MY NAME IS NIMITZ

by

SISTER JOAN OF ARC, C. D. P.

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MY NAME IS NIMITZ

"The United States is no abstract authority residing in Washington. The United States is the average person, who, like yourself, is living as an individual proud of his liberties, conscious of his responsibility to his neighbor, participating in his government, self-disciplined by education, and, by education, inspired to further God's will on earth."

CHESTER WILLIAM NIMITZ

FLEET ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ, USN.

Dedicated

to

FLEET ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ, USN

PREFACE

The family whose history is told here is of interest because of its military character, beginning with Major-General Ernst Freiherr von Nimitz and ending with Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Chief of Naval Operations, covering a period of three centuries. However, militarism in the Nimitz family is not the salient point in the history. It is essentially a **biography of a family,** thrown against the historical background of its times, and shown in its particular environment. Certain individuals are brought to the foreground as constituents of the whole biography, whose purpose it is to show the part the Nimitzes have played in the history of American life.

I am greatly indebted to various members of the Nimitz family for material and kind suggestions in the preparation and writing of **My Name is Nimitz.** I extend my sincere thanks to Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz; his brother, Captain Otto Nimitz, USN (ret.); his sister, Mrs. Dora Reagan; Colonel Herman J. Nimitz, M. C. of Cincinnati, Ohio; Charles William Nimitz of Columbus, Ohio; Gerhard Nimitz of New York City; Charles William and Noel Nimitz of Orange, Texas; Mrs. Anna Jane Nimitz and sons of Chattanooga, Tennessee; Mrs. Velma Nimitz of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Mrs. Virginia Nimitz of Folly Beach, South Carolina. I express special thanks to Mrs. Bertha Riley of Fredericksburg, Texas; Mrs. Edith Nimitz Wynne, San Antonio, Texas; Mrs. Anna Jane Padrick of Wilmington, North Carolina, for their generous cooperation. To Mrs. Jack Cones of San Antonio, Texas, the artist photographer, I owe very much for producing old Nimitz photographs. To all my colleagues and friends—too numerous to mention—I offer my sincere appreciation for their kind assistance.

Sister Joan of Arc

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A NIMITZ FAMILY CHART

THIS CHART indicates the descent of the three American Nimitz branches, the Carolina (that of the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz), the Columbus, Ohio, and the New York branch with their common known ancestors. Capitalized names are those of direct antecedents. Names in bold type are those of sons who carry on the direct line of the three branches. The given dates signify year of birth. Where more than one name is indicated the one by whom direct descent is carried on is marked with an asterisk.

MAJOR-GENERAL ERNST FREIHERR VON NIMITZ (1831)
Hedwig G. Pollmanns

ERNEST FREIHERR VON NIMITZ c. (1680)
Magdalena Eva Elizabeth Kuhlmann

Maria Christiana 1714
Karl Gustav 1716
Magdalena Eva Dorothea 1718
Asp 1723
Gertrude Margaretha 1726
Frederika Lucille 1728
Elnore 1730

KARL GUSTAV VON NIMITZ (1716)
Dorothea Sophie
Maria Charlotte

Ernst Friedrich 1746
Anton Friedrich 1748
Charlotte Magdalena Christiana 1751
Karl Gustav 1754
Johann Christian 1755
Philip Ferdinand
Friedrich Hermann 1763
Sophia Helena 1768
Maria Louisa Elizabeth 1761

Carolina Branch

ANTON FRIEDRICH (1748)
Anna Maria Blomen

Marie Frederike
Charlotte 1788
Karl Heinrich 1790

CARL HEINRICH NIMITZ (1790)
Dorothea Magdalena Dressel
Meta Meyerotto

Antoinette Fredericka 1813
Gottfried Wilhelm 1815
George Ludwig 1817
Hermann Friedrich 1819
Carl Gustav 1821
Adolph 1823
Charlotte Auguste 1825
Carl Heinrich 1826

Ohio Branch

PHILIP FERDINAND
Sophia Christiana H. Dirks

Karl Philip Ferdinand 1797
Heinrich Albert
Elizabeth Caroline
Catharina Charlotta

KARL PHILIP FERDINAND (1797)
Johanna Cornelia Bakker

Philip Ferdinand 1828
Wilhomena Cornelia 1830
Heinrich Albert 1836

New York Branch

JOHANN CHRISTIAN (1755)
Margarete Rulfs
Maria Elizabeth Lutjens*

Christian 1794
Johann Friedrich 1800

CHRISTIAN NIMITZ (1794)
Sophie Dorothea Lindenberg

Christian 1822
Conrad 1825
Heinrich 1830
Dora
Wilhelm 1837
Friedrich 1842

CHARLES HENRY NIMITZ
(1826)
Sophie Dorothea Muller

Ernst Albert
Anna Bertha 1850
Charles Henry 1852
William Henry d. 1860
Chester Bernard 1855
Sophie Amalia 1857
Anna Auguste d. 1863
Auguste Dorothea 1860
Lina 1862
William 1864
Meta 1867
Louis Otto d. 1872

CHESTER BERNARD (1855)
WILLIAM NIMITZ (1864)
Anna Henke

Chester William (1885)
(Fleet Admiral)
Dora 1895
Otto 1897 (Ret. Captain USN).

PHILIP FERDINAND (1826)
Gerhardine Clementin Wilms

Johann Heinrich 1861
Johanna Henrietta 1858
Cornelia Wilhomena 1864
Helene Wilhelmina 1868

JOHANN HEINRICH NIMITZ
(1861)
Augusta Wilhelmina Hahn

Charles William Henry 1893
Philip Ferdinand 1895
Hermann Heinrich 1894
Karl Johann Ferdinand 1896
Helena Wilhelmina H. 1902
Rudolph Heinrich 1904

HEINRICH FR. WILHELM
Wilhelmine Eleonore Sundmacher

Frederike 1865
Georg 1866
Emma 1870
Wilhelm 1873
Arnold 1876
Otto 1879

WILHELM CHRISTIAN LUDWIG
(1873)
Auguste Kather

Gerhard 1901
Margarete 1903

Part I
Trans-Atlantic

CHAPTER I

Dawn on Sullivan Island

AMERICA! At Sullivan Island, gateway to the Charleston Harbor in South Carolina, Karl Heinrich Nimitz, great grandfather of Fleet Admiral William Nimitz, arrived with his wife Dorothea Magdalena and youngest daughter Auguste in the memorable year 1843. At that time Sullivan Island presented a unique blending of the old and the new—the enshrined tomb of the Indian Chief Osceola, and Fort Moultrie with the flag of liberty. When the Nimitz settler reached the island, the red man east of the Mississippi was conquered; the white man was supreme.

Fort Moultrie on Sullivan Island stood as an outpost of the white man's skill. It had faced its test during the Revolutionary War when Colonel Moultrie, a Charlestonian by birth, repulsed the English Fleet on June 28, 1776, and turned back the expedition led by Sir Henry Clinton for the invasion and subjugation of the South. After another struggle during the Civil War the Palmetto fort still stands today as a historical monument bridging the past with the present.

Six years on Sullivan Island gave Karl Heinrich sufficient time to adjust himself to the customs of the new country. His eldest son, William, had paved the way, having arrived there in 1840, and by this time had a flourishing business in Charleston. His brother, Adolph, and eldest sister, Antoinette, had followed William on the ship **Diamond.** They landed on the coast of South Carolina on November 2, 1840. A thumbed little diary, kept intact by the Nimitzes in the Carolinas to this very day, gives the impression that the father, Karl Heinrich, operated a store on Sullivan Island which was owned by his son William. In

this diary is also an account entry of Karl Gustav, another son of Karl Heinrich, as well as a statement regarding a money draft to be drawn on a New Orleans bank. No mention is made as to whether George Ludwig and Hermann Friedrich ever reached American shores. Charles Henry, the youngest son, was meanwhile pursuing the career of a seaman in the German merchant marine, but he, too, abandoned the old country, left Bremen in 1844 and arrived at Sullivan Island where his parents had landed the previous year.

It is claimed that the father, Karl Heinrich, was a sea captain who roamed the seven seas; and that Charles Henry accompanied his father as first mate on one such voyage to Australia. He was slated to take his father's place some day as master of the vessel, but preferred to follow the call to the New World. It is a fact that his father was a super-cargo agent for a merchant vessel. His uncle, Philip Ferdinand, was a shipowner and merchant in Bremen. Since Charles Henry was an adventurous character, he tried his skill at the mast before embarking for America.

According to church records, Dorothea Magdalena Nimitz, née Dressel, the wife of the first Nimitz settler, died on Sullivan Island on February 3, 1847. The descendants in the Carolinas claim that she is buried there. On November 18 of the same year Karl Heinrich took his second wife, Meta Meyerotto. The following year he changed his residence and rented a house from James English, which he later purchased for $500.

In 1849 Karl Heinrich Nimitz deemed it financially practical to move to Charleston where his son William was a successful merchant. There he bought a tavern from a certain H. Rambach for $1400. It is probable that his predecessor in the business stayed with him, for the diary has a statement to the effect that Karl Heinrich was paid cash "for taking care of the couple."

So far, the first Nimitz settler encountered no special difficulties in his new homeland.

In order to be able to understand the political mind of the early Nimitzes it is necessary for the reader to know to which immigration group they belonged. According to Friedrich Munch there were three distinct German immigrations—the economic, the political, and the independent.

After the Napoleonic wars the unfavorable economic conditions in Germany induced many laborers and peasants to emigrate. They wished to escape the heavy taxation that was imposed upon them by the government. Enormous debts had been contracted by the war; other debts were accumulated, due to extravagance of the princes of small principalities who now took advantage of their freedom. The poverty, the administrative coercion, the oppressive financial system, the tolls and excises formed a kind of serfdom for the common people, which, in some instances, was worse than legally recognized slavery.[1] It happened, therefore, that between 1817 and 1835 many Germans came to America and settled on farms in Missouri and other Western states. They found the situation to their satisfaction, and through hard labor, to which they were accustomed, they became prosperous American citizens.

Political discontent in Germany was the motive of the second group of German emigration. The Germans, victorious against Napoleon, returned from the war with the confident expectation of a new political life. A constitutional share in their government had been promised them in the fatherland's days of distress, but they soon found out that they were illusioned. The people were denied any part in political affairs, the press was rigidly censored, and public opinion was suppressed. A political uprising by the liberalists in the 1830's was unsuccessful, but the liberalists continued

to work for a free constitution until 1848 when they were totally defeated. Many high intellectual liberalists fled to America, among them Carl Schurz, who later took a particularly vigorous part in America's liberal and political reform movements. These German liberalists who came to America are known as the "Forty-eighters"; they brought with them a certain amount of democratic leadership. Their first rebuff in this country came from the Nativist movement when the "Know-Nothing" party coined the slogan "America for Americans." The "Forty-eighters" identified them with the aristocracy of Europe, and preferred the doctrines of Andrew Jackson, which were the same as those for which they had fought and suffered in Europe. The migration of the 1840's was to some extent an idealistic one, and as such it had an influence upon America.

The third immigration wave came after the period of 1866. It embraced people mostly from the working class who had a far better education than the first group. Munch says that they were dissatisfied with conditions as they found them here, and too well impressed with those they left behind. This tendency to thus contrast Germany with the United States might be explained by their nationalistic pride in the new unified German state of Bismarck and the prevailing conditions of America after the Civil War. But in spite of their dissatisfaction they eventually prospered.

Karl Heinrich Nimitz, who arrived in the 1840's, can be associated with the first as well as with the second immigration groups. He had left Germany because of economic conditions and came to America to better his financial situation. But, even though we have no available records that show the political sympathies of Karl Heinrich Nimitz previous to his coming to the United States, we may well infer that he

had the spirit of the "Forty-eighters." His reactions towards the Civil War made him an oustanding democrat.

It was not until the presidential election of 1856, when the question of the extension or restriction of slavery became the dominant political factor, that the German immigrants of the 1840's were called upon to take a political stand in the new country. So far they had been for the Union; the arguments of state sovereignty made no impression on them. Regarding the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, devised to extend negro slavery, they felt inclined to withdraw from the democratic camp which desired to make Southern principles an absolute party obligation. Faust, in his **German Element in the United States,** reports that in 1854 there were eighty German newspapers against the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, and only eight in favor of it. During the presidential campaign of 1856 the greater part of the German vote was cast for Fremont, the Republican candidate.

When the Lincoln campaign started, the first and second immigration groups united as one man against slavery. However, the first group was a more conservative one, without whom the second would have had a more difficult position. But it was the second group, to which Nimitz belonged, that played an important part in American history through such representative sons of liberty as Hecker, Siegel, Blenker, and, most famous of all, Carl Schurz.

By 1856, Karl Heinrich Nimitz was sixty-six years old. No doubt, his political opinions took shape when he resided in and witnessed the agitation in the political-minded city of Charleston. News of the Missouri immigration to Kansas, in an effort to make it a slave state, reached the Atlantic states. "Many and loud were the exultations in newspapers from Westpoint, Missouri to Charleston in South Carolina; the event

was hailed as the certain triumph of slavery."[2] What effect did these reports have on our Nimitz settler? He would not be able to fight in the approaching Civil War on account of his old age. And to remain indifferent was not according to the spirit of his forefathers.

CHAPTER II

A Retrospect

THE Nimitzes have been prominent in military affairs from the time of the Order of the Knights of St. John. The Teutonic Knights originated from this order and contributed to the conversion of the pagans in the debatable territory between Germany, Poland, and the Baltic coast land which now constitutes the Polish occupation territory. After the depopulation of Poland by the Tartar invasion of 1241, the Polish princes encouraged Germans to settle on waste lands and founded cities which they peopled with German immigrants. It was then that the Germans and Slavs came in contact with each other. The Slavs called the German neighbor njemjez (niemiez) after the river Niemen (Memel), meaning the dumb river. They applied this term to the Germans because of their inability to speak the Slavic language. Since the name Nimitz indicates the nationality, Hermann Niemitz in Oranienbaum, Anhalt, Germany, encountered difficulties in recent years while working on the German St. Petersburg Newspaper because the Russian officials would not consider the name of Nimitz as a family name. The Nimitzes are, therefore, of German descent and not of Russian as some have believed in the past.

The Nimitz ancestors lived originally in the Baltic state Livonia. Since that state came into the possession of Sweden in 1622, it will be necessary to turn to the history of that country in order to obtain a proper perspective for the beginning of our story.

Ever since the accession of Gustavus Adolphus to the throne, Sweden was successively engaged in war with Denmark, Russia, and Poland. Gustavus Adolphus endeavored to consolidate his divided kingdom and to win for it the supremacy in the Baltic upon which its

economic and political life depended. In each war he gained additional territory on the Baltic coast and a more complete control of the Baltic trade. A foothold in northern Germany was the only thing necessary to turn the Baltic into a "Swedish lake." The Thirty Years' War afforded him this opportunity. Although one motive for entering war was to strengthen Protestantism, perhaps, the stronger one was to expand the Swedish territory.

During the Thirty Years' War the Nimitzes moved to Germany and fought on the Swedish side. Although we do not know the first name of the Nimitz with whom our European cycle begins, we are certain that his death was closely connected with the fate of the Swedish king, Gustavus Adolphus. Both fell in the Battle of Lutzen on November 16, 1632, and both were sent to Sweden for burial.

The death of the king was concealed from his men for twenty-four hours; they thought he was carried off wounded. When the Swedes made a second attack they fought so fiercely that they beat off the imperial army under General Wallenstein. But some of their brigades were wiped out entirely, while others suffered severely. Antonio Aluarez, a contemporary, lists some of the officers that fell with the king. "Next to the king was Grave Neeles, Nicolas Count of Wesenburg, Sergeant-Major-General Isler, and Colonel Gersdorff; with divers Lieutenant-Colonels, Majors, Rittmasters, and Captaines; whom I have not heard named." It is quite possible that the first Nimitz was among those unnamed heroes whose death is written in the memory of many of his military descendants.

His son, Major-General Ernst Freiherr von Nimitz was born one year before his father's death. In later years he even excelled his father in military strategy. In 1644 he was serving as page or adjutant in the army of General Karl Gustav Wrangel. He saw action with

the Swedes as allies of Turenne at Zusmarshausen on May 17, 1648, and against the Poles at Warsaw in 1656. The following year he took part with the Swedes in the campaign at Fredericka, and in 1658 at Kronenberg, but was not present in the battle against Brandenburg because at that time he was a prisoner of war. When his military career came to a close, he put down his sword and Swedish uniform, settled near the town Luneburg, Hanover, Germany, and married Gertrude H. Pollmanns.

Gertrude von der Heide, (heath) as she was known, came from a well-to-do family. Her father was an administrator of various knightly possessions in the province of Hanover, and of Guelph blood lineage. Unlike the Nimitzes, Hedwig was of lower nobility, and the title Gertrude von der Heide, meaning the girl from the heath, the Luneburg heath, may have been her pet name. Nor was she the female through whom the maternal coat of arms came into the Nimitz family, for it had been awarded in ancient times. It is not known when and by whom it was awarded, but it varies slightly in the width of the shield or escutcheon of those of Styn (Swedish) and those of Ravensburg (Guelphs), and has been found in the armorial bearings of the King of Sweden. This combination may be ascribed to the fact that the province of Hanover was successively under German and Swedish control. As to the name and title of the ancestral Dame it has been said, "she must have been of the line of Herman of Cleves, 1072-82. When the direct male descendency died out, the county reverted to Julich which in 1614 fell to Brandenburg with the inheritance of Cleves. The female line, by imperial decree, retained the coat of arms and title, and passed into many noble families."[4] That means that all female descendants, no matter what the family, retained the title and armorial bearings.

Major-General Ernst von Nimitz, known in private life as Freiherr von Nimitz, must have acquired a stretch of land in Hanover, where afterwards a salt spring was found. An incident that has been preserved tells how the briny spring was discovered and how the government claimed possession of this land.

One day the Major-General's shepherd noticed that his sheep frequently strayed to a little ravine and stood there licking the ground; later a hog, by rooting, laid bare a small spring which, on testing, proved to be very salty. By digging further an abundance of water was discovered, and the owner started evaporation on a small scale. He succeeded fairly well; but soon the discovery became known, and the Fiscus interfered. The ground was declared to be mineral land, belonging to the crown. The Major-General fought the case in court, but the suit went against him and he was deprived of the rich soil that might have brought him a fortune. Now, only a paltry sum of $6,000 was paid to him as bonus, and with that he had to pay all the cost of the courts that was adjudged against him. Possessing a keen sense of justice, the Major-General became so provoked that he threw his title of nobleman overboard, discontinued to sign his name as "von," and took up a career as a cloth merchant.[5] He settled at Loxsted in the province of Hanover, but later he must have moved to Ottersdorf where he died August 15, 1713, at the age of eighty-two.

A brother of Major-General Freiherr von Nimitz was Johan Frederick, listed in Lewenhaupt's **Karl's XII Officerare** as major of the equestrian knights (ridderskapets russtjants) in Bremen and Verden. He was married to Anna Catherine von der Hude, daughter of Bernhard von der Hude and Adelheid von der Lieth. His retirement from service occurred on the 30th of March, 1705.

It must be borne in mind that the former archbishopric of Bremen was a duchy under the Swedish rule from 1648 to 1720. Hence, the Nimitzes who were in military service during that time were Swedish soldiers. Among them was Ernest Friedrich Nimitz, son of the Major-General, who became aide-de-camp to his majesty, the King of Sweden, in the Swedish Cavalry Regiment at Bremen on December 8, 1714. On August 30, 1719, he became lieutenant in the Pomeranian Dragoons, and later he reached the rank of major. From some documents which he presented the Insland Revenue Department (kammarkollegium), with petition for his pay, we learn that he received his discharge from his service in the Swedish army on August 30, 1719.[6]

Ernst Friedrich von Nimitz was married to Magdalena Eva Elizabeth Kuhlmann who bore him five children, of whom Karl Gustav became the direct ancestor of the three American branches. Karl Gustav was tax collector at Loxstedt, but soon moved to Stade in the province of Hanover. In spite of the large family, ten children in all, they lived well, according to marriage and occupation records. Although officially they had dropped the title of nobility, because they were not able to keep up the social demands, they still carried the title Freiherr, Freiin, and Freifraulein. Friedrich Hermann Nimitz, son of Karl Gustav, had earned a fortune while at Hamburg which enabled him to buy the estate of General von Marschall near Loxstedt. After his death, the property passed into the hands of his brother Karl Gustav, his father's third son, chancery clerk at Stade, whom he appointed as sole heir and administrator. After the death of the chancery clerk, his son, Karl Wilhelm August, became owner of the estate. Many interesting recorded and traditional stories have been preserved about this singular character.

Karl Wilhelm August Nimitz was an unusually intelligent and skillful writer. He played the first role in public functions and often became the trustee of officials, even as adviser of the governor von Scheither in Altluneburg. Among his own, however, he was called the "Red Nimitz" because the relatives felt they had not received a fair dealing in the disposal of the will of Friedrich Hermann. His mother and brothers and sisters did not hesitate to disqualify him. The estate was sold. Then he bought himself a dairy, for the fertile sections of Hanover were not only conducive to agriculture but also to cattle raising. He married Fraulein von der Wisch of Frischluneberg and lived to be over ninety years old. His death occurred on March 6, 1883. But in the memory of his descendants he lives as the "Wooden Lawyer," because of his tenacity to his opinions.

The father of the first Nimitz settler in America was Anton Friedrich, the second son of Karl Gustav, tax collector at Stade. He was a merchant by trade and so successful in his business that, after his death, he left to his two children, Karl Heinrich and Marie Frederike, a considerable sum of money. Marie Frederike married a widower, the tax collector Rielof Junken in Nesse. On the same date, November 20, 1812, her brother Karl Heinrich married Dorothea Magdalena Dressel. His attempt to follow his father as merchant proved unsuccessful, for which reason he first served as super cargo agent to a merchant vessel, and later embarked for America.

