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the best means of doing your best in helping your sons and friends on the fighting fronts. Fig.

CHAPTER XIII

The Princess Meridel and country arrive in Canada to visit sins arrive in Canada to visit Baron Rudi de Morpin, her uncle Madame Fabre, who had employ-ed him, turned the estate over to the baron as his own. Roger Fa-bre, nephew of Madame Fabre CAF on furlough fell in love with the Princess. Her cousins found CAF on furlough fell in love with the Princess. Her cousins found a photo of Roger's brother, whom they knew as a Nazi. When the Princess learned that the baron was not the owner of the castle, they all left. Roger soon found them and had them return to the castle. Michel, Roger's brother, escaped from a prison camp, came to the prison camp and in a fight with Roger, escaped in his car. with Roger, escaped in his car. Alarm was sounded. Michel re-turned and informed Madame turned and informed Madame Fabre that he was a captain in the British secret service and not a German spy. She had never lost faith in him and wanted him to stay— she knew the Princess and Michel were in love, even though his brother was to marry the Princess.

She saw the red temper rising in him and, knowing it of old, recalling many such encounters and their unhappy outcome, she fought to control her own not too gentle spirit.

"Maybe I didn't believe so much as I—I loved you in spite of anything that seemed to be against you."

"That is what I mean. But it was not so with her."

"Can you expect a girl to go caring for a man she met for on caring for a man she met for a few hours on a mountain or something, in some Ruritanian land, long long ago, even when that man seems beyond doubt to be a traitor and worse?"

"Yes," said Michel softly. "Yes, I can expect that. A mountain

"Yes," said Michel softly. "Yes, I can expect that. A mountain you say, madame—but you do not know wrat a magic mountain; a Ruritanian land, you say—but you cannot dream what a magic land it was; for a few hours, you say, but you — you must know that such things as this are noe measured in hours. We knew each other always; we were to love each other always."

"It was so said?"
"It was so understood."

"It was so said?"
"It was so understood."
"But Meridel—I am now being a traitor to Roger—I know Meridel has never ceased to care for you."

"I watched her tonight in the y bridal gown. I saw my ier bend and kiss her. I knew brother bend and kiss her. I knew then it was time for me to go." "Because your pride was hurt. Because you expected her to be-leve in you, no matter what hap-pened."

"Not entirely that," he said wearily. "Roger loves her. He's a great lad, Roger — one of the best, the salt of the earth and also one of the noblest of the noble breed with whom he flies. Well, suppose she still does care for men, can I come back now and—"
"You men."

wearily. "Roger loves her. He's a great lad, Roger — one of the best, the salt of the earth and also one of the noblest of the noble breed with whom he flies. Well, suppose she still does care for men, can I come back now and—"
"You mean—you are stepping aside for Roger? You'd give up your—"
"The only great dream I ever had, madame," he said, and his voice was flat and toneless now. Like Oberlieutenant Faber's voice. "I'm going away tonight—now. You are not to tell snyone that I was here. That is understood. When—when they are married, I shall return—"
"Why, you headstrong—"
"My, you headstrong—"
"My, you headstrong—"
"My, you headstrong—"
"My, you headstrong—"
"State way I ki I baut that's the way it is, Tante Mimi—and that is the way it will be. I don't flatter myself I can take her faster myself I can take her her from Roger and steal his happiness, but I shall not even run the risk."

He stood up. He came to her and bent and kissed her. "It is goodbye for only a little while. I have some time in Canada before I have to report again; I may even get a post rere. I don't flatter was no use trying. It is part of me. It will be always there. "We alm talk when we get home," said Roger held, so that three hands were clasped together, hers so promote it was difference—for us?"
"Only a shadowy thing," he said, "A few hours against all my love; a few words—and they word. "He will not come back — not were that I was here. That is understant that you told me so long ago?"

"He will not come back — not word. I kee the flow your wedding dress—and I knew."

"They had come to the Cramber and the two flows."

"They had come to the Cramber and that we will be always there. "Why, you mead to trun, do you?"

