

The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial

by
HERMAN WOUK

Produced by special arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc.

ACT I

The Prosecution

ACT II

The Defense

The time of the play is February, 1945. The scene is the General Court-Martial Room of the Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco. At the end of Act II, the scene shifts to a banquet room in the Hotel Fairmont, San Francisco.

There will be a ten-minute intermission
between Acts I and II.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

Lt. Stephen Maryk M. D. Peters
Lt. Barney Greenwald Jerry Kerwin
Lt. Com. John Challee Lt. William E. Sweeney
Captain Blakely Weston Price
Lt. Com. Philip Francis Queeg Richard A. DeLong
Lt. Thomas Keefer Dick Weinberger
Signalman Third Class Junius Urban Jerry Davis
Lt. (Jr. Grade) Willis Seward Keith Thomas B. Pryor
Capt. Randolph Southard Col. A. G. Texley
Dr. Forrest Lundeen Marshall L. Gerber
Dr. Bird Jim Vizzier
Stenographer Charles E. Duden
Orderly Troy Lovell
Six Members of the Court Officers of the Fort Smith
Naval Reserve

WHO'S WHO ON BOARD THE SHIP . . .

M. D. PETERS (Lt. Stephen Maryk): Pete's home is in Hot Springs, where he was employed as a radio and TV announcer before he moved to Fort Chaffee at Uncle Sam's request. Not only his education but his work since then has been in the field of drama and speech. His acting and directing experience comes from summer stock near New York City and from work at Baylor. Now he adds the role of Maryk to those he has played in shows ranging from "King Lear" to Tennessee Williams' "Summer and Smoke."

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JERRY KERWIN (Lt. Barney Greenwald): Jerry is a native Fort Smithian and a familiar figure around Little Theatre. He has served on the Board of Directors, directed the dramatic readings of "Glass Menagerie" and "On Borrowed Time", and appeared on stage in several regular shows. He last directed the spring production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" and is a welcome figure as the defense attorney in this show about the Navy, in which he himself served.

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LT. WILLIAM E. SWEENEY (Lt. Com. John Challee): Bill is a resident of Chicago, currently assigned as Post Athletic Director at Fort Chaffee. He is a graduate of Xavier University, and has considerable experience in amateur and semi-professional theatricals, as well as in radio and TV. Bill has appeared in such plays as "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Our Town", and his love of acting, as well as his experience, is most apparent in the characterization he presents of the judge advocate. Both Bill and his wife Judy are welcome newcomers to Little Theatre.

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WESTON PRICE (Captain Blakely): Weston satisfies a childhood ambition by appearing in "Caine Mutiny" . . . this is his first theatrical venture. Fishing is his hobby, but we think he's had a good time acting, too. A Fort Smithian, Weston has had years of Army experience and served during many court-martials, which makes his part as president of the court a good one for his first appearance.

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RICHARD A. DeLONG (Lt. Com. Philip Francis Queeg): Dick returns to the stage after a long absence to portray one of his favorite roles. A member of Little Theatre since its beginning (he was the first treasurer) he has appeared in many local dramatic activities, among them "The Drunkard", "Don't Tell Polly", "John Loves Mary", and "The It Girl." We're hoping he will find more parts that he can't resist because he really enjoys acting and always does as fine a job as he does in portraying Queeg.

From the NAVY REGULATIONS: ARTICLES 184, 185, 186

Article 184. Unusual circumstances.

It is conceivable that most unusual and extraordinary circumstances may arise in which the relief from duty of a commanding officer by a subordinate becomes necessary, either by placing him under arrest or on the sick list; but such action shall never be taken without the approval of the Navy Department or other appropriate higher authority, except when reference to such higher authority is undoubtedly impracticable because of the delay involved or for other clearly obvious reason. Such reference must set forth all facts in the case, and the reasons for the recommendation, with particular regard to the degree of urgency involved.

Article 185. Conditions to fulfill.

In order that a subordinate officer, acting upon his own initiative, may be vindicated for relieving a commanding officer from duty, the situation must be obvious and clear, and must admit of the single conclusion that the retention of command by such commanding officer will seriously and irretrievably prejudice the public interests. The subordinate officer so acting must be next in lawful succession to command; must be unable to refer the matter to a common superior for one of the reasons set down in Article 184; must be certain that the prejudicial actions of his commanding officer are not caused by secret instructions unknown to the subordinate; must have given the matter such careful consideration, and must have made such exhaustive investigation of all the circumstances, as may be practicable; and finally must be thoroughly convinced that the conclusion to relieve his commanding officer is one which a reasonable, prudent, and experienced officer would regard as a necessary consequence from the facts thus determined to exist.