The paternal coat of arms which the Nimitz family brought to America has been preserved in a seal, in an onyx stone of a ring, and in a bracelet. The ring is in the possession of Colonel Herman Nimitz of Cincinnati, Ohio; and the bracelet is being worn by Mary Elizabeth Padrick, daughter of Mrs. Anna Jane Nimitz Padrick of Wilmington, North Carolina. The photo of the coat

Coat of Arms of the Columbus, Ohio, and the New York branches.

Coat of Arms of the Carolina branch and its Texas sub-branches of Fredericksburg and Orange.

of arms has been made by Charles William Henry Nimitz of Columbus, Ohio, under his father, an artist. He gives us a full description of the same:

> First, all dark colors represent red and all light colors indicate silver except the crown, chain, medallion, and the outline of the shield. Both shields are of old Gothic form, belonging to the 11th and 14th centuries. The first three red spars on a field of silver are equally divided. The chevrons in the second coat of arms are joined to the center red strip on a silver field. The spars are half of the space of the field clearance.
>
> The helmet is of the type worn in the 14th century and is hinged in the center, opening in two halves. On top is a ring pad for the crown to rest on.
>
> Then follows the crown which is a simple gold ring with golden leaves, either having seven points or seven pearls that show on the coat of arms. The complete crown has twelve points in a circle.
>
> With the exception of hunting and musical horns, the most important are the buffalo and battle horns which were worn only by leaders and knights and denoted the age of the family. This indicates that the male members were elevated to nobility.
>
> The fancy ornamentation surrounding the helmet and shield were originally coverings of the armor.
>
> As to the meaning of the crown, it denotes a rating in nobility between baron (a nine-point crown) and count (a fifteen-point crown). With the singular distinction, while knight, baron, and count were bound to follow their liege lords,

> the Freiherrn were independent as to their actions and followed only their king or emperor. The medal and chain designate the owner as belonging to the Knights of St. John, [after whom were modelled the Teutonic Knights.][7]

The fifth generation of the Nimitz cycle was the last one to remain in Europe. Karl Heinrich of the sixth generation emigrated to South Carolina. A settlement was made in Ohio by the seventh generation. This branch brought the military accomplishments of the Nimitz ancestors to a close. Karl Philip Ferdinand and Albert Heinrich earned medals and citations in the combat against Napoleon in 1812 to 1816. Both fought on the barricades in 1848 for a constitution for Germany. In 1865 a Nimitz was engaged in a war to prevent incorporation of Schleswig Holstein with Denmark. The Nimitzes were also represented in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 to 1871. It may be said that the Nimitzes have been engaged, in some way or other, in military affairs from the 12th century to World War II.

CHAPTER III

Westward

BETWEEN 1841 and 1860, the period of expansion, the borders of the United States were extended west to the Pacific. Settlements were made in Texas, in California, and in the disputed territory of Oregon after the peaceful agreement on the part of the United States and England. The boundary line of the 49th parallel was practically identical with the headwater of the Columbia river. Thus, the division gave each country the part of the land to which it had a claim by right of occupation. For youth, this period meant adventure; he believed that he could make his fortune west of the Mississippi. He was attracted by the discovery of gold in California — the focus of adventure not only for America, but also for the whole world. "Gold! Gold! Gold from the American River!" was the cry of Sam Brannan of the Mormon group that was heading for the promised land. The gold fever spread. Governor Mason sent a letter to the War Department saying, "There is more gold in the country drained by the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers than would pay the cost of the late war with Mexico a hundred times over."[8]

By the time gold diggers in California started their task, Texas had been admitted into the Union, and the principal colonization in the state had been completed. Yet, until the Civil War immigrant filtration was constant. The glowing accounts of early travelers were still inviting, and were particularly heeded by those whose fortune had been wrecked and who sought economic recovery from a recent panic. For them the new land was a powerful incentive.

Charles Henry Nimitz, the youngest of the three brothers, had arrived in the Lone Star state and took

part in the project undertaken by the Mayence Society of colonizing a section of conquered Texas. His nephew, Bernhard Wienholtz, son of his sister Augusta, was to settle in California at a later date.

The foundation of Texas settlements rested on the invitation of large free grants to enterprising men on the condition that they obtain settlers for the region. The same act carried with it a proviso of granting enormous acreage not only to individuals, but also to colonizing companies. This news was spread in the old country through the publication of tracts, books, and treatises on Texas. The number of them in Germany was large. The works of Charles Sealsfield (Karl Postl) who had traveled a great deal in the states, and resided for some time in Louisiana, attractively pictured the independence of the Texas pioneer in particular, and the political, religious, and social relations of the United States in general. "To be a free native American citizen," he said, "is the highest privilege—the most glorious attribute."[9] The political, social, and economic conditions in Germany caused this message from beyond the seas to be heeded.

It led to the meeting of German princes and noblemen that was held at Mayence on March 24, 1844. The result was the forming of an association for the purchase of lands in Texas. As only princes and representatives of the higher nobility could become members of it, the society became known as the League of Nobility. Its purpose was to protect German emigrants to Texas and to provide for the transportation upon payment of $120 by a single man and $240 by each married man. From this deposit the settlers could draw funds for farming implements or extra rations from the company's store until they had made their first crop. They were also provided with huts for shelter until permanent homes were erected.

Charles Henry Nimitz, however, was to take a different route to Texas. He first sailed independently to South Carolina in the same year that the Mayence Society was formed. No doubt, he, too, had heard of the Society's enterprise and felt attracted by the inviting news from Texas. However, he stayed two years in South Carolina before joining the project of the Noble League. On May 8, 1846, he arrived in Texas and took part in the expedition that was to settle in Fredericksburg.

What effect did this undertaking of Charles Henry have upon his eldest brother, Wilhelm? By May 5, 1851, the latter was already a Texas Ranger. He had settled sometime previously in Burkeville, Newton County. This county was formed in 1846 from Jasper County and was named after Sergeant John Newton, a hero of the American Revolution. However, Texas was not to become a permanent home for Wilhelm Nimitz. By 1856 we find him again in Charleston. His family branch was continued in Texas by his son, Charles Henry, who became a successful lawyer in Orange.

The westward movement of the Nimitz settlers was completed by Bernhard Wienholtz, son of Auguste Nimitz and Peter Wienholtz of Charleston. The latter's brother was a partner in business with the Nimitz brothers. Bernhard Wienholtz left Charleston in 1872 for San Francisco. His mother and his sister Lina apparently had left for Germany. At first he was successful in California as a grocer and hotel manager. The great San Francisco fire which broke out in 1906, and in which half of the city property was destroyed, seemed not to have caused his property any damage. It was in 1922 that great financial reverses came upon him, from which shock he never recovered. He died in the sanatarium at Stockton, California, in 1930.

Midway between Texas and California, another Nimitz settled in Colorado. Antoinette, the eldest daughter of the first Nimitz settler in Charleston, had married a certain Mr. Schulz. When in 1858 the yellow fever raged in that city, Mr. Schulz and his son Charles became victims of the malady. Later in life Mrs. Schulz married a widower by the name of Strauss. Although we have no records of her living in Colorado, we know that her stepson, Robert Strauss, lived there. He was very much interested in farming, and was an honest man who enjoyed outdoor life. After he accumulated a fortune, a tragedy occurred. In Colorado, storm waters often cause tributaries to overflow, unless they empty into main rivers; then, too, when snow-peaked mountains send melted snow into the lowland, floods are inevitable. It was on the 20th of May about the year 1903 that Robert Strauss lost his life in one such flood. He was an old man of 76 years, unmarried, and left valuable property in land and machinery. These were inherited by his half brother, Hermann, and his half sister, Anna, later known as Mrs. Haynes. She, as well as her sister Dora lived in Albany, New York.

Auguste, the youngest daughter of Karl Heinrich Nimitz of Charleston, returned with her daughter Lina to Germany, while Josephine the elder daughter married a Schnoering in New York. Lina became the wife of Dr. Hermann Althof in Weimar, Thuringia. Weimar, the capitol of the Grand-Duchy of Saxe-Weimer, was in the 18th and 19th century a German Athens where literary men, as Goethe and Schiller, and world-renowned musicians, as Liszt and Wagner, gathered under the patronage of the grand duke Karl August. Sport, too, was fostered by the court and social circles. From there, Lina writes, races were made to Frankfurt. "For three days about a hundred automobiles have raced past our house. They were the Gordon Bennett Race.

Thiry, the Frenchman, won; Germany would have won if the gasoline had not given out. That is what I call bad luck."[10]

Americans during the expansion period believed that Canada would in due time join the union. This generation thought that democracy would be a compelling factor, but it proved not to be sufficiently strong. In the War of 1812, during which the Americans had amazed the world by remarkable victories, American statesmen hoped that Canada would throw off her allegiance to England and join the Union. In this they were greatly disappointed. In 1837 hope rose again during the Canadian insurrection of the "Hunters' Lodges," but the insurgents were badly defeated, and the unification of the Province of Canada in 1840 made an end to the attempts to free Canada from England and win her over to the United States. The expansion to the North was never realized.

Neither did settlements of the Carolina Nimitzes ever progress northward. This section of the country held no high hopes for them. The South became their home, but whether or not they all became Southern patriots is still to be seen.

Apart from the Nimitz branch that settled in Charleston, there is one by the name Nemitz that settled in Michigan in 1879. In Michigan, as in her sister states, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri, state immigration boards exerted themselves to attract foreigners. A great number of immigrant farmers settled in this section, although the promise of better economic developments beckoned them westward. Joseph Nemitz settled with his wife and four children, Mary, John, Paul, and Karl at a farm near North Bay, Michigan, the eldest son, Joseph, having remained in the German army.

Originally the family had lived in Austria. Religious troubles among the Bohemians had caused them to move from Austria into Germany where they settled in Upper Silesia. In 1878 they migrated to America. Mary and Karl married into the Jonescheck family and made their homes in North Bay and Clarksville, Michigan. Paul is the only member who is still living. In 1904 when the father returned to Germany to visit his brother he learned that the latter had died and that his wife and children had moved to South Africa. In America, this branch is prospering in Canada; Mrs. Jenkins, daughter of Mary Nemitz, and her brother Joseph live at Big Valley, Alberta, Canada, as hard-working farmers. There are no indications that this branch is related to the Carolina Nimitz branch, nor did it ever move westward.[11]

CHAPTER IV

Newcomers

IN 1909 there arrived in Columbus, Ohio, members of a Nimitz branch that were of the same **Weser** line from which the first settlers of South Carolina originated. With them they shared the same noble ancestry up to Karl Gustav Freiherr von Nimitz, son of Ernst Freiherr von Nimitz, adjutant to the King of Sweden, at the time, Commander of the Swedish Cavalry Regiment at Bremen. However, Karl Gustav's son, Philip Ferdinand, had married Sophia Christiana Dirks of Emden, East Fresia. Therefore, this branch is also known as the East-Fresian branch.

Johann Heinrich Nimitz, the newcomer to America, was a descendant from the East-Fresian branch. He was born on October 9, 1861, and when baptized had as witnesses Heinrich Krull of Tenever, Bremen, and Georg Wilhelm Wilms, merchant of New York, U.S.A. Perhaps the fact that his godfather was an American made Johann Heinrich desirous in his later years to make America his home. No doubt, the New York merchant, Georg Wilhelm Wilms, had business contacts with the Nimitzes.

The progenitor of this branch, Philip Ferdinand, through his keen business transactions had acquired a goodly fortune. Philip Ferdinand was a ship-builder, owner of a fleet of schooners and merchant ships. His eldest son, Heinrich Albert, became a sea captain. He and his brother, Karl Philip Ferdinand, who also followed the sea trade, were tutored at an early age aboard ship. Both of them, as volunteers, fought against the French in the Napoleonic War of 1813 to 1815; Albert attained the rank of staff sergeant, and Karl Philip that of sergeant. Karl Philip, the grandfather of the American newcomer, was only nineteen

years old at the time of his discharge on February 21, 1816. His regiment had been dissolved two months previously because the principality of East Fresia was to be annexed to Hanover. In his farewell address, Friccius, Commander of the 3rd Infantry Regiment in which Karl Philip served, testified that he would look back with pride and joy upon the service rendered by Karl Philip Ferdinand Nimitz. He said that the latter served well in all situations, and that order, discipline, religion, and virtue were sacred to him. He shirked no duty —no matter how difficult— and faced every danger bravely. With satisfaction and eagerness Karl Philip Ferdinand Nimitz rejoined his family in Emden, East Fresia.

He married well, and prospered for a time as tax commissioner of Emden. On account of his unfortunate investments and his trust in those who later turned out to be unworthy, he lost his possessions. As a consequence he suffered from a nerve fever which confined him to his bed until death. His last three-masted schooner, loaded with Dutch butter, was ostentatiously taken to England, but ship and men were never heard of again. His wife, not being a business woman, lost practically everything in litigations and settlements.

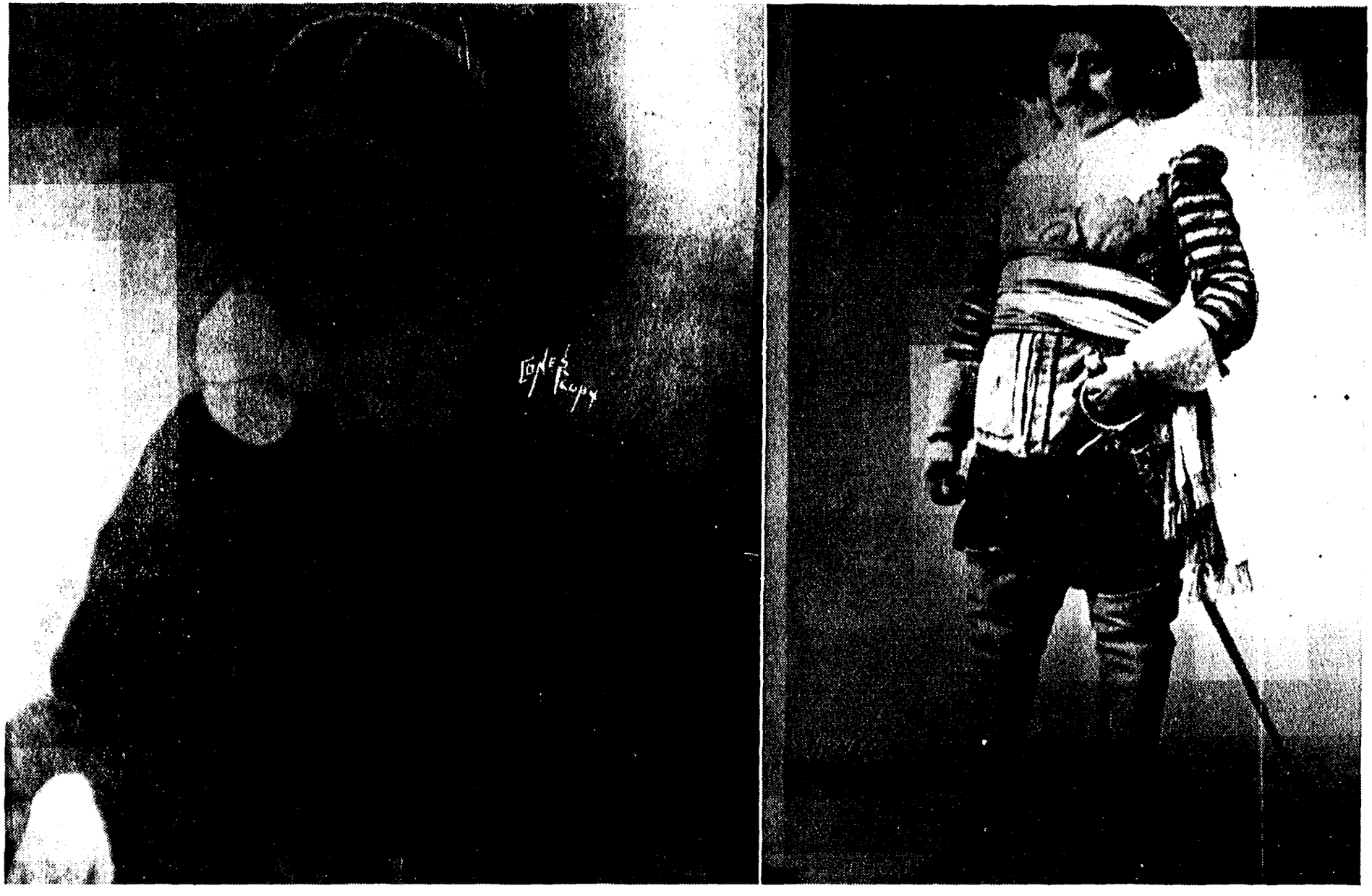
From a passport of Karl Philip F. Nimitz the American families have a good description of the physical appearance of their worthy forefather: Height 5 feet, 10 in.; black hair, high forehead; black eyebrows, blue eyes; big nose, ordinary mouth; black beard, round chin; lengthy face; healthy complexion; slender stature.

His son Philip Ferdinand was a master painter and decorator. After four years of service he passed an examination, and was declared a painter journeyman. For three years or more he traveled and visited art schools after which period he again passed an examination for master painter and decorator. Subse-

quently he moved with his wife and children to Tenever near Bremen, hoping to find better opportunities. But luck did not favor him, one incident excepted. One day a stranger came to him, asking whether he had the ledger of Karl Philip, acknowledging himself as a debtor to the accounts of Philip Ferdinand's father. The payment of the sum was welcomed by the Nimitz family then living under strained circumstances. But at that time, as among their American descendants, a certain amount of gentility was maintained.

Showing artistic ability at an early age, Johann Heinrich Nimitz, the American newcomer, was encouraged by his father to follow his inclinations to art, but uncles and aunts thought differently. Nevertheless, his wishes prevailed and he was apprenticed to a decorator in Bremen for four years. During this time he met Johann Friedrich Nimitz, a forbear of the New York Nimitz branch, who in his last illness left five million marks to the City of Bremen. Unfortunately, Johann Heinrich never made his identity known when meeting him.

After becoming a journeyman painter, Johann Heinrich studied at the art schools of Munich and Berlin, earning his maintenance by painting stained glass and porcelain, as well as frescos for public places and churches. He invented a method of painting the spectrum on glass with the inclusion of the Frauenhofer lines. As his patent indicates, this method was intended for instruction in physics and color painting. Johann Heinrich succeeded in the application of color upon glass only after long and difficult experiments. The apparatus used in this method of painting may be found at the Ecole de Beaux Artes, Paris, France; Technicums of Berlin; Warsaw, Moscow, and Oslo; as well as at some universities in the United States. Eighteen of them were sent to Japan in 1908. The most



Deaconess Augusta Wilhelmina Hahn, later Mrs. Johann Heinrich Nimitz, and Johann Heinrich Nimitz, the artist, dressed in the Swedish uniform of his ancestors.

noted of his works were the restoration of the stained glass windows of the Wavel, the Polish king's castle at Crakaw of the 14th century; the Godeshuis Church at Peteramritzburg, South Africa; the Protestant Cross Church at Dresden, Saxony, in Germany. Johann Heinrich Nimitz also invented a marine signal system which was later supplanted by the radio.

In the year 1891 he opened in Dresden an art studio which was located in the old town section near St. Ann's Parish church. On his way to and from his art studio he noticed the deaconess, Augusta Wilhelmina Hahn, working in St. Ann's Parish. She was from the Motherhouse and Hospital Bethseda. Upon becoming acquainted, they fell in love and were married, the entire parish attending their wedding.

As a young girl, prior to her eighteenth birthday, she joined the Evangelical Lutheran Sisterhood, and became, after serving a probationary period, a Sister of Mercy. She was detailed to the operation room at the Motherhouse and Hospital Bethseda. Due to her dexterity in assisting with operations, she was kept in the hospital for three years, after which she was sent out on her own to aid in home operations with local surgeons. Since hospitals were not plentiful in those days, Augusta Wilhelmina Hahn was deaconess until shortly before her marriage.

Of the six children born to Johann Heinrich and Augusta Wilhelmina, two died in their infancy. About three years after his completion of a commission at Crakaw (the restoration of the stained glass windows of the King's castle) the family decided to emigrate to America, leaving Philip Ferdinand with his aunt and uncle, Henrietta and Lue Rust, at Bremen where he died of starvation after the First World War. The father was the first to come to the United States in 1909; the following year the mother with her three children, Karl Wilhelm Heinrich, Rudolph Heinrich,

and Helene Wilhelmina Henrietta arrived. The latter died in Columbus, Ohio, as early as 1922.

War intervened and the mother became crippled. The father, although broken in spirit, continued in his art until he passed away in 1930 while at work. His wife followed him in 1935, having been bedridden with arthritis for seventeen years. This Nimitz branch is now perpetuated by the two sons, Karl Wilhelm Heinrich and Rudolph Heinrich.

Following tradition, Karl Wilhelm Heinrich received his early education in public schools and finally in the Realgymnasium. Due to strained financial conditions at home, and after consultations with relatives who decided that an academic career was out of the question, but consented willingly to finance a seaman's career, Karl Wilhelm was sent to the seaman school at Hamburg, where he passed the written and oral examination with honor. However, his eyesight was deficient, and thus his seaman career came to an end. He then followed the trade of patternmaker.

Soon after his arrival in the United States he became an American citizen, and his name was changed to Charles William Henry upon receiving his final citizenship papers. During the First World War he volunteered in the Signal Reserve Corps, but was rejected because of his poor eyesight. After being drafted and discharged from the army he settled down in private life.

