

an Irishman, whereas Hart could play anything, including female roles.

Left to themselves, Harrigan and Hart might have played on together indefinitely. But prosperity brought more and more relatives into the act. Annie Harrigan, Ned's wife, refused to admit Gertie Hart, Tony's wife, into her home. After their theater burned down in 1884, Harrigan's father refused to speak to Hart's brother-in-law. Ned's father, it appeared, had neglected to renew the fire-insurance policy; whereas Tony's brother-in-law, the watchman, had gone home early. The following year saw the last appearance of the team.

Hart had little luck on his own, and soon fell hopelessly ill with paresis. He died in the Worcester, Mass., insane asylum in 1891, just a few months after his 36th birthday. Harrigan, however, prospered until 1895, when his eldest son died and he took time out to recover from the shock.

New York was changing, though, as the century ended, and with it went the popularity of Harrigan's raffish characters. This he could not understand. "How can my vogue have passed," he lamented, "when I am all alone in my field?" He died in retirement in 1911, brooding about the good old days.

►Summing Up: Erin go brag in softshoe.

### Mission at Night

THE NAVIGATOR. By Jules Roy.  
Translated by Mervyn Savill.  
177 pages. Knopf. \$3.

Ten years after its conclusion, the literature of the second world war grows steadily richer. The latest addition to a distinguished shelf of military fiction comes from France where, after a career in the French infantry and the Royal Air Force, its author, Jules Roy, has become

►Grandfather Stories—A benign, comic piece of upstate New York Americana by Samuel Hopkins Adams.

►France Against Herself—The best book on contemporary France in years, by Herbert Luethy, a Swiss journalist.

►Midway—A taut account, from the losers' side, of the battle that doomed Japan, by Mitsuo Fuchida and Masatake Okumiya.

►Isaac Babel: The Collected Stories—Violent and lyrical tales of war and peace by a Russian writer who vanished in 1937.

►Gift From the Sea—Anne Morrow Lindbergh on the virtues of solitude.

### Ten to Read

►The Great American Heritage—Much light, some of it indirect, on the five Eisenhower brothers.

►A Good Man Is Hard to Find—A fine, if rather shocking, young hand at work in these short stories about the South by Flannery O'Connor.

►Not Honour More—The extraordinary finish to Joyce Cary's trilogy about the English politician Lord Nimmo.

►The Cypresses Believe in God—The complexity of Spain in a distinguished novel by José María Gironella.

►Grand Deception—An amusing collection of frauds, hoaxes, impostures, and ruses gathered by Alexander Klein.

a luminous literary figure. He holds the Croix de Guerre and has written a play about jet pilots, "Les Cyclones," which is a continuing Paris success. He also holds the Distinguished Flying Cross, and his novel "The Navigator" has been likened to the peerless aviation writing of the late Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

The comparison is scarcely just, for Roy shows little of the lyrical descriptive sweep which is a prime distinction of Saint-Exupéry's aerial prose. Roy's strength is elsewhere: In the acute study of complex states of consciousness and conscience under wartime stress.

Roy's hero, Ripault, is a navigator with the French air group, flying Halifax bombers from an RAF base on raids over Germany. In a night collision with another bomber near the airdrome on returning from his 24th mission, he bails out and is given aid by the young wife of an intelligence officer. When he reaches his base he learns that he is the only sur-

vivor of his crew. This traumatic shock is intensified when he is assigned to fly a few nights later with Captain Raumer, a notoriously untrustworthy pilot.

►Balks: Under the circumstances, Ripault feels that the demand is unreasonable. He says he is sick, and the flight goes off with a tyro navigator in his place. When Raumer fails to return, the squadron commander puts the blame on Ripault, and even some of his messmates show signs of ostracizing him. At this point his friendship with the young wife develops into a love affair.

These are merely the early meshes of the psychological and spiritual web in which Ripault becomes entangled. It is brilliantly diagrammed. In the end the book is calamitous, but not from any failure of Ripault's nerve or moral quality. He soon proves himself a strong man in a most dramatic fashion, but his fate is finally tragic.

►Summing Up: An airman's anguish.



Pilots of the Free French Squadron: Another subject for a novelist's dispassionate eye

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