

Col. W. J. Donovan, Catholic only American To Receive Three Chief Awards In War

Kansas City, Kas., May 28.—Col. William J. ("Wild Bill") Donovan, who is now Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States and...

Colonel Donovan is called by the author a true "composite of American fighting men." The article tells of the exploits of the only three men in the country who have won the Congressional Medal of Honor...

The three men who have won all three of these decorations, says the article, are Colonel Donovan, Col. Charles T. Kibbourn of Washington, D.C., and Col. Gordon Johnston of Ft. Riley, Kas.

After reciting the exploits of the other two of the heroic trio, the article tells thus the vivid story of Colonel Donovan's war deeds:

"And now we come to Col. Bill Donovan, the man who won for himself three distinctions in the World War, after casually stepping into the army from civilian life, to which he returned just as modestly following his discharge from the service."

Without seeking to detract from the glory and hemage due Colonel Kibbourn and Johnston, the story of "Wild Bill," a sobriquet acquired near the Vosges in France, is replete with thrills and picturesque highlights that somehow stamp him as a composite of America's fighting men.

"Donovan's command was back of the lines with action promised on short notice. He contemplated the physical shock his men were slated to undergo in the conflict that threatened the prospects of exposure, hand-to-hand fighting, barbed wire entanglements and other discomforts of modern warfare. They were men from the desk and the factory, unaccustomed to grueling combats and bodily risks. Donovan determined to make them as fit as possible in the time that was available."

"The men were lined up, face to face and stripped to the waist. At a given signal they were ordered to fight their way through each other, no holds barred and every man for himself, the devil take the hindmost."

"Again they stripped to the waist, and minus wrap leggings or socks, they plunged on foot through tangles and thickets. Donovan wasn't lazing around from a makeshift desk in a comfortable dugout during all this rehearsal. He stripped himself, in the same manner, and where his men went, Donovan was in the lead. As they came into camp one day, a thin little straggler at the end of the line heard Donovan exhorting his men to even further effort, himself apparently in perfect condition."

After the job was done, before "Wild Bill" let them carry him back to a dressing station for first aid. "This was the experience that won for Bill Donovan his Congressional Medal of Honor. The award, authorized in 1922, declares that Col. Donovan personally led the assaulting wave in an attack upon a very strongly organized position, and when our troops were suffering heavy casualties, he encouraged all near him by his example moving among his men in exposed positions, reorganizing decimated platoons, and accompanying them forward in attack. When he was wounded in an eye by a machine gun bullet, he refused to be evacuated and continued with his unit until it withdrew to a less exposed position."

"But 'Wild Bill' was already hard-ened for this experience in the Argonne, as a result of action that occurred in July of that year, near Villers-sur-Fere, when he was a machine gunner in the same outfit. Donovan led his battalion across the Ourcq river and captured some important enemy positions in the advance of the drive. He was wounded four times during the drive, all the while under fire from the enemy, and machine gun fire from the enemy on three sides."

Donovan twice wounded the citation that came with his Distinguished Service Medal, also presented by the President, for "exceptionally meritorious service, in a position of great responsibility."

"In 1922 the War Department also awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the third and final distinction within the power of his own country to bestow upon a soldier who proved true to every tradition dear to loyal Americans. As battalion commander of the 15th Infantry, during its operations in the Baccarat sector during July, 1918, Donovan's citation states that he demonstrated high professional attainments and marked ability. He displayed conspicuous energy and most efficient leadership in the advance of his battalion across the Ourcq river and the capture of strong enemy positions in October, 1918, as lieutenant colonel, he commanded the same regiment with marked success and distinction in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. His devotion to duty, heroism, and pronounced qualities of a commander enable him to successfully accomplish all missions assigned to him in this important operation. From January 3rd to March 3rd, 1919, as Inspector in-structor, Provost Marshal General's Department, he rendered services of great value to the American Expeditionary Forces."

New Use For Hobos Is Found By Priest In English Town

London, May 14.—A new use for hobos has been found by Father Joseph Degen, of Coalville, Leicestershire. Instead of giving them a penny, which will serve only to carry them on to their next "port of call," he engages them to do repair work in his church and for odd jobs around the church.