In May, 1918, he married Rose Marie Guenther. His bride, a daughter of Burgomaster Gotthard J. Guenther of Rattenhausen, in the Black Forest of Wuerttemberg, had come to the United States several years earlier to visit her brother, Joseph Gotthard of Nashville, Tennessee. Prevented by the war from returning to her home, she had remained in the United States. Their only daughter, Rose Ann Wilhelmina, who graduated from high school as a member of the Na-

tional Honor Society, was, after graduation, engaged as secretary to a prominent local attorney. From September 1945 to September 1946 she served as a member of the Women's Army Corps, acting as secretary to the Post Judge Advocate at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and served in that capacity in the Legislative and Liason Division of the War Department, Washington, D. C. At the time of her discharge, she held the rank of staff sergeant. Being fond of interpretative dancing, she has been an entertainer, prior to her entrance into service, to the U.S.O., and ever since in Veterans hospitals.

Like his eldest brother Charles William, Rudolph Henry Nimitz is a patternmaker. His wife, Kathryn Brown Brashear, is descended from a well-known English family. Her mother was the daughter of Lady Harriet Locke, lady in waiting to Queen Victoria. Her grandfather, William Sharpless Brashear (originally Brasseuir, emigrant from France), a brother to Dr. John Alfred Brashear, foremost maker of astronomical lenses of his day, became the founder of the Brashear Company of Pittsburg. William Brashear was also related to Catherine Whitacre Brashear, "Mother and Guardian Angel" of the 16th Ohio Regiment of the G.A.R. in the Civil War. She always rode at the head of the column, and spent two and a half years in government service, unasked, unsolicited, and without pay. While her husband, Dr. B. B. Brashear was Surgeon in Chief of the regiment under General Morgan, she was a valiant fighter and nurse at Cumberland Gap and the Battle of Vicksburg. Her sword and sheath which she always wore into battle and the canteens she carried are still preserved.

Kathryn Brown Brashear-Nimitz, her cousin, is the mother of four children, one of whom died in infancy. Robert Henry, the only son in the family, is looked upon as the perpetuator of the Ohio Nimitz

branch; his two sisters are Johanna Kathleen and Nancy Amelia.

It so happened that a Nimitz from another branch, but of the same **Weser** line, came to New York in 1927 and has made his home there ever since that time. Gerhard Niemitz, by his permanent settlement, has begun the New York branch. Like the Carolina and the Ohio settlers, he descends from the same noble ancestry up to Karl Gustav Freiherr von Nimitz whose sons, Anton Friedrich, Philip Ferdinand, and Johann Christian, are the direct ancestors of the Carolina, Ohio and New York Nimitz branches.

Gerhard Niemitz decided to come to America in February, 1927, after earning his Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Previously, he had two years of practical experience with the General Electric Company and the Bamag Meguin Corporation in Berlin. His earlier studies in the Realgymnasium included nine years of Latin, seven years of Greek, six years of French, and six months of English. Indeed, he could pride himself with being able to read the New Testament in Greek when at school. During the time as engineering student he made the acquaintance of a certain Herr Seiffert who invited him to the Seiffert's home for a week-end. Here he met Elizabeth Seiffert who was then only sixteen years old. It was love at first sight. They became engaged a year later, with the understanding that they would have to wait five years before marrying. The First World War had passed, but there was no happy outlook for Gerhard Niemitz in his country. He therefore decided to come to the United States, hoping that he would derive benefit from his planned three-years stay in America. After three months, however, he was convinced that America should become his future field of labor. He liked it so well that he invited Elizabeth Seiffert to come and join

Charles William Nimitz of Columbus, Ohio, his wife, Rose Marie Guenther, and daughter Rose Ann.

Gerhard Niemitz of New York City, his wife, Elizabeth Seiffert, and their children Erika and Volkmar.

him, which she did the following year. They were married one week after her landing, April 28, 1928, and settled in Brooklyn, later in Yonkers, and the Bronx. In spite of their poverty they were happy. Their inheritance had been lost in the inflation after the war. But they knew how to work, and save their earnings. Besides, they had a good background, his father having been Post-inspector at Minden, and the father of Mrs. Niemitz, the late Pastor Franz Seiffert. The latter had been in his lifetime very tolerant to the various religious denominations. He would provide for the few Catholics, living in his district, by summoning the Catholic priest when he was needed by his faithful, and attended their funerals as a private citizen. From an early age he instilled into his children the teaching, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," no matter who he may be. He respected the Jews during the last World War. When on Sundays a member of the Nazi Party would sit in his church and write down his sermon, he would face the situation by saying, "I must obey God rather than men."

No doubt, Gerhard Niemitz and his wife Elizabeth attributed their sucess partially to such a just man as Pastor Franz Seiffert. During all his years in New York Mr. Niemitz has never been without employment, working in power plants, cement mills, and other industrial plants. For some time he has been in charge of the engineering department of a concern that designs, furnishes, and erects complete power plants or power plant machinery for industrial enterprises or public utilities, including the army and the navy. He says, "My work is so interesting that I do not need a hobby. My ambition is to contribute to the economic improvement of my fellow men, and the best way I know is to increase production."[12]

Their two children, Erika and Volkmar, were born in Yonkers. The latter had planned to succeed his

father in business, but through his correspondence with his uncle, the Fleet Admiral, he is aspiring to become an operator in the F.B.I. Fortunately, he is not confronted with the same uncertainty as the youth in the land of his forefathers.

It was a member of this New York branch who was the donor of the Nimitz Fountain, Bremen, Germany. Johann Friedrich Niemitz was an officer, probably in the army; was unmarried, and therefore at his death left a considerable sum of money to the city. The Nimitz Fountain in the public park was an arched structure, inclosing the fountain and two stone benches. Above the water-spray the letter "N" was hewn into the stone, a modest reminder of the founder of this project, and a token of the appreciation of the Bremen citizens at large. The fountain still exists, not in its original form, however, for the bombs of the last World War have partly demolished the structure.

The Nimitz fountain in the city of Bremen, Germany.

CHAPTER V

Interlude

IT is a well-known fact that almost every German denomination in the South at one time or another made official protests against slavery as contrary to Christian ideals. And even when religious scruples were disregarded, the German had no more than one or two slaves, so that the Negro would work under his master's eye in the wheat field or under the mistress' eye in the household. Paulding, in his **Letters from the South,** says that this created a sort of good fellowship between the German and the Negro. In many cases the Negro of the German farmer spoke only German and was looked upon more as a member of the family than as a slave.[13]

Karl Heinrich Nimitz was a merchant in Charleston, and had no Negro in his service. It is supposed that he was against slavery, and Charleston was drifting along with the spirit of the South. The Compromise of 1850, which provided that the people were to determine whether their territory would be free or slave, was not permanently effective. Four years later this whole question of slavery was reopened. The Kansas-Nebraska Act brought the Anti-Slavery Republican party into existence, and thus aroused the Democrats. With such anticipation of a final political rupture, Karl Heinrich Nimitz, who had now resided thirteen years in South Carolina, returned with his wife, Meta Meyerotto, on the steamer **Copernicus** to Germany. "My property," he said, "would become a prey in the strife." Consequently, he embarked on June 2, 1856, for his former fatherland, which was now in a more favorable political condition than when he left it in 1843. He hoped that his three sons, William, Adolph, and Charles Henry, grandfather of Fleet

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who remained in America would be better able to adjust themselves to the conditions of that troubled time. The father did not live to learn the outcome of the Civil War, for he died in Gottingen on June 25, 1862.

Five years after his father's death in Germany Charles Henry Nimitz, then living in Fredericksburg, Texas, had his mother return to this country. With his wagon team he went to Galveston to meet her. He brought her to his home in Fredericksburg where, after many years, she died and was buried. Charles Henry used to talk about his mother to his grandchildren; her memory was handed down to the following generations through her son, who became a prominent settler in Fredericksburg, Texas.

The Nimitz families in the South have passed into the fourth generation, with sub-branches in Carolina, and in East and West Texas. The Trans-Atlantic Cycle of the Nimitzes has come to a close. Our attention is now directed to the Southern Nimitz families and their contributions to American life.

Part II
The Southland

CHAPTER I

Palmetto Roots

AMONG the immigrants who, in 1846, on account of the recent annexation of Texas to the United States of America, were impelled to seek homes in the new state was Charles Henry Nimitz, grandfather of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. Yet, the Palmetto State had become and was to remain the home of one branch of the Nimitz family. Adolph, the second of the three Nimitz brothers, spent the greater part of his life in the attractive and historically rich city of Charleston. When he moved to Bluffton and Beaufort, he stayed there only a brief period of time. He returned to Charleston and made it his permanent abode.

Adolph Nimitz, the Charlestonian, was born December 14, 1823, at Holte, Hanover, then a British kingdom under George IV. He was not quite seventeen years old when he, with his sister Antoinette, reached Sullivan Island on November 2, 1840. His first four months in the new country he spent with his brother William who had preceded him thither. And when his parents and youngest sister Auguste arrived at Sullivan Island in 1843, he stayed with them for a while. On March 4, 1844, he began work as an accountant, a profession for which he seemed to have an aptitude, for this profession became his life occupation.

Adolph Nimitz worked as bookkeeper for his first patron, Henry Violotich, at ten dollars per month, which was considered an ample sum at that time. Later positions that he held offered only a slight increase in wages, from twelve to fifteen dollars per month. His next clerking position with Henry Bullnrukel brought him a salary of twenty dollars per month, and it was with some satisfaction that he en-

tered in his diary, "840 dollars for three years and six months with Senator Bullnrukel." Between business periods he visited Columbia, Camden, and Lancaster, but deemed it advantageous to make Charleston his permanent home.

In 1849, when his father Karl Heinrich Nimitz left Sullivan Island and bought a tavern in Charleston, Adolph Nimitz, having formerly been an associate in his brother William's business, entered into partnership with a certain W. C. Priggs. Later he became partner to a Mr. F. Wienholtz to whom he finally sold his place at Tradd Street on East Bay before moving to Bluffton. Here he married Meta Bulcken. He bought the store of his father-in-law, but stayed in Bluffton only one year. When his own father decided to return to Germany, June 2, 1856, he moved to Beaufort where he resided with his family until the Civil War broke out. When on November 10, 1861, the U.S. Army took Port Royal, Adolph Nimitz sent his family on the Steamer **Casilae,** to Charleston. He himself followed by the Pocotoligo Route on the fifteenth of the same month.

In December, 1861, Charleston suffered a disastrous loss from a great fire which swept through the city from Cooper River to Ashley River. It began upon a wharf on Cooper River, above the market, where Negroes **en route** for the up-country were cooking their supper. It was a windy night; their fires got beyond control and ignited a hay store on the wharf. All hope of checking the fire was abandoned, for the wind, rising, drove great flames through the air, so that the conflagration spread by leaps. There were no men; the fire department was broken up; all were in service or at the camp of preparation. By daybreak all was a desolation of smoky ruin. Adolph Nimitz then sent his family to Columbia where they stayed until October, 1862, when they returned to Charleston

where they lived at Wragg Street, Number Four. Later they moved again to East Bay where his new store was located. In general, the home of the Charlestonian Nimitz can be associated with East Bay Street, now one of the most interesting streets in the city.

When the great bombardment of Charleston began, which went on spasmodically from the fall of Battery Wagner until the surrender of the city, February, 1865, people moved up-town or into the country, and suffered inconveniences to which they soon became accustomed. "Fight on, conquer in the end, and never count the cost," was the universal cry. But Charleston suffered greatly during those years. The blockade had closed the commerce of the port for over three years and its waterfronts had fallen into decay. Adolph Nimitz had lost everything. Yet, nowhere in his diary does one find a note of complaint, not even during the occupation of the city when he paid "$500 for his suit, $60 for a pair of shoes for little Doris, and when a yard of calico cost $40." This willingness to endure can be accounted for by his happy family life. Because their family life was one of mutual devotedness, so much the keener was his sorrow when misfortune befell anyone of his children.

He was the father of eight children, but only three survived the Civil War. The twins, Meta Carolina and Gashina Wilhelmina, died in June, 1856. "One of the severest trials in my life," he wrote in his diary, "but whom God gives, death takes." Doris Rebecca was then three years old, having been born on March 23, 1853.

The year after the death of the twins Nimitz's eldest son, Adolph Boethius, was born. The following year June 1, 1858, the mother, Meta Nimitz, went with her two children, in company with her brother Julius Bulcken, on a visit to Germany. They embarked

on the ship **Gauss** with Captain Wieting at the helm. How solicitous the father became when on June 11 a strong wind arose from the south. "Wonder whether it struck the bark **Gauss?**" he exclaimed. During the absence of Mrs. Nimitz, Mr. Schultze, husband of Antoinette Nimitz, his sister, died of yellow fever, and a month later her eldest son Charles died of the same malady.

In November 20, 1858, Adolph Nimitz, with his brother William, went from Beaufort to Charleston to meet the family that had returned from Europe. Another sorrow was in store for Adolph, for on their return to Beaufort his brother William lost his life near a fire-ship at St. Helena Bay. A swift current carried the body away, and all searches for it were in vain.

The following year, August 29, 1859, Auguste Charlotte was born. The father noted this day in his diary as a day of joy, and thanked God, the Giver of all Good. It was his custom to provide himself with short poems or sayings that fitted certain occasions, and which, no doubt, reflected his moods.

The misery of the Civil War broke in again upon the Nimitz family at Charleston. Auguste Charlotte died of scarlet fever, at the age of five years. Little Anna Ida, born July 31, 1861, died a year later when the family was seeking safety at Columbia. Julius Bulcken, also born during the Civil War, died shortly after the war.

Again, Adolph Nimitz wrote in his diary a poem which had for its theme that love, supported by hope, remains firm in the belief of better days. And this was realized when, on February 3, 1866, the youngest son, John Carl was born. The latter was to live and grow up to maturity along with his brother Adolph Boethius and his sister Doris. These three children became the consolation of their parents during the hard years that followed the Civil War when Charleston

was poverty-stricken and bereft of all material resources. The city government had always prided itself upon the manner in which it provided for its dependents and afflicted citizens, but at this period there existed needs which were far beyond its power to meet. It was on January 9, 1867, that Adolph Nimitz decided to join the Friendly German Society.

As early as the first part of the eighteenth century groups of various nationalities founded benevolent societies to aid the needy among their people, and to extend help for the education of their children. They began with the St. Andrew Society for the Scotch, followed by the St. George Society for the English, the Hibernian for the Irish, and the Friendly Society for the German. Although only persons of German descent were admitted into the Friendly Society, it is interesting to observe how as time went on more and more French, English, Dutch, and Irish names appeared in the records both as members and as officers.

During the Revolutionary War meetings of the Society were suspended for two years and nine months, and during the Civil War the meetings were attended by very few. During both wars and the immediately subsequent periods the Society cared in a particular manner for the suffering and their dependents. The Friendly Society meeting hall was rented on the eve of the Civil War to the Democratic Convention, and during the meeting of April 2, 1862, a motion was offered that the lead weights in the windows of the Society's building be tendered to the Confederate States.

On April 18, 1866, the members reassembled on the old spot on Archdale Street. All the books and records that had been in the hands of President Small during the war were now again safely placed on the shelves in the meeting hall. The Friendly Society began to function once more. Although it is probable

that Adolph Nimitz held a life membership, records show only his admission into the Society.

In 1870 he bought a new store, and between 1876 and 1878 he made trips to North Carolina, where he stayed at Mount Holly. On July 5, 1881, Adolph Nimitz sold his store and retired from active work. His beloved wife preceded him in death. She died on November 21, 1887; he, on October 14, 1890. Both are buried with their twin daughters at Bethany Cemetery in Charleston.

Of his children, Doris, the only daughter, grew up to be a strikingly beautiful girl. She had many marriage proposals, but did not wish to give up her freedom. Eight years of her youth were spent in Germany where she attended school at Hanau, and part of the time visited with her Aunt Auguste. She left Charleston on the Steamer **Manhattan** on May 29, 1869, and embarked on the Steamer **America** in New York for Germany. Upon her return to Charleston she lived with her brother Adolph Boethius who was then a salesman for a wholesale grocery company. Her brother John, who did not marry either, was employed in a wholesale candy store. John and Adolph preceded her in death in the years 1912 and 1913 respectively, and Doris then lived as a companion with her friend, Mrs. Kruse. Doris died in 1926 at the age of seventy-two. Her memory is greatly cherished by the children of her brother Adolph Boethius who, of her two brothers, was the sole perpetuator of the Carolina Nimitz branch.

Adolph Boethius Nimitz's wife, who is still living, spent her early years at Bluffton, South Carolina. Her maiden name was Anna Jane Sanders. She was the daughter of a large land owner. His newly-built home was nearing completion when the Confederate War began, and was occupied by Sherman's army on its march to the sea. It was one of the few places that did not burn. On the plastered walls were written

Adolph Nimitz and his wife, Meta Bulcken, with their daughter Dora.

many names and addresses of soldiers, and when they left, they had printed in large letters above the front door: "Mr. Edward Sanders, come back to your home. We liked it and did not burn it."

The grandfather of Mrs. Nimitz, née Anna Jane Sanders, was Burrell Sanders, whose plantation, "Beach Hill," is near Waterboro, South Carolina, and is still owned by the family. The lovely old home is noted as having been the scene of twenty-six weddings, some of them having been of famous people.

The maternal coat of arms of Mrs. Nimitz, née Sanders, dates back to 1736 and bears the seal of Charles VI, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of Vienna, Austria. It was presented to Christoph Philip Ruland Reineck at which occasion "von" was added to the name Reineck, the sign of nobility. The original coat of arms is in the possession of Jennie Sanders, cousin of Mrs. Nimitz, who lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. Mrs. Nimitz lives with her second son, Arthur, at Chattanooga, Tennessee. She is a charming lady of gracious manner, and retains much of her youthful beauty for which she was noted.

The eldest son of Mrs. Nimitz, named after his father Adolph Boethius, is "Dolph" in the family circle. He was born October 21, 1893, in Charleston, South Carolina, and received his early education in the Bennett Public High School and Charleston High School. Upon his graduation from high school, he was awarded a scholarship to the College of Charleston, but preferring an engineering education, he chose rather to enter Tri-State College in Angela, Indiana. Dolph did not graduate from Tri-State College because, upon his father's death in 1913, he considered it his duty to return home and assist his widowed mother in providing for the family of younger children. Shortly thereafter he accepted employment with the Southern Company,

in Charleston, and was promoted to the position of cashier, which he held for a number of years.

Dolph is a type of man who is endowed with enormous physical strength, and at the same time gifted with equal strength of character. From early youth he evidenced a great and increasing interest in the popular outdoor sports of hunting and fishing, both of which offer almost unlimited possibilities in the immediate neighborhood of his home city of Charleston. It is therefore not at all strange that from planned economics and systematic savings, Dolph soon purchased and eventually paid for a tract of unimproved land on the Wando River near Charleston, and proceeded to increase the game supply and to set a community pattern in sportsman-like conservation practices of the highest type.

Soon after becoming the owner of a small hunting reservation, Dolph, because of his growing reputation as a real sportsman and conservation exponent, was offered the position as manager of a well-known private hunting club. This was a good opportunity to make a full time job of an enjoyable hobby. He immediately resigned his city job and became a full time conservationist of wild life, and property manager.

From time to time, as opportunity presented, Dolph has added to his original holdings. By constant application of high standards of conservation his property has become a sportsman's dream. Fortunate, indeed, is the person who is invited to join the small but select group of sportsmen from all walks of life, who constitute the regulars during the hunting and fishing seasons.

Typical of all true sportsmen, Dolph has looked beyond immediate horizons. He has traveled, hunted, and fished in all parts of this country, and in certain sections of Canada. Entirely fearless, he possesses the

happy faculty of readily making friends with those kindred spirits who admire and value the great outdoors and its wild life.

On one of his return trips from Canada to the United States he was carrying a duffle bag filled with outdoor clothes he wished to be shipped to Charleston. The bag had to be examined at the Canadian custom house. A courteous and efficient customs agent looked at his belongings and asked:

"What have you in the bag?"

"Outdoor wearing apparel."

"Where do you wish to send it?"

"Charleston, South Carolina," was the reply.

"Your name, please."

"Nimitz."

The Canadian officer was about to open the bag and examine the contents, but stopped, and looked up.

"Any relation to the Admiral?" he asked.

"If he whips the Japs, I am. If he does not, I am **not**," was the answer, for this was the year 1942.

The Canadian customs officer smiled broadly, waved his hand and said genially, "Go right through, Sir."

A skillful taxidermist, Dolph has adopted and prefers a modern and improved substitute for the older system of collecting trophies. It is that of photography. Although productions of an amateur, his collections of motion pictures and color slides taken of elusive game in its natural abode, scenes of majestic grandeur, and beautiful old gardens abloom in a riot of color have been viewed and highly praised as unsurpassed by numerous groups, both large and small. Dolph has exhibited his photography and lectured informally on his subjects before many organized groups of sportsmen and also to school children.

Arthur Nimitz, the second son, born June 26, 1894, in Charleston, also attended the Bennett Public School and the Charleston High School. In 1911, in com-

petitive examination, he won a four year scholarship awarded by the City of Charleston to the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, and was graduated from that institution in 1915 with the degree of B.S. in Civil Engineering.

While attending the Citadel, Arthur was associate art editor for The Sphinx, the annual publication of the college, and contributed a number of cartoons and illustrations to its pages; he was a member of the Rifle Team and also of the Basketball Team. But he lasted only thirty minutes on the Football Squad, when after the initial line-up, he and a few more candidates were told by the coach, "Go back and grow some more." He organized and coached the first Swimming Team in the Citadel's history, entering it with considerable success against the veteran Charleston Y.M.C.A. Swimming Team with which he had for a number of years been the undefeated back stroke champion. During his senior year he was second lieutenant of Company 'A', and instructor in small arms practice.

Upon graduation from the Citadel, Arthur accepted employment with the U.S. Navy Department and was assigned to the Scientific Branch of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, in Washington, D. C., subsequently transferring to the Charleston Navy Yard for duty with the Hull Division where he qualified as a naval architect. At the outbreak of World War I, he was tendered commissions in Marine Corps, Infantry, Chemical Warfare Service, and also as an Observer in the Aviation Branch of the Army. But heeding the repeated appeals of the then Secretary of the Navy, Hon. Josephus Daniels, for experienced technical employees to remain with the navy, he did not enter combat service.

