

# Fairbanks Advocates Better Film Envoys

BY WILLIAM H. MOORING

Lieut. Commander Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., soon to leave the U. S. Navy after four years' active service, is not afraid to speak out even at some risk of being misunderstood.



He told the Hollywood Women's Press Club that the American movie business is "apt to get itself in bad abroad by making the wrong kind of films."

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. — a top film star before he went to the Navy — is about to return to the movies. He intends shortly to produce some films on his own. He knows, therefore, that any criticisms he looses against the Hollywood motion picture industry are liable to fly back to his own pigeon cotes to rest.

Hollywood movie people, however, are hyper-sensitive. Brian Donlevy, whose war services were rendered in a strictly civilian capacity, was quick to jump on the Lieutenant Commander. "I am sick and tired," he said, "of listening to people who knock Hollywood. Why, even when the rest of the world insisted that Hitler meant no harm, Hollywood was turning out such pictures as 'Confessions of a Nazi Spy' — now it is making rehabilitation films."

Because I happen to know and respect both Fairbanks and Donlevy, it is clear to me that no personal animus touches off this flare-up.

It is natural that Fairbanks, who served as liaison officer between the United States and British forces, at one time led a party of British Commandos into action and later rendered diplomatic as well as military service to his country, should have cultivated a point of view different to that of Mr. Donlevy. Then, too, Donlevy evidently had not received a well-balanced précis of the Lieutenant Commander's lecture.

What Douglas Fairbanks said was this: "The motion picture can become the United States' most important ambassador. While it is true that many of our films do credit to what we call 'the American way,' too many other of our films do not mirror American life as they should do, and the American people are apt to be shown in a bad light to peoples abroad."

Too many Hollywood movies dealing with gangsters, crooked politics, immoral behavior and so forth, he pointed out, are responsible for giving foreigners an impression that criminal and immoral instincts get the upper hand in American behavior. He was not discussing, as Mr. Donlevy seemed to believe, the political marksmanship of the Holy-

## Radio Award Goes To Catholic Hour

New York — (NC) — The Catholic Hour, radio program produced by the National Council of Catholic Men and broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company, has been selected to receive one of seven citations of merit awarded to the radio industry during National Brotherhood Week, February 16 to 23. It has been announced here.

The award, for fostering religious tolerance and brotherhood, was made for the program, "Letter from Paul," a radio dramatization written by the Rev. Timothy J. Mulvey, O.M.I., of the Oblate Scholasticate, Washington, D. C., and broadcast several months ago by the Catholic Hour. The seven citations of merit are given by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

wood movies. Douglas Fairbanks probably would confirm my finding — from foreign audience reactions — that movies attacking Nazism have often been so vociferous they did more harm than good. Invariably they over-sounded the same particular bugle.

Instead of presenting films in which foreign audiences might see honest-to-goodness Americanism in practice, Hollywood has tended to use the screen for direct preachments of American ideals in which attitudes and slogans tumbled over each other.

This is precisely the message Douglas Fairbanks left with the women press writers of Hollywood. Men like the Lieutenant Commander have seen for themselves just how much harm can be done to American abroad by films in which immorality, divorce, deceit and conceit are either justified or disproportionately pictured as typically American.

If Hollywood will now listen to what such men have to say and make room for producers, directors, writers and actors who, like Douglas Fairbanks, are keen to defend the great medium of motion pictures against further abuse, the nation as well as the movie industry will be well served.

## Pope Accepts 2 Snow White Lambs in Rite Over 1,000 Years Old

Rome — (RNS) — Two snow white lambs, blessed with special prayers, were presented to Pope Pius XII on St. Agnes Day in conformity with a rite that goes back more than a thousand years. The first clipping of wool from the lambs will be used in making the sacri palli or stoles worn by archbishops and patriarchs, and when the lambs become sheep their wool will be used for monastic robes.

The lambs were purchased by the chapter of the Lateran Basilica, where the Pope lived until the 15th century, and where the custom grew of presenting two lambs to the Pope on St. Agnes Day. The animals are never killed, but are sent to graze in a garden of the basilica of Santa Cecilia-in-Trastevere.

The stoles made from the lamb's wool are presented to the Pope who will order them laid near the tomb of the first Pope. They remain there for a year and are then sent to prelates all over the world who request them as relics.

**WARNS OF IMPERIALISM**  
Washington City — (INS) Pope Pius XII: "Modern imperialism... carried in it germs which endanger the very foundations of human intercourse."

## Cistercians in Scotland For First Time Since 1539

Dublin — (NC) — After almost 400 years the Cistercians of the Strict Observance are returning to Scotland. Within a few months, 30 to 35 monks from Mount St. Joseph Abbey, near Roscrea, Eire, will cross the Irish Sea to set up a new foundation of the ancient order on an estate about 20 miles from Edinburgh.

Within their return to Scotland the Cistercians of the Strict Observance will resume the tradition of their Order which began in 1138 when Melrose, the first Cistercian Abbey, was founded in Scotland by King David I. The ruins of Melrose Abbey, still almost intact, are among the most glorious examples of Gothic architecture in the British Isles.

The Cistercians of the Strict Observance have already four houses in the United States, with

prospects of others in the near future. Their four houses, according to their rank of seniority, are: Gethsemani Abbey, (Trappist, Ky.); the newly erected Abbey of Our Lady of the Valley, (Valley Falls, N.Y.); New Melleray Abbey (Preston, Ia.), and Our Lady of the Holy Ghost (Conyers, Ga.).

The other branch of the Cistercian Order, the Cistercians of the Common Observance, has one house in the United States, Our Lady of Spring Brook, Oklauchee, Wis. Since 1888 both Observances constitute autonomous Orders, each under its own Abbot General. The abbreviation proper to Cistercians of the Strict Observance is O.C.S.O. or O.C.S.O. (Order of Reformed Cistercians). That proper to Cistercians of the Common Observance is S.O.C.B. (Sacred Order of Cistercians).

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# Millions May Die

*In the name of Christian Charity, War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference appeals to you to send relief to the helpless children, the aged and infirm of Germany.*

*President Truman has approved a plan allowing the American public to contribute relief to needy civilians in Germany.*

### THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP.

- 1) **Individuals:** The immediate need is for funds to purchase urgently needed food and clothing.
  - a) All checks, money orders and written communications should be sent to War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference, German Relief Committee, 350 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 1, N. Y.
  - b) Gifts in kind, food, clothing, etc., may also be contributed. These should be sent to the warehouse of War Relief Service-National Catholic Welfare Conference, 4055 Tenth Avenue, New York, 34, N. Y., marked "For German Relief." (No packages for specific persons can be accepted at present).

- 2) **Groups and Societies:** Responsible groups or organizations may apply for affiliation as Auxiliary Committee of War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference. Upon being accredited as affiliates, they may conduct public and private appeals in accordance with the regulations of the President's War Relief Control Board.

*Societies of the Central Verein are cooperating with War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conferences.*

*Caritasverband will distribute your relief in Germany.*