"He will not come back — not well not come have."

"They had come to the care the her thanks."

They had come to the Cramber and the way home."

They had come to the Cramber and the way home."

They had come to the cramber and the way home."

They had come to the cramber and the way home."

They had come to the cramber and

even get a post rere. I don't know."

"Don't go, Michel! Don't go!"

"What! You're running out on ammunition. You're turning soft on me again. These are new tactics, and clever ones, but I have learned a trick or two myself and I will not fall for this. I shall go as I came—quietly. And you will not speak. Promise!"

The old eyes burned at him and there was no softness about her mouth, but that was only for a moment for suddenly it smiled—a rare, sweet smile.

"I promise, you mule — you lovable, splendid donkey. But I tell you, it's a very foolish thing you do."

"Neither the first nor, I think

'Neither the first nor, I think

"Neither the first nor, I think the last. Farewell, ma tante."

He retrieved the hat, turned at the door to smile at her, to show her the wild imps in his eyes. "We always quarrel, don't we?" he called. "And always make up."

make up."

Meridel and Roger walked over the big bill that lies between Philibert and the village of St. Didier des Montagnes. It was a narrow path among the great appruces and cedars that grew so thickly on the mountainside. In winter the trail was usually closed by the drifted snow, but now one could easily walk over the crust. They were on the way to the house of Garard Chamberland, the government agent to bring acuse of Garard Chamberland, the government agent, to bring back Pol Martin and Rosine who had been invited there to have supper with the little Chamber-lands.

The stars were dim, but the track lay clearly marked through

"I have looked there."
"And have you found it?"
She did not answer, but he knew from her silence that she had looked in vain.

had looked in vain.

"You told me once," said Roger, "that only one key could unlock your heart. You remember?"

"Yes." It was only a whisper.
"I remember well."

"And I have not that key?
You must answer me."

"I cannot. I tell you I cannot."
She was crying a little, but if
he felt any pity for rer he showed
none.

he felt any pity for rer he showed none.

"But in a little while, in a few days, you intend to become my wife."

"You know that I accepted that long ago. Why do we have to talk about it now?"
time, and I have waited and "Because it is so near the waited and hoped constantly that I would find in you the answer to my love. The answer hasn't come. "But in time—oh Roger, why must we talk like this?"

"We must," he said doggedly, "before it is too late. We must have this thing settled."

"I do not see how it ever can be settled, What would you have me do?"

"Michel is still in your heart,

me do?"
"Michel is still in your heart,

splendid and shining had failed for them, and both felt that in some way the blame lay between them. He thought, I should not have always been questioning her love. I should not have been so exacting, so greedy. I should have taken the wondrous gift she offered me and thanked God for it. But I could not. I could not.

And Meridel thought, What is wrong with me that I cannot love him? Respect, liking, loyal-ty, admiration—all these things I have for him. But not love. Per- Wilson counties.

Thirty-nine feeder calves have been shipped from Haywood county to 4-H club members in Lenoir, Greene, Craven and have for him. But not love. Per- Wilson counties.

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the darkness of the wood. From the time they left Philibert they had talked little. Both of them felt constraint, uneasiness. Roger, always ready with gay talk and laughter, was strangely silent. Meridel, walking along being him, looked up at his shadowy profile and longed to say mething that would break the tension. But she could find no words to say. And she thought, Is my heart empty of things to tell him—so soon empty? This is not the way of love.

He said at last, "You cried tonight, Meridel. Your tears fell on the lovely gown that is being made ready for your wedding. You did not think I saw you. It was when you left the room after my aunt had gone upstairs. You first looked at yourself lin the mirror and then you cried. Why did you cry?"

"I—I do not know, Roger. I really do not know, Roger. I really do not know, Dong girls."

"I—I do not know, Roger. I really do not know, Dong girls." barked srarply. Those sounds died and then in that great stilfness they heard a deep voice singing, coming toward them will a fox died and then in that great stilfness they heard a deep voice singing, coming toward them around bend ain the path. They froze in their tracks and the little ones clutched Meridel's hands. "Bonsoir, Nigaud! Bonsoir, Fricot!"