Arthur Nimitz resigned from service with the Navy Department in the late summer of 1921 and matricu-

lated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Boston for a course in Architectural Engineering. Being unable to obtain credit for, or postponement of some required subjects scheduled at identical times, he withdrew and entered Clemson A. & M. College in South Carolina for the study of Architecture. By much extra work during evenings and holidays, he completed in one year all of the requirements for graduation, and was awarded the degree of B.S. in Architecture in June 1922.

From graduation 1922 to 1934, Arthur was employed by several architectural, engineering, and contracting companies in a number of states east of the Mississippi River, and during this time became registered in South Carolina as Civil Engineer, and in both Florida and Tennessee as Architect.

In 1934, Arthur Nimitz accepted employment with the newly created Federal Housing Administration as an architect, and was assigned to the Chattanooga, Tennessee Office. Because of his varied theoretical and practical experience in construction, he did much to revive home building in Eastern Tennessee, Northern Alabama, and Northern Georgia on FHA Insured Mortgage Plan. During this time he was a frequent contributor to the newspapers on subjects of sound construction practices and adequate equipment. He served one year in Washington, D. C., as an Architectural Engineer, returning to Tennessee to assist in the urgently needed construction of two thousand dwelling units in the vicinity of the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, atomic bomb development site.

During World War II, Arthur offered his services to both the Navy and the Army, but was accepted by neither as the emphasis was on men in the lower age brackets.

In 1945, Arthur resigned from the Federal Housing Administration to enter private business. He is now

operating as the Arthur Nimitz Company, Designers and Builders, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and is engaged in building some much needed dwelling units in that city. Previously he had been president of the Chattanooga Engineers' Club and served in that capacity until he was called for duty in Washington, D. C.

The youngest son, Francis Kramer, also earned his B.S. degree at the Clemson Agricultural and Mechanical College, not in architecture, but in Civil Engineering. After his graduation he accepted employment with the Palm Beach Ocean Realty Company, the Chattanooga Y.M.C.A., and the Standard Oil Refinery in Charleston.

At the age of twenty-four he started teaching in the Murray Vocational School in Charleston and taught there until 1943, when he received a commission as lieutenant (j.g.) with the U.S. Navy Reserve. By the end of the war he attained the rank of Lieutenant, senior grade, and was stationed at the Charleston Navy Yard. Upon his discharge from the navy he returned to teaching at the Murray Vocational School.

Francis Kramer is married to Virginia Maxine Godfrey, granddaughter of Jennie Pearl MacArthur, a cousin to General MacArthur. Their children are Janet, Jean Francis, and Eunice Idella.

The only living daughter in the Adolph Boethius Nimitz family is Anna Jane, married to David James Padrick. Unlike her brothers who are tall of stature, she is medium size. Like her cousin Bertha Riley of the Texas Nimitz branch, Anna Jane may be considered the family historian in the Carolinas, gathering and recording whatever seems to be of interest in the lives of her forefathers and also immediate families. She is a very affable person, always ready to do something for others. David James and Anna Jane Padrick have two children, Anna Laura and Mary Elizabeth, and a grandson, David Frazier Aiken, son of Mary Elizabeth and John Aiken. Both families live in North Carolina.

No doubt, the Carolina branch of the Nimitz family has became better known through the work and activities of Dr. Herman J. Nimitz, third son of Adolph Boethius and Anna Jane Nimitz. His work for humanity in the field of tuberculosis, in which he specialized before his mlitary career, has been recognzed not only in Cincinnati, where he resides, but throughout the whole State of Ohio.

Herman John Nimitz was born May 3, 1897, in Charleston, South Carolina, where relationships were many, and friendships strong. Young Herman attended the public schools in that city, and after two years in the Charleston High School he successfully passed a competitive examination for a scholarship to Clemson Agricultural and Mechanical College. While a student at this college Herman was considered a fair athlete, having been a member of the Varsity foot ball squad for three years, earning his Varsity letter during the senior year during which he was also manager of the Varsity track team. No doubt, this physical development prepared him for the strenuous life of later years. Although he entered Clemson College for the study of agricultural chemistry, he now takes pride in having attended a college considered as one of the four leading military schools in the United States. It has been reported that Clemson College supplied more officers and men to the Armed Services in proportion to its students than any other college in this country. Herman graduated from Clemson College in 1917 and received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Chemistry.

His work during the thirteen years after his graduation, first as Deputy State Chemist in the Experiment Stations, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, and later as superintendent of large commercial food plants, increased his interest in nutrition and stimulated his desire to become a physician. In 1930 he entered the College of Medicine of the University of Cin-

cinnati. Upon his graduation, four years later, he followed the routine of a young doctor as an interne in the Cincinnati General Hospital, where he consequently spent another year as assistant resident in Medicine. His medical knowledge and interest in public welfare caused him to accept a position in the Hamilton County Tuberculosis Hospital, now known as the Dunham Hospital. On July 1, 1938, he was appointed the first Tuberculosis Coordinator for Cincinnati and Hamilton County. After five years of effective service and research in the tuberculosis field, Dr. Herman J. Nimitz was appointed Medical Superintendent and Associate Medical Director of the Hamilton County Hospital. During the last six months as Tuberculosis Coordinator he was also the Director of the Cincinnati Anti-Tuberculosis League.

His study of the problems concerning tuberculosis in Hamilton County revealed three facts: The problem of tuberculosis was not fully appreciated, either by the medical profession or by the general public; there was a serious lack of cooperation of all agencies dealing with the tuberculosis problem; and that in order to bring this great public health problem under control, it was necessary to spend more money in order to save money five, ten, fifteen, or twenty years later.

He made further investigational studies by visiting practically all of the patients in their homes prior to their admission to the tuberculosis hospital. Visits to such cities as Detroit, Chicago, and Milwaukee were made by him to see what was being done there in regard to tuberculosis problems. The results were given before the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine in October, 1939.

A year later he reported in a meeting before the Cincinnati Anti-Tuberculosis League:

> This community suffered an economic loss of approximately seven and one half million

Adolph Boethius, son of Adolph Nimitz, and his wife, Anna Jane Sanders, with their son Dr. Herman J. Nimitz, M.C.

> dollars in 1938 and 1939 due to tuberculosis. This treacherous disease which affects every man, woman and child from a medical, public health or an economic standpoint has claimed the lives of seven hundred and twelve persons in these years. Approximately four times as many persons each year die from tuberculosis in the city of Cincinnati as are killed in automobile accidents.[14]

Because of his humanitarian interest Dr. Nimitz also gave special consideration to the Negro population in that community. He emphasized the magnitude of the problem in view of the fact that although the Negro population in Cincinnati and Hamilton County was only 12%, yet, 47% of the deaths from tuberculosis at the Hamilton County Hospital were among the Negroes, and that approximately 35% of the adult beds were occupied by Negro patients. Poor housing, inadequate clothing, improper and insufficient food due either to low wages or inadequate relief had played a major role in lowering their resistance and making them prey to this great public health disease—tuberculosis.

When assuming his new position as Medical Superintendent and Associate Medical Director of Tuberculosis Hospital, February 1, 1941, Dr. Nimitz declared:

> I have been charged by the Trustees with a responsibility of seeing that the patients get the best medical care and attention to bring about a cure as quickly as possible. I have the responsibility also to coordinate the activities of this institution, the Anti-Tuberculosis League, the Unversity, the Medical College, the Cincinnati General Hospital, Public Health Federation, the Academy of Medicine, Welfare Department, Boards of Health, private physicians and the general public. This should do a great deal in restoring confidence in the tuber-

> culosis hospital which it so rightly deserves. I look for progress in the future to bring tuberculosis under control, and this will only be possible thru the concerted efforts on the part of all parties concerned. The problem is far from being one of the tuberculosis hospital alone.[15]

During the summer of 1941 when the storm clouds were gathering, the Surgeon General of the United States invited the University of Cincinnati to organize the 25th General Hospital as an affiliated unit to serve the country in case of national emergency. The number designated (25th) was the same as had been used in World War I, which General Hospital served with honor and distinction in France. Shortly after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, momentum was added in the selection of the professional staff to serve in the hospital. Dr. Nimitz received a commission as Major in the Medical Corps, A U S, to serve as the assistant chief of the medical service on an inactive status dated March 6, 1942. But as one may expect, Dr. Nimitz applied for active duty and was called into active service on August 6, 1942, with the understanding that he would rejoin the 25th General Hospital at the time of its activation. Just prior to a leave of absence, granted by the Trustees of the hospital in order to enter Military Service, the medical staff and employees honored him with a farewell banquet, on which occasion he was presented with a complete set of matched military luggage.

His first tour of active duty was for administrative training at Walter Reed Hospital, Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C., following which he was ordered to Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he served as the Assistant Chief of Medical Service. On December 16, 1942, Major Nimitz joined the 85th General Hospital (the parent Unit of the 25th General Hospital) and

was assigned to the Medical Service. While assisting in the training of personnel he received recognition of his ability by his appointment as Executive Officer on February 6, 1943. From this time on, the career of Major Herman Nimitz, M.C., was closely connected with the activities of the 25th General Hospital. (See Supplement).

Major Nimitz was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on December 23, 1943, a week before the main body of the 25th General Hospital arrived in England. The hospital was not a stationary set-up, but advanced with the American army, and tented wherever it was possible. In these maneuvers, Lieutenant Colonel Nimitz was in charge of the advance party. Their successive movements were to Lison, France; Liege, Morlanwelz, Tongres, Belgium. Before the 25th General Hospital returned to Rouen, France, when the Commanding Officer was transferred from this hospital, Lieutenant Colonel Nimitz relinquished his duties as Executive Officer and was appointed as Commanding Officer of the 25th General Hospital, which position he held until the hospital was turned over to the 168th General Hospital.

On October 18, 1945, Lieutenant Colonel Nimitz sailed from Le Havre, France, for the United States, aboard the **Argentina,** and arrived in New York a week later. He was separated from the Service at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Before he was officially discharged from the United States Army, he received his "eagles," denoting the rank of a full colonel. Colonel Nimitz is entitled to wear four battle stars on his European Theatre Service ribbon for the campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and the Ardennes (the Battle of the Bulge).

On January 1, 1946 Dr. Nimitz returned to his former position as Medical Superintendent and Associate Medical Director of the Dunham Hospital in Cin-

cinnati, Ohio, but retained his commission as a Colonel, M.C., in the Reserve Corps. He is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha, National Medical Scholastic Fraternity; Phi Ro Sigma Medical Fraternity, American Medical Association; the Ohio State Medical Association; Cincinnati Academy of Medicine; Cincinnati Public Health Federation; the National Tuberculosis Association; Trudeau Society; a Fellow in the American College of Chest Physicians; and a member of the Masonic Lodge.

In recognition of his professional standing and ability, Dr. Nimitz has been offered the position as Medical Director of Branch No. 6 by the Veterans Administration, which district is composed of the States of Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Dr. Nimitz is married to Velma Kibby who comes from a family that experienced hardships and contributed to our country's welfare in pioneer days. One of her ancestors was Captain Ephriam Kibby, adventurous Scout Leader of "Mad Anthony Wayne's" Forty Famous Scouts.

Mrs. Nimitz is an efficient stenographer and bookkeeper, a position she held with the Federal Color Laboratories in Cincinnati when Herman Nimitz met her. Their married life has been an unusually happy one. They have two daughters, Mary Dale, a premedical student at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, and Elizabeth Ann, known as Betsy, born April 1, 1939.

Colonel Herman Nimitz is the only member of the Carolina branch of the Nimitz family retaining his military standing, which is modified by his humanitarian interest, proceeding from his medical profession.

CHAPTER II

Live Oaks

FROM the close of the Texas-Mexican War in 1836 to the annexation of Texas to the Union in 1845 many immigrants from all parts of the United States and Germany flocked to the Lone Star State. Each year immigrants from Germany, escaping the prevailing oppressive conditions in the social, economic, and political life that existed in their country after the Napoleonic Wars, arrived. One of these early settlers, Robert Kleberg, founder of Cat Spring, Texas, voiced his reasons, which also exemplified those of the majority of the German immigrants, for coming to Texas: "I wished to live under a republican form of government with unbounded personal, religious, and political liberty, free from tyrannies and the many disadvantages and evils of the old country . . . . I expected to find Texas above all countries the blessed land of my fervent hopes."[16]

Immigration received an additional impetus through the organization of immigration societies in various parts of Germany, that directed emigration to the United States. Of these, only the Mayence Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas was interested in German colonization; the others conceived in their enterprise a possible source of wealth and power for the members of their organization.

The Mayence Society was composed of eighteen princes and noblemen and, therefore, became known as the League of Nobility. It was established as a stock company in the winter of 1843-1844, the year that Charles Henry Nimitz, grandfather of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, arrived on Sullivan Island. The

Society proceeded to buy tracts of land from American land owners on which the German colonists were to settle. Prince Solms Braunfels, stepson of King George I of Hanover, and cousin to Queen Victoria of England, was appointed commissioner general for the colonial establishment.

The first immigrants under the protection of the Mayence Society arrived in Galveston, Texas, in November, 1844. Instead of proceeding directly to their new settlement they were obliged to go to Indianola, about a hundred miles west of Galveston, because the land which the society had bought from the Fisher grant had not yet been surveyed; and, according to the terms, the society had not secured title to a single acre of land. The newcomers tented in Indianola for two months in the cold winter. Fortunately, Prince Solms was able to buy a new tract of land which became the settlement of New Braunfels, named after his castle on the Lahn River in Germany. The Colonists were immediately transported from Indianola to the new settlement. They arrived on March 21, 1845, exhausted from an overland trip of more than 150 miles.

Prince Solms had an excellent military record, but had no experience that would help him in the complex problems that confronted him in handling colonization situations. The finances of the company were almost exhausted, when another large consignment of immigrants was on the way to America. Prince Solms, no doubt foreseeing the difficulties of the venture presented, resigned and returned to Europe. Baron O. Meusebach, his successor, soon restored the confidence of creditors by his judicious business methods, and began preparations for the immigrants that were to arrive in November, 1845.

From this time to April, 1846, over five thousand German immigrants landed in Galveston. Meusebach

succeeded in having them transferred to Indianola whence they were to be transported to New Braunfels, which was now in process of colonization. A contract was made with a Houston transportation company to bring the immigrants to their destination.

No sooner had the first wagons left Indianola than war was declared between the United States and Mexico. The transportation company retracted the contract because the government needed every available means for transportation. The people were despondent when they heard this unfortunate news. An epidemic fever among the colonists added to their distress. Many died while at Indianola. A few weeks later the immigrants, after securing some private vehicles, set out on a miserable journey, drifting toward New Braunfels. For many of them it was a death march. Hundreds perished on the way from exposure, exhaustion, and hunger. It is not known how many reached New Braunfels.

Charles Henry Nimitz had probably heard of the Mayence Society project when he was in Charleston, South Carolina. Then in the prime of manhood, not quite twenty years old, he decided to join the group and settle in Texas. As a true seaman he made his trip by water, for at that time trains were not running west of the Mississippi. After arriving in New Braunfels he associated himself with the group that was to establish the town of Fredericksburg, named in honor of Prince Frederick of Prussia, who was a member of the society. The site had been purchased by Commissioner General Meusebach for a new colonization.

On the same day that the Mexicans opened the bombardment on the American forces near Point Isabel, Texas, in the war between the United States and Mexico, the Governor of State, Colonel Henderson, sent a letter to the Commissioner General advising

him not to carry out the plan of setting out for Fredericksburg. The country was sparsely and exclusively inhabited by roving Indians, and the military protection on the part of the Government could not be granted, as all available troops were needed in the war. Major Neighbors, the Governor's messenger, appealed to Meusebach to turn back. But instead of turning back Meusebach induced Major Neighbors to join him and visit Ketemoczy, the Chief of the Comanche Indians.

As a result of the conference with Ketemoczy, arrangements were made for a general meeting with the other Comanche chiefs and a treaty was concluded by them and Meusebach, by the terms of which the colonists of Meusebach were to be permitted to come and go without molestation on part of the Indians. On the other hand, the people of Meusebach were at all times to treat the Indians with fairness and welcome them to their "wigwams." Meusebach pledged himself to the promise and presented gifts to the chiefs and their warriors.

After a wearisome journey of fifteen days the German pioneers reached their destination on the day of the first victorious battle in the war at Palo Alto, May 8, 1846. They, too, had won their first battle in the series that would achieve victory when they had succeeded in conquering the wilderness and had completed the work of transforming it into the pleasant little town of Fredericksburg, which has become famous in our day as the birthplace of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

The Fredericksburg settlement in 1846 was the last one made in the general immigration of the Germans in Texas, and was an important part of that greater exodus from Europe to the United States that had all the features of a mass movement.

On their arrival at Fredericksburg the early immigrants began building their first crude houses of post oak logs. The building of houses continued during the summer of 1846 to accommodate new trains of immigrants. In the course of time more huts were built in order to provide for all the settlers. The number of inhabitants increased so rapidly that it became necessary to divide Fredericksburg into five smaller settlements. Charles H. Nimitz belonged to the Live-Oak Settlement. To this settlement also belonged Heinrich Muller, who was a cannoneer in the expedition that founded Fredericksburg, and who later settled on a farm at the Live-Oak Creek.

It was here that Charles H. Nimitz met the beautiful daughter of Heinrich Muller, Sophie Dorothe, whom he married on April 8, 1848. When Sophie Dorothe left her home she definitely assumed a responsibility that developed her innately strong character. Her pioneering days began with her wedding which was celebrated at her home in the Live-Oak settlement. But, since there were no wooden floors at that time, the bridal party proceeded on foot to town where they had their wedding dance, a part of the celebration, in a hall with wooden floors. Later on more houses with wooden floors were to be found in Fredericksburg. Many were one story and a half with precipitous outside stairways leading to openings in the attic walls; of such structure was the Henke house in which Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz was born.

Charles Henry Nimitz was for a short time a bookkeeper for a cypress lumber company at the Pedernales River. It was about this time that he followed his brother William's example and joined the Texas Rangers. In the Ranger Muster Rolls at the Texas State Library, we find him listed, "Charles H. Nimitz, private, age 24, enlisted August 4, 1851, at

Pecan Camp, Capt. Henry E. McCulloch's Company, Texas Mounted Volunteers, discharged November 5, 1851." This was the time when the company's active enlistment date expired. November 5, 1851 also terminated the fighting career of Captain H. McCulloch. The Fort is said to have been abandoned not many months after.

Because of his love for the sea which he had evinced even as a boy of fourteen years when he entered the merchant marines in the old country, Charles Henry Nimitz erected in 1852, the year when Charles Henry the Second was born to him, a sun-dried brick hotel in the shape of a ship, its prow on a line with the street. There were decks which formed porches and balconies; there were masts, and a look-out that was reached by a steep ladder in true ship fashion. At first the hotel had only a few rooms, all on one floor. The brewery in the rear with its capacious cellar extended back into the large yard, a great open space toward the south, where the well with its moss-green bucket stood surrounded by native oak. Later the second-story "steamboat" addition was made, and as such the Nimitz Hotel became a landmark through all the years of its existence in the Southwest. It was hotel, theater, dance hall, saloon, brewery, and general store.

The garden court which surrounded it is still a beloved and memorable spot. Flower beds, which in other yards were rimmed with bricks, were bordered in the Nimitz garden by champagne bottles turned upside down, their necks buried in the ground. A rusty iron bell which was rung three times a day in the 1850's is still in its place. An old register dated 1853 contained names of notable United States Officers such as Major James Longstreet, Phil Sheridan, Ulysses Grant, Horace Greely, Adolphus W. Greely, General Schafter, Fitzhugh Lee, and Robert E. Lee.

Before the Civil War General Lee was for some time at Fort Mason, and made frequent visits to Fort Martin Scott. On his travels around Fort Mason he spent the night at the little hotel in Fredericksburg operated by Charles Henry Nimitz. The proprietor always assigned Lee to the same quarters, which he later preserved and exhibited as "General Lee's room." The bed upon which he slept has been preserved as one of the cherished relics in the hotel.

The short story writer O. Henry was also a frequent visitor in Fredericksburg. He would sit around the hotel's saloon for days absorbing the colloquialisms and anecdotes of the old timers, which he later used in his story, "A Chaparral Prince." The local setting of the story is typical of Fredericksburg with its surrounding hills from which limestone is quarried. The Nimitz Hotel is the Quarrymen's Hotel where the workingmen are served by Lena, the heroine of the story.

Drama and music were promoted in the hotel by the Casino Club. On such occasions one could see a true picture of the gay nineties. Nimitz Hall in the old ship building was bright with the glow of many oil lamps. In the wide entrance foyer one heard laughter and the blur of gay greetings. Ladies in bustles and leg-o-mutton sleeves, and their escorts, gentlemen in bow ties and derbies, waved knowing welcomes to the performers who edged past them into the hall.

After the play was over, the center and wall lamps which had been dimmed during the performance were turned up. Chairs were pushed aside and the orchestra tuned up. Dancing would continue until the coal oil burned out. The flickering of the lamps was usually accepted as the signal to go home.

Captain Nimitz, as he was known in his "steamboat" hotel, was greatly beloved by his customers and the townspeople enjoyed his company. Judge Robert

Bodermann, the County Judge, found him always very friendly and entertaining. Old Dr. Keidel, the town physician, and the Catholic priest, Father Tarillion, would not miss having their daily glass of beer with the captain. His talent for story telling, real and fictitious, and his congenial humor created an atmosphere that attracted young and old. Captain Nimitz had two cronies, William Mogford, and Judge Cooley, who tried to surpass him in playing practical jokes. Even in his own family circle Captain Nimitz was the great entertainer and story teller. To his children and, later, to his grandchildren he became a Hans Anderson.

