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Exmoor Receives Certificate of Gratitude Award from Navy

Providing living quarters for Great Lakes younger officers earns Exmoor honor as first country club to receive formal recognition from the armed forces

By **HERB GRAFFIS**

EXMOOR Country Club, Highland Park, Ill., one of the pioneer and highly rated clubs of the Chicago district, was awarded a Certificate of Gratitude from the Ninth Naval District, July 30. The Certificate was the first awarded to a country club by a Navy or Army organization during this war. Rear Admiral John Downes, commanding officer of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, made the award in a ceremony broadcast over Station WENR of Chicago. Exmoor officials spoke during the broadcast telling of the club's service which won the navy's appreciation, and in expressing the hope that other clubs would apply the Exmoor experience in making club facilities available to army and navy men.

Central feature of the Exmoor plan is that of providing living quarters in a house on the club grounds to unmarried young officers recommended for these accommodations by Great Lakes headquarters. The Great Lakes station is out 10 miles from Exmoor.

\$30 Per Month Rate

The requirement for quarters necessitated by the crowded conditions at Great

Lakes and in transient residential accommodations along Chicago's North Shore made Exmoor's dormitory a boon to the navy men. The men were given a rate of \$30 a month on living quarters at Exmoor. Two or three men are in each room, none of which rooms are especially large. The accommodations, though highly satisfactory to the young men, were not expansive nor pretentious.

Parties Carefully Planned

Social affairs were arranged for the resident officers and others from Great Lakes and near-by Fort Sheridan, with the daughters of Exmoor members seeing to it that the parties were keyed to the young spirit instead of being others of those well-meaning affairs in which the elders fail to click in providing the sort of entertainment the young men and women prefer.

President Jerome P. Bowes, Sr. of Exmoor, in his broadcast, said the club would gladly provide complete details of its War Service program conducted under the chairmanship of Jess Halstead, to other interested clubs. Among details club officials must watch in connection with sailor



(U. S. Navy Photo)

President Bowes (l.) of Exmoor, accepting the Certificate of Gratitude award from Adm. Downes.

and soldier entertainment, but not referred to in the broadcast or by other official statements of Exmoor officials, is that of music. Clubs counting on soldier or sailor band performances for entertainment of soldiers and sailors and their friends at a club may risk the serious displeasure of James Petrillo's musicians' union.

Especially discreet were Exmoor and the public relations department of the Great Lakes station in protecting against possibility of distortion of the use of country club facilities by naval officers as something that might identify Exmoor in the anti-administration press as the Stork Club of the Midwest.

600 Attend Presentation

The broadcast was preceded by an outdoor steak dinner and presentation of the afternoon's mixed foursome prizes. There were 600 members and guests at the affair. The Great Lakes Bluejacket Quartette sang two numbers as a broadcast feature.

Highlights of the broadcasts:

Admiral Downes: We are gathered here tonight, members of the Army, the Navy and the civilian population, in typical tribute to the close association between the Military, the Naval and the Civilian which is essential to successful conduct of the grimly serious war in which we now fight. We are finding it possible to spend a little time together ceremonially, fully aware that all of us have been very busy today, and that all of us will have much to do later tonight or tomorrow, and on the days to come.

You know that we are here tonight to present to Exmoor Country Club the Certificate of Appreciation of the Ninth Naval

District, in recognition of the pioneering and experimenting you have done, to discover how best your splendid facilities might be geared into the war effort. Let me read a little from this certificate: "Be it known that Exmoor Country Club has worked diligently and unselfishly on behalf of the Navy in the Ninth Naval District." Those few words embrace a great deal of clear thinking and hard, effective effort by all of you. I should like to remind you that you have all studied the requirements of naval aviation, in order that you might competently advise young men on the proper procedure to get into aviation.

You have provided meeting and inducting facilities that were sorely needed, and have made it possible to organize a squadron of young Chicago flyers who are now in training for their parts in your Navy. You learned that the extraordinary expansion of military and naval activities in this area resulted in a real housing problem, and have helped materially in reducing this. You have men here tonight who will soon be out in the far reaches of the seas, or on the distant battle fronts. And in the days to come you will meet many soldiers and sailors who have recently returned from the scenes of war, who will treasure such opportunities as they may find here for relaxation. And through your experiments in applying your facilities to the war effort, you will learn many ways that will be valuable, and you will show the way to other clubs all over America. It is a great pleasure, therefore, on behalf of the armed services, in part recognition of your war service work, to present to you, President Bowes, for Exmoor—the first club to be given this award—the Certificate of Gratitude.

