

### Priest, Manila Hero, Promoted To Captain By General M'Arthur

NEW YORK—The story of a signal honor bestowed by General MacArthur upon Father Thomas Shanahan S.J., has been communicated to the Most Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., Military Delegate by a chaplain just arrived from Australia.

Father Shanahan, originally reported wounded in the bombing of Manila, actually went as Chaplain of the ship "Maetan" bearing the wounded from the Philippines to Australia.

On the eve of the fall of Manila, General MacArthur, was anxious to evacuate all the wounded. Despite great difficulties this was accomplished. The inter-island Steamship "Maetan" was converted into a Red Cross ship. A number of doctors and nurses were assembled and the wounded were transferred late on the eve of New Year's Day. At the last moment it was discovered that no chaplain had been appointed.

This part of the story has been supplied by the four Filipino nurses who are at present in New York, having come all the way with the wounded men from Australia. They were among the nurses sent to the "Maetan" to take care of the wounded in the course of the voyage to Australia. They hold now Father Shanahan came to be appointed chaplain of the "Maetan." According to the nurses, he had been very active during the bombing of Manila, especially in the port area where the bombing was most intense, and his name was well known to the Military personnel especially of the Medical Corps. When he was asked to accompany the "Maetan" as chaplain he had about five minutes preparation, just long enough to call Father Hurley, his Superior, and obtain his permission to leave.

When the trip was over and the wounded had been taken care of in Australia, Father Shanahan consulted the Jesuit Vice-Provincial in Melbourne with regard to his future duties. It was agreed that Father Shanahan should make application to become a regular army chaplain.

When General MacArthur arrived in Australia he found a great deal of desk work awaiting him. Some new commissions has been held up pending his approval. In going through them he found the regular form made out but awaiting his signature, commissioning Father Shanahan as First Lieutenant in the Army of the United States. General MacArthur read the name and then inquired, "Isn't this the Father Shanahan who was chaplain of the 'Maetan'?" On being assured that he was the same man General MacArthur crossed out the words "First Lieutenant" on the commission and said, "Make Father Shanahan a Captain."

### A Word Of Advice

Today our country through the War Bond Campaign, affords us opportunity to express our love of country—a country which protects and maintains among its many freedoms—the freedom of the Church to build the Kingdom of God on earth. For many of us, the purchase of War Bonds and Stamps means sacrifice. We must make that sacrifice and make it gladly, generously and perseveringly. This is more than an appeal for funds; it is an opportunity for each of us to stand side by side with our defenders in arms. It is hard to give up some of our usual ways of doing things but it is much harder to give up life.

Without sacrifice, there can be no lasting love for God, for man, for country. Without sacrifice there can be no victory. For the millions of our citizens behind the line of combat the means of victory are Bonds and War Bonds to break dictators' bonds of slavery. War Bonds for Victory.

### Heads Youth Group

MONTREAL—The Hierarchy has approved the nomination of Rev. Jacques Cousineau, S.J., as general chaplain of the Association Catholique de la Jeunesse Canadienne (Catholic Association of Canadian Youth), succeeding Rev. Joseph Pare, S.J., who has

### Hero President Decorated Received Holy Communion Before Fatal Midway Battle

WASHINGTON—Capt. Richard E. Fleming, Marine flier whose mother personally received from President Roosevelt the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for hero-

ism in the Battle of Midway, was a devout Catholic. He received Holy Communion on the Sunday preceding his death.

To reassure his mother, Mrs. Michael H. Fleming, in case he was killed in the coming action, he sent her word of his having received Communion a short time before the start of the engagement, from which he never returned.

In presenting the Nation's highest award, the President read the citation "for conspicuous intrepidity" and handed the medal to Mrs. Fleming, saying, "It is the finest medal in all the world. This is something we all will remember." Mrs. Fleming replied, "I am very proud."

Present at the White House ceremony were Captain Fleming's two brothers, Second Lieut. Ward Fleming of the Army Air Force, and James Fleming, a student at St. Thomas College, St. Paul, who hopes to become a Navy aviator in addressing them, the President waved his hand at the medal, and said, "This is for you boys, too."

Captain Fleming was graduated in 1935 from St. Thomas Military Academy as honor cadet captain, the highest ranking cadet officer. He received his bachelor of arts degree four years later from the University of Minnesota, where he was President of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

The Navy announced that the medal was conferred "for extraordinary heroism and conspicuous intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty as flight officer of a Marine scout-bombing squadron during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Battle of Midway on June 4 and 5, 1942."

"When his squadron commander was shot down during the initial attack upon an enemy aircraft carrier, Captain Fleming led the remainder of the division with such fearless determination that he dived his own plane to the perilously low altitude of 400 feet before releasing his bomb," the citation said.

"Although his craft was riddled

by its hits in the blistering hail of fire that burst upon him from Japanese fighter guns and anti-aircraft batteries, he pulled out with only two minor wounds inflicted upon himself.

"On the night of June 4, when the squadron commander lost his way and became separated from the others, Captain Fleming brought his own plane in for a safe landing at its base despite hazardous weather conditions and total darkness.

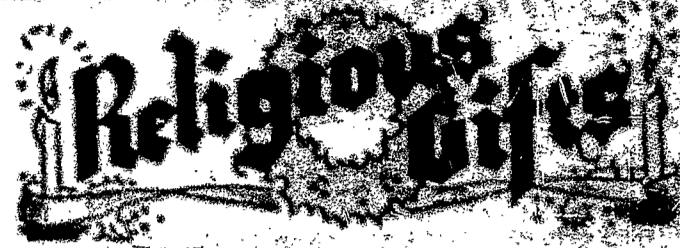
"The following day, after less than four hours of sleep, he led the second division of his squadron in a coordinated glide-bombing and dive-bombing assault upon a Japanese battleship. Undeterred by a fateful approach glide, during which his ship was struck and set afire, he grimly pressed home his attack to an altitude of 500 feet, released his bomb to score a near miss on the stern of his target, then crashed to the sea in flames. His dauntless perseverance and unyielding devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."



These two Catholic heroes made headline news. They are Capt. Richard E. Fleming (above), of St. Paul, Minn., U. S. Marine Corps flier posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in the Battle of Midway and (below) Lieut. Harold Lawrence, of Brockville, Ont., who, with one other officer of the Canadian Navy boarded a Nazi submarine, after their craft had rammed her, and captured the

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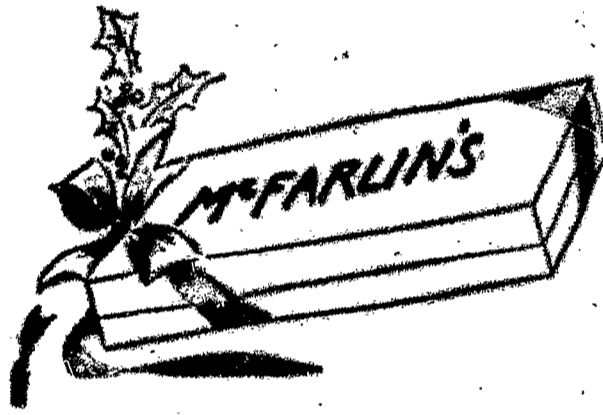
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