He used to impress his younger attentive listeners with the comment that he never could make another ocean trip. "I turned my back to the sea," he said, "and when you do that you can never make an ocean trip. The sea will swallow you up as punishment." And when Captain Nimitz, forgetful of this particular bit of fiction, made a sea trip to New York, his small grandchildren were troubled not a little. They feared that their Grandfather would be swallowed by the ocean. When he returned safely he thought it wise to explain, "I begged forgiveness and promised the sea two admirals from among my descendants of willing grandchildren." This prophesy has been realized in Captain Otto Nimitz, who was eligible for promotion when ill health cut short his career, and in his brother Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN.

Mrs. Nimitz, the Captain's wife, was no less celebrated and beloved by those who came in contact with her. Customers would find her an industrious mistress supervising the work in the hotel kitchen where the maids with the assistance of the Nimitz girls prepared the bounteous meals. At times the service provided would far exceed what would normally be expected in hotel services, for Mrs. Nimitz was gen-

Sophie Dorothe Nimitz, grandmother of the Fleet Admiral, his mother Anna Henke Nimitz, the grandfather Charles Henry Nimitz with Ensign Chester W. Nimitz, after his graduation from the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and Chester W .Nimitz at the age of nine.

erous and kind. Many a time a wedding banquet was furnished gratis by the Nimitzes, a fact attested to by Mrs. Kate Veck to whom this service was tendered on her wedding day.

Mrs. Nimitz's kindness was further manifested in the assistance she was always ready to give to anyone in trouble. During the cholera epidemic in San Antonio, Texas, she lost two good friends, the parents of a crippled son who also became afflicted with the disease. Some freighters from Menard managed to bring him to Mrs. Nimitz in Fredericksburg. Although frightened over the condition of the child, and the possibility of spreading the disease, Mrs. Nimitz took charge of him. She entrusted him to an old lady who cared for him. The child's infected clothes were burned and he was quarantined; and no one else took the disease.

But it was in her home, as a good mother, a perfect homemaker, and teacher, that Mrs. Nimitz showed the finest traits of character. Her children loved her, and in their advanced age the memory of their mother was still a very vital force in their lives. Her life and her teachings were based on love of God and one's country and through her example and guidance her children became good citizens and true patriots. She taught her girls how to cook and to sew, and instructed them in all other arts indispensable in a well-regulated happy home.

Education in the early days of Fredericksburg was left, to a great extent, to the parents. Mrs. Nimitz provided for her children the best instruction possible, and when this was interrupted, because the teacher moved away, Mr. Nimitz had to continue the lessons with his children. He believed education should begin at home, placing emphasis on good reading. Bertha, the eldest girl, was sent to San Antonio for schooling, and Ernest, the eldest boy, went to a

teacher at the Llano River for instruction. In later years, Ernest Nimitz joked about his early education that he received from this bachelor teacher Fuchs, saying that he graduated from the "Fuchs" University.

Mother Nimitz was careful in the preparation of food as well as exact in regard to the manner of serving various dishes. The meat was carefully carved, the salads neatly cut and tastefully arranged. The menu was varied by procuring fish, game and other meats, which she served with fresh vegetables, rice, or potatoes. She knew how to preserve food, and this knowledge was no slight asset in those days when the butcher did not come around every day. In fact, Mrs. Nimitz earned the reputation of being one of the best cooks in the hill country.

To her servants Mrs. Nimitz was kind but firm. She took a personal interest in them, teaching them how to do the things for which they were held responsible. She was very exacting about their personal appearance and conduct. Their hair had to be neatly brushed, and in the early hours of the day, when stage coaches left the hotel about four in the morning, the maids wore boudoir caps when serving breakfast to the departing guests. Nor did Mrs. Nimitz fail to appear at such early hours to see that everything was carried on according to her regulations.

During the days of Civil War clothing for the children became a problem for Mrs. Nimitz, who was always particular as to their appearance. When cloth could no longer be bought she would dye feather bed ticking in walnut color, which material she used for fashioning pants for the boys. Great was her distress when they did not take proper care of them.

Mother Nimitz was often entrusted with large sums of money, pay rolls of the Army Posts, and cattlemen's bags of coin. The money was kept under

her bed, and guarded with care equal to the trust that was placed in her.

At times she acted as peacemaker when the jokes her witty husband played on others were not appreciated. In such cases she did not fail to give "Herr" Nimitz a curtain lecture in due time.

In the early days of Fredericksburg worshippers of all denominations held their services in the **Vereinskirche**, the first church erected by the pioneers. It was a community church for Catholics and Protestants until they built their independent houses of worship. The first Protestant services were conducted by Rev. F. Basse in 1846. In 1849 he was succeeded by Rev. Gottlieb Dangers. A Catholic lay teacher, Johann Leyendecker, read the Gospel with the explanations and conducted Catholic devotions until 1847 when the French priest C. M. Dubuis, later bishop of Texas, arrived. Captain Charles H. Nimitz and his immediate ancestors were Lutherans, but he believed in allowing his children, when grown up, to join the religious sect of their choice. Consequently, we find his descendants belonging to various denominations, but active members of their churches.

An important place for worshippers of all denominations were the Sunday houses, small rooming houses which were closed during the week, but bustling with activity on Saturdays and Sundays. When roads were bad, and transportation slow, families had to spend Saturday nights in town to be able to shop on Saturday and attend church on Sunday. The Sunday houses are still maintained as a convenient and economical way of spending the week-end in town.

Captain Nimitz's patriotism asserted itself when, as an early settler in Fredericksburg, he became an American citizen and began to take an active part in politics. An ardent Democrat, he was delegate to nearly all conventions of his time and an active worker

for the success of the party. When the Civil War broke out he organized the **Gillespie Rifles** of which he was named captain. But two months later he was appointed by the Confederate States Government enrolling officer for the frontier district and he served in that capacity until the close of the war. In 1891 he was elected to the twenty-second Legislature from the 89th Representative District.

During the Civil War the inhabitants of Fredericksburg suffered greatly. Like the other German settlers in Texas they had left their fatherland to live in the new country as upholders of a government by the people. As a rule they favored social equality and abhorred race distinction. They sought personal liberty. It therefore seemed natural to them that they should oppose slavery, and that they should join with the abolitionists. For that reason they were often accused by the slaveholders of abetment in the escape of negroes who sought their liberty. In accordance with their conception of America as a free country, some Germans, in 1854, in a convention at Vauxhall Garden, San Antonio, passed a plan known as the **German Platform** with resolutions advocating some legislative reforms. Slavery was declared a monstrous social wrong that, in conformity with the constitution of the United States, should be abolished.

Being against slavery above all things, this group did not fear to speak out boldly. Many were imprisoned because accusations of their instigating an anti-democratic movement were brought against them by Know-Nothing leaders who made the **German Platform** the basis of an attack on the Germans in the whole state. The Germans formed in the farthermost western part of the state a **Union Loyal League** the aim of which was (1) to prevent strife between the Union and Confederate partisans, and (2) to take peaceable action to prevent the forced enlistment of

Union sympathizers in the Confederate army. Immediately following their organization the Confederacy demanded levies of troops and supplies. In answer to this demand a few Germans joined the Southern army and furnished supplies. Many others, however, because of their allegiance to the Union, and because of their desire for the personal freedom for which they had come to Texas, decided against secession.

Because of this attitude, it is said that 2,000 Union "Bushwackers"— as the apparent deserters were called — had gone to the Fredericksburg hills, ready to descend upon the coastal plain. The governor of Texas then issued the well-known proclamation ordering them either to foreswear their previous allegiance and take the oath to the confederacy within thirty days, or endure pain of arrest and imprisonment, and possibly death.

Confronted with this terrible alternative, some of the young men of Fredericksburg and neighboring Comfort assembled on Turtle Creek near Kerrville and made plans to escape to Mexico. Quite unsuspecting of danger, because of the thirty-day period allowed by the governor's proclamation, they proceeded by short marches toward Mexico, hunting as they went. In this way they reached the Nueces River and pitched camp along its bank. But before reaching their destination, which could have been accomplished in the twelve days still remaining of the thirty-day period allowed them, they were overtaken and attacked by Duff's army on August 10, 1862. The first and second assaults were beaten off; but, after the third attack, no more than six Germans were left unwounded. The dead were left on the battle field and twenty-eight slightly wounded ones who managed to get back to Fredericksburg were hanged. After the war the bones of the dead at the Nueces were gathered and brought near Comfort for burial.

There will be no attempt here to present the pro and con of either Unionist or Confederate cause. Suffice it to say that it was with an honest conviction of the justice of their cause that those of either side took their stand during the poignant four-year struggle. On both sides there were evinced ability and manly endurance together with all the qualities that go into the making of the true American. Nor must it be forgotten that outstanding Southerners of those days never conceded that they were fighting primarily for the preservation of slavery, an institution they themselves were persuaded must inevitably be abolished.

Charles H. Nimitz, as a contributor to the Southern Aid Society, and as a Captain of the **Gillespie Rifles,** which he organized in July 1861, took a firm stand with the Southerners. The following constitutes the Muster Roll of the **Gillespie Rifles:**

Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers:

1. Charles H. Henry—Captain
2. Fr. Forkemeier—First Lieutenant
3. Chas. Weirich—Second Lieutenant
4. E. Krauskopf—Third Lieutenant
5. A. Maier—First Sergeant
6. Fri. Schmidt—Second Sergeant
7. John Walch—First Corporal
8. T. Tatch—Second Corporal

Privates

9. W. Keidel
10. Fr. Riedel
11. Chr. Stoffers
12. Chas. Schwartz
13. F. W. Doebbler
14. S. J. Lungwitz
15. Fr. Jordan
16. Say Arhleger
17. Geo. Leiter
19. Wm. Wahrmund
20. E. Maier
21. H. Wilke
22. A. Kott
23. F. Wilke
24. Fr. Hahn
25. C. Hahn
26. John Weber
27. Geo. Peter

28. P. Schmitz
29. John Ruegener
30. Lud. Meyer
31. Wm. V(r)ootz
32. Oscar Pape
33. Slb. Walterdorff
34. Dr. V. D. Stucken
35. Dan Ludwig
36. L. Weiss
37. Fr.Wede
38. H. Marquardt
39. H. Ochs
40. F. Gentemann
41. Henr. Walter
42. John Walter
43. John Speier
44. Wm. Mietinger
45. Jacob Feucke
46. N. M. Dennis

In all, 359 men enlisted in Gillespie County, mostly of German descent. Most probably this was due to the great influence of Captain Charles H. Nimitz, the recruiting officer under General Ford. County companies that followed the example of Captain Nimitz were the **Minute Company** commanded by Capt. Theodore Braunach, Captain Krauskopf's Company, Capt. W. J. Locke's **Frontier Defense Company**, William Wahrmund's **Company for Frontier Service**, and a company enrolled by Jacob Kuechler. Company **E.** of the First Texas Cavalry attached to the Thirty-first Brigade was commanded by Capt. Frank van der Stucken, whose son became famous as director of the Cincinnati Conservatory and Symphony Orchestra. Dr. William Keidel, first chief justice of Gillespie County, served as assistant physician of the Thirty-first Brigade. These various companies rendered service principally along the Sabine, and Red River, particularly during the last year of the war.

After the war was over Captain Charles H. Nimitz returned to his former business. Already in 1860, before the war commenced, the census listed him among the leading business men of the town, as operator of a brewery as well as owner of a hotel. But his interest in education and politics always remained vital as may be concluded from the fact that

he was a school trustee, school examiner, and a member of the examination board for teachers in Gillespie county; he was also a member of the Texas State Legislature. When the hotel business became too onerous for him, he was assisted by his son, Charles H. Nimitz, Jr., who later took over complete management.

Charles H. Nimitz, Jr. had been active as civil engineer with the Southern Pacific railroad in the United States, and also with the most important railroad lines to Mexico. After he joined his father in the hotel management he married Antonia Lungwitz, daughter of the artist Lungwitz whose paintings may be seen in the State Capitol in Austin, Texas. In 1888 he took over the complete management of the Nimitz Hotel, operating it for thirty-six years. Later it was sold, and rebuilt in 1926. At present the Nimitz Hotel is under the direction of the Schmidt corporation.

The family of Captain Nimitz was a large one. Of the twelve children born to Captain and Mrs. Nimitz nine lived to a mature age. Mrs. Nimitz preceded her husband in death by over thirty years, being only fifty-four when she died. The younger children grew up in the care of her eldest daughter Bertha, who later married Charles Nauwald. She and her husband lived in a house adjacent to the Nimitz Hotel.

The eldest son of Captain Nimitz was Ernest Albert Nimitz, born in Fredericksburg, February 8, 1849. As a young man he visited West Texas in 1868, the year after work had started on Fort Concho. Mr. Nimitz made several trips to this part of Texas until he moved to Fort Concho in 1877.

Fort Concho had been completed in 1868 at the cost of $2,000,000 and was rated by the War Department as a prize and model fort. As it was the key to

the western frontier forts — center fort of the north and south line of forts, and center of the east and west line of border forts — it was garrisoned by a full regiment of cavalry under the command of Captain C. Hunt.

With the completion and garrisoning of Fort Concho the foundation was soon laid for San Angelo. A settlement sprang up across the Concho River from the Fort with saloons to attract the soldiers, and for years this settlement went without a name until "Mother" Veck, wife of a pioneer promoter, named the town San Angelina which was later shortened to San Angelo. "A misnomer indeed," said an old timer, "it was in the beginning a tough little town."

At first, Mr. Nimitz opened a hotel and boarding house on the government property at the Post in Fort Concho, but in 1880 he moved across the river to what is now the site of San Angelo, and opened the Nimitz Hotel. His success as hotel manager proved that he had profited by the managerial experience he had gained while working with his father in the Nimitz Hotel in Fredericksburg.

The only historic incident of its kind in history, one in which the Nimitz Hotel in San Angelo was involved, occurred in 1881. A company of Texas Rangers challenged the United States Army. An Irishman, Tom McCarty, had killed a Negro soldier in a saloon fight, the result of drunkeness and a natural animosity toward the Negro soldiers stationed at Fort Concho. The San Angeloans who had fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War thought that having Negroes in army uniforms associating with white people as equals was adding insult to injury. Besides, Colonel Grierson, former Union raider and right hand man of General Sherman, in command of the Negro troops at Fort Concho, had been against the starting of San Angelo from the time Mr. Nimitz

opened the hotel north of the river. The Colonel ordered all government mail to be sent to Ben Ficklin which served as a stage station and trading post, and which was named after Major Ben Ficklin who had started it. But Mr. Nimitz and others who were endeavoring to establish a town on the site of the present city of San Angelo had enough influence to have a number of soldiers insist on having their mail addressed to San Angelo.

The Negro soldiers heard that Tom McCarty was out of jail and in one of the hotels. They then decided to take matters in their own hands and marched into town, surrounded the Nimitz Hotel, and began firing upon it. Fortunately, most of the hotel guests were somewhere else in town. No one was injured and the shooting was stopped by Rangers. It was then that the Rangers challenged the U. S. Army by telling Colonel Grierson that he could either keep the colored soldiers under control or move them from the Fort. It is believed that this incident was at least partially the cause for the subsequent abandonment of Fort Concho in 1889.

Many events of civil life in San Angelo originated in the Nimitz Hotel. It was there that Judge Spence, County Judge, suggested to Mr. Nimitz that he and his friends prepare a petition for the transfer of the county seat from Ben Ficklin to San Angelo. The plan was carried out and San Angelo won the fight for countyship.

Fire destroyed the historic landmark on March 7, 1893. Ernest Albert Nimitz's next action was to open a boarding house on what is now West Twohig Avenue, site of the present San Angelo Telephone Company. After operating this place for a short time he took charge of the San Angelo Hotel, which he operated for three years. Then he moved to Eagle Pass where he kept a hotel for six and a half years.

In 1902 the Landon Hotel in San Angelo burned down, whereupon Mr. Nimitz returned and built another Nimitz Hotel on West Twohig Avenue where he formerly operated a boarding house. Here he stayed until he retired from business in April, 1922, and made his home at West Concho Avenue.

Mr. Ernest A. Nimitz died at the age of seventy-nine. He had been a life-long member of the Lutheran Church and the last charter member of the San Angelo Knights of Pythias Lodge. He had served as presiding judge at elections for a number of years.

In San Angelo Mr. Nimitz is remembered as a man able to cope with any situation. "There were some tough customers," he was once heard to say, "but they seldom bothered anybody." In fact, he praised the old timers with the remark, "In early days here I never heard of a woman being insulted on the streets of San Angelo." And he added, "Pay days at the Fort meant a regular festival in San Angelo. The troops were supposed to get their pay every sixty days, but one time they went six months without receiving any. And when they were paid they came to town and in two or three days the gamblers had gotten all their money."[17]

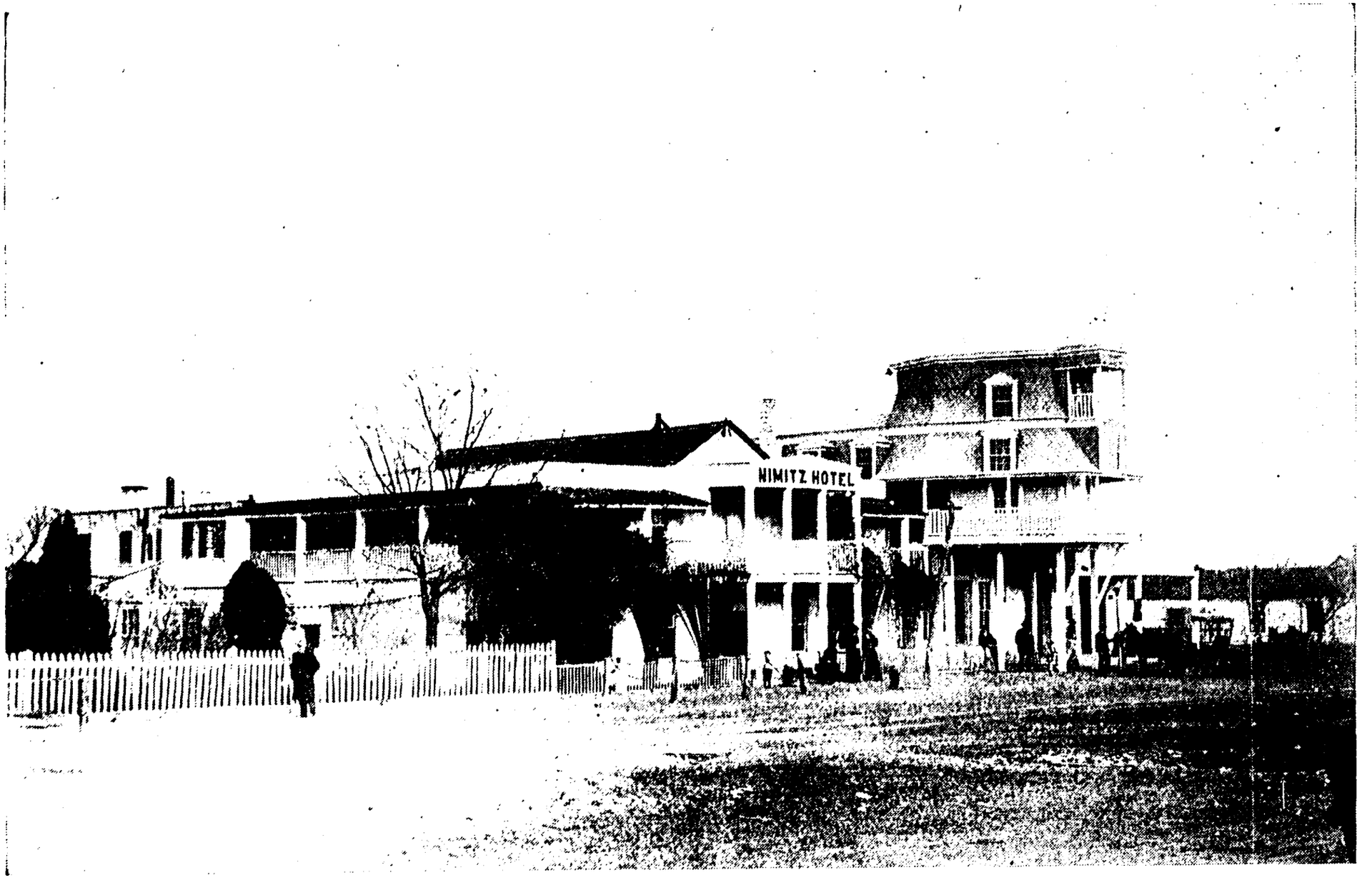
Ernest Albert Nimitz and wife, née Theresa Maria Kordzick, had eight chidren of whom Edwin distinguished himself in service during World War I. As he had lost one leg in an accident prior to the war, he volunteered as an ambulance driver. The Red Cross ambulance service accepted him as such, until it was discovered that he had a ringing baritone voice. He was then transferred to an entertainment unit.

The only living child of Captain Chalres H. Nimitz is Lina Nimitz, the second youngest daughter, who was born February 24, 1862. She married Ernst Meusebach, son of the founder of Fredericksburg. At first the couple lived in San Antonio, Texas. Later

they moved to Torreón, Mexico, where Mr. Meusebach operated a mining camp for twenty-one years. Here he acquired fluency in speaking the Spanish language. Lina Meusebach claims she spoke only **español de cocina,** when giving orders to the servants in the kitchen. When Mr. Meusebach died she returned with her only son, Jago, to Fredericksburg, Texas. Although Mrs. Meusebach, known as "Aunt Lina," was only fifteen years old when her mother died, she has a vivid remembrance of important details of her life. She is always ready to talk about her parents, and she does this with a charm that attracts the listeners.

The youngest sister of "Aunt Lina," Meta Nimitz, was the favorite aunt of the Nimitz grandchildren. Being more nearly their age, was perhaps the reason why she was so much loved by them. Meta Nimitz married Henry Wahrmund, the County Judge, who was also postmaster of Fredericksburg for many years. They had five children, and the Wahrmund family became prominent in social and business circles.

