greatest disaster—war—does not halt nature's own or man-made local tragedies.

Ten days ago, when a huge ammunition truck exploded near Smithfield, N. C., the American Red Cross rushed assistance to that area. War work is important, but civilian aid must go on.

This week the Red Cross is faced with stepping into another of nature's disasters. Six Southern states were hit by a terrific windstorm, leaving over 140 killed and over 1,000 injured. Besides these thousands of families are probably destitute of home, food and clothing. It is in such situations as these that the Red Cross, in peacetime years, has maintained its reputation as a helping agency, furnishing funds, manpower and morale support in time of great emergency.

This latest catastrophe in our own land and of a peacetime (though not-so peaceful) nature brings even more sharply to our minds that the Red Cross in these times is carrying more than a double burden. It is called upon to do those things which it always has done and yet has cheerfully accepted great wartime responsibilities which are too numerous and varied even to begin to list.

The punch line to this editorial probably should be: Support the Red Cross Drive! Enroll in the Red Cross Roll Call! But none of these things are going on right now. So the punch line shall be this: The Red Cross is continuously on the job. Don't wait for a "drive" or "roll call." It deserves continuous support in time, effort and money.

ALL CREDIT TO REYNOLDS!

For the establishment in the Sandhills of the Technical Training Command of the Army Air Force, Senator Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate Military Affairs committee claims and is due much credit. His wire to this section, when Air Corps officials were coming here to look over the lay of the land, was just one of his contributions to aid the establishment of a military function in the Sandhills.

For years, he has been preparing the way for such an eventuality. It's fairly simple to follow his line of strategy. There would have been no establishment of the headquarters here if there had not been war. There might not have been this war if the United States had earlier cooperated in the anti-aggressor movement, if the United States had fortified its Pacific islands, if leaders in the United States had not advocated appeasement of Hitler and his allies. And if there had been no war, this headquarters unit would not have come here.

So "Our Bob's" strategy was apparently well worked out.

In 1938, Senator Reynolds returned from Europe and the New York Times (December 24, 1938) carried the following story:

"Senator Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina, back from a six weeks tour of Europe, declared in an interview today that America must cease its 'hate wave' against the European dictatorships.

"He reported that he found Germany and Italy prosperous, with everyone employed and sufficient to eat. Germany under Hitler, he said, 'owns' Europe and is making rapid strides."

The Congressional Record contains other words of praise from Reynolds for Hitler, Mussolini and Franco. He did not neglect Japan, either. In February, 1939, he was a leader against the proposal to fortify the island of Guam and was quoted in the Baltimore Sun of March 15, 1939, as saying "Japan restored order in Manchuria."

He is on record as opposing practically every step on preparation for war that the United States tried to make. He is on record as opposing the policy of collective action to try to stop Hitler and perhaps prevent war. He is on record opposing lend-lease aid to those countries fighting against Hitler. He has been shown to maintain close contact with America's own fascist "Cliveden Set."

(When the President recently charged that America had its own Cliveden set of fascist appeasers, he declared that newspapermen would know the group to whom he was referring. The eminent and fearless journalist, Bruce Minton, in a copyright article named the "Friendship House" of Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean as the American Cliveden set. Senator Reynolds is linked to this set, and is named by Minton, along with Congressmen Fish and Dies, as among the people referred to by the President.

Senator Reynolds has financed and promoted his own native fascist group, "The Vindicators" and has published a paper of the same name which follows closely the Coughlinite and other fascist lines.

As recently as March 5, Senator Reynolds took a slap at the government's policy of aiding our allies—meaning of helping the Soviets push back Hitler, of assisting China to combat the Japs, and of aiding Britain throughout the world.

Indeed, Senator Reynolds must be given full credit for doing all in his power to create a situation which brought this war industry to the Sandhills.

ASCAP Sues for \$500 From Local Tavern

Because a soldier band played a couple of tunes written by members of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers at Scottie's Tavern during maneuvers, ASCAP has brought suit against Alton Scott, seeking \$500 for failure of the band to pay royalty on the music.

Book Review

By MRS. E. V. HUGHES

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, flying with a French Army reconnaissance crew in May, 1940, told himself that the flight to Arras would be futile in the face of the shockingly unsavory peace which they were facing. Only six out of twenty-three crews had returned in the last three weeks. Three men, a pilot, an observer and a gunner, made up the sortie and went out to almost certain death at the stern command of their major. One evening of grim war flying is the time of "Flight To Arras." The spectacle is much more dramatic than was the story of the craft of flying in "Wind, Sand and Stars," or the risks the first night fliers faced in the novel, "Night Flight." Saint-Exupery's three books give us a glimpse at the gauge marking the rise of peril for airmen since the airplane was perfected to bring man closer to man.