Article 186. Responsibility.

Intelligently fearless initiative is an important trait of military character, and it is not the purpose to discourage its employment in cases of this nature. However, as the action of relieving a superior from command involves most serious possibilities, a decision so to do or so to recommend should be based upon facts established by substantial evidence, and upon the official views of others in a position to form valuable opinions, particularly of a technical character. An officer relieving his commanding officer or recommending such action together with all others who so counsel, must bear the legitimate responsibility for, and must be prepared to justify, such action.

THE CAINE MUTINY COURT-MARTIAL

STORY OF THE PLAY

The Caine Mutiny, the Pulitzer Prize novel hailed by critics as "the best sea story" and "the best World War II novel," has been adapted by the author in a version which is superior to the novel "in the artfulness of its craftsmanship"—(*N.Y. Times*). It is "a shrewd and shattering condensation of the heart of the novel . . . (presenting) one of the most naked revelations of character to have stunned Broadway in years."—(*N. Y. Herald Tribune*). "Enormously exciting. It is the modern stage at its best," said the *World Telegram and Sun*; "magnificent theatre," echoed the *Mirror* and the *Journal-American*. It is the court martial proceedings against a young, upright lieutenant who relieved his captain of command in the midst of a harrowing typhoon on the grounds that the captain was psychopathic in the crisis, and directing the ship and its crew to its destruction. The odds and naval tradition are against the lieutenant. But as the witnesses and experts, some serious, some unwittingly comic, cross the scene of the trial, the weakness in the character of the captain is slowly revealed in a devastating picture of disintegration. It bears repeating: this is "the modern stage at its best."

NOTE

The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial is purely imaginary. No ship named U.S.S. *Caine* ever existed. The records show no instance of a U.S. Navy captain relieved at sea under Articles 184-186. The fictitious figure of the deposed captain was derived from a study of psychoneurotic case histories, and is not a portrait of a real military person or a type; this statement is made because of the existing tendency to seek lampoons of living people in imaginary stories. The author served under two captains of the regular Navy aboard destroyer-minesweepers, both of whom were decorated for valor. One technical note: court-martial regulations have been extensively revised since the Second World War. This trial takes place according to instructions then in force. Certain minor omissions have been made for purposes of brevity; otherwise the play strictly follows procedures stipulated in *Naval Courts and Boards*.

DICK WEINBERGER (Lt. Thomas Keefer): Dick is a Fort Smithian with lots of enthusiasm for civic activities and his hobbies of golf and tennis. We hope he has added Little Theatre to the list, for this is his second acting stint with us this year . . . he appeared as the police lieutenant in "*Arsenic and Old Lace*" last spring. Dick attended Ohio State and Washington University in St. Louis.

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JERRY DAVIS (Signalman Third Class Junius Urban): As in "*Candlelight*", Jerry is not only an actor but the assistant producer as well . . . and this time he adds the job of stage manager. He is a native Fort Smithian and an ardent hi-fi enthusiast, but feels that his all-around experience at Little Theatre is giving him good groundwork for his planning to become a professional actor.

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THOMAS B. PRYOR (Lt. [Jr. Grade] Willis Seward Keith): Tom attended George Washington University and completed his law studies at the University of Arkansas before returning to Fort Smith to practice. His present role is very different from his part as Josef in "*Candlelight*" but it broadens his theatrical experience and we're delighted to have him back so soon.

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COL. A. G. TEXLEY (Captain Randolph Southard): Colonel Texley is presently stationed at Fort Chaffee and says he has had no playacting experience since high school days. However, his military experience stands him in good stead now, giving him the authoritative manner so necessary to his role. As hobbies, he enjoys tennis and politics, and now . . . we hope . . . the Little Theatre.

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MARSHALL L. GERBER (Dr. Forrest Lundeen): Marshall is a native of Tennessee, a graduate of the University of Virginia, and now living in Fort Smith. He has never acted before, but has done himself so proud as the psychiatrist that we hope you'll see more of him in our productions. Not only has he enjoyed the acting but he says he feels the Little Theatre has given him chance to become acquainted in the community.

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JIM VIZZIER (Dr. Bird): Jim is another welcome new face at the Little Theatre. Formerly from Gillett, Arkansas, he majored in architecture and art at the University of Arkansas before coming to Fort Smith. This is the first play in which he has participated, and we're hoping his eagerness will make him continue to develop his acting abilities.