The grandfather, Captain Charles H. Nimitz, our Fredericksburg pioneer, lived to be eighty-five years old. During the latter part of his life he greatly influenced the life of his grandchildren. There were nine children in the Nauwald family, his grandchildren by his eldest daughter, Bertha, and they with little Chester W. Nimitz spent a great deal of their playtime with Grandfather Nimitz. He let his room in the hotel be the treasure house for keepsakes of all the children. They knew they could leave them there and they would be safe. Ella Nauwald, now Mrs. Walter H. Schaefer, would spend hours playing with her toys under Grandfather's "Himmelbett" (canopy bed). She held first place as Chester's playmate cousin, and they spent a great deal of their playtime together. Dora Nauwald remembers her Grandfather's room in the hotel very well. "I saw my first Roman candle there



The original Nimitz hotel in Fredericksburg, Texas, built in the form of a steamboat by Charles H. Nimitz, grandfather of the Admiral.

one Christmas," she said, "Chester shot it off in Grandfather's room."

All the Nauwald family remember interesting happenings concerning their cousin Chester. Bertha, Nauwald's youngest daughter, tells about his first adventure on the water. She and Chester once found an old boat on the banks of the Guadalupe and the venturesome youth assured her he could pilot it. They pulled into the swirling water just as William Nimitz came along. "Chester put his craft ashore and got away with it, but I got the worst walloping of my life," Bertha declared.

The story she likes best is the one about Chester's slipping behind the bass viol player at the hotel ballroom and taking hold of the bow of the bass player. The old man sawed and tugged away and could not understand what was holding back the music. "Chester could take any bump on the head without a murmur," she said.

Grandfather Nimitz took a special interest in Chester, because Chester's own father died before the child was born. He treated him as his own son until Chester's sixth year, when his mother married again and moved to Kerrville, Texas. After that time, his week-end visits and his long vacation stays with his grandfather kept him in close contact with him, from whom, no doubt, he imbibed his love for the sea. Captain Nimitz often told Chester, "Some day you may go to the sea, and if you hope to have a ship of your own, you must learn your lessons well, for commanding a vessel is a serious business." Such admonitions as these implanted in him the ambition to command a ship, and in 1900, at the age of fifteen, he competed with other youths for acceptance in the United States Naval Academy, upon recommendation from Congressman Slayden. He won the appointment with unusually high standing. While preparing himself for his entry

into the Naval Academy, he stayed at the home of Otto Wahrmund, his uncle, who was a close friend of Congressman Slayden. His aunt, Sophia A. Nimitz Wahrmund, bestowed all possible attention upon Chester, caring for the medical preparation necessary for his physical examination.

Captain Nimitz, the grandfather, followed up his student career with the greatest interest. In a letter from Fredericksburg, January 19, 1902, to Chester then at the Naval Academy at Annapolis he wrote: ". . . Your grade cards have come to us, and I as well as your Uncle Charley rejoice at your classification. If we understand the number right, your marks place you between 'Good and Very Good.' A better standing could not be expected by anybody. Even Professor Toland is delighted." When Chester graduated with high honors in 1905, he rushed home to see his grandfather before transferring to his Asiatic Station. On that occasion his grandfather, then nearly eighty years old, had a picture taken with his grandson, Ensign Chester W. Nimitz. Many references to Chester on part of his grandfather, such as comments concerning his health, and expressions of disappointment at not being able to see him are evidences that the grandfather's interest in Chester was always very great.

After the death of the grandfather, which, occurred in 1911, the home of Mrs. Emil H. Riley, née Bertha Nauwald, became the gathering place for the Nimitz family reunions, as happened when about fifty of the relatives gathered for the celebration at the time the Fleet Admiral visited Fredericksburg, October 13, 1945, shortly before he was appointed Chief of Naval operations.

The mother of Chester W. Nimitz, Anna Henke, the daughter of Henry Henke and Dorothea Henke, née Weirich, was the eldest of twelve children and learned

in early life to assume responsibilities. She grew up to be a beautiful girl with a great deal of personality and became popular in social circles. One of the belles of her times, she was favored with many suitors. Her choice fell on Chester Bernard Nimitz whom she married March 4, 1884. But their happy union lasted only five months, for Chester Bernard died on August 15, of the same year. Great was the bereavement of his devoted wife. But six months later, to the joy of the young mother, his son, Chester William, was born. For six years she stayed with her little son at the Nimitz Hotel. Her father-in-law was very fond of her and loved her as his own daughter.

All the relatives rejoiced when December 25, 1890, she married William Nimitz, "Uncle Willie" among his own, the brother of her first husband. The union of the new couple proved to be a very happy one. The charming smiling brunette attracted everyone, and her handsome partner, like the rest of the Nimitzes, had a keen sense of humor. His witty remarks were a source of amusement to everyone, his favorite one being "Every day will be a Sunday in the sweet bye and bye."

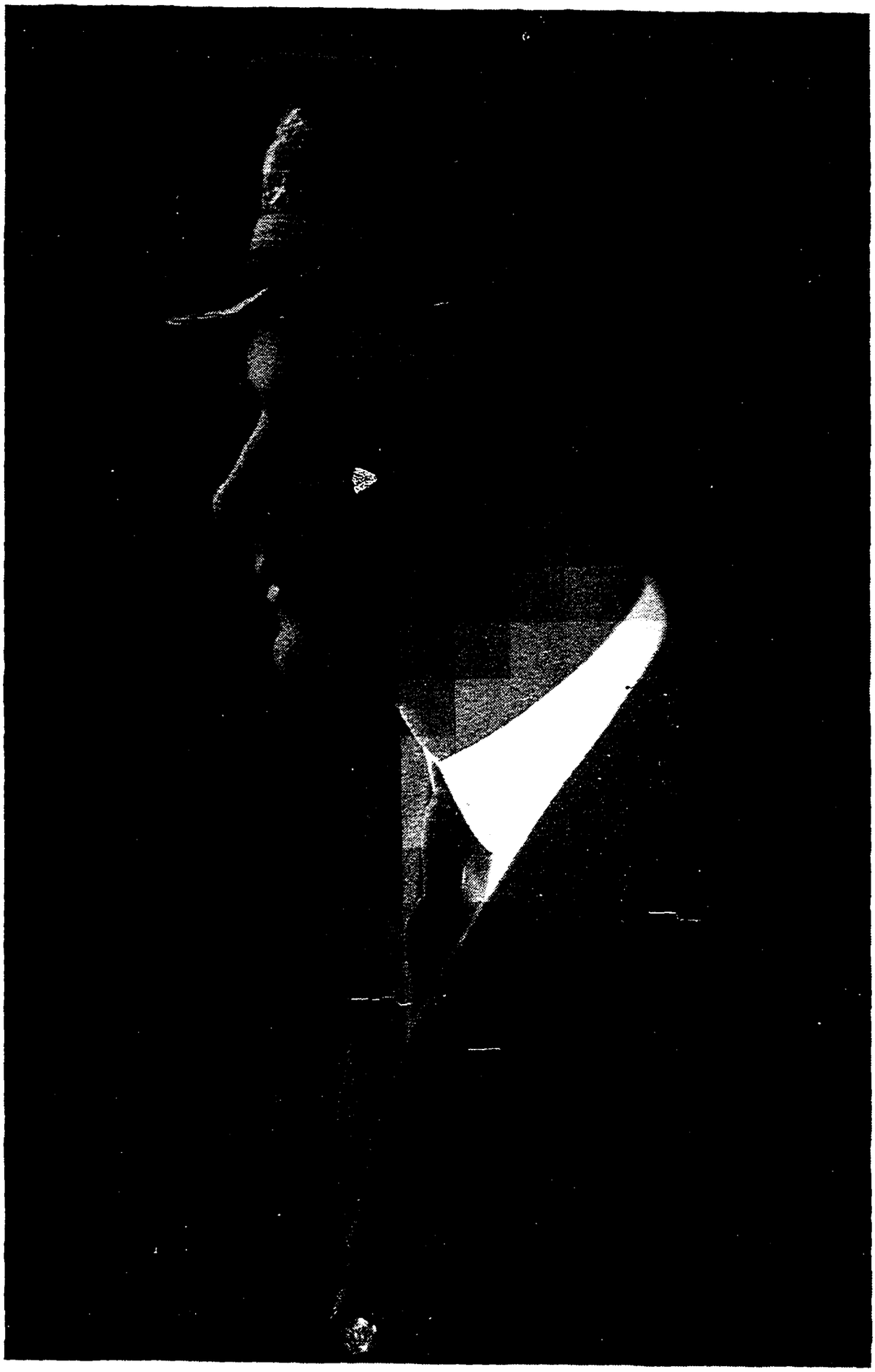
"Uncle William" was readily adopted as the father of the Fleet Admiral. Young Chester knew no other father than William Nimitz, and the offspring of his mother's second marriage, Otto and Dora, became truly his brother and sister. On the part of William Nimitz there was never the least distinction made between Chester and his own children.

Mrs. Nimitz was always busy in her own home at Kerrville, Texas, where William Nimitz had taken his young bride. She was an ambitious mother, anxious for her children, and made many sacrifices for their well-being and education. She was a splendid homemaker, an efficient cook, and a fine seamstress. Her tasty dishes were relished by Chester whenever he

returned to his paternal home from his naval training or sea duties. His favorite single dish — cucumbers with salt, pepper, vinegar, and cream — would always be ready for him. She was accustomed to keep a scrap book that contained records from every place and station that her two boys, Chester and Otto, had occupied. They in turn sent her gifts which she would readily display at family gatherings. These displays always made her little nephews and nieces feel very proud of their uncles.

During World War I she was an active Red Cross worker, devoting most of her time to sewing for the needy. Many a bolt of material was cut for garments by her busy hands. She was an inspiration to other war mothers, and to her nieces, who earned their service pins because of their many hours of tiring work. Throughout her life she was ready to help her neighbors. She was well known and much respected by the traveling public who stopped at the hotel of her father-in-law in Fredericksburg, or at the Tivy Hotel in Kerrville, where her husband was active. She always had a kind word and a pleasant smile for everyone. Her attitude towards the simple things of life was beautiful; she worked constantly, but cheerfully. She belonged to that type of Christian womanhood that has helped to make America a great nation. She was a mother who gave to her three children the ideals of good citizenship. When she was near death, Chester rushed by plane and train from his fleet maneuvers off the coast of Hawaii, reaching her bedside just on time to receive the last conscious words from her lips, "I knew my Valentine boy would come to see me."

William Nimitz, while devoted to his own career and home, found time to participate in civic work. He had obtained his degree in engineering at Worchestershire College, Massachusetts. The education he re-



CAPTAIN OTTO NIMITZ, USN.

ceived at college together with his inherent creative abilities were used to the advantage of his community at Kerrville. One would find him where new bridges were being built or wherever civic advancements were in progress. Many of his ideas were realized. He conceived the structural design of the bridge in Kerrville, and it was he who devised the driveways in the Courtyard Square so that the farmers could drive off the main road to avoid the traffic.

Otto Nimitz, brother of Chester, was born when Chester was eight years old. As a young boy he was very fond of out-door sports, such as fishing, camping, and swimming. But he was inclined to be serious and spent much time in reading. He attended the Tivy High School in Kerrville, graduating in 1911. The same year he entered the United States Naval Academy on second alternate appointment of Congressman James L. Slayden of San Antonio, Texas. Four years later he successfully graduated from the Annapolis Naval Academy and entered as ensign upon his naval career. When Otto Nimitz followed his brother Chester on sea, the desire of Admiral S. S. Robison, under whom Chester had served for a number of years, "I wish we had more Nimitzes in the Navy," was realized.

During his naval career Ensign Otto Nimitz was successfully promoted and was made Captain on June 7, 1941. Within this period he served on various ships as Watch and Gunnery Officer and as Navigator, Executive and Commanding Officer. He pursued post graduate studies in Ordnance at the Post Graduate School in Annapolis and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. These studies were followed by several months of practical instruction at Ordnance Plants, Proving Grounds and Bureau of Ordnance.

Upon completion of postgraduate work, Lieutenant Otto Nimitz served at sea and was assigned to fire

control plotting room division. On October 1, 1931, he became instructor in Gunnery and Ordnance on the Postgraduate Staff at U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. Later he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in which capacity he served in the Gunnery Department of various ships. At the recommendation of the Bureau of Ordnance he became inspector of Ordnance at the Midvale Co. Nicetown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he served from 1936 to 1939. Again, he exercised the duties of Commanding Officer, Navigator and Executive Officer at sea, until June 7, 1941, when he entered the Planning Division at the Navy Yard, Washington, D. C. It was then that he was promoted to the rank of Captain.

From the very beginning of his naval career Otto Nimitz merited excellent commendations from his superior officers. Suffice it here to mention only a few from his Naval Report:

"An energetic officer who with experience will develop very satisfactorily, I am sure." (Captain Althouse on USS **Brooklyn,** 1917).

"An excellent all-round officer very thorough and conscientious in the performance of duty. He is probably the best plotting room officer in the service today and unquestionably stands out as 'superior'. He handles the whole complicated problem of fire control in a clean-cut way and goes to the bottom of the problem in each case and builds accurately and well with a keen appreciation of the practical as well as the theoretical. I consider him the most valuable officer on the ship." (Captain G. W. Laws on USS **Wyoming,** 1923).

A letter of commendation from Secretary of the Navy, Theodore Roosevelt, was sent to Lieutenant Otto Nimitz, August 29, 1923: "It is noted that 12-inch turret No. 2 of the USS **Wyoming,** which was under your charge at short range battle practice, 1922-1923,

attained a merit of 76.5000. This is the highest merit made by any turret of this caliber." The **Wyoming** battleship received the U. S. Fleet Gunnery Trophy on account of its high attainment. G. W. Laws, captain of the ship, reported that the hits of the ship made by L.R.S.P. and the 22 hits at Force Practice, (all 12 inch), were in large measure due to excellent work of plotting room officer, Lieutenant Otto Nimitz.

Further excellent commendations are to be found in his Official Record of Service. This record was such, that, on his retirement, Rear Admiral F. L. Reichmuth in the final report stated: "A hard working, thorough, dependable officer. Excellent military and personal character. I am sorry to lose his service."

Captain Otto Nimitz married Louisa Russell Hughes, daughter of Admiral C. F. Hughes. She is eligible for membership both in the Society of the Mayflower Descendants and in that of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Likewise, their only son, Charles E. C. Nimitz, is eligible for the membership in Sons of the American Revolution, and the Society of the Mayflower Descendants.

Since his retirement from the navy, Captain Otto and his wife are enjoying quiet home life on a ranch a few miles outside of Kerrville. His days are peacefully spent in gardening and landscaping and in the supervision of work on his land. He always manages to have a few gentle horses in good riding condition. Their son, Charles E. C. Nimitz, graduated from U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in June, 1946.

The only sister of the Fleet Admiral is Dora, who, on July 12, 1920, married John Gwen Reagan, Jr., grandson of William R. Reagan, who was a member of the Big Foot Wallace Rangers. William B. Wallace Reagan was a cousin of Hon. H. Reagan who resigned from U. S. Senate to become Postmaster General in

the Confederacy, and who was, later, the first Railroad Commissioner in Texas.

Mrs. Dora Reagan bears a notable resemblance to her brother Chester, whom she greatly admires. But it was Otto with whom she grew up in Kerrville. "He was a wonderful son and the finest brother in the world," she says. She was the mother of three children. Ellen Lee married Lt. Jack H. Peterson. John W. Reagan was an army engineer in World War II, whereas Robert Lewis enlisted in the Marine Corps. Robert Lewis is the first of the Reagan family to enlist in the marines. Before entering the marines he attended Texas A.&M. College.

The son of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Chester W. Nimitz, Jr., was a submarine commander in World War II and has been awarded the Navy Cross for his exploits. He was credited with the sinking of several war ships and with damaging tons of merchant shipping in attacks on heavily escorted convoys. Young Nimitz also won the Silver Star and Gold Star in lieu of the second Silver Star. His wife was the former Joan Leona Labern, and their daughter, born on May 19, 1940, is Frances Mary. At present Lieutenant Commander Chester W. Nimitz, Jr., is still with the Navy.

The eldest daughter of the Fleet Admiral married a navy officer, Commander James T. Lay, USN., of the Amphibious Force. Before their marriage, Catherine Nimitz was active in the Music Division of the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. Her sister, Anna, holds her M.D. from George Washington University, and Mary Vance, the youngest daughter, is still attending school.

Love for the sea was the gift that the Fleet Admiral and Captain Otto Nimitz acquired from their association with their grandfather, Captain Charles

H. Nimitz. At the time of the death of the grandfather, the Fleet Admiral, then Lieutenant Chester W. Nimitz, was on active duty with the submarine **Norwhal,** and Otto was taking his test for entering the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. The grandfather's undying interest was manifested in his last words, "Did Otto pass his examination?" Some thirty years later William Nimitz, when on his deathbed, likewise followed with the same concern the career of his grandson Charles, son of Captain Otto Nimitz, saying, "I am sure 'Skipper' passed his examination."

Although William Nimitz did not live to see the outcome of the Pacific War Theater, he confidently asserted, "Everything that Chester ever undertook he did well, and he will do a good job of whipping the Axis." And so felt the rest of the family. Dora, Chester's sister, added, "In return for the blows that we took at Pearl Harbor the enemy will know him as a 'Nimitz' of Nemesis."

CHAPTER III

Stalwart Pines

IT WAS about the year 1849 that William Nimitz, the eldest brother of Captain Charles H. Nimitz, came to Texas and settled in Burkeville, located in the northeastern part of Newton County. Practically twenty-five per cent of this region was covered with heavy growth of pines. In those days as at the present time lumbering was the chief industry. The Sabine River which forms the eastern boundary was the main route in pioneer days.

At the time William Nimitz settled in Newton County Indians, unchecked, were continuing their raids. During the year 1849, according to a report of a joint legislative committee, one hundred and seventy-one persons were killed, seven wounded, and twenty-five carried off into captivity by hostile Indians. After the war with Mexico the Rangers in the army had disbanded, hoping that the regular army would give Texas the necessary protection that was needed against the Indians. But the Federal troops sent to Texas for frontier service were frequently unfitted for the task, for they did not understand Comanche warfare. "Instances of incompetency which would have been amusing if they had not been exasperating, such as the pursuit of fleeing Indians by soldiers in wagons drawn by Missouri mules, were not rare."[18] "Give us 1,000 Rangers," said General Sam Houston in a speech in the United States Senate, "and we will be responsible for the defense of our frontier. . . ." The government did not withdraw the regulars but did supplement them with companies of Rangers.

William Nimitz joined the Texas Rangers on May 5, 1851. In the Muster Rolls of the Texas State Archives

we read, "William Nimitz, private, age 35 years, enlisted May 5, 1851, at Fort Merrill, Captain Henry E. McCulloch's company, Texas Mounted Volunteers, discharged November 5, 1851, service 6 months."

The company to which William Nimitz belonged was the 6th Company. There were seventy-four privates and a total in rank and file of eighty-nine. They went into immediate action after they were fully organized. Captain McCulloch occupied a position in the mountains which enabled him to cover the headwaters of the Guadalupe, Piedernales, Llano and San Saba. By his system of scouting he was able to protect the settlements between the Upper Nueces and Colorado.

The 6th Company was the last company that Captain Henry E. McCulloch commanded. William Nimitz ceased to be a Texas Ranger when the company was mustered out, November 5, 1851, at Fort Martin Scott by Captain James Longstreet. He as well as Captain Gordon Granger, who had mustered them in at Fort Merril, became a distinguished general on the Confederate side in the Civil War.

Unfortunately, no complete data about William subsequent to his stay in Texas has been handed down to us through his son, Charles Henry. The mother of Charles Henry died when he was three years old. The family of Joseph Seastrunk, who were good friends of the William Nimitz family, adopted the little boy, and he stayed with them until his fifteenth year, when he left Charleston and began to earn his own living. Meanwhile, William Nimitz, Charles' father, married a second wife, a widow, by the name of Gundermann. The two daughters of this marriage, Auguste and Emma, became known in later life as Mrs. Yeager and Mrs. Streik respectively. The William Nimitz family lived at that time in Baltimore, and Charles Henry, who was then in the South, evidently failed to correspond with the family.

A longing to see his relatives in Charleston prompted William Nimitz to leave Baltimore in 1856 and visit his brother Adolph. This was the restless year of the presidential election, when bitter sectional feeling arose between the North and the South. William Nimitz got into a dispute with a certain Mr. I. S. Stafford. The case, possibly of a political nature, was brought to court. Colonel Simons took up the cause of the defendant, Nimitz, in the suit, and the court pronounced Nimitz innocent. Since the latter was a member of the German artillery in Charleston, the company presented Colonel Simons with a beautiful cane. Upon its golden head were the design of a cannon and the engraved statement that Colonel Simons had spoken in defense of William Nimitz. It was a magnificent product that gave credit to Bornemann, the engraver, and the members of the company.[19]

In 1858 William Nimitz visited for the last time his brother Adolph who was then living in Beaufort, South Carolina, where he operated the store of his father-in-law. On November 20, 1858, William Nimitz accompanied his brother to the Charleston Harbor to meet Adolph's wife and two children who were returning from a trip to Germany. On the night of November 24, William drowned near the light ship in St. Helena Bay, south of Charleston. In vain did they search for his body, for the swift current had carried it off into the Atlantic. William Nimitz was forty-two years old when he died. Of the three Nimitz brothers who came to the States he seems to have been the most daring and courageous.

Of all the earlier Nimitzes, Charles H. Henry, the only son of William Nimitz, had, perhaps, the most colorful life, one replete with experiences that the others lacked. At the early age of fifteen he began to live independently. Previous to 1861, not much is known of his career, except that he spent his early

days in Mississippi and Florida and later in Louisiana, where he became the overseer of a plantation. About 1858 he married a certain Miss Woods, who died after a year of married life.