"War-by-the-blueprint had broken down." Group 2-33 had been ordered out on a low-altitude sortie over German-held Arras to play a game of Cops and Robbers. Saint Exupery thought then of the Jewish pilot, Is. real, the most courageous and most modest man he knew, who had not come back and a premonition seized him. They went up to 33,000 feet and traveled at 325 miles an hour to avoid being a vulnerable target for the enemy anti-aircraft. But the throttles froze, drenching the pilot with defeat. Throughout the flight, suspense is sustained in the author's reflections on experiences out of the past, which move before his eyes: his bill, let during the cold winter of '39, Hochede and the stop watch he would not trust another man to borrow, the meaning of bread, France weighed down by ineffectualness, the common denominator of all the aspirations of mankind, and the confusion of evacuation, "a clinging viscous memory" of "such a war as was never dreamt of."

The reflections are enriched by Saint-Exupery's present experience with life near to death, as they drove 500 miles an hour to an altitude of 2,000 feet, to observe burning Arras and become a bird of prey for the enemy. It was like being "naked and running the gauntlet." He had thought he would be concerned for his body when this moment came, but he discovered that his body was not He—amazed that what he thought was moralizing before was truth when face to face with death. He feared not death but himself.

Then the test came and was followed by triumph and victorious exultation—resurrection. He was overwhelmed, not by victory, but by his re-birth. Had he turned back a second sooner, he would have missed that moment of self-realization. A writer, he could have had himself removed from Group 2-33. But he loved Group 2-33; he was a part of it, not just observing it. It made him a shepherd of fleeing peoples—victorious in defeat. And he concluded that if men would save their country, preserve its spiritual heritage and its people, they must bear all their love toward that end. He pledged himself and to defend his people, to never preach or bear witness against them and to refrain for condemning other democracies for not standing by them. This is not an apology for France but an awareness of reproach. He realized that had France stood for the communion of men, as it claimed to it could have saved the world. In that moment over Arras it came to him—had France been France other democracies would have supported her. Now each nation in turn took her chance and failed, never wholly grasping the vision of that spiritual communion. Read "Flight to Arras" and study Saint-Exupery's interpretation of failure and the significance of man, as he looked into the face of death and came alive to a realization of the essential role of sacrifice, of charity, of love.

(Editor's Note: "Flight to Arras" is among the recent volumes added to the shelves of the Southern Pines Library.)

"General Known" and Other Horses Coming

Four of Ernest White's Lyndon Farm's horses, from Syracuse, N. Y., including General Known, who won the Moore County Hounds championship award at the third annual Southern Pines Horse Show last month, are expected in the Sandhills, at Mile-A-Way stables the last of this month, probably to stay the rest of the season. The Whites plan to spend some time here during April.

PINEHURST

Mrs. J. C. Morrison of Raleigh is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. S. R. Ransdell.

Students home for the spring vacation of the University of N. C. are Misses Eloise Wicker and Olive Hennessy and Messrs Jesse Cole, Bill Viall, and Joe Montesanti, Jr.

Frederick F. Hale who spent the winter in Florida has arrived for his annual spring visit and is at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Thompson.

Mrs. Robinson Cook has returned from a visit in California.

Mrs. L. G. Sounders spent the week in Raleigh as guest of her brother, L. M. Bates.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Porter of New Haven, Conn., are guests of Mrs. Aras Williams at her home, Byfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Raeford Hutchinson of Charlotte spent the week-end with Mrs. Hutchinson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Colin McKenzie.

Mr. and Mrs. Eberhard Faber were hosts to a group of friends on Saturday evening at Twin Gables in celebration of Mr. Faber's 83rd birthday.

Mrs. Kate Gibbon and little granddaughter, Margaret McKelway will leave the first of the week for Jacksonville, Fla., to visit Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gibbon.

Miss Viola Beshara, niece of Mrs.

S. A. Razook, has returned from Haskell, Okla., where she visited for several weeks.

Mrs. Brewster Macon of Charlotte spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Fields.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Cote, Jr., and their children, Carolyn, Joseph L., III, John and Edward of Greensbury, Pa., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. John M. Jamison.

Edmond F. Wright of Washington, D. C., was a recent guest of his sister, Mrs. James How.

March 17th was the beginning of a campaign in which the friends of the Boy Scouts of America will be given an opportunity to contribute to this work for the youth. Our Scouts have entered into the national defense work to a tremendous extent. Checks should be sent to C. W. Thomas, treasurer of Local Council, Boy Scouts of America.

George T. Dunlap, Jr., has returned from a trip to New York.

Wedding Invitations

Invitations were issued this week to the wedding of Miss Jane Sanford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Appleton Warren, to George Mixer, Jr., which will take place Saturday the fourth of April at four o'clock in the Village Chapel.

They Mean STOP!

Those blinker lights at street intersections with U. S. Highway No. One mean STOP! Chief Ed. Newton said yesterday. The lenses of the blinkers on the cross streets have been changed from yellow to red to emphasize this, he said. The red blinkers mean stop, look both ways, and then go across the highway, the Chief said. Cars going back and forth on the highway are greeted with yellow blinker lights, which mean, slow down so you can stop if you have to.

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