"Not like that. It was a different thing." He was silent for a moment. Then he said what madame hal said that night after his departure: "Un qui aime; un qui se laisse aimer." One who loves; one who lets herself be loved. Is it so with us Meridel?

I want to know."

"Oh Roger, why do you ask me a thing like that? How can one know? How can one be sure?"

"The answer is in your heart I think."

"I have looked there."

this farce, Bonhomme Fricot?
We know you."
"I was the laughing soldier," said he, "I gave the real soldier my old clothes and shaved off my beard and cut off my hair and now you know why I laughed—because the soldier tried to kill Bonhomme Fricot and himself was killed instead. You see, I work for the King of England and I must sometimes do strange things."

"But it is brave!" cried Pol Martin. "It is grand. Did you come here to visit us?"
"It's no use, Mike," said Roger stepping forward, finding his brother's hand in the starlight. "You were going the wrong way. You don't need to run, do you?"
"I talked with Tante Mimi. I—"You were not going because

hour."

"You did not mean it w you said, as you left me th that you would not return?"

"You knew I did not. It written, all this—long ago. thing could ever change it."

(THE END)

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PLANES . . . family
How many families will buy
private airplanes after the war?
If anyone knows the answer to that question it should be the aviation experts in the large airplane companies, in the government and in aviation associations But a review of statements made by these authorities indicates that your guess of the statements are supported by the statements and the statements are supported by the statement of th by these authorities indicates that your guess or mine is apt to be just about as accurate as theirs.

By DON ROBINSON

be just about as accurate as theirs.

William Burden, assistant to the secretary of commerce for air., according to a study of "Aviation Predictions" published by Simonds Accessories, Inc., predicts that within five to ten years there will be 450,000 privately owned planes in this country, which is the high among predictions. S. Paul Johnston, Washington representative of the Curtiss Wright Corporation, gives the conservative low estimate of 20,000 planes. The National Resources Planning Board estimates 25,000 while Charles I. Stanton, civil aeronautics administrator, thinks there will be 300,000 private planes in active service within four years after the end of the war.

As for prices, the experts are

"Eh! Bonhomme Fricot!" called Pol Martin in his shrill soprano. "Bonhomme Fricot, what are you doing here?"

The song perished. They saw only a shadowy figure in the path before them, the glimmer of white at his throat. After a moment he spoke, reluctantly it seemed, yet with laughter in his voice: "Are you sure, Pol Martin and Rosine, that it is Bonhomme Fricot you have here?"

"Yes, yes, we are sure indeed!"

"It could not be the laughing soldier then?"

"The laughing soldier would not know our names," pointed out Rosine. "Why do you play this farce, Bonhomme Fricot? We know you."

"I was the laughing soldier," said he. "I gave the real soldier my old clothes and shaved off my beard and cut off my hair and

The number of planes sold after the war will depend almost entirely on the public demand. There will certainly be little problem about quantity production of all the planes the people will buy with the plane-producing facilities we now have in this country. SAFETY

country.

But the public demand will be But the public demand will be governed to a great extent by cost and safety—and that still is a production problem. Costs will undoubtedly come down rapidly and all sorts of safety devices have been invented which will make private planes much safer than they were before the war. William Piper president of the Piper Aircraft corporation, one of the leading manufacturers of private planes, says: "The postwar private plane will be practically fool-proof, but not darn fool proof."

Perhaps we can never expect

Perhaps we can never expect a plane which is "darn fool proof" but many people who are now timid about venturing into

how timid about venturing into the air, will want to see a long demonstration of safe flying be-fore buying a family plane. Although the perfection of the use of the helicopter, according to the experts will take some time I imagine it will be the he-licopter, or something similar. time I imagine it will be the helicopter, or something similar, which finally will bring real popularity to private flying. I think most individuals look for the day when they can learn to fly in the way which W. Lawrence LePage, president of the Platt-LePage aircraft company, says they will be able to do with the helicopter. He says: "A novice need only lift the machine a few inches off the ground at first, hover, move around and land. As he gains more confidence he will rise further and fly forward, backward, and sideways until he is accustomed to his controls, the feeling of flying, and judgment of landing."

