

Reveals Intense Sufferings Of Polish Children In Exile

WASHINGTON—“Hitler is forcing Polish children into the Reich in order to Germanize them, but approximately 2,500,000 Poles have been absorbed by the Soviet Union,” declared Bishop Joseph Gawlina, chief of chaplains, Polish Armed Forces, in a nation-wide broadcast yesterday.

The story of the tragic plight of a million Polish children, 100,000 of whom have already died of hunger and exposure was recited by Bishop Gawlina who asked for the prayers of all Americans for the 800,000 Polish children still held in the Soviet Union.

The heroic prelate-chaplain speaking of the children taken from Poland into Russia said: “They were snatched from their homes in the winter of 1939-1940 from Lwow, Vilna and the entire Eastern part of Poland. For the most part, they were herded into railroad cars with their parents, if they were still living, and brought to the interior of European and Asiatic Russia in bitter cold.

“When the children arrived in Russia they were placed on cooperative farms where heavy work was their lot. On the tender shoulders of twelve and thirteen-year-old children rests the grave responsibility of supporting their young brothers and sisters. Many of them are seeking in vain for their lost father or mother, as merciless fate separated families by great distances.

“I met a thirteen-year-old boy who at one time was a shepherd and later on became a truck driver. This youngster did his best to keep his father, who was ill, and his sister alive. He buried his mother in the steppes of Russia.”

“Many children have been sent to Archangel and to the bound Northern Russia, Bishop Gawlina said. Others have been scattered in isolated settlements in the northern wastes of Siberia, particularly in the frigid area where the Yenisei River is frozen for all but three months of the year.

“There they live in unbelievable poverty and are worked very hard. They receive no help from the outside world. Their only consolation is prayer. They have no teachers and no priests, for no one knows where the called Polish priests are kept.

The Polish prelate described other Polish children sent to Iran, “where I saw things that moved me to tears.” He told of an immense cemetery in Teheran where our children are buried.

“In the Teheran camp I saw two boys who looked like living skeletons in tattered clothes, begging for bread. The boys took the bread

which they thus received and buried it secretly in the ground, so that no one would steal it from them.”

Bishop Gawlina expressed the hope that “out of the hearts of American children will burst forth a source of help for the wandering Polish children in Soviet Russia. Addressing American children in his broadcast he pleaded:

“You have a father and mother, but they are orphans; you have warm and attractive clothes, but they are covered with rags; you have your breakfast, lunch and supper, you have bread, pie and ice cream, but they are dying of hunger; you have a warm home and a good bed, but they are sleeping in stables on the cold ground.

“Since you American children cannot go personally to help these homeless, fatherless and motherless Polish children, please pray for them that their misery may end. Share with them the good life which God's providence gives you in the United States. Pray, I beg of you, for the Polish children that they may be released and join their countrymen.”

Sacred College Now Totals 48 Cardinals Including 2 From U.S.

VATICAN CITY (NC) —The Sacred College is now composed of 48 Cardinals, 24 of whom are Italians, four are French, three German, two American and two Spanish. The remaining nine, respectively, are Belgian, Polish, Hungarian, Portuguese, Irish, English, Syrian, Canadian and Argentine.

There are 22 Cardinals of the Curia and eight others who reside in Italy: the Patriarch of Venice and the Archbishops of Genoa, Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Naples and Palermo. His Eminence Luigi Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State, and Cardinals Cremonesi, Canali and Mercati reside in Vatican City and seven others in offices that enjoy extraterritoriality under the Lateran Treaty. The remainder live in private homes.

Two of the 48 Cardinals were appointed by Pope Pius XI. Cardinal Grattio Pignatelli di Belmonte, who is Dean of the Sacred College, and His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, who is ranking member of the Priest-Cardinals. The Cardinal Archbishops of Naples, Cologne, Munich and Tarragona, as well as His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, were appointed by Pope Benedict XV. The remaining 42 were chosen by Pope Pius XI.

The oldest Cardinal is the 92-year-old Dean of the Sacred College, and the youngest is still the Patriarch of Lisbon, His Eminence Manoel Gonçalves, Cardinal Co-adjutor.

