

Actor Mistaken, Remarque Says

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Beverly Hills, March 31. – (INS) – Regret that Lew Ayres, film actor, had taken a stand as a conscientious objector was expressed today by Erich Maria Remarque, author of »All Quiet on the Western Front,« in which Ayres portrayed the leading role.

Remarque said he had never met Ayres, but thought he was making a mistake.

»I read in the papers that he was doing Red Cross work or something of that sort,« said the famous German born author. »It seems too bad that he couldn't have continued in war activities of this kind rather than go to a conscientious objector's camp.«

Remarque, born near Berlin, went through the first World War as a soldier in the ranks. He was deprived of his German citizenship by Adolf Hitler in 1938 and his books, »All Quiet on the Western Front,« and its sequel, »The Road Back,« banned. He escaped to America and last October applied for his first citizenship papers.

»I think we all fight against Hitlerism,« Remarque said. »The first war was not necessary. This is a different kind of war. It is necessary. I hope we are now fighting the last world war and that it really will be a war for freedom.

»My own attitude toward this war can be understood when I say that I myself registered for the draft. I am not quite 44, and if they will take me I would go. I think we all should go.«

He explained with a smile that although he has been deprived of German citizenship he is listed here as an enemy alien and has to observe the curfew imposed on Germans, Italians and Japanese.