Judge Beck, Former Editor Of Edmonton, Dies In Seattle

Edmonton, Alta., May 16.—Judge N. D. Beck, of the Supreme Court of Alberta, died yesterday in Seattle, Wash., while on a holiday. Death was caused by angina pectoris.

Judge Beck was born in Cobourg, Ont., in 1867, and after practicing law in Ontario for four years, came to Winnipeg, in 1883. Besides keeping up his law practice, the late judge bought and edited the Northwest Review, the oldest Catholic journal in Western Canada. His services in the field of journalism were of much value to the Church in these trying days.

Judge Beck was appointed to the Supreme Court of Alberta in 1907. Among important positions he held in this province was that of chancellor of the University of Alberta. The late judge was also one of the governors of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Issued Weekly From the Publicity Bureau, New Haven, Conn.

Bishop Toolen Commends Extension Program

Right Rev. Thomas J. Toolen, D. D., Bishop of Mobile, in a letter to State Deputy James H. Glennon writes: "It is indeed a pleasure to commend and encourage the Selective Membership program of the Knights of Columbus. The best Catholics of the Diocese are not too good for the Knights and I hope every effort will be made to strengthen your organization with such men."

Bunker Hill Council in Historic Observance

Bunker Hill Council No. 62, at Charlestown, Mass., the oldest Council in the State, is making history in its observance of the 300th Anniversary of the founding of Charlestown. Charlestown's history comprises three centuries of stirring events and, holding as it does within its borders the historic battlefield of Bunker Hill, its 300th birthday is an important event in the history of the nation. A committee under the leadership of Brother Francis J. Tague and Grand Knight John F. Gilmore, Jr., is managing the program for the Council. The school children of the town are competing for prizes offered by the Council in an essay contest on "The Settlement of Charlestown" and the observance will close with a mass celebration on June 16, the eve of the anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Prominent Oregon Knight Dies At Portland

Knights in all parts of the country will be saddened to learn of the passing of Brother John N. Casey, a prominent member of Portland Council, No. 678, Oregon, who died on May 17 at his home in that city. Brother Casey was chairman of one of the important committees of the Supreme Convention held in Portland last year and was a most generous and affable host to many of his visiting brother Knights. During his years of membership in the Order, he never failed to take time from a busy life to devote to the advancement of Columbianism.

Summer Schools in Boy Leadership

The Supreme Council Boy Life Bureau will conduct courses in Boy Leadership at its model camp-school, Cliff Haven, July 19-29 and August 2-12. The Knights of Columbus School at Cliff Haven is ideally situated and is easy of access from points in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, Eastern Ontario and Quebec.

Becomes Knight at 75

Young's Point, near Peterborough, Ontario, is a small town on the shores of the Kawartha Lakes, settled by a community consisting largely of different branches of the "Young" family. There is a small Catholic church but no resident priest. On the occasions when no priest is able to attend, the little community meet in the church, when the rosary is recited by the patriarch of the family, Patrick J. Young.

Mexican Police Officer Deported for Extortion

An Associated Press dispatch from Mexico City, May 19, said: "On charges of extorting money from Catholics in Mexico City, Alvaro Basall, a police officer, it is to be deported to the penal settlement at Las Islas Marias. Basall was convicted of having taken money from Catholic families in whose houses religious services were conducted and not to have reported the services to the authorities."