When the Civil War broke out, Charles H. Nimitz heeded the call to arms and enlisted on October 5, 1861, at Camp Moore, Louisiana. He served in the 18th Louisiana Regiment under General Beauregard and Colonel Mouton throughout the entire war. In the Records of Louisiana Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands we find him listed as "Nimitz, C. H., Pvt. Co. H. Con. 18th Regt. and Yellow Jackett Battn. La. Inf. Roll for Jan. and Feb., 1864 (only Roll on file), Ent. Oct. 5, 1861, Camp Moore, La., for twelve months. Reported Present."

Throughout the Civil War, Beauregard's army distinguished itself by its daring attacks. Charles Henry Nimitz participated in nine of these battles without getting injured. At Shiloh the 18th Louisiana Regiment, in which he fought, made a brilliant, though ineffective charge. The retreat of Beauregard's army at Corinth was masterly in every respect, with no loss of men. But it was in the battle at Mansfield that the enemy experienced the strength of the 18th Louisiana Regiment.

The enemy formed a line of attack. Mouton's Louisianians, eager and watchful, were waiting for the call. His infantry made the charge, sweeping through a terrible fire. The Federals on the hill were pouring grenades into the line of the Confederates in a ravine. It was a fearful struggle, up the hill, and up to the guns. But the Louisianians swept on following their leader, Mouton. The guns were taken, after a desperate struggle, and the Federals broke and fled. Mouton, in passing a group of thirty-five Federals, noticed that they had raised their arms as a sign of surrender. He lifted his hand in mercy because the Confederates

were about to fire on the victims. Perhaps some in the group of the Federalists did not see the hand of mercy. Five of them picked up their arms and aimed at him who spared their lives. Mouton fell from his saddle dead, about six feet from where Charles H. Nimitz stood. Such were a few of the actions of the 18th Louisiana Regiment, in which Charles H. Nimitz fought, during the Civil War.

In 1866 Charles Henry Nimitz married Arabelle Ann Moore, daughter of John H. and Sarah Ann Moore. She was born in San Augustine on July 24, 1847, but when she was six years old her father moved to Newton, Texas. Here he became District and County Clerk, which position he held for thirty-seven years. Of the three Moore sisters Arabelle was known for her beauty and individuality. In early life she was inclined to be a tomboy, and when she grew up she exhibited none of those social inclinations so characteristic of young girls. She preferred to stay at home and perform household tasks. Consequently she grow up to be an excellent cook. "Party-going is for my sisters, not for me," she said. Her parents, no doubt, looked upon her as the one who would probably be the spinster in the Moore family.

It was at one of Arabelle's occasional social appearances that Charles Henry Nimitz met her. He was immediately attracted to her; it was love at first sight. But how to make his interest known to her was another thing. He decided to bestow his affection, apparently, on her sister, Rosetta. Some time later he was invited to the Moore's house after church services on Sunday. It was not until his fourth visit that he had the opportunity of making known to her that it was she, not Rosetta, in whom he was interested. Gradually he won her affection, and their married life was a happy one.

It can truly be said of Charles Henry Nimitz that

he learned in the school of experience. Deprived at an early age of the advantages of formal education, he continued to study privately. Determination and hard work brought him success, for when he appeared before a board of lawyers in Galveston, Texas, in 1876, he creditably passed his examination to the bar and obtained his license for practicing law. After receiving his license for practicing law he settled down to follow his profession in Newton.

Newton, at that time, had several lawyers and the profession was overcrowded. Because of this, Nimitz, after a few years, sold his property in Newton and moved to Comesneil in Tyler County, on the East Texas Red River. For a time he was the only lawyer in Comesneil, but soon four more came and settled in the place; again, the practice was divided, with not much profit to any of them. Charles H. Nimitz, who had spent a great deal in improving his property at Comesneil, was obliged, at a great loss, to sell his home and seek a more productive field elsewhere. His friends advised him to move to Orange, Texas. With financial assistance from his uncle in Fredericksburg who, at that time, was well established in business, he bought a home in Orange.

Orange has borne several names, that of Huntley, Green's Bluff, Jefferson, Madison, and finally its present title. According to tradition, pirates of Jean Lafitte sailed up the Sabine River to repair their ships at a shipyard on the river near Orange.

Before Charles Henry H. Nimitz settled in Orange, the town was practically razed by a gulf hurricane, but since it was a center rich in natural resources, its paper and lumber mills were soon rebuilt, and the rice industry revived. Other assets were its deep water port and adjacent oil developments. As one approaches the town from the west one finds the highway lined by somber pines. Their hardiness and

dignity typically reflect the characteristics of the Orange Nimitzes.

Charles Henry Nimitz became a successful lawyer in Orange, where he spent the rest of his life. His death occurred as early as 1910. His wife survived him nineteen years, continuing to live in Orange, taking care of her household affairs herself until she was seventy years old. Then she went to live with her daughter in Beaumont, where she resided until she died at the age of eighty-two. She was a woman of strong character and fixed mind. A story portraying this strong mind set tells of the time when, as a young matron, she was criticized by the deacons of her church for merely watching young people dance. This remark caused her to leave this church, where she had been active for many years, and join the Methodist church. Never again could she be persuaded to return to her former church.

Mary Rosetta, Charles Henry Nimitz's eldest daughter, married William Hardy in Newton, where also his second daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, settled after marrying W. C. Lee. The youngest daughter, Clara Ann, became Mrs. W. J. Koltes. Her death occurred in 1945, at Beaumont, Texas.

The family's name has been perpetuated by Charles William Nimitz who has become a well-known contractor in Orange, Texas. He was born in Newton, Texas, on December 24, 1870, and came to Orange at the age of nineteen. In 1897, he married Mitti Wilmoth Jordan, daughter of Mitti Bean and Captain Joseph J. Jordan. To this union were born nine children.

His first construction work was begun with the established Lutcher and Moore Lumber Company. Although busy as a contractor and builder, he found time for wholesome recreational activities such as were found in the Odd Fellows Lodge. His nine stalwart chil-

William Nimitz, ancestor of the Nimitzes in Orange, Texas, his son, Charles Henry Nimitz, lawyer, and Charles William Nimitz of the third generation with his wife Mitti Jordan.

dren found him always interested in whatever interested them, and this interest is still manifest. Of unusual stamina, Charles William Nimitz boasts of never having had a doctor's prescription. He attributes this to regularity in rest as well as in work, and to a temperate life, except for the inevitable cigar. With a twinkle in his eye he tells of the day when, in a buggy ride with his six children, one of them fell from the back of the buggy and a friend had to inform him that he had lost one of his children down the road.

In later years when the buggy had been exchanged for a car, Charles William Nimitz was learning to drive his Ford. The roads were bad and deep ruts common. He was trying to clear a tree stump. It was too high; the axle cleared but the steering arm did not. The latter was pushed up, throwing Mr. Nimitz into the back of the car. Two mules had to be hitched to the wrecked car. With the aid of this "mule power" he reached home safely. Although Charles William Nimitz has never been without a car since 1914, he has never driven one since that time.

Mrs. Charles Nimitz was born in Orange on February 8, 1878. She was the eldest daughter in the family, and grew up in an atmosphere of constant change in the then thriving pioneer town.

Joseph Jordan, her father, was a member of a pioneer family that settled in Orange in 1840, then known as Green's Bluff. At that time there were only two families other than the Jordan family residing at Green's Bluff. Mr. Jordan became a progressive man in the Orange community, where he was the owner of a lumber mill and of a score of tug boats. Mitti, who spent a great deal of her time near the river front, often accompanied her father on his frequent river trips. Being very fond of music, Captain Jordan would take Mitti's piano aboard so that she could practice on her trips away from home. In the

course of time she became an accomplished musician. She prided herself on having given her first piano recital at the age of ten in the Old Opera House. In his late years, "Captain Joe," as Mr. Jordan was familiarly called, retired from his business by means of which he had been a vital force in the development of the industrial and civic life of the town. Upon his retirement from business life he was appointed Peace Officer. He was killed in 1902 during a gun duel between two desperadoes.

When she married Charles William Nimitz, Mitti started upon a very busy career — that of rearing nine children of her own and helping rear twenty-five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her eldest son, Charles Noel, says of her: "Mother is an unusual woman. When we were growing up we had a happy time and full home life. She was never too busy with her household duties to stop at any time and play the piano for us. . . .

"The area of Mother's existence expanded constantly with the advancing years and the growth of her children. Our home was the local point for social gatherings of our church and school. There were many parties where one could find Mother at the piano playing by the hour for the young people to dance and sing. Even now, with all the children grown up and in homes of their own, it is nothing unusual to see ten or fifteen cars parked around Mother's home which we have dubbed 'Grand Central Station. . . ' .

"Yet Mother, at the age of sixty-nine, is still active in body and young in spirit. She apparently discovered at an early age that the golden rule of life was never to confess yourself defeated by any problem whatever, although we nine children must have given her a rugged existence at times. But all of us think of her as a young, interesting, and enterprising woman."

CHAPTER IV

The Vindicator

The Fleet Admiral

FLEET Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, grandson of Captain Charles H. Nimitz, became the vindicator of that freedom to which his forebears had dedicated their lives, when as Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas (Cincpac-Cincpoa), he defended liberty against the aggressive Japanese in World War II. His forefathers had lost the fight in the cause of a free constitution in their fatherland; Cincpac-Cincpoa was to redeem freedom common to all men. It is the purpose of this chapter to point out the Fleet Admiral's preparedness and qualities which were conducive to his success in his all-important task, as well as to show his excellent team work with General MacArthur and his own staff that led to victory.

Admiral Nimitz's appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Area in December 1941, succeeding Husband E. Kimmel, was perhaps as much a surprise to him as to others in the Navy. He was a junior rear admiral. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to his command in preference to twenty-eight senior flag officers. The Admiral was well prepared for his new responsibilities by his training in all kinds of sea warfare.

He was only four years out of the Naval Academy and still an ensign when he was given command of the Submarine **Plunger**, having previously served on various ships on the China Station, including **Panay**, an ex-Spanish gunboat which antedated a later American-built gunboat of the same name, and which was the first American ship to be sunk by the Japanese. In 1910, the year Ensign Chester W. Nimitz was pro-

moted to lieutenant, junior grade, he commanded the **Norwhal**; and in 1912, as a lieutenant he commanded the **Skipjack.** While he was on this submarine he won a Silver Life Saving Medal for saving the life of Fireman W. J. Walsh who fell overboard the Tender **Tonopah.** Lt. Nimitz dived into the swift current and kept the fireman afloat until both were rescued. At the time Nimitz commanded the **Skipjack** he was also commander of the Atlantic Submarine Flotilla which comprised all the submarines in the Atlantic.

After some experience in sea duty he was ready for a short assignment at the New York Navy Yard. Here he built the Diesel engines for the USS **Maumes,** a knowledge of which he had acquired at the Diesel engine shops in Belgium and Germany. It was in 1916 that he reported with the rank of lieutenant commander to the ship **Maumes.**

During World War I Nimitz was assigned to the staff of Admiral Robison, who commanded the submarine force in the Atlantic Fleet. For his service during the War he was awarded the Victory Medal with bronze star for his services on the staff and a special Letter of Commendation by the Navy Department with the citation: "He performed meritorious service as chief of staff to the commander, United States Atlantic Submarine Fleet." The end of the war proved to him the efficacy of submarine warfare.

In 1919, after a short tour of duty in the Navy Department, Nimitz was executive officer of the **South Carolina** and in 1920 he was commander of the **Chicago,** with additional duty as commander of Submarine Division 14 and commanding officer of the submarine base at Pearl Harbor. In 1923, after a year of instruction at the War College, he went to sea as aide to the commander-in-chief of the Battle Fleet, and in 1925 he reported as aide to the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet.

He was ordered to the University of California in the year 1926 to install a Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit. "This was new ground," he said, "and there were no precedents on which to base one's actions." In three years he accomplished this task, and was then ordered as Captain to command Submarine Division 20. In 1931 his title was changed to commander of Submarine Division 12, commanding the USS Rigel and destroyers. From 1933 to 1935 Admiral Nimitz took over the post of assistant chief of the Bureau of Navigation—now known as Bureau of Naval Personnel—and four years later, after a tour of sea duty as Commander of Cruiser Division Two and Commander of Battleship Division One, he assumed duty as chief of the Bureau. This position he held until his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet.

It was on the morning of December 31, 1941, that Admiral Nimitz replaced his unfortunate predecessor, Admiral Husband E. Kimmel. In order to avoid publicity he traveled to the west coast disguised in civilian clothes and under the name of Mr. Wainright. His companion, Lt. Commander H. A. Lamar, also wore civilian clothes and went under an assumed name. But when he had set foot on Hawaii Island, and was about to be saluted by a poised aide of Lieutenant General Delos Emmons, the admiral extended his hand to the sentry and said, "My name's Nimitz."

The situation the new commander stepped into has been described as a tough one; destiny seemed to need a man like Nimitz to cope with the adverse situation at Pearl Harbor. Five of the main battleships at the harbor had been sunk by the Japanese, and the remaining three that had been damaged had been taken to the Pacific coast for repair. The fleet morale, following the surprise of the Japanese attack, was at ebb tide. Flag and Field officers and their staffs were

filled with uncertainty, not knowing what their future might bring. All this did not upset the composure of the new commander. Upon meeting Admiral Kimmel he shook hands with his predecessor and assured him, "You have my sympathy. The same thing could have happened to me."

Kimmel's staff had expected that a new team would replace them on the arrival of the new commander. But when they met him he made it known to them that in his opinion the standard of any group of American naval personnel is high. And now, he wanted the present fleet staff to stay and work with him, without a single change. That decision of the Admiral has been described as the victory following the defeat at Pearl Harbor.

During the first months at the base, Admiral Nimitz tried to bring order out of the chaos. He was primarily counseling patience and caution, especially when the allied fleet was pursued from Singapore to Dutch Harbor.

The question arose: "Where is the navy?" His only reply was, "Be patient." For five months no correspondent obtained an interview with him, nor did he make known any of his plans in speeches. He worked coolly and calculatingly at his headquarters day and night, taking only a little of his customary exercises such as tennis or swimming. Meanwhile, the disposition of the Japanese fleet had been carefully studied and the enemy's drawing closer to Midway and Hawaii was an accepted fact. As a result Honolulu's blackout regulations were enforced and exposed areas were evacuated.

On June 4, 1942, when the Japanese did make their way towards Hawaii, the Admiral was not ruffled; he knew his plan. So far he had done what he could with his available forces, nor had he complained about what he lacked. But now, with improved forces and ships

which were put at his disposal, the Admiral took a firm stand for defense at Midway. During the attacks he never overestimated any of the gains, reporting on the first day, "Our attacks are continuing"; on the second, "While it is too early to claim a major Japanese disaster, it may be conservatively stated that United States control remains firm in the Midway area." But on June 7, exactly six months after the Pearl Harbor disaster, he told his correspondents, "I think I have got some good news for you. A momentous victory is in the making. Pearl Harbor has been partially revenged." It is questionable whether or not an earlier attack would have brought such decisive results. In all his actions and contacts patience was his greatest attribute. "It was this quality of patience, along with thoroughness, that made him ideally fitted for the command that he held."[20] Roosevelt called the battle of Midway the greatest success of the war in 1942. When Nimitz was awarded the distinguished service medal for the triumph at Midway the citation read: "His success of the operations of the Pacific Fleet, his exercise of command, left nothing to be desired."[21]

Another key to the Admiral's success in the Pacific campaign was his keen foresight and thorough comprehension of his objectives. It has been pointed out that he clearly sensed Japan's intention of taking Midway Island and using it as a base for invading the Hawaiian Islands. As it turned out the attack not only became decisive for forestalling the event, but also smashed the counter drive to cut the United States' communications with Australia and isolate the country for ready occupation.

It is a known fact that when the Admiral planned to move westward in the Central Pacific there was unfavorable comment on what was termed "the island-hopping strategy."[22] But Nimitz followed his scheme.

He did not mop up in the various atolls first encountered in the Eastern Marshalls, but by-passed them and moved to Kwajalein, the best base for the purpose in the Marshalls.

A series of long jumps followed. Important areas in the west, which had to be occupied, were captured and others, whose occupation would have been costly in time and manpower, were by-passed, neutralized, and subjected to constant bombing.[23] His directive orders from Washington to secure one or more bases in the chain of islands that includes the volcanos led him to the invasion of Iwo Jima, and the Bonins. A great deal of the planning, particularly on the technical side, came from Nimitz's team. The Headquarters of Guam was "the brain center of the Pacific." George L. Crossley has written about the operation of one of the floating naval bases whose effective procedure outguessed the Japanese and which were so important for the winning of the war.[23]

In the fall of 1943, Admiral Nimitz issued an order directing that floating naval bases, highly mobile and able to follow the fighting ships of the Fleet wherever they might go, be set up to operate in the forward areas of the Pacific. In two years this idea developed into a vast and efficient organization. A description of Service Squadron Ten, which is but one of many, will not be amiss here. But one must keep in mind that the floating naval bases included navy oilers, repair ships, floating dry docks, supply ships, reefer ships, and ammunition ships.

> Nothing like it has ever existed before. It is a city which is built on blue water instead of real estate. . . . with a population which is as large, at times, as that of Dallas or Indianapolis or Des Moines. It handles more shipping, than the Port of New York. It has as many movie shows every night as Chicago. Yet this

vast water-borne base can be moved from place to place at the will of the Navy's high command, and it is the real reason why we are winning our war with Japan. . . .

When the task forces of Admirals Halsey and Kinkaid attacked Leyte the Japanese fleet moved out of its protected sphere for a counter-blow. The Japs knew Halsey had been at sea for weeks and the bombardment of Leyte had consumed enormous supplies of Kinkaid's ammunition. . . .

The Jap's plans were doomed to failure and many of their ships were blown out of the water because they did not reckon with Service Squadron Ten. The Navy's floating Pearl Harbor had permitted Halsey and Kinkaid to refuel and rearm as promptly as if it had been cruising a few hundred miles off American shores.

Again, after the costly battle of Iwo Jima, the Japs apparently thought that our Navy would have to draw back and lick its wounds before resuming the offensive. . . . Weeks and months would have been needed for repairs. Service Squadron Ten changed the picture. Before the last Jap resistance was mopped up on Iwo Jima, the same ships which had been damaged there were fighting at Okinawa.[24]

"As a matter of fact," says the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, "if it had not been for our floating dry docks, we would literally have been sunk! As our advances got closer to the Japanese homelands, ship casualties increased. If we had not had some way to dock those ships and mend their wounds at the front, our fleet would have been greatly weakened."[25]

Prince Naruhiko-Kuni, Premier of Japan, in his speech delivered before both houses of the Japanese Diet, September 5, 1945, said that the Japanese situation after the loss of Okinawa took a grave turn. It

was feared that complete realization of the Japanese material resources would hardly be possible in the near future, and that the capacity for supply and replenishment on the part of the Allied Nations was ever on the increase. The efficacious use of the Squadron Ten, accompanied by proper Allied aircraft raids, had brought about the desired results.

Besides repairing vessels that were seriously damaged, Service Squadron Ten served for refueling our Fleet. Once the Fifth Fleet came to prepare for a new thrust against the Japanese. In a comparatively few hours the squadron stocked the holds of the fighting craft with 600,000,000 gallons of fuel oil; enough ammunition to fill 1,500 freight cars; enough fresh frozen, and dried food to give everybody in Vermont and Wyoming three square meals a day for fifteen days; enough medical supplies to provide treatment for every person in a city the size of Columbus, Ohio. These then are some of the wonders that Service Squadron Ten performed. It has been estimated correctly that without the work of this squadron, neither our Fleet nor our Air Forces would have gotten near Japan. "Nimitz's secret weapon was pointed straight at the heart of the Japanese Empire."[26]

Another secret of Nimitz that has been pointed out as a personal triumph is his humility. He never exercised power or rank to obtain his end. As a good psychologist he never forced an opinion, but rather sought opinions, even though the plans seemed to be progressing. In his successes he preferred to remain in the background and let the praise go to those serving under him. "Who is this man Nimitz, the Commander-in-Chief of our Pacific Fleet," said Admiral William Pratt, "who in a quiet way has done so much and yet has been so little in the limelight? When the Japs were defeated at Midway, a battle which meant more to the security of America and the success of our

Pacific advance than the occupation of Luzon, little was heard of Nimitz, though he was in full charge."[27]

In Nimitz's speech, delivered before a joint session of Congress, October 5, 1945, we have evidence of the sincerity of his character. "I do not come here as an individual," he said, "I am here only as a representative of the brave men who fought under my command in the Pacific. Your fighting men have done well the job you sent them to do... Your fighting men have handled well the tools and machines and weapons which you provided for them in such quantity and quality as has never before been known in the history of warfare." As a man of innate modesty he distributed credit for the successful development to his staff and units to the smallest component part. War correspondents agree on the point that he would not let loose, "except when he wished to pay tribute to his commanders and Army and Marine Corps generals—such as Admirals William F. Halsey, Raymond A. Spruance, Richmond Kelly Turner, Marc Mitcher and John McCain, and Generals Holland T. McSmith, Julian Smith, William Geiger, and Simon Bolivar Buckner."[28]

In his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz has been called the Admiral of Admirals. His relations with them has been reported by Fletcher Pratt who served with the War Library in World War II. These relations can best be seen in their conferences.

