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THE UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

GRADUATION My 1933

Capt. Adolphus Andrews



INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

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Notes
used by
Captain Adolphus Andrews, U.S.N.
in delivering his address
at the Graduation Exercises
May, 1933

Your Excellency, Mr. Secretary, Officers of the Staff and War College Classes, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today marks another anniversary of the Naval War College.

Due to the detachment of Admiral Laning as President, it has devolved upon me to address you. I feel a certain hesitancy in doing this, fully realizing my limitations for such an undertaking. Before leaving, he requested that I express to you officers his keen disappointment and regret in not being here this morning to bid you farewell.

In passing, I would like to pay a tribute to Admiral Laning, in which I am sure all of you will concur. As President of this College for the last three years, he has carried on not only the highest traditions of our service but has proven himself a worthy successor to his distinguished predecessors from Admiral Luce to Admiral Pringle. By his untiring energy, his scholarly attainments, his thorough knowledge of his profession, and by his splendid leadership, he has set a high standard for each of us. Therefore, we owe him a debt of gratitude, for we have learned much from him, not only by precept but by example.

All of the Navy exists for the Fleet. If an emergency arises it is our Fleet which is to uphold the honor and integrity of our country. Every naval activity, especially the War College, not only exists for the Fleet but is and should be closely coordinated with it. Each activity helps to train officers and men so that when the time comes each may have the background, the thorough education, and training necessary to handle that Fleet efficiently. Officers now holding the highest positions in our Fleet and in shore establishments are graduates of this institution, and it is here that they added to their service experience a thorough understanding of the sound principles which they are using today to assist our country in carrying on its policies.

In these days of uncertainty, of reduction of navies, and limitation of armaments, even though our Navy be built to treaty strength, the personnel remains as the essential and important factor.

Our country rightly expects every naval officer to do his duty to the very limit and to be an embodiment of absolute loyalty and efficiency. When the time comes for action, either in peace or war, no excuse will be accepted for an officer's lack of judgment or knowledge of his profession. I do not believe any nation has in its Navy enlisted men who are the equal of the American seamen. It does not take a war to bring out the splendid attributes of these men, for not a day passes during times of peace that the American bluejacket as well as the

officer does not show in himself a marked degree of unselfishness, devotion to duty, and true, red-blooded Americanism. It is therefore for us as officers to so fit ourselves that we may be qualified to lead such men and to handle to the maximum efficiency the ships which are placed in our hands.

The War College is an institution which has advanced steadily for nearly fifty years. It has attempted to keep pace with the rapidly changing international and national conditions, not only naval but in all subjects affecting the welfare of our country. Graduates of this institution, therefore, should be relied upon to aid wherever possible those responsible leaders of our government who today are trying to bring stability to the people of our own country and the world. It is our duty to contribute all we can to the successful solution of these problems and especially in such naval matters as may have a bearing upon the present and future prestige of our country.

You gentlemen of the graduating classes have worked hard and are to be commended for your excellent service. It is hoped that the influence of the War College has been such that upon leaving here you can approach your new duties with greater confidence and perhaps with a more thorough knowledge of your profession. On behalf of the Staff and myself, I wish you God-speed and every success.

The record of our Navy is resplendent with officers who have gone down in history not only as great naval officers but as

great Americans. Our Navy today is what they made it. Coupled with them we have had the good fortune in having great civilian leaders who have helped to build up our Navy, believing that a strong American Navy is the surest guarantee for the peace of the world.

Beginning with Theodore Roosevelt, the members of this distinguished family have served pre-eminently not only our nation but the Navy for the last generation. Our present Commander-in-Chief, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, understands thoroughly the needs and problems not only of this nation but of our Navy.

Added to this we have Secretary Swanson, who has been interested in and conversant with naval affairs for over twenty years, and today we are proud to welcome another Roosevelt. We look upon him not only as a brother officer, but one who by his years of service with us clearly understands our problems. Surely, our Navy rests in secure hands. It is a privilege and pleasure for me to present to you: The Honorable Henry Latrobe Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy.