

Paul . . . thanked God, and took courage.—Acts, XXVIII., 15b.

(The text for today is suggested by Rev. Samuel H. Williams, pastor, Varick Memorial, Brooklyn. The next text will be suggested by Rev. Allen S. Hedgecock, Minister, 1st Moravian Church, New York.)

HIS STEPCHILD—

By Burris Jenkins Jr.



Air Force Academy

DEFENSE SECRETARY FORRESTAL has given his enthusiastic approval to a proposal that an Air Force Academy, similar in scope and standards to the historic Military and Naval Academies at West Point and Annapolis, be established as an essential part of the national defense system.

This gives impetus to a project which the Hearst Newspapers originally sponsored many years ago as an important instrument of national defense, and which they now believe more than ever is indispensable to the security and the peace of the country.

The Air Force of the United States has now been established as an independent branch of the armed forces of the country.

It should now be treated in all respects as a mature and major security establishment, which it so effectively proved itself to be in the last war and which it will unquestionably be in any future war.

For much too long a time, the Air Force was relegated to an inferior and subordinate position among our national defense establishments, and was

not regarded by the older services with either respect or understanding.

The national experience in the last war, when the Air Force was an integral and indispensable factor in the ultimate victory, changed that attitude in some ways, but not all.

The continuing obstructions placed in the way of the proposed National Air Force Academy offer convincing illustration of one of the antagonistic attitudes concerning military aviation which has not been changed, and which should be changed in the special and vital interest of national safety.

A great training institution for the Air Force, of the high character and dignity and prestige of West Point and Annapolis, has become one of the urgent requirements of the independent aeronautical service, and it should be established without delay—for there has already been too much delay in this vital matter for the good of the country.

Any further delay will amount to dereliction.

It should be established in the most advantageous area of the United States, with all factors of

climate, space, topography and combat training facilities being duly considered.

It should be established somewhere in the great and vast Western area of the United States, preferably in California or Texas where every conceivable condition of modern aerial warfare can be given clinical study.

There is such a vast expanse of land and sky and sea, of mountains and desert, of climatic range and technical and tactical challenge, that air fighters trained in such an atmosphere would be without peer in the world.

The United States would thus gain the degree of air supremacy in the world which would assure us of victory in any war and in all probability make all war unnecessary and avoidable.

The authorization of a National Air Force Academy, as Secretary Forrestal now urges and as the Hearst Newspapers have so long advocated, should be one of the first acts of the new Congress.

It will reflect great credit upon the Congress and be an important factor in assuring the peace and security and happiness of the country.