Seven Cardinals belong to religious Orders: two Carmelites, one Jesuit, one Salesian and one Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

His Holiness Pope Pius XII has named no Cardinals. Twelve have died since he became Pontiff. Five of those who died belonged to the Roman Curia.

REMOVE BODY OF ST. JOHN BOSCO TO AIR RAID SAFETY

LONDON—The body of St. John Bosco had been removed from the Basilica in Turin and taken to Bécchi, birthplace of the Saint, to save it from possible destruction in an air raid. It was stated in a Vatican Radio broadcast heard here, the bodies of Blessed Mauro Mazzarello and Venerable Donato Savio also have been removed.

In a recent raid a bomb crashed through the roof of one of the chapels of the Basilica. This occurred after the bodies had been removed.

Laymen, plan now to make your week-end retreat at the Diocesan Retreat House, Sessuola Lake, Geneva.

French Bishops Voice Concern For Workers Sent Into Germany

VATICAN CITY (NC-Radio)—Manifesting deep concern over the lot of French workers who have been sent into forced labor in Germany, the French Hierarchy, in a collective pastoral letter, set aside Mar. 29 as the day on which France was to be dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Pacific General Gets 'Call Down' Uses Up 8 Shots To Bag Jap Sniper

WASHINGTON—The grim business of war hasn't dulled the sense of humor of America's fighting men in the South Pacific, as has been attested by a bit of good, old-fashioned verbal Army “horse play” between Lt. Gen. Millard F. Harmon, Army commander in the South Pacific, and Maj. Gen. Joseph L. Collins, commander of a division on Guadalcanal. General Collins is a brother of Miss Agnes Collins, librarian of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, here.

General Harmon, so the story goes, heard that General Collins had bagged a Japanese sniper and sent the officer on Guadalcanal a “reprimand” for using eight rounds of .30 calibre ammunition on one Japanese. He “ordered” that in the future all major generals were limited to two rounds of ammunition, and mentioned something about damaging a coconut tree.

General Collins, in reply, blamed it all on “old age, failing eyesight and duck fever” but accounted for the eight shots as follows: 1. missed the sniper's trigger finger; 2. tore off his cartridge belt; 3. grazed his left eyebrow; 4. splashed dirt in his face; 5. missed entirely, & carried away big toe on right foot; 7. removed an ear; and 8. a silver bullet which I had carried for just such an occasion, plunked him squarely between the eyes.” General Harmon rejected the explanation as based on circumstantial evidence and said his “policy still stands.”

Missing Statue Of Christ, Taken From Cathedral, Mysteriously Reappears

MEXICO CITY—The marble image of Christ which had disappeared from the Durango Cathedral has mysteriously reappeared in a hall of the Archdiocesan Office. Presumably it was returned by the person who stole it. Other valuable objects removed from the Cathedral, it is hoped, may be returned in the same manner.

Copy of the pastoral has been received here.

“Dear brethren,” the message says, “you know that the destiny of these workers constitutes for us, your Bishops, an ever-present concern for their moral and spiritual welfare. We have spared no effort to have French priests bring them the comfort of religion and to sustain them by the charitable sharing of the lot imposed on them.”

The Bishops recommend daily prayers for these workers' intentions in all families and parishes, appeal for the setting of a good Catholic example among the workers abroad, and urge fraternal charity toward wives and mothers who are left at home alone.

Continuing the pastoral says: “The human person, since he is a free being created in the image of God and redeemed by the blood of His Son, has rights which no earthly power may violate. No sacrifice appears to us too great when there is a question on the soil of Christian France of defending those essential liberties without which the human person could no longer conduct himself as a child of God, destined one day to return to his Creator. Otherwise there can be no safeguard for the destiny of the individual nor any assurance of the greatness and soundness of the fatherland.”

The pastoral is signed by Their Eminences Cardinals Lienart, Suhard and Gerlier.

REPORT PRIESTS HELD BY NAZIS IN HOLLAND

NEW YORK—German Nazi authorities in the Netherlands have begun a series of arrests of Catholic clergymen, accused of urging their congregations to oppose the invaders' forced labor draft, according to a dispatch from the Soviet News Agency in Moscow received here by the Netherlands Information Bureau.

