

# Memories Recalled By War Souvenirs

By ALICE E. MORGAN

There's little to remind one of war from the beautiful hill-top home of Mr. and Mrs. Shelton Wright of Club drive. The bright new growth of spring, the winding road, a small lake and the business of building other new homes lies spread before them. It's a peaceful scene, a lovely scene.

Yet, during the past winter months the couple have been reliving the months of World War I which Wright saw as a member of the French Foreign Legion and an ambulance team.

Pictures and souvenirs refreshed the memories of those years, the fun, discomfort and horror of them. The thrills of new experiences came to life again.

A SOPHOMORE at Oberlin, Wright left school to get into service. He was one of the first thousand to become members of the PFL, a more necessary before he would be permitted to take his place as an ambulance driver.

When he left this country, he had five \$10 gold pieces. After three years in France and four more spent in Poland and Russia, he returned home still carrying four of the coins.

During his three years in France, Wright was in nine major offensive areas and served in many sections flying time was under perfect conditions.

ON SOME steps they landed shortly after a storm of severe rain had passed. At others the weather closed in behind them, remaining wet and unpleasant until their next take-off.

"Now that we've made the break," the colonel said, "we want to go again."

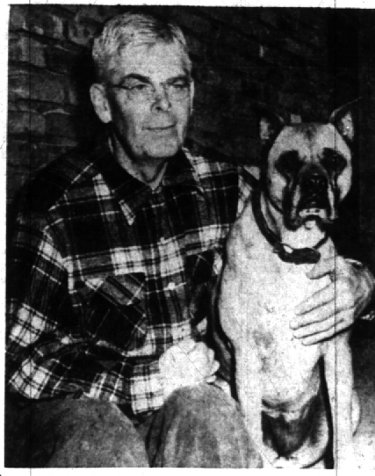
"I've done enough military flying that we file flight plans and follow them pretty closely. It's a good idea for every pilot. Any plane that is late checking in alerts the Air Rescue Patrol. A lot of lives have been saved because the Rescue boys know just about where to start looking. When I fly long distances, I'll go along with the routine."

HE MOVES gas masks, sabers, bayonets, shell cases, hand grenades and helmets as he talks. Now, nearly 40 years after he acquired them, the story of each comes clearly to his mind.

There are uniform decorations from the German army. Iron Crosses, bits of ribbon, battle awards and badges of rank. Each has a story based on Wright's knowledge of its German owner and how the piece later came into his possession.

He has aerial maps, among the first ever taken, of some of the sectors. He has copies of the German orders posted in the many villages they occupied. The demands they made on the populace for food, shelter and protection, while leading citizens were held as hostages, are recorded forever.

AS HE looks at the snapshots, his finger picks out a figure here



SHELTON WRIGHT AND HIS "BEST FRIEND" Souvenirs spark war memories (Eccentric Photo)

He has other decorations for his work, too, carefully framed certificates to which he points with pride.

But it is spring now on Club drive. Wright is turning his time to his beautiful yard. Wars are cold dismal things, things to be recalled during the winter months when he cannot work in his yard.

HE WALKS to the porch, his boxer and constant companion at his heels, and looks down the sloping lawn to the lake.

"I like the summer," he murmurs. "I work in my yard and forget my war."

**Have You Met**  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinkley of 1050 Woodlea, former residents of Petoskey, The Hinkleys have two grown sons, both of whom are in the service. Former owner of the Petoskey newspaper, Hinkley is now connected with the Detroit Times, editorial department.



COL. AND MRS. WALTER OTT Air-borne vacationists (Eccentric Photo)

## The Flying Otts Enjoy 3,000 Mile Vacation

After flying military planes for 16 years, since his student days at the University of Tennessee, Col. Walter W. Ott, 580 Lahser, has had his first "flying vacation."

With Mrs. Ott as co-pilot, the colonel recently completed a trip of more than 3,000 air miles.

When the couple left Detroit in the maroon Cessna 180, two objectives were in mind—visit to their alma maters, University of Tennessee and Stephens college. The latter was cancelled when bad weather kept the couple grounded for several days and meant a fact trip home.

The first leg of the journey took the flying Otts to Philadelphia to visit friends and relatives. Then they flew over the Blue Ridge range to Roanoke, Va., for a short stay.

AT NASHVILLE, the colonel renewed acquaintances with his team-mate on the U. T. national championship football team, Bowen Wyatt.

"Bowden's head coach there now," Ott said, "and it was a real thrill for me to be with him. He let me go along on spring practice sessions and I enjoyed every minute of it."

In Atlanta, Ga., the couple visited friends before going to the colonel's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter D. Ott in Mississippi.

"There again the weather played us dirty," he commented, "but my folks loved it."

"WE LANDED there Friday and planned to leave Monday. It rained every minute, too hard to fly, so we were there until Thursday. It meant we didn't have time for my wife to visit Stephens."

Mrs. Ott took up the story with "The next time we go on a jaunt like this, we go to Stephens first. I want to see the new cathedral!"

Both commented that had weather or was all around them, but actual

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