Conferences with the fleet staff were a daily occurrence. They were usually attended by fifteen to twenty high ranking officers of the Army, Navy, and Marine that were attached to the headquarters of the Admiral. Each attendant would hear a presentation of the daily report that covered the activities of the previous day, as well as possible procedures of our forces and those of the enemy. "These teams of Army-Navy," says Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, "tackled the

problem together and worked out the plans. Then they become devil's advocates, trying to invent every possible frustration, that wind, weather, or enemy action might conspire to nullify. Flaws in the plans were thus found and corrected in advance."[29]

Sometimes the staff meetings were not amicable sessions since many controversial things had to be discussed. The Admiral usually found a way out by telling a story, his natural way of settling difficult problems. "And it worked," says Pratt, "the Admiral was rewarded by seeing faces relax into laughter and the conversation, when it was resumed, went forward on the basis of finding a common ground." [30]

Nimitz dealt with enlisted men and junior officers on the same principle, as the following incident indicates:

> A sailor, as is customary in service conversation, began to deplore the miseries of his existence. He commented adversely on the chow aboard his ship, the manners of chief petty officers, the over-all strategy of the war and the long intervals between furloughs. The Admiral listened sympathetically to this tale of woe and finally asked the sailor why he didn't tell some officer about the difficulties. 'No officer wants to listen,' said the sailor. Before they parted company, Nimitz gently dispelled this illusion by revealing his identity.[31]

We are told that Nimitz interfered as little as possible with subordinates having different temperaments. It was his custom to let disputes reach their climax. This gave him an opportunity to familiarize himself with the trend of mind of his men and to acquaint himself with their ability.

> When the Admiral of the Pacific was looking for men who were at their best in meeting a particular type of difficulty, his memory

> for behavior patterns really was phenomenal. This was one of the reasons behind a feature of the Pacific war that had not failed to strike professional observers—the frequent changes of command, not only in the higher ranks of admiralty, but even down among task groups, divisions, and individual ships. It was not a matter of giving each one his turn, but the developed Nimitz method of picking a commander according to the task to be performed and letting the man work out his own destiny.[32]

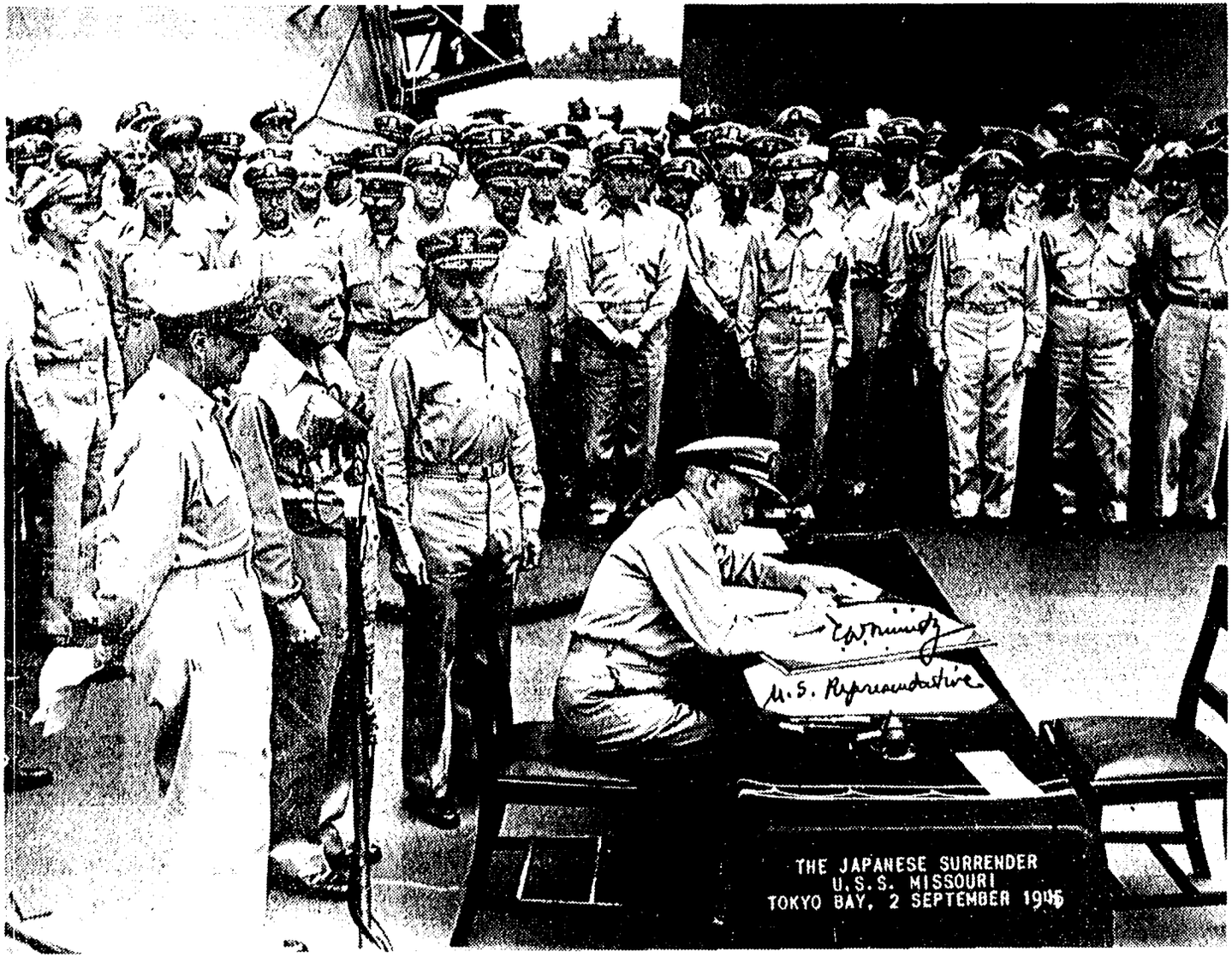
The Admiral's headquarters at Guam became the center of ideas for the United States. Here the commander maintained direct connection with General MacArthur and with General Chiang Kaishek at Chungking. The complementary differences of temperament between Nimitz and MacArthur were rather fortunate, in that they tended to improve relations between the two. When their commands, on account of their individual successes, started to exhibit signs of overlapping, plans for a meeting of the commanders were necessary. Forestalling a question of who should call on the other, Nimitz took the initiative by going to Australia to see the General. Their relations remained commendable and their team work in the Pacific proved to be a success.

When MacArthur went into the Philippines and Nimitz into Guam the two offensive forces merged into one. The members of the new Army-Navy team met for the first time at General MacArthur's headquarters in the Southwest Pacific in April, 1944. It is a known fact that Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur were familiar with each other's problems. The Admiral had many Army officers on his staff and many Army divisions to command. General McArthur had first a squadron and then a fleet serving under him.

> Both commanders had two things in common. Both were professionals and both were daring strategists who knew that the only way to win the war was to close with the enemy and fight him. The two have operated in their theatres of war in a characteristic fashion. . . Basically, the co-commanders of the Pacific war are much more of the same mold than they appear on the surface. Both have proved themselves able administrators. Both of them have won the admiration—and what is more important—the respect of the men with whom they worked and fought. If the appointment of the two to share the command was a compromise, then it would seem to be a logical one, and one which each had earned.[33]

When aboard the USS **Missouri** in the Tokyo Bay, both commanders met on September 2, 1945, to sign the surrender—General MacArthur in the capacity of Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and Admiral Nimitz as the representative of the United States —each gave a characteristic speech. Extracts of their talks aptly illustrate their respective dramatic and epic tendencies. MacArthur in his conclusion addressed his fellow countrymen:

> Today the guns are silent. A great tragedy has ended. A great victory has been won. The skies no longer rain death—the seas bear only commerce—men everywhere walk upright in the sunlight. The entire world is quietly at peace. The holy mission has been completed, and in reporting this to you, the people, I speak for the thousands of silent lips, forever stilled among jungles and the beaches and in the deep of the Pacific which marked the way. I speak for the unnamed brave millions homeward bound to take up the challenge of that future which they did so much to salvage from the brink of disaster. . .



To Sister Joan of Arc —
With best wishes C.W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral, USN

Fleet Admiral Chester William Nimitz, as the United States Representative, signing the Surrender Terms of Japan on the USS Missouri.

The Admiral, after signing the surrender, spoke:

> On board all vessels at sea and port, and at our many island bases in the Pacific, there is rejoicing and thanksgiving. . . I take great pride in the American forces that have helped to win the victory. America can be proud of them. The officers and men of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine who fought in the Pacific have written heroic new chapters in this nation's military history. I have infinite respect for their courage, resourcefulness and devotion to duty. We also acknowledge the great contribution in this victory made by our valiant allies. United we fought and united we prevail. . .[34]

On October 5, 1945, a month after signing the surrender of Japan, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz reported to Washington, and delivered a speech entitled "Our Sea Power" before a joint session of Congress. He reminded the members of both houses of the grim price for unpreparedness in the last war: "The men who will forever sleep beneath the lonely palms of uncounted Pacific isles, men who will stand their eternal watch at sea as long as time goes on."

Leaving the Capitol, he headed a triumphant parade down bedecked Pennsylvania Avenue, the avenue of the heroes, to the stately Washington monument. District Police Commissioner Edward Kelley estimated the crowd in excess of 1,000,000, including 250,000 at the monument grounds. Colorful Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard units marched behind the Admiral. In the background, Navy guns boomed a seventeen-salve salute. Overhead 1,000 planes flew in mass formation, spelling out the word Nimitz, flanked by an anchor and a V. Nimitz addressed the crowds from a huge reviewing stand, erected before the monument, a replica of the mighty battleship Missouri on whose decks the Jap-

anese surrender was signed. He warned that the nation today must preserve its sea power. "Our frontiers are the entire world, and sea power is the first line of defense of a nation surrounded by oceans." "As to the atomic bomb," he said, "there has never yet been a weapon against which man has been unable to devise a counterweapon or a defense."

Remembering the Pacific war heroes he explained: "I know those fighting in the Pacific well, for it was my good fortune to be allowed to serve with them. In my opinion, there has never been a finer body of determined patriots, even among those early Americans who fought under the great man whose monument rises here as a symbol of freedom throughout the world."[35]

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who fashioned the world's greatest fleet from shambles of Pearl Harbor and led it to victory in Tokyo Bay, received from President Truman a Gold Star in lieu of a third Distinguished Service Medal in a ceremony that took place at the White House. He also was a guest of honor at the formal banquet.

When he arrived in New York, he was cheered by a crowd of 3,000,000 people. In front of the City Hall was built a huge ship's bow with five stars, hawsers, and other seagoing gizmos. Vast mobs gathered to watch the Admiral go aboard to the shrill of Bosuns' calls. In the evening 2,000 people attended dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, where Admiral Nimitz was introduced by Nelson Rockefeller. He who had never sought publicity, had now been duly acclaimed in the two receptions at Washington and New York.

On his way back to the Pacific coast he stopped at his home town, Fredericksburg, Texas, where he received another jubilant welcome. In gay festive attire and with heartfelt gratitude for a job well done the people welcomed Admiral and Mrs. Nimitz, Rear Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, and Rear Admiral Harold

B. Miller. The parade of automobiles, joined by several city and county bands, moved to the court house block where the Admiral was presented with the key to Fredericksburg. Governor Coke Stevenson introduced him as the Admiral of the "Texas Navy" and presented him with a formal commission as such. At the Pioneer Memorial Building the Admiral laid a wreath honoring the heroes of World War II who had paid the supreme sacrifice.

The people of Fredericksburg looked upon the Admiral's visit as epoch-making in their lives. Mayor Joe Molberg, in his speech, reminded the Admiral of his "God-given task, a patriotic duty," which he had accomplished so splendidly and magnificently. At the same time he exhorted his fellow citizens to perform with renewed spirit and vigor their own little tasks. This sentiment the Admiral reechoed in his speech when he received an honorary doctor of law degree at the Southwestern University, the oldest university in Texas. "Unless all of us learn the art of living in a global community, peace can never be anything more than a temporary respite from war."

This idea of the art of living was elaborated by the Admiral at the Nimitz Convocation held at Notre Dame University when he received his honorary degree of law from that institution. "The art of living," he said, "is not a solitary pursuit. It is a pursuit which must be followed gregariously, in company. It is a family affair, and a community affair, and then it penetrates to world affairs. . .

"The United States is no abstract authority residing in Washington. The United States is the average person, who, like yourself, is living as an individual proud of his liberties, conscious of his responsibility to his neighbor, participating in his government, self-disciplined by education, and, by education, inspired to further God's will on earth."[36]

When the Admiral, after his jubilant receptions in Washington and New York, returned to the Pacific to resume his duties as Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet and the Pacific Ocean Areas, he had virtually finished his mission. With the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty on the USS **Missouri** in Tokyo Bay he had put the final seal on the victory his ships and naval aircraft helped to attain. His four-year old task had reached a glorious conclusion. As a fighting force, the Japanese Navy had been annihilated, and the Japanese military might had been crushed.

He stayed only two months at the Pacific outpost, for on the 24th of November he was relieved by Admiral Spruance in order that he might assume his new position as Chief of Naval Operations in Washington on December 15, 1945. And thus, the curtain of the Pacific War Theater closed on Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. He had greatly aided in attaining the ideals of his forefathers, liberty and freedom; America had enrolled one of the greatest naval strategists of its country.

A Supplement

REPORT*

The 25th General Hospital (1000 beds) was ordered into active military service of the United States on June 1, 1943, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was concurrently transferred to Nichols General Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky. On June 10, 1943, it was organized and all personnel and equipment were transferred from the 85th General Hospital to the 25th General Hospital, at which time the parent unit was inactivated.

During the entire tour of duty at Louisville, Ky., the personnel was trained to function as a fixed hospital for an overseas mission. On December 4, 1943, the advance party, in charge of Major Nimitz, left for Ft. Hamilton, New York, and on December 12, sailed from New York on the Steamer Aquatania which arrived at Gourock, Scotland on December 19, 1943. The party proceeded by train and a few days later arrived at the 307th Station Hospital at Stockbridge, England, to make plans to receive the main body of their unit upon their arrival in England. The latter arrived in Scotland on December 29, 1943, and entrained at Gouroch, Scotland, on December 30, 1943, for Stockbridge, England, arriving at its destination on December 31, 1943.

The site occupied by the 307th Station Hospital at Stockbridge, England, was taken over by the 25th General Hospital, and between December 31, 1943, and January 10, 1944, the Hospital plant was equipped by the 25th General Hospital and prepared to function 100% as a general hospital. The 25th General Hospital operated in Stockbridge, England, from January 10, 1944, to March 11, 1944, at which time the 48th General Hospital assumed operation of the hospital plant. Patients received and treated while at this site were principally American sick and injured personnel from nearby and adjoining units.

By March 13, 1944, the 25th General Hospital had completed its move to its new hospital site which was

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* By H. J. Nimitz, Col. M.C., AUS.

under construction at Cirencester, England. The majority of the buildings were still in the hands of the British contractors to complete and this somewhat delayed the setting up and equipping of the hospitals until the buildings were officially turned over to the unit. This hospital plant was adequate to accommodate 1082 patients and all of its personnel. On April 4, 1944, the hospital buildings were completed by the contractors and were officially opened to receive patients on April 15, 1944. Shortly thereafter orders were received to expand the Cirencester hospital to 1500 bed capacity. This was accomplished by laying concrete bases over which tents were erected.

On May 13, 1944, the 25th General Hospital was attached to the 15th Hospital Center. This connection was terminated on May 15, 1944, when the 192nd General Hospital started taking over the operation of the hospital plant. Transfer from the 25th General Hospital to the 192 General Hospital was completed on May 20, 1944. Again, patients received and treated while operating this hospital plant were principally American sick and injured from nearby and adjoining units.

On May 13, 1944, the 25th General Hospital was relieved from assignment to Southern Base Section, Communications Zone, Etousa, and assigned to the Advance Section of the Communications Zone and attached to First Army preparatory to overseas movement to the Continent.

After officially turning over the hospital plant to the 192nd General on May 20, 1944, the 25th General Hospital then moved to Fargo Tented Camp at Fargo, England, to stage and prepare for overseas movement. On June 21, 1944, the unit was moved to Parkhouse "A", Tidworth, England, to continue and complete the training and preparation for overseas movement. Col. Nimitz in charge of an advance party again preceded the main body to France by approximately one week, and arrived with the 30th General Hospital on Beach, Normandy, France, on the 22nd of July, 1944. They

were billeted with the 7th Field Hospital at Osmanville near Isigny, Normandy, France. On July 25, 1944, it was their good fortune to witness the 3000 plane bombing attack on St. Lo, at which time the break through occurred.

The advance party made the necessary preparations and arrangements to receive the main body of the unit which arrived on Utah Beach on July 30, 1944. All personnel were moved by truck to Transient Area "B" and then to a site across the road to bivouac where the 25th General Hospital was later to establish a 1000 bed tented hospital near Lison, France.

Construction work on this hospital was started on August 2, 1944, by the 365th Engineer Regiment. The hospital was officially opened for service and received patients thirteen days later on August 15, 1944. The tented hospital at Lison, France, was operated by the 25th General Hospital from August 15th, 1944, to November 23, 1944, and during this period admitted and treated 3104 patients. Most of the patients received at Lison were battle casualties and a large percentage of these patients were wounded German prisoners. The hospital plant at Lison, France, was turned over to the 195th General Hospital on November 23, 1944.

On November 18, 1944, an advance party in charge of Colonel Nimitz consisting of four officers and fifty enlisted men was again dispatched ahead of the main body of the unit to Liege, Belgium. The advance party traveled by truck and other motor vehicles and arrived in Liege, Belgium, on November 21, 1944. Again it was the duty of the advance party to requisition, prepare and obtain billets to receive the main body of the unit which was to arrive in Liege about one week later.

It had been planned to set up the 25th General Hospital in the Palace of Justice in the heart of the city of Liege. However, civil authorities objected to giving up this building, and the unit more or less had to mark time while another site was being obtained. From November 29, 1944, to the middle of January, 1945, the per-

sonnel of the 25th General Hospital were utilized on detached service and temporary duty at evacuation hospital and other general hospitals in and around the city of Liege during the Battle of the Bulge. All during this time the city of Liege was under intensive robot bomb attacks, and on several occasions as many as one hundred and forty V-I bombs fell on the city during a period of 24 hours.

On January 10, 1945, the 25th General Hospital was attached to the 818th Hospital Center located in the city of Liege, and the hospital remained under the supervision of this Center until its departure from Belgium in October, 1945.

On January 15, 1945, all personnel of the 25th General Hospital who were not on detached service or temporary duty at other hospitals were moved by trucks, ambulances and other motor vehicles from their precarious bivouac area of Liege to a site out of the flying bomb region which was located in the little town of Morlanwelz, Belgium, approximately twelve miles from the city of Charloroi.

The second site considered in which to establish the 25th General Hospital was the Belgium Caserne at Tongres, Belgium, approximately twelve miles northwest of the city of Liege, and during the stay at Marlanwelz efforts were continued to obtain possession of the Caserne at Tongres, and arrangements were finally completed early in February, 1945. Company "B" of the 346th Engineers was assigned to do the repair work and make the necessary alterations. Some of the officers and enlisted men were assigned to this area to assist the engineers in planning the alterations, the location of the clinic, the operating room and other facilities.

On February 19, 1945, all of the remaining personnel of the 25th General Hospital was moved from Marlanwelz to the hosptal site at Tongres, Belgium. All of the personnel were kept busily engaged in preparing supplies and getting all details ready for the opening of the hospital, which took place on March 3, 1945.

The hospital at that time had 400 beds ready to receive patients. By March 25th all alterations had been completed and the entire hospital was set up with a total capacity of 1250 beds.

The 25th General Hospital continued to operate at Tongres, Belgium, until August 6, 1945, at which time those patients who could not be discharged were transferred to other hospitals. This was in preparation for the move back to Rouen, France, where they were to relieve the 179th Hospital.

Between August 6th and August 11th, 1945, the equipment of the 25th General Hospital was transferred and the necessary arrangements were made to complete the move back to Rouen, France. The personnel of the 25th General Hospital left Tongres, Belgium, by train at 2:10 P. M. on August 11th and arrived at Rouen, France, at 10:30 A.M. on August 12th. The 25th General Hospital took over the operation of the Army hospital at Rouen, France, on August 14th, 1945, having relieved the 179th General Hospital on that date. At the time of taking over approximately five hundred patients were in this hospital plant.

The 25th General Hospital operated the Army hospital plant at Rouen until September 21, 1945, at which time the hospital was turned over to the 168th General Hospital. After transferring the patients and property to this hospital the personnel of the 25th General Hospital were billeted with the 168th General Hospital, awaiting orders to return to the United States. The 25th General Hospital returned to the United States and was deactivated on November 20, 1945.

The reputation of the 25th General Hospital is well established and respected in England, France and Belgium. It received a letter of commendation from the Commanding Officer of the 818th Hospital Center prior to its departure from Tongres, Belgium.

818 HOSPITAL CENTER
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
UNITED STATES FORCES EUROPEAN THEATER
OPA 562, U. S. ARMY

RBH/gfd
10 August 1945.

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Commanding Officer, 25th General Hospital, APO 562 U.S. Army.

1. Before the 25th General Hospital is transferred out of the 818th Hospital Center I wish to express to you and through you to each member of your command my deep appreciation of the fine work you have done and of the loyal support you have given this headquarters. You are one of a group of general hospitals whose personnel has been called on to function under circumstances probably never faced prior to this war by general hospitals. These circumstances have been brought about by enemy action and by the necessity of moving general hospital units close up to the lighting front. You have been called on to adapt a general hospital in such buildings as were available and at the same time maintain the superior medical service which has been standard in this Theater. Due to the necessity of beds, you have been forced to move, set up your hospital, and operate rapidly. Your unit has met every challenge and has carried its full share of the work which has helped to create the superior record made

by the Medical Department in this Theater. Under trying circumstances you have maintained your morale at the peak. You have furnished superior medical service to many American officers and me. Your hospital has shown constant improvement. You have established a record in which each of you and the University of Cincinnati may well take pride. I shall remember with pride and pleasure my assoeiation and service with you.

2. In your new assignment I know you will maintain your standards and continue to render the same superior service. My best wishes go with each of you in whatever paths the future may lead you.

Robert B. Hill
Colonel, MC,
Commanding.

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