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CHAPTER 3

ARTHUR CONDON divined part of what was in Red McFan's mind, however.

"Russel's nervous," he said. "He's been making a splendid effort to settle down and get interested in the business. But his heart isn't in it. He tries to fool me about that—but I know."

He smiled with an effort. "That's why I'm glad you're back, Red. I hope you and Russ will see a lot of each other. I think you'll be good for him."

Admiration broke through his worry. "You certainly came through all right. You don't look as if you had a nerve in your body. My Lord, boy, how do you do it—after what you've been through?"

"RED GRINNED and shrugged. "I'm just tough—I guess."

"Well—" Whatever it was Arthur Condon had been about to say was forgotten. The door burst open and Red opened and Russ Condon came into the room. He took one look at Red and let out a yell and hurried across to him.

"Red—you old devil!" He grabbed Red's hand hard.

For a long moment they stood looking at each other, their feelings so close to the surface that words were unnecessary.

RUSSEL CONDON, slight and fair, with a quiet, reserved manner, just the opposite of Red McFan's boisterous cockiness. Flying together in combat, they long ago had crossed the artificial barriers of money and breeding that once had separated their worlds.

To Russel Condon, Red McFan was a real hero, the sort of man he himself wished to be. Tough, hard as nails, naturally reckless. And in Russel Condon, Red McFan had found a quiet courage equal to his own devil-may-care attitude toward danger, and a heart-warming loyalty.

RUSS was still wringing his hand. "You'll never know how good it is to see you, Red. I—I've been a little homesick for the old gang. Any of them left over there or are they all back in the States?"

"Most of them are back now," Red said. "English stayed over there to get his captaincy. And Hurd was thinking about signing up in the regular army. The rest of them are home or on their way."

Russ took out a cigarette case and offered Red and his father one. He lit theirs and then carefully extinguished the match and lit his own cigarette from another.

He began to pace back and forth. Red watched him a little anxiously.

SUDENLY Russ said, "You're coming back here to work, aren't you, Red?"

"I suppose so," Red answered. "We want you, you know that," Arthur Condon spoke up.

He and Russ exchanged glances, and Arthur Condon cleared his throat. He looked back at Red. "In fact we have some rather ambitious plans for you, Red."

Red waited. Now it was coming, the big offer. He'd be set for life. A warm wave of anticipation swept over him.

"IT'S THIS way," Arthur Condon began. "As soon as we can get building materials we're going to build a big branch factory over at

Troy. That's about a hundred miles from here—you know where it is?"

Red nodded. "Yes."

"Well, when that factory's built it. And he'd like to have you work with him. I've been talking to Mendel about you and he says we're pretty keen about chemistry."

"NOW HERE'S what we thought—you go back to school now, major in chemistry, and when you've got your degree we'll put you in charge at Russel's plant. How would you like that?"

"I—I—" Red floundered. "I don't know what to say, Mr. Condon. You see I hadn't thought about anything like that."

"Go back to school!" He certainly hadn't thought of anything like that. Sure, he liked chemistry. When he'd worked here as a kid he'd always been asking Mendel questions and trying to learn to run tests himself.

He'd even thought then that he'd like to be a chemist. But that was four years ago. He was 24 now. If he went to college that would mean he'd be 27 or 28 before he'd finish.

No—he didn't think he'd like that at all.

HE LOOKED up and found both Russel and Arthur Condon watching him hopefully.

It only added to Red's confusion. He saw that Russ and his father had doored this out as the biggest thing they could do for him. Giving him a chance to get an education with a promise of a good job when he finished.

But go back to school—

And there was another angle to it—mighty unpleasant angle. He'd spent every cent he'd made in the army, like a crazy fool. Spent it or gambled it or given it away. Any fellow in the squadron who had needed money had found Red McFan an easy touch.

Only now it was kicking back at him. If he accepted the Condon's offer and went back to school he'd have to live on the \$65 a month subsistence check the government would give him. \$65 a month after having drawn over \$400 a month with his overseas and flying pay. Not so hot that...

(To Be Continued)

STATE BUSINESSMEN INVITED TO LECTURES

Top executives of Indiana's leading industries today were invited by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago to attend one of three lecture meetings. The meetings will be held at South Bend Monday, Columbia club, Tuesday and Evansville, Tuesday night.

Speaker will be Daniel W. Bell, president of the American Security & Trust Co., Washington, D. C., an expert on government finance and debt management.

SEEK TAX DEDUCTIONS ON HOME SALE LOSS

The National Home and Property Owners' Foundation will ask Congress to enact legislation permitting the deduction from gross income for any loss suffered on the sale of a home, Lester C. Bursch, field director, said today.

Owners have had the losses disallowed by courts and the Internal Revenue Bureau, Mr. Bursch claims, and declared that this is inequitable and a discrimination.

ENTERS BALL STATE BLUE KEY CHAPTER

Times State Service
MUNCIE, Ind., Nov. 22.—Robert Linson, Indianapolis, has been initiated into the Ball State chapter of Blue Key, national honorary fraternity. Mr. Linson, a senior, is president of the Triangle club, and Student Executive council. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Gamma, social science club and inter-fraternity council.

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