Twelve priests have been arrested in The Hague and five have been interned in a concentration camp at Utrecht since the Hierarchy of Holland issued a Joint Pastoral assailing oppressive Nazi measures, the dispatch stated.

“To do anything of worth there is need of constancy.”—Blessed Edmund Campion.

WRITE TO THOSE IN SERVICE

ROUND THE WORLD WITH THE CHAPLAINS



ON FIGHTING FRONTS are our Army Chaplains as shown here. Top photo, Chaplain John J. Wood, C.S.V., New Orleans, riding a jeep "Somewhere in the Aleutians." Lower photo pictures with our troops somewhere in the South Pacific front row, from left, Chaplains Thomas T. Brady, Springfield; Casimir Andruskevich, Springfield; John J. Koala, Cleveland; Rev. Chaplains Ferdinand A. Evans, Cincinnati; Arthur R. Froschle, Cincinnati; Andrew J. Forwick, New York, with two M.C. missionaries. (N.C.W.C.)

Chaplain Aids in Teaching Arab To Cook Doughnuts for Soldiers' Club in Africa

Polish Boy with Accorded Furnishes Music for Mass in Desert of North Africa. Church Looked, So Priest Distributes Aides On Front Steps in Dark and Cold. (By N.C.W.C. News Service)

North Africa

In a letter to the Most Rev. John J. Mitty, Archbishop of San Francisco, the Rev. Patrick J. Ryan, a priest of the Archdiocese and now serving as an Army chaplain, revealed that among his duties in North Africa was aiding in the education of an Arab to cook doughnuts.

Father Ryan's letter stated "all of us have been terrifically busy" with the tasks that follow every battle and it had been "only in the last week or so that we have eased up." He revealed he had established an Enlisted Men's Service Club, complete with game room, lounge, reading and writing rooms, and free coffee and doughnuts. The club, he said, is called the best in Africa by the Red Cross. He continued:

"We have an Arab cook who does nothing but cook doughnuts every day. It was very amusing when we tried to teach him how to make them. There is no such word in French as doughnuts. We had to get an Army cook and an interpreter to get the idea across. The first lot turned out to be a complete failure, they were hard as rocks. Now he is a doughnut artist before whom no one takes precedence."

The Rev. Dr. G. Moore, now serving as a chaplain with the Army in North Africa, in a letter to the Most Rev. John J. Mitty, Archbishop of San Francisco, made a belated report of activities at Christmas.

He told how the boys had built him a wooden platform for an altar so he would not have to use the front of his jeep as had been his custom. He reported when the Mass started more than 300 soldiers were kneeling about the al-

tar and more than 400 received Holy Communion.

"The music was furnished by a Polish boy with his accordion. As one officer said, 'There never was a time when we had so little and appreciated it so much.'"

Waco Flying School

The Rev. W. F. Connor, a priest of the Diocese of Omaha, assigned as a chaplain at the Waco Army Flying School, reported: "Aah Wednesday evening at the other field, the church was locked when I got there, and no one was able to open it. It was cold, too, but that didn't bother me, and the boys were willing, so I distributed candles from the top step of the church in the dark. I told them that it was a real penance and they agreed with me."

Form Holy Name Unit Among U. S. Forces On Curacao Island

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao.—The initial Communion Sunday of the Holy Name Society which has been formed among the members of the American forces stationed on this Netherlands West Indies possession has just been observed.

The group was formed by the Rev. Peter Dominio Elde, O.P., pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Carmel in the Borough of Groot Kwartier, and the Rev. Augustino John Baptist, van der Meer, O.P., Chief of Chaplains to the Netherlands and United Nations forces here.

The Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Peter Innocent Verriet, O.P., Vicar Apostolic of Curacao, who also delivered a sermon praising the devout faith of American Catholics.

SUSPENDS SYSTEM

Milwaukee.—Suspension of the cooperative system of education in the Marquette University College of Engineering for the duration has been announced by the Very Rev. Raphael C. McCarthy, R.J., President of the University.