

*This is the place where the WAR BIRDS gang and the editor
get together every month to spin the vocal prop.*

THE COCKPIT
(WAR BIRDS 10/33)

HERE is the most important announcement of the year. Sixteen years ago, the youth of America climbed out of civvies and into khaki. Overnight, we learned to substitute the bugle for the alarm clock. Our ears caught the distant thunder of the guns. We rode to them, we marched to them—and we flew to them.

Some of us didn't? Right! We didn't, in the flesh. But even those of us who were babes in arms and those of us who were still unborn played a part. We were—and are—one with the spirit of a great nation; a spirit that does not exist in the past or the future, but which exists always as a vital, unconquerable force. The youth of today, and not the youth of yesterday, would be the wearer of War Birds wings had Mars delayed the thrust of his flaming sword for one more decade and a half. The difference between two generations is merely that of opportunity.

Those who served have had their day. Year by year, the old spirit is oozing out of them. Many of them have died. There are gaps in the ranks of yesterday's war birds.

And the thing that they stood for is too precious a thing to lose.

Think what it would mean if some radio wizard would perfect a device that would bring back to us the sound waves of sixteen years ago — gun thunder in the dawn, bugle notes tearing the misty fabric of dreams, motors droning the De Profundis in the blue, boys and men toasting to eternity in the brave, silly, glorious words of Youth!

We can't have it. No radio wizard can give it to us. But we can have the spirit behind all of these things. We can tune in on the wild note of adventure and patriotism and sacrifice —and we have been doing it.

We have captured much of the wild thrill in the stories that have appeared in WAR BIRDS—stories written by veterans who lived the epic and who remember. But it isn't enough.

The readers of WAR BIRDS are of the breed that, in another day, would have ridden flaming skies. Their selection of reading matter demonstrates it. The electric something that called their blood brothers to war calls them to the re-living of it.

And it is to their hands that the torch of '17 is flung. To them falls the responsibility of closing up the gaps. That flaming spirit that America took into the skies of '17 and '18 must not be allowed to die. We won't let it.

This month a new organization comes into being—an organization with a name that was born of '17 and that has been preserved on the masthead of the oldest air-war magazine— WAR BIRDS.

Many thousands of young Americans read this magazine every month. We want them all in the organization which we are sponsoring. Several hundred world war pilots and observers also answer the reader roll-call. We want them, too. But, since it is the flaming spirit of the true War Bird that we are striving to perpetuate, we are not satisfied with "joiners." We do not merely want members. We are dedicated to something bigger than that.

A man must qualify for War Birds. His membership is not a gift. The war bird of yesterday won his wings. It is but fair that the war bird of 1933 do the same.

There were ships and guns that shared the glory of those by-gone years as well as men. A man who has the spirit that made the air service will know about those ships and those guns and those men. In knowing of them and remembering them, he makes them immortal; he preserves the spirit of the thing for which they stood.

On the following page, you will find a statement of what is required of an applicant for membership in War Birds.

No one will wear the War Birds wings or carry the War Birds card who does not know of, and respect, the things that make up the life of a sky warrior. There is an examination to be passed before you qualify—and it is not an easy examination. But, when you have passed it, you will know the glory of really “belonging.” Your wings will not be a mockery—they will stand for something tangible and you will have won the right to wear them.

The bugle is blowing now, the ships are warming on the lines. Read the instructions printed on the following page and swing into action at once!

In the days ahead, qualified War Birds will share in many good things; free copies of genuine war photographs, discounts and special prices on aeronautical equipment, special rates on flying courses and a hundred and one other privileges that will cause the War Birds card to grow in value with the passing months.

But, more than all this, we will be keeping alive the flaming spirit of those who were our brothers in blood during a long yesterday.

There's the whistle. . . . Let's go!

APPLY FOR YOUR WAR BIRDS MEMBERSHIP NOW Instructions

Memberships in War Birds are neither sold nor given away; they must be earned.

- (1) Clip the coupon from this issue and mail it to Wing Commander, War Birds, 100 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y., properly and completely filled out.
- (2) If you want the free booklets described elsewhere in this issue enclose five cents in coin or stamps to cover postage and handling. You do not have to order these booklets if you do not want them, but they will be helpful in passing the tests.
- (3) The Adjutant will mail you your examination questions and problems. They will be based on information contained in the previously mentioned booklets and in current issues of WAR BIRDS. Your answers to the questions and the problems should be mailed back promptly to Headquarters.
- (4) If your grade in the examination is satisfactory, the Wing Commander's adjutant will mail you a handsome card of membership certifying to the fact that you have qualified for “War Birds” and are entitled to the privileges of membership.
- (5) You will be assigned to a squadron and your squadron designation will appear upon your card. That is all there is to it but we want * to emphasize the fact that War Birds is a patriotic organization solely. We have nothing to sell. For all purposes of the organization, the War Birds card is sufficient. It is the member's identification and obtains for him all of the privileges allowed to members.

As a convenience, however, to those members who would like silver lapel wings we are making arrangements with a manufacturer to supply the War Birds emblem at a nominal price. Future issues of WAR BIRDS will contain further details on such insignia as well as on the various other plans now being formulated.

There is in prospect at present a FREE distribution to members of:

- (1) Genuine war pictures
- (2) A special discount price list on planes and equipment
- (3) A discount price on flying instruction
- (4) Conventions for members
- (5) Special services of a research bureau.

This is but a beginning. A membership in War Birds is going to mean something. Get in on the ground floor now and be one of the originals.

Mail your application TODAY.

A FREE LIBRARY FOR YOU

You may have the following booklets free by mailing your request promptly to the Wing Commander, War Birds, 100 Fifth Ave., New York City, N. Y., with five cents to cover postage and packing.

WAR PLANES OF ALL NATIONS *—a booklet containing the full dope on 135 war time planes; speed, horse-power, performance.

PLANE FACTS—a war pilot's frank discussion of little known phases of flying in France.

SYNTHETIC ACES—an expose of the fakers who pose as war flyers with tips on how to unmask them.

ARCHIE — the complete story of anti-aircraft; its successes and its failures, with extracts from anarchy gunner's dope book.

These booklets will help you to pass your examination for admission to War Birds. Don't delay in placing your order. Send your request today on the coupon form provided below.

Future plans for the War Birds Club:

In the days ahead, qualified War Birds will share in many good things; free copies of genuine war photographs, discounts and special prices on aeronautical equipment, special rates on flying courses and a hundred and one other privileges that will cause the War Birds card to grow in value with the passing months.

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