President Bowes Responds

Pres. Bowes: With the outbreak of the war it was our desire to adapt the club's facilities and activities to war effort. The members individually of course were and are engaged in various forms of war activities. But the club as a whole felt that there should be ways to utilize its facilities in furthering the war effort. A special War Service Committee was appointed. This group, with your counsel and encouragement, and that of the officers of the army stationed nearby, has already found ways to be helpful, and we will find still more.

We have been more than glad to be helpful in the vital aviation program, and we pledge ourselves to increase our efforts. It has been gratifying to us to be able to convert Baker Cottage into living quarters for the junior officers, giving them proper facilities, convenient to their work, at costs within their limited allowances.

Our members are finding that the increasing contact with the splendid men of

the Army and the Navy is good for us all. We are learning from these men a better understanding of the demands which the war is making on the able young men of today. I believe we are learning better than we otherwise could, of the necessity for closer and closer cooperation between the military and the civilian population. We hope that our pleasant experience may be of help to other clubs who are giving thought to their place in the war effort and we will welcome opportunities to consult with them, if requested.

Admiral Downes, we are very grateful for this recognition, but feel that it is in reality a challenge to us to expand our war service—a challenge I pledge you we shall meet.

Applause:

Halstead: I present our distinguished guest from the Army, Brigadier General L. L. Stuart, Commanding Officer of the Anti-Aircraft Training Center at Fort Sheridan.

Brig. Gen'l Stuart of Fort Sheridan: You people of Exmoor have shown yourselves to be very realistic. You have faced the fact of war, and are pioneering in ways to devote your club facilities to effective use in war effort. This is a remarkable evidence of the understanding of the great necessity for cooperation between the services and the civilian population. Even as you participate in a social activity, you are thinking of ways to apply

the social facilities to the war. There are many ways. You have already learned some of them, and will doubtless learn more. Admiral Downes properly spoke for both services in tendering grateful recognition to you for your diligence.

George W. Blossom, USGA pres.: Fellow Sportsmen, I had to be here tonight. I say fellow sportsmen, to include our distinguished Naval and Military representatives as well as you club members, for I believe our fighting men of the land, air and sea are sportsmen of the first magnitude. They live a routine more rigorous than that of the finest athlete. They must be champions in ability and judgment and devotion. And they play WARTIME rules, which means that they have to play the hard way, and for keeps.

I said I had to be here tonight. That's because I knew I'd get an unforgettable glow of pride in the recognition paid to this club. And I felt sure that there would be a note of challenge that I ought to hear first hand, so I could pass it along the way I heard it. And I know that this club and many, many other clubs will respond to the challenge with the best that's in them. Exmoor is the first club to receive the Certificate of Gratitude, but I know this will be only the beginning. The clubs of America will do their part, following this signal lead, to gear their considerable facilities into the war effort, in every war service way possible.

Organize Pearl Harbor Tournaments for Benefit of Hawaii War Relief

A PEARL Harbor Tournament, for benefit of war relief in Hawaii, is being organized at public golf courses throughout the country by the new Public Links Section of the USGA. One of its purposes is to express appreciation of the loyal support which the Hawaiian GA and its public links players have long given the USGA public links championship, now in abeyance.

There are approximately 1,900 public courses. All have been requested by Charles V. Rainwater, Pensacola, Fla., chairman of the USGA public links committee, to hold Pearl Harbor Tournaments among their players at any time until August 31, preferably during the period August 1 to 16. An 18-hole kickers' handicap is suggested, but each course's management is free to select any other form of competition it may prefer.

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The entry fee is 50 cents. Entire revenue from fees will be invested by the USGA in some type of war relief for Hawaii. The form of assistance will depend upon the amount raised and current needs in Hawaii. The present hope is to contribute at least an ambulance, suitably inscribed as a gift from the public links golfers of the American mainland to their fellow-golfers in Hawaii.

The USGA will award certificates to the winners at the cooperating courses. All expenses will be donated to the USGA in order that 100% of the entry fees can be used for relief purposes.

The Pearl Harbor Tournament is limited to public courses because in this area of golf an especially strong bond has been formed between players of the mainland and of Hawaii. For many years teams of Hawaiians have traveled thous-