EUROPE EUROPE \$100

Undoubtedly the biggest development immediately after the war will be commercial rather than private flying. Plans are now in the making for gigantic expansion of the use of big pasenger planes and frieght planes flying to all corners of the world In addition, small planes and helicopters will be operated to carry people short distances — in many instances to replace bus 

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Manpower Priorities Plan for North Carolina;

1. That relief be given to approximately thirty-three thousand retail establishments in the State during the Christmas rush periol, from November 1, 1944, to January 1, 1945, by a twenty per cent increase in employment ceilings in those establishments employing 25 or more. The amount of increase for firms ememploying under 25 will be left to the discretion of the area lirector. Post office and Railway Express offices will be given relief during the period at the discretion of the State WMC director.

2. That upon request to WMC.

cretion of the State WMC director.

2. That upon requst to WMC substantiated by record of alsenteeism, employers be allowed to discharge and replace workers who are habitually absent from the job without such replacements counting against the employer's hiring quota.

3. That provided employers have discharged their responsi-

3. That provided employers have discharged their responsi-bilities as to release of workers they be allowed to replace work-ers who are granted a release by the War Manpower Commis-

lines.

Again the experts are not entirely in agreement as to the rates which will be charged immediately after the war as well as ten years after. Estimates of domestic passenger rates immediately after the war vary from 7.5 cents per mile to 4.5 cents a mile and predictions of rates 10 years from now range from 2.5c per mile to 5c per mile.

As for overses travel, the second

per mile to 5c per mile.

As for overseas travel, the experts say the cost will be from 8 to 10 cents per mile right after the war and may go down to 5 cents within ten years.

Glenn L. Martin, president of the Glenn L. Martin company, says his company is already planning a 250,000-pound commercial air vessel on which passengers will be able to make a round trip from New York to London for \$400.

A. N. Kemp, president of American Airlines, is even more op-timistic about low rates. He says 'In the not too far distant future "In the not too far distant future we can expect rates which will provide fares within the reach of all, on planes cruising upwards of four hundred miles an hour. This will permit fares of approximately \$25 from New York to Chicago, \$75 to Los Angeles, \$100 to Europe, \$75 to Mexico City and \$7 to Washington."

MODIFICATION OF PRIORITY
REFERRAL PLAN APPROVED
BY STATE MANAGEMENTLABOR COMMITTEE AND
STATE MANPOWER PRIORITIES COMMITTEE.
On the recommendation of the
State Director who is the chairman, the State Manpower Priorities Committee and the State
Management - Labor Committee
at their meeting on September
28 and September 21, respectively, approved the following modifications in the operation of the
Manpower Priorities Plan for
North Carolina:

1. That relief he size the size of the approval of the area director, employers shown good faith in keeping

That subject to the approval of the area director, employers of 25 workers or less who have shown good faith in keeping within the ceiling set by the Manpower Priorities Committee will not be subject to the restrictions of the usual fifteen percent hiring quota for replacement.

Many small employers who will need additional workers for the

need additional workers for the holiday business should make re-quest for the privilege of getting an increase of 20 per cent in their ceiling for the holiday per-

Employers of less than 25, who are showing good faith by keeping within the ceiling set by the Manpower Committee, may upon approval of the Area Director not be subject to the restrictions of the usual 15 per cent hiring quota for replacements. Such employers should make their Such employers should make their request through the local offices of the United States Employment

Some small employers have not Some small employers have not as yet established a ceiling of employment for their firms. Unless this is done promptly, they will not be eligible to have the restriction of the usual 15 per restriction of the usual 15 per cent hiring quota for replacement removed. These small employers are urged to contact the local Employment Office for informa-tion as to how to establish a ceil-

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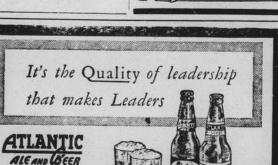
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