Wyandotte Knights Sponsor Boy Guidance Course

Michigan Knights of Columbus are keeping up their interest as evidenced by the splendid group of men who attended the second course given in the state since the inauguration of the movement. The first such institute was held at Grand Rapids in 1924 and since that time the boys of forty-three cities have benefited from leadership of men trained in the Boyology course. Wyandotte is the second city of Michigan to have the course and the attendance of two hundred and sixty-eight of the leading business and professional men of the community. The Knights of Columbus of Wyandotte have done a community service of considerable merit by sponsoring the course and already several other Michigan Councils have made application to the Supreme Council Boy Life Bureau for the holding of the institute. The Fourth Degree Assembly of Michigan passed a resolution at a recent meeting approving the course. The closing session of the institute took the form of a dinner and presenting of diplomas to the members of the class who attended a required number of meetings. The speakers of the occasion were Charles Vanere, Wynn Gardner, William Liddle, Charles Marr, and Joseph D. Becker, of the Supreme Council Boy Life Bureau, who directed the course. Grand Knight Gerald Cass presided at the banquet. Rt. Rev. Bishop Gallagher of Detroit has approved the organization of circles of Columbian Squires in his diocese and Wyandotte Council is now engaged in the organization of a unit of the Order's boys' society.

Thousands Attend Funeral of Supreme Chaplain

Right Reverend John J. Milan, D. D., Bishop of Hartford, pontificated at the funeral Mass for the late Monsignor P. J. McGivney, Supreme Chaplain, on Thursday, May 24, at St. Charles Church, Bridgeport, Conn. He was assisted by Right Rev. Msgr. Thomas Duggan, Vicar General of the Diocese. Rev. John J. McGivney, of New Haven, only surviving brother of the Monsignor, was Deacon. Rev. Dennis P. Hurley, of South Norwalk, a classmate of the late Supreme Chaplain, delivered the eulogy.

The Supreme Officers, who were honorary pall bearers at the funeral, were at the pier in New York when the body of the late Supreme Chaplain, and they accompanied the remains to Bridgeport. The Monsignor lay in state through Wednesday afternoon and evening, during which time thousands who had been his parishioners and friends passed by his bier to pay their last respects. Other thousands, unable to gain entrance to the church during the funeral Mass on Thursday morning, thronged the adjacent streets.

In publishing the tributes of the Supreme Officers to the late Supreme Chaplain in the News Sheet last week, the message of Supreme Advocate Luke E. Hart was omitted. Brother Hart wrote:

"During his long and devoted services as Supreme Chaplain, Monsignor McGivney was not only the spiritual director of the Supreme Board of Directors, but he was the generous and kindly friend of every member and his advice and counsel were sought and given most freely. I am deeply grieved by his death. It is an irreparable loss to our Order and will be mourned by every member."

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Initiation Closes Sheboygan Jubilee

Sunday, May 13th, was a red-letter day for Sheboygan Council, No. 722. Thirty-six new candidates were initiated into the Second and Third Degrees of the Order. Brother Roland J. Stefnik and his team from Milwaukee Pers Marguerite Council did excellent work in the exemplification of these degrees. Following the initiation a banquet was served at the Foeste Hotel.

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Holy Ghost Order Celebrates 225th Year of Founding

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Ridgefield, Conn., May 15.—The Holy Ghost Fathers throughout the world will celebrate next Sunday the 225th anniversary of the foundation of the original Holy Ghost Order. The Order was established in France on May 20, 1703. Its purpose then was to educate secular priests for the colonial mission fields. The Order became a purely mission society itself when in 1848 it united with the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which had been established by Father Libermann for foreign missions especially among the people of the Negro race. Since then it has been known as the Congregation of the "Holy Ghost and the Immaculate Heart of Mary." It is under this title that it is legally incorporated in many States of this country.

Modern Capitalist System Discussed By English Jesuit

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) London, May 12.—The modern capitalist system was defended by Father Henry Day, S. J., in a speech made here this week at a meeting of the Industrial Peace Union. "That there is something wrong with modern industry and especially with the distribution of its products, must be admitted," he said. "But the fault is not with capitalism or the wage system as such, nor with mass production, or big business, or combines, which are necessary for economic production."

Manitoba K. of C. Votes To Continue Six Scholarships

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Winnipeg, Man., May 19.—The Manitoba Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus voted the necessary funds to continue the six scholarships awarded to boys from Catholic grade schools of this province. These K. of C. scholarships were established last year, and are tenable at St. Paul's College, Winnipeg, for English-speaking boys, or at St. Boniface College